Sixteenth Series, Vol. XVII No. 7 Tuesday, May 03, 2016

Vaisakha 13, 1938 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eighth Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

सत्यमेव जयते

(Vol. XVII Contains Nos.1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

© 2016 Lok Sabha Secretariat

None of the material may be copied, reproduced, distributed, republished, downloaded, displayed, posted or transmitted in any form or by any means, including but not limited to, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior permission of Lok Sabha Secretariat. However, the material can be displayed, copied, distributed and downloaded for personal, non-commercial use only, provided the material is not modified and all copyright and other proprietary notices contained in the material are retained.

“Disclaimer: The content of the 16th and 17th Lok Sabha Debates available on this website has been translated from the original text using Artificial Intelligence tools for reference purposes. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, users are advised to refer to the official floor version of the Lok Sabha Debates available under the “Debates” weblink on the Lok Sabha website as the authoritative text."

CONTENTS

Sixteenth Series, Vol. XVII, Eighth Session, 2016/1938 (Saka)

No. 7, Tuesday, May 03, 2016/Vaisakha 13, 1938 (Saka)

SUBJECT	PAGES
OBITUARY REFERENCE	27
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question Nos. 121 to 125	28-70
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	71
Starred Question Nos. 126 to 140	
Unstarred Question Nos. 1381 to 1610	

* 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.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 72-84

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA 85-86

PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION AT THE 132ND ASSEMBLY OF THE INTER PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

Report 87

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

6th Report 87

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

5th Report 88

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

23rd to 26th Reports 89

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

(i)Action Taken Report 90

(ii)19th to 22nd Reports 90-91

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

10th and 11th Reports 92

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

17th and 18th Reports 93

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

12th Report 94

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

20th Report 95

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

123rd to 126th Reports 95-96

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

197th Report 97

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

272nd to 275th Reports 97-98

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment

Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot 99

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 192nd Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the 185th Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs

Shri Kiren Rijiju 100

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and

Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Dr. Sanjeev Balyan 101

(iv) Regarding Order of Arbitral Tribunal in the Enrica Lexie Matter

Shri Arun Jaitley 102

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 144-190

(i) Regarding Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) introduced by Himachal Pradesh University

Shri Anurag Singh Thakur 145

(ii) Need to provide assistance to flood affected people of Assam

Shrimati Bijoya Chakravarty 147

(iii) Need to open a Army Recruitment Centre in Bharatpur parliamentary constituency, Rajasthan

Shri Bahadur Singh Koli 148

(iv) Need to take adequate measures to check the dwindling water level in rivers and other water resources in the country

Shri Satyapal Singh 149

(v) Need to set up a Tea Auction Centre in Dibrugarh, Assam

Shri Rameshwar Teli 151

(vi) Need to ensure allocation of funds by corporate sector towards Corporate Social Responsibility component as per laid down norms and standards

Shri Bharat Singh 153

(vii) Need to address the problem of acute shortage of drinking water in Kanpur

Nagar and Kanpur Dehat districts in Uttar Pradesh

Shri Devendra Singh Bhole 155

(viii) Need to include Janjgir-Champa district of Chhattisgarh in National Horticulture Mission

Shrimati Kamla Paatle 157

(ix) Need to formulate a plan for development of small-scale industries and skill development programmes in river islands particularly in Chandauli parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey 159

(x) Need to upgrade Mohini Mandal railway Halt in Sheohar parliamentary constituency, Bihar as Mohini Mandal railway station

Shrimati Rama Devi 160

(xi) Need to check the reality shows in television channels where children participate and also regulate other programmes so that public and children can watch

Dr. Virendra Kumar 161

(xii) Need to provide No Objection Certificate to mines in Jamshedpur parliamentary constituency, Jharkhand

Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato 163

(xiii) Need to inter-link rivers in the country

Col. Sona Ram Choudhary 164

(xiv) Regarding water problem faced by Morarji Desai Residential School in Bellary, Karnataka

Shri B. Sriramulu 167

(xv) Need to permit commercial horticulture, development of herbal hub as also wildlife tourism in Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary in Mandsaur parliamentary constituency, Madhya Pradesh

Shri Sudheer Gupta 169

(xvi) Need to take necessary measures to achieve the objectives of Krishi Vigayan Kendras and also set up more Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country

Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan 171

(xvii) Need to declare 31st May, the birth anniversary of Ahilya Bai Holkar, as National Holiday

Shri Rajeev Satav 173

(xviii) Need to construct a level crossing or construct a subway at Birnagar Railway

Station in Ranaghat parliamentary constituency of West Bengal

Dr. Tapas Mandal 175

(xix) Regarding construction of dam on rivers Shilabati and Dwarakeswar in West Bengal

Shri Saumitra Khan 177

(xx) Need to expedite construction of Rimoli to Rajamunda section of National Highway No. 215 in Keonjhar parliamentary constituency, Odisha

Shrimati Sakuntala Laguri 178

(xxi) Need to improve BSNL mobile service in Buldhana parliamentary constituency, Maharashtra

Shri Prataprao Jadhav 179

(xxii) Need to confer 'Bharat Ratna' on Late Shri Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

Shri M. Murli Mohan 180

(xxiii) Regarding setting up of Kurnool-Hyderabad Nizamabad-Adilabad-Nagpur Industrial Corridor

Shri Kotha Prabhakar Reddy 181

(xxiv) Regarding need to retain IDBI as a Public Sector Bank

Shri Sankar Prasad Datta 183

(xxv) Need to set up maizebased Food Processing Industries in Bhagalpur parliamentary constituency, Bihar

Shri Shailesh Kumar 185

(xxvi) Need to conduct an inquiry into the alleged hoarding and creation of artificial

shortage of pulses leading to steep hike in the prices of pulses

Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak 187

(xxvii) Need to probe the alleged irregularities in the auction of cooperative sugar mills in Maharashtra

Shri Raju Shetty 189

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 2016-17

Ministries of Civil Aviation and Tourism

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel 191-194

Shrimati Aparupa Poddar 195-196

Shri Alok Sanjar 197-202

Shri S. P. Muddahanume Gowda 203-207

Shri A. T. Nana Patil 208-209

Shri Tathagata Satpathy 210-214

Shrimati Supriya Sule 215-218

Shri Thota Narasimham 219-220

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra 221-222

Shrimati Veena Devi 223-224

Shri Pralhad Joshi 225-246

Dr. Banshi Lal Mahato 247

Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu 248-249

Shri Sudheer Gupta 250

Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh 251-254

Shrimati Anju Bala 255-257

Shrimati Poonamben Maadam 258-264

Shrimati Krishna Raj 265-266

Shri Om Birla 267-270

Shri P. K. Biju 271-274

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank 275-284

Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey 285-286

Shri Shivkumar Udasi 287-290

Shri Prasanna Kumar Patasani 291

Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey 292-294

Dr. Kirit P. Solanki 295-296

Shri B. N. Chandrappa 297-300

Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju 301-317

Dr. Mahesh Sharma 318-329

Cut Motion (Civil Aviation) - Negatived 347

Demands voted 349

Cut Motion (Tourism) - Negatived 349

Demands voted 351

APPROPRIATION ACTS (REPEAL) BILL, 2015 353

(Amendments made by Rajya Sabha)

Motion to Consider 353

Clause 1 354

Amendments agreed to 357

REPEALING AND AMENDING (THIRD) BILL, 2015 358

(Amendments made by Rajya Sabha)

Motion to Consider 358

Clause 1 359

Amendment agreed to 362

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 2016-17 363

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

Shri S. P. Muddahanume Gowda 366-374

Cut Motions 375-376

Shri Suresh C. Angadi 377-385

Dr. Mamtaz Sanghmita 386-388

Shri Baijyant Jay Panda 389-396

Shri Ajay Misra Teni	397-398
Dr. Kirit P. Solanki	399-401
Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde	402-407
Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel	408-410
Shri Ram Tahal Choudhary	411-415
Shri Tathagata Satpathy	416-421
Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi)	422-427
Shri Shrirang Appa Barne	428-432
Dr. Kirit Somaiya	433-435
Shri Gopal Shetty	436-425
Shri Rajendra Agarwal	439-446
Shri Nishikant Dubey	447-451
Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena	452-455
Shri A. P. Jithender Reddy	456-460
Dr. Kulmani Samal	461-465

Shrimati Butta Renuka	466-469
Dr. Yashwant Singh	470-472
Shri Sankar Prasad Datta	473-476
Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit	477-479
Shri B. Vinod Kumar	480-483
Shri P. V. Midhun Reddy	484-486
Shri Uday Pratap Singh	487-492
Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav	493-495
Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra	496-497
Shri Gajanan Kirtikar	498-500
Shri Dushyant Chautala	501-502
Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh	503-504
Shri E. T. Mohammed Basheer	505-506
Shri Kaushalendra Kumar	507-508
Kumari Sushmita Dev	509-511

Shri Sharad Tripathi 512-513

Shri Ramesh Bidhuri 514-515

Shri C. R. Chaudhary 516-518

Shrimati Supriya Sule 519-522

Shrimati Ranjanben Bhatt 523-523

Shri D. K. Suresh 524-528

Dr. Ratna De (Nag) 529-533

Shri B. N. Chandrappa 534-536

Prof. Richard Hay 537-538

Shri A. T. Nana Patil 539-540

Shri Devji M. Patel 541-546

Shrimati Poonamben Maadam 547-552

Shri Ch. Malla Reddy 553-554

Shri Rameshwar Teli 555

Shri R. Dhruvanarayana 556-558

Shri Aparupa Poddar 559-560

Shri Devendra Singh Bhole 561-565

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal 566

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank 567-569

Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato 570-571

Shri Jagdambika Pal 572-575

Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey 576-587

Shri P. P. Chaudhary 588-589

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu 590-610

Cut Motions - Negatived 611-612

Demands voted 612

SUBMISSION OF OUTSTANDING DEMANDS TO VOTE OF THE HOUSE (GUILLOTINE) 613

Cut Motion - Negatived 614-615

Demands voted 615-621

APPROPRIATION (NO. 2) BILL, 2016

Motion to Consider 622

Clauses 2 to 4 and 1 623

Motion to Pass 624

COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION FUND BILL, 2015

Motion to Consider 625-630

Kumari Sushmita Dev 631-635

Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal 636-641

Prof. Saugata Roy 642-648

Shri Pinaki Misra 649-653

Shri Vinayak Bhaurao Raut 654-658

Dr. Ravindra Babu 659-663

Shrimati Kavitha Kalvakuntla 664-669

Shri Jitendra Chaudhury 670-672

Shrimati Butta Renuka 673-676

Shri Abhijit Mukherjee 677-679

Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav 681-684

Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav 685-687

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi 688-690

Prof. Richard Hay 691-692

Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati 693-696

Shri Prakash Javadekar 697-710

Clauses 2 to 33 and 1 713-732

Motion to Pass 733

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

30th Report 680

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Dr. M. Thambidurai

PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi

Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav

Shri Anandrao Adsul

Shri Pralhad Joshi

Dr. Ratna De (Nag)

Shri Ramen Deka

Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao

Shri Hukum Singh

Shri K. H. Muniyappa

Dr. P. Venugopal

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shri Anoop Mishra

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, May 03, 2016/Vaisakha 13, 1938 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[Translation**]**

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Bal Raj Madhok who was a Member of the 2nd and 4th Lok Sabhas representing the New Delhi and the South Delhi Parliamentary Constituencies of Delhi, respectively.

Shri Madhok was a Member of the Committee of Privileges and General Purposes Committee during the 4th Lok Sabha. An educationist by profession, Shri Madhok had special interests in education, foreign affairs and defence.

A man of letters, Shri Madhok has to his credit a number of publications, in Hindi and English, on a plethora on subjects. Shri Bal Raj Madhok passed away on 2nd May, 2016 in New Delhi at the age of 96.

We deeply mourn the loss of Shri Bal Raj Madhok and convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

11. 02 hours

(The Members then stood in silence for a short while.)

---

11. 03 hours

*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 121, Shri Scindia

(Q. 121)

[Translation**]**

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Hon. Speaker Madam, after the 26/11 terrorist attacks, the CISF Act was amended to enable the deployment of CISF personnel to private establishments. A report has now emerged stating that CISF has not been deployed at several airports. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture has expressed deep concern and has noted that eight of our highly sensitive airports and nineteen sensitive airports have not been provided CISF cover even though CISF is the only force designated for airport security.

I wish to ask the Hon. Minister why, in the present security climate, the Government has been unable to provide CISF protection to these airports. On one hand, the Taj Hotel in Mumbai, which was a target during the 26/11 attacks, has refused CISF; the Sai Baba

* **For Questions, please visit** https://sansad.in/ls/questions/questions-and-answers .

Temple in Shirdi has also refused it. Yet Ramdev's Patanjali Park has been granted CISF protection. What is the rationale for this? At the same time, the reason cited for airports is lack of funds. Private companies contribute Rs. 140 crore annually. On the strength of these resources, why is CISF not being provided to our airports? ...

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Hon. Speaker, the deployment of CISF is carried out strictly in accordance with the prescribed Rules. There are Government institutions, airports and several critical installations across the country which are categorised into three groups. Based on this categorisation, security deployment is undertaken through the CISF. During the tenure of your Government in 2009, an amendment was made to the CISF Act, and it was for the first time decided that private institutions could also be provided CISF cover. However, even for that, a specific procedure is to be followed.

CISF deployment is undertaken only after obtaining inputs from the IB and following various prescribed procedures. If the Hon. Member requires the names of private institutions, I can provide them separately. The list is very long. CISF has been deployed in more than 11,000 private institutions. The institution named by the Hon. Member is also included. There have been as few as 35 small deployments, while in many private institutions large scale

deployments have also taken place. It is not the case that only one or two private institutions receive CISF cover; rather, a very large number of institutions receive it. As for the eight airports mentioned by you, there is an established procedure for them as well. We provide CISF deployment to many private institutions, yet you have referred to only one. This deployment is made after considering IB inputs and various circumstances. There is no question whatsoever of favouring any particular institution or establishment.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIAS. Hon. Speaker, my question was that when critical institutions have been denied CISF cover on one hand, why has such a security environment been provided exclusively to a single FMCG company? Today, you are stating that there is a shortage of resources.

My question was why are you not providing CISF deployment to hyper sensitive and sensitive airports? Our Parliamentary Standing Committee has made this observation. If you indeed face a shortage of resources, then what steps are you taking to skill and build the capacity of private institutions so that a level playing field can be created, enabling private agencies, in accordance with CISF guidelines, to provide comparable security to various establishments?

Moreover, what specific measures are you taking for our airports, as clearly outlined by the Parliamentary Committee, which has stressed that security must be ensured?

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: I fully agree that, keeping in view the report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee, the steps that ought to be taken are indeed being taken. You referred to airports, for instance the Srinagar Airport. It is an extremely sensitive installation and is presently guarded by the CRPF. While CISF is certainly a specialised force, it is not the case that every security requirement is to be met only through CISF. We have other forces as well. Accordingly, wherever necessary, as in Srinagar, the CRPF has been deployed. Likewise, there are several other sensitive airports whose security is being maintained through the CRPF and other forces. It is not at all the case that sensitive locations have been neglected.

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Hon. Speaker Madam, the CISF was constituted under the CISF Act, 1968, and it was amended in 2009. It is now clear that there is a shortage of CISF personnel. By way of example, in my own district, the Western Coalfields, I have been requesting for years that CISF deployment be provided. Although CISF was posted, the required strength was not sanctioned, and I was repeatedly informed that the force did not have adequate personnel. It

is evident today that CISF is urgently needed. If CISF is essential, and if its skills, such as specialised training, bomb squads and other capabilities, are far superior to those of private sector security companies.

Then I would like to ask in view of the rising demand and in the context of employment generation, why are you not raising new battalions? The Hon. Prime Minister was present here a short while ago. If you are raising new battalions, by when will they be raised and in what numbers, so that our airports receive adequate security? Similarly, coal companies, which often face threats from the coal mafia, are in dire need of substantial CISF deployment. Adequate postings have not been made there either. Along with this, since CISF possesses such valuable skills, which are widely acknowledged today, will the Government establish CISF training skill centres so that private sector agencies can also be trained and upgraded?

HON. SPEAKER: Kamal Nath ji, you have asked three questions within a single question.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Hon. Speaker Madam, Kamal Nath ji is a senior Member of this House. He has raised concerns relating to his Parliamentary Constituency, Chhindwara, and we shall certainly examine how this matter can be appropriately resolved. As far as the

strength of our security forces is concerned, the sanctioned strength of CISF at present is 145,000 personnel. A proposal has been prepared to increase this ceiling to 200,000, and it is soon to be placed before the Cabinet. A decision on this will be taken very shortly.

We have raised four additional reserved battalions. You also mentioned private security. We are mindful of the fact that private security arrangements must be strengthened in our country. An Act has been passed for this purpose, and under its provisions specialised training is to be imparted. The Government is prepared to extend whatever assistance is required for such training. It is not feasible for the entire security apparatus of the country to be provided solely at the Government level. Therefore, keeping in view the provisions of the Private Security Agencies Act and considering the suggestion you have made regarding augmenting CISF strength, we are actively taking steps to carry this forward.

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY: Hon. Speaker Madam, I express my gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity.

This is indeed a very important issue. CRPF, CISF, ITBP and others are all para military forces. Through CISF, the Hon. Member had raised a question regarding the security of certain private companies. In 2009, during the UPA Government, this Act was

enacted. The UPA Government realised that several private organisations also needed proper security cover. Today, there are many industries in the country that are of national importance. Such establishments must be provided protection, whether through CISF, CRPF or any other para military force. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that just as there are cadre posts, de cadre posts and deputation posts within any service, similarly in CISF, at least 10 to 15 percent posts should be earmarked for deputation recruitment, and these personnel should be deployed in industries of national importance so that they receive proper security. Today, there are many private organisations which are very important for national security also.

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY: There is no harm in providing security to those industries. They certainly ought to receive it. Secondly, everybody wants a Government job.

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone is offering suggestions. Kindly put your question.

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY: This will also increase employment in Government jobs and such personnel can then be deployed to private industries. Therefore, I wish to ask the Hon. Minister whether he

proposes to recruit, within CISF, 10 to 15 percent posts specifically as deputation posts for the private sector. If so, this should be done at the earliest.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Hon. Speaker Madam, I have already stated that for internal security we always maintain ten reserve battalions of the force. Whenever an emergency situation arises, we deploy them accordingly. As far as the Hon. Member's suggestion regarding increasing the strength for the purpose of employment is concerned, I have already informed the House that a proposal has been circulated to enhance the strength of our para military forces from the current 145,000 to 200,000. With regard to training and the provision of necessary facilities, we are taking steps in that direction. Therefore, we accept his suggestion.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, the Minister has already replied about increasing of manpower and everything. But, having said that, I would like to bring one issue to the notice of the hon. Minister, through you. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been taking care of security of airports across the country. It has written to the Ministry of Home Affairs several times asking them to give them the full control of cargo security. Presently, cargo security in the

airport terminals is jointly handled by CISF and private security personnel. They have said that there would be confusion because both the private security agency and CISF are handling it. That is why they have requested that it should be completely handed over to CISF. I would like to know whether the Government is considering that and if at all they are not considering, then I would like to know how they are avoiding this confusion when there is a sensitive or emergency situation.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Madam, the Government has received certain representations also and we had a discussion with the people who are dealing with matters relating to cargo handling in airports and other places. Definitely, security issue has to be taken up very seriously and if there are any loopholes, then we have to plug those loopholes. CISF is, definitely, a lead organization to take care of security of cargo in airports and other places. Whenever there are some issues or whenever a requirement is being sought, we deploy CISF as per the need on the ground. There is a discussion going on as to how to streamline the management of cargo in various places in the country. I hope we will be able to deal with the concern being raised by the hon. Member. Some issues have already been flagged before us and it is in our knowledge.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Dr.C Gopalakrishnan - Not present

(Q. 122)

SHRI NANA PATOLE: Madam, I would like to ask a supplementary question.

In the reply that has been given, the percentage of jobs indicated shows a very large backlog. What guiding measures will the Government put in place to ensure that this backlog is cleared?

SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Hon. Speaker Madam, it is true that, as per the information furnished in reply to the question, the figure reflected is far below the three percent reservation that ought to be achieved.

Through you and as per your direction, I would like to provide one additional piece of information. After the data furnished as of 01.01.2014, we initiated a special recruitment drive from May 2015. I am pleased to inform the House that through this special drive, which commenced on 22 May 2015, out of 15,831 vacancies that existed up to 30.04.2016, we have filled 10,945 posts. This figure has now increased by one percent because we have to obtain updated information from the Ministry of Personnel. It was through that Ministry that we made the necessary efforts to conduct this recruitment drive. That updated information was received only yesterday, which is why we could not include it in the original written

reply. At present, the process of filling 4,140 posts is underway. Only 746 posts remain for which the recruitment process has not yet commenced. I assure the House that we will take prompt action to fill these remaining 746 vacancies.

[English]

SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA: Madam, our country is a signatory to UNCRDP. According to this, we will have to bring some changes in this bill. Approximately 19 more disabilities will be added to the existing list in the Bill. With the proposed changes, this Bill was introduced in the Rajya Sabha in 2014. After that it was referred to the Standing Committee. But generally, after the bill goes to the Standing Committee, it comes directly back to the House. Unfortunately, one year after receiving of the Report from the Standing Committee, the Bill is again given to the Hon. Home Minister. That is what we have understood from newspapers. Is that correct? Does this Government have any intention to bring this Bill with the proposed changes as soon as possible because lakhs of persons with disabilities are waiting for the decision from the Government?

[Translation]

SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Hon. Speaker Madam, although this subject does not directly relate to the question, if you permit, I am in a position to respond.

HON. SPEAKER: If you are in a position to reply, please do so.

SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Hon. Speaker Madam, that Bill is presently under consideration within the legislative process. A Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Hon. Rajnath Singh ji. The Committee has taken its final decision. The final draft has been prepared and the process of forwarding it to the Cabinet is underway.

[English]

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: The fact that in our country we are not adequately sensitive to people with different abilities is evident here in Parliament, Madam. If we look at the toilet facilities in Parliament, only one of the toilets has a wheelchair ramp. We must start by taking the first step to be more sensitive to people with different abilities and differently-abled people in Parliament itself.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: There is one such facility.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: There is one, but all should be like that. It should also be available at the entrance. [English] I compliment the hon. Minister for some of the steps he has taken. My question is this. The support you are giving to the private sector in EPF and ESIC is leading to employment of barely 1500 or 1600 differently abled people. Similarly, the training facilities are leading to training of about 17,000 differently abled people. These are still relatively small numbers. What are the steps that you are going to be taking to dramatically increase these numbers? It is because, at least 50,000 to one lakh differently abled people should be getting training every year and at least 50,000 to one lakh differently abled people should be getting jobs for which they are eminently qualified with support from your Ministry. What can we expect in the next one or two years?

[Translation]

SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Hon. Speaker Madam, the first part of the question pertains to you. If you so direct, and if any instruction is issued to our Ministry, we stand ready to make the necessary arrangements.

HON. SPEAKER: No, no, that is a separate matter. The issue of the Parliament building is distinct. Everyone is aware of what facilities

can be provided and what the condition of the building is. This matter has already been discussed. I shall respond to it later.

SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Hon. Speaker Madam, for ensuring ease of mobility, we launched the Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan on 03 October last year. Across the country, whether bus stands, public buildings, railway stations or airports, we have identified 100 major cities in which multi storey and multi purpose Government buildings will be equipped with ramps, lifts and similar facilities. Action on this is progressing at a swift pace.

Regarding the point raised by Hon. Panda ji, he referred only to one part of the reply, which states that 17,738 people have been trained. If you read further, we have also mentioned that through our seven national institutes, we have provided training to 10,390 individuals. Earlier, almost no such training arrangements existed. We have attempted to accelerate this process, and our effort is that in every State similar training programmes should be conducted through our institutes. During the period of training, we have also decided to provide them honorarium, which is being paid. Thereafter, through the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, we extend concessional loans to make them self reliant and help them establish livelihood ventures at very low rates of interest, that is, at

four percent and five percent per annum. We have set a target that within the next three years, we shall train five lakh persons with disabilities and undertake measures to make them self reliant.

(Q. 123)

[English]

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: Madam, as per Article 1. 1 of the Ramsar Convention instituted to create the norms for the conservation and sustainable use of wetland protection in the world, the definition of wetlands would include most of the natural water bodies and wetlands in our country. However, as a Government, we have only designated 26. As a result, many wetlands are excluded from the policy ambit of natural wetland protection. So, I just want to request the Minister whether this can be looked into.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: It is a good suggestion. The issue is, it is not only about Ramsar sites, but whatever are wetlands which are important, they must be recognized in the Ramsar Convention. It is an ongoing process. So, we always evaluate and take the next course. Let me tell you, here in the answer we have said that only 126 are identified there. But that does not mean that we have 126 wetlands. These are those wetlands where we have given finance under a particular scheme. That is the list. There should not be any confusion. We are very open. Nearly 2 lakh wetlands, covering more than 2 hectares of land, in our country are important. We all must protect them. There are some real issues which need to be looked into. There

is also a special programme run by the Ministry of Water Resources in this regard.

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: Sir, thank you for your detailed answer.

My second question is that the countries like Australia, New Zealand and South Africa are the world leaders in wetland renewal techniques. Are we employing any scientific technique for wetland conservation?

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Definitely, wetland renewal is an important issue. As we know, today, wetlands are getting encroached at many places. If we do not protect them properly then there will be an over-exploitation of floral and faunal resources. Conversion of wetlands for agricultural, aquaculture and human settlements are the real dangers. The anthropologic pressure like the discharge of sewage is what all the local bodies and State Governments need to look into. Wetlands are being used as a sewage treatment plant. If you are discharging all your sewage of the habitation in and around the lakes without putting proper sewage treatment plants then we have to see the conditions what we saw in Bengaluru and many other places. This is actually disturbing us all. Therefore, your suggestion is well taken.

SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY: Thank you Madam. Wetlands, directly or indirectly, support millions of people in providing services. There is a feat that human activities in wetlands are causing changes in wetlands. Changes in wetland areas may significantly affect ecosystem processes.

It is needless to say that increased urbanization plays a key role in environmental and ecological changes. We all know that compared to other States of the country, wetlands in Kerala and hills are under threat because of developmental activities. What comprehensive policy has the Government thought-of in order to protect wetlands not only in Kerala but in other States also; if not, will the Government frame a policy to protect these wetlands; if not, the reasons thereof?

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: A survey of about 100 wetlands of North Kerala in the Districts of Kasaragod, Kannur, Wayanad, Kozhikode and Malappuram had also been undertaken recently by CWRDM. They found that 20 wetlands are facing real threat because of over-exploitation, decline in biodiversity, pollution due to industrial, municipal, agriculture and tourism activities and destruction of mangroves for urbanization and other pollution problems due to coir retting. These problems have been identified. We

are taking up all the projects in cooperation with the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker, with your permission, I wish to speak from here.

HON. SPEAKER: Very well, please proceed.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker, we all know that the Hon. Minister is deeply sensitive towards environment and forests, and we wish to extend full support to him because this is an extremely important programme. However, the budget allocation of Rs. 146.94 crore is very limited, and in the coming days we hope that this allocation for the country's wetlands will be increased. While going through this State wise list today, I noticed that out of these 115 wetlands, approximately nine are bird sanctuaries. You yourself visited Assam's Kaziranga Park in 2014, situated along the banks of the Brahmaputra River, which too is a wetland area. You are aware that nearly 82 square kilometres of Kaziranga have been lost due to river erosion. As a result, tremendous pressure is being placed on the animal and bird populations. Therefore, my questions are will you include Kaziranga in the Wetland Programme list, and will erosion

management also be incorporated as an activity under the Wetland Conservation Programme?

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: First of all, I would like to thank Gaurav ji, because I too have visited Kaziranga, and I have also been to Loktak in Manipur. Recently, I visited Kolleru in Andhra Pradesh as well. Our country has such beautiful wetlands. If we truly wish to protect all of them, then regarding the point you raised about the budget, you have in fact expressed what was on my mind. The budget will increase … (*Interruption*s) I am coming to that. The CAMPA Bill will be before you today or later this week, and once you pass it, a very large fund that has remained locked for nearly ten years will become available for such works. As far as wetlands in forest areas like Kaziranga are concerned, this will certainly be useful there. Within the next month or month and a half, a meeting of all State Environment and Forest Ministers is scheduled. We have placed this as a major agenda item in that meeting as how to manage wetlands properly. Particularly within the Forest Department, we are taking up a major programme for fodder and water augmentation.

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Hon. Speaker Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this very important subject. I wish to ask the Hon. Minister that the National Wetland Conservation

Programme (NWCP) and the National Lake Conservation Plan (NLCP) have been merged into the NPCA. I would like to know what improvements have taken place after this merger and how its importance has increased. My State, Madhya Pradesh, has more than ten wetlands that have been granted protection under your programme, including the National Chambal Sanctuary in my Parliamentary Constituency and Yashwant Sagar in Madhya Pradesh. I would like to know from you what specific scheme you have undertaken for the National Chambal Sanctuary, because it covers a very large area and currently stands in a state of near ruin. Therefore, what special attention will you give to its conservation?

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: The details of the work undertaken under both these projects will be laid on the Table of the House, and I shall also send them to you. The core issue that you and Gaurav ji have raised relates to erosion, and for this we have published the Wetland Rules afresh in order to reform the Wetland Framework. On the basis of the draft, we will incorporate your suggestions as well, and new Rules will be prepared accordingly.

[English]

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): Conservation of water bodies and conservation of lakes will go a long way in preserving eco-system.

Conservation of wetlands should be given higher priority by the Ministry, and the States should be taken into confidence for conservation of wetlands at the State level. Having said that, through you, Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister how much aid has been extended to or amount released to West Bengal in the last one year under the National Plan for Conservation of Aquatic Eco-systems.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: I take very well the suggestion made by the hon. Member. I will immediately write to her about the exact amounts which have been given to West Bengal. For West Bengal, a sum of Rs. 16,90,00,000 has been released till date, including a sum of Rs. 91,87,500 last year.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Arvind Sawant. Please put a short supplementary.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Thank you very much, Madam.

I convey my compliments to the hon. Minister for giving elaborate answers. Therefore, I will put a very short question to the hon. Minister. Sir, you have confined wetlands to some other places. Why not seashore areas? For example, in Mumbai, you know that flamingos come around the wetlands of Sewri and Palm Beach shore. At the same time, there is a serious and heavy encroachment. By

cutting mangroves, people are encroaching upon the wetlands in that area also. What are the measures that the Government is taking to prevent that? I would also like to know as to what the Government is doing to support flamingos which are coming over there.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: While granting the permission for trans-harbour link from Sewri to Nhawa-Sheva, we have already taken care of this flamingos' issue and mangroves. Last week only, I had a very detailed meeting with all the concerned Ministers and officers of Maharashtra in Mumbai. Therefore, we have drawn out a very comprehensive plan of making more mangrove parks, which can become then tourism attraction also and taking care of flamingo particularly in Sewri and Nhava Sheva area.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Venkatesh Babu T. G. – Not Present

Shrimati Supriya Sule.

(Q. 124)

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Madam, in the written reply, the hon. Minister has said that they are asking the State Governments to intervene to organize talks and do psychological concerns and help them with mediation and yoga.

Madam, Maharashtra Government did a programme like this. Unfortunately, the Report showed with the help of Psychiatrist Society of India, which voluntarily did this programme, that about 1,000 policemen needed help. After that, there was a newspaper item, which created panic that 'thousand policemen need psychiatric treatment'. So, that entire project was shelved.

So, looking at the numbers, which are quite high of suicides, is this Government looking a personal counseling and making sure that the secrecy of that Report does not leak? It does not mean that they are crazy just because they need a psychiatric treatment? It thinks, it is a scientific issue.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Hon. Speaker Madam, the Hon. Member has referred specifically to the State of Maharashtra, but I wish to state that police and law and order fall under the jurisdiction

of the State Government. Even so, we repeatedly issue advisories. We also appoint specialists and provide training, including for yoga. In April, we issued a completely comprehensive advisory. Under police modernisation, we provide funds and instruct that proper housing and good training facilities be ensured for the personnel. We take every possible step in this regard. We have also framed a transfer policy for the para military forces. Earlier, when personnel were injured, their period of hospitalisation was not counted as duty. After the visit of our Hon. Home Minister to Chhattisgarh, it was decided that personnel injured and admitted to hospital will also be treated as being on duty, and we do not deduct their pay now. Secondly, for those who have undergone hard postings, a good policy has been formulated for transfer to a place of their choice thereafter. Those who serve in hard postings or perform special duty are given 12.5 percent additional pay. Further, personnel posted in Jammu and Kashmir and in the North East are permitted to stay with their families. We ensure that States do not face financial shortages for such requirements. Yoga is imparted because it helps maintain peace of mind. As for the causes of suicide among personnel, the figures show that 25 percent are related to marital issues, 15 percent to family issues, and 10 percent to job stress.

Generally, the national percentage holds true here as well: 0.001 percent cases are suicides.

[English]

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: Madam Speaker, my question was not about money. My specific question is, when Psychiatric Society of India is willing to volunteer and help for free, will they send an advisory that where there are individual cases, which need help, there will be secrecy? I am not challenging any of the work. It is complimentary. I said it in my first question also.

So, specifically, will the Government intervene on humanitarian grounds to take help and make sure that this is under secrecy, to keep privacy in psychology and not in money or policy. I am on human angle. My question is very specific.

HON. SPEAKER: It is personal counseling.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Hon. Speaker Madam, the point raised by the Hon. Member pertains to a State subject, and therefore the State Government will take the appropriate decision. However, if it relates in any way to the para military forces, we shall certainly give it due consideration.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS: Hon. Speaker Madam, I agree that there is a need to improve the working conditions of our police personnel. The Union Government regularly issues advisories to State Governments, urging them to take steps to improve these working conditions. From time to time, the Centre also suggests what measures the States should undertake for this purpose. As for their personal problems, you mentioned the need for personal counselling. The system of personal counselling must indeed be further developed and made more effective. In this regard too, advisories have been issued by the Union Government.

Hon. Speaker Madam, regarding suicides, I wish to state that it is not only police personnel who commit suicide in large numbers. The general tendency of suicide in the country shows a more or less similar percentage. Nevertheless, by improving their working conditions and providing them with better facilities, we are trying to bring about improvements in their situation. The Bureau of Police Research and Development is also conducting a study to assess what further improvements should be made in their working conditions.

HON. SPEAKER: Satyapal Singh ji. You know Maharashtra and you also know the general police system.

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH: Hon. Speaker Madam, I am very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to ask a question.

It is indeed a matter of misfortune that the very police force which provides security and dignity to the people, to society and to the nation is witnessing incidents of suicide among some of its personnel. This is deeply concerning for all of us. As the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has stated, while internal security is the responsibility of the State Governments, it is equally the responsibility of the Union Government. The biggest issue faced by police personnel, which often drives them to such extreme steps, is their living condition. As regards their housing, the Police Manual and Police Rules mandate that one hundred percent of personnel must be provided accommodation. However, in most States only about thirty to fifty percent personnel actually receive Government housing. While employees in almost all Government departments work eight hour shifts, police personnel work twelve to fourteen hour shifts. Will the Government of India issue any advisory, or provide one hundred percent modernisation grants to all States, ensuring that all police personnel receive housing and that their duty shifts are reduced from twelve to fourteen hours to eight hours?

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: The Hon. Member's suggestion is indeed a good one. However, while an eight hour duty schedule is desirable, the police forces are understaffed. I can place the figures before the House: in every State, at least 24 percent of police posts remain unfilled. Out of the 22 lakh posts required nationwide, 17 lakh have been filled and 5 lakh 60 thousand remain vacant. Because about 24 percent of posts in various States are vacant, personnel often have to work longer hours. We repeatedly advise the States on this matter, and even in the funds provided under Police Modernisation, it is specifically stated that police housing must be constructed, police stations must be upgraded and police posts must be improved. On 9 September last year, we issued an advisory directing the States to fill up the vacant posts.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Hon. Speaker Madam, it is indeed true that the housing satisfaction level of police personnel is not satisfactory. I am of the view that there is a need to further improve this housing satisfaction level, and the Union Government is considering this matter very seriously. As far as the States are concerned, State Governments are also empowered to take decisions in this regard. I am pleased to

inform the House that several States have already taken effective steps to improve the housing satisfaction level of police personnel.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: This problem exists everywhere. In particular, the budget allocated by the Government last time for police modernisation was very low, around Rs. 665 crore. When the allocation for modernisation is inadequate, it leads to shortages in housing, vehicles, equipment and other essential requirements. Earlier, there was a scheme during the tenure of Shri L. K. Advani as Home Minister, under which the Union Government provided 75 percent and the State Governments contributed 25 percent. Under that scheme, maximum grants were given for housing, equipment, vehicles and other necessities. This time, at the very least, will you allocate funds in accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs so that both the State Governments benefit and you too are able to maintain law and order more effectively? Will you do this?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Hon. Speaker Madam, first of all, I wish to inform the Hon. Member that the fund allocated for police modernisation is not used by State Governments for any housing programme. ... (*Interruption*s)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Please ask those who were in office earlier. Advaniji is sitting right here. Even under Food for Work, you had provided funds. ... (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: *In toto,* that fund is meant for modernisation.

. . . (*Interruption*s)

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Funds are not allocated specifically for housing. It is possible that State Governments utilise them in that manner, but the police modernisation fund is not allocated for this purpose.

As far as CAPFs, that is, the para military forces, are concerned, in 2013 approximately 21,000 houses were sanctioned. In 2014, the construction of 13,000 houses was sanctioned, and in 2015–16 we are sanctioning the construction of additional houses.

HON. SPEAKER: Singh ji, you all have worked on this earlier, have you not?

SHRI R. K. SINGH: I would like to clarify one fact. Under the police modernisation scheme, housing was indeed one of the components for which the Union Government contributed funds along with the State Governments. Perhaps the Union Government has discontinued this component because the share of taxes devolved to the States has been

increased. The States have been told to undertake housing from their own resources. But earlier, housing was an important component under the police modernisation scheme. My request to the Hon. Home Minister is that the scheme be revived. Please discuss this with the Ministry of Finance. ... (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: Please maintain order. Nothing of this sort is hidden. Everyone knows everything. For years and years many people have been working on all these matters, so why speak unnecessarily?

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Our Cabinet note for reviving the police modernisation plan scheme is almost ready, and we shall shortly place it before the Cabinet. We are indeed reviving this plan scheme. As far as the non plan component is concerned, a provision of Rs. 595 crore already exists at present. This time, we are also endeavouring to ensure that allocations under both schemes are increased compared to earlier. I am confident that the allocation under this head will be enhanced.

(Q. 125)

[English]

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Madam, I am very happy to say that 14th April, 2016 is a historical and revolutionary day for the Indian farmers. Madam, that day is not only the 125th birthday of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar but also on that day, our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji launched the National Agriculture Market for our farmers, which was pending for many decades. This was the demand of farmers for many years. The purpose behind the National Agriculture Market is a creation of common national market for agriculture commodities through an e-platform network. National Agriculture Market is a game changer. This system will eliminate middlemen. No middle man is involved in buying or selling of agriculture commodities. There is less transaction cost involved. There is single license across the country and also there is single point levy for all agriculture products. The farmers and traders can sell with the same freedom across the State and across the country.

[Translation]

I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that the condition of our APMCs is very poor and even basic facilities are not available there.

What steps will our Government take to improve these basic facilities? I have two more questions on the same subject.

What steps will our Government take to implement e-trading in APMCs across the country, extending up to every tehsil level? My third question is. … (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: Ask only one question. Please sit down.

SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDRIYA: Hon. Speaker Madam, the Hon. Member has expressed concern regarding agriculture and the need for farmers to receive fair prices. I would especially like to inform the Hon. Members that our Prime Minister has launched e-marketing across India on 14 April. By March 2018, efforts have begun to link 585 mandis across the country with e marketing. In particular, for each APMC that has started this system, a provision has been made to provide a loan of Rs. 30 lakh. On that basis, they may purchase computers, printers and all necessary equipment. Secondly, for transaction operations in the mandis, the Government of India will provide the software free of cost.

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE: Madam Speaker, I have one more question. At present only 25 agricultural products are being sold through e trading. It is only in eight States and 21 *mandis*. What steps

will you take to bring all agricultural products across the country into the e market, and how many years will you need?

SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA: Hon. Speaker Madam, for the agricultural mandis we have so far identified 25 crops and conducted trials for them. These 25 crops will now be brought into the e marketing system. Later, if required, new crops will be identified and additional crops may also be included.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Hon. Speaker Madam, this question concerns the interests of crores of producer farmers and consumers in our country. I believe the Hon. Minister, seeing the seriousness of this issue, should respond in a manner that protects both farmers and consumers. You are aware that India is an agriculture dominated country. Yet, even today, at least 94 percent of our farmers remain dependent on APMC markets. Unfortunately, APMC markets have become centres for middlemen, and farmers do not receive fair prices. Their produce is not weighed properly, they are not paid the correct value, and even whatever price is offered, a portion of it is deducted as tax. This is the prevailing situation.

Today, unfortunately, the price of pulses has risen sharply; it has gone up to 180. ... (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask your question. The question concerns modernisation.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: I would like to know about the Government's online agricultural marketing policy. The Hon. Minister mentioned 25, but in the written reply only 21 have been stated. In eight or nine States, only 21 market committees have begun using this online system, whereas at least 580 market committees are functioning across the country. I wish to know, given the present serious situation and the rising prices, what provisions the Government is making to implement the online agricultural marketing policy immediately across the entire country so that farmers and consumers receive support. Additionally, what measures does the Government have to control the rising prices of pulses?

SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA: Hon. Speaker Madam, the figure of 25 that I mentioned does not refer to markets; it refers to 25 crops that we have identified so far. At present, in eight States and in 21 APMCs, we launched e marketing on 14 April. In particular, to ensure that farmers receive fair prices and are freed from intermediaries, we are making an effort to link the entire marketing system of all States and the whole country. At present, when a farmer takes his produce to any APMC, a ring is formed by

the purchasing parties and the farmer does not get the correct price, resulting in heavy losses. Once an e market covering the whole State and the entire country is established, farmers will have access to a large platform, they will find many buyers, and they will receive proper prices. On this basis we have launched this scheme. Under it, our farmers will receive fair prices and consumers will also get commodities at reasonable rates. That is why we have initiated e marketing.

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI: Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to a very important matter. Seven to eight months ago, the entire country purchased onions at Rs. 50 per kilogram and there was an outcry everywhere. But this year, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra have produced onions in abundance. However, the present situation is that onions are being sold in the mandis at Rs. 3 per kilogram.

My request to the Hon. Minister and to the Government is that the Government should immediately procure onions from farmers, because farmers have no facility for storage and they are facing complete ruin. Therefore, I urge the Government to purchase onions in order to save the farmers.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that a Price Stabilisation Fund has been established for potatoes, onions and pulses. Earlier, this fund was under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, but it has now been placed under the Ministry of Food and Supplies, which is presently exercising control over it.

[English]

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD: Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to ask a question.

I compliment the Minister for starting e-NAM under which five markets were inaugurated in my State of Telangana also. There are two things. One thing is launching of a programme and the second thing is its implementation. Now that the portal has been launched and e-platform is there, the biggest problem is that whenever a person sitting in Delhi wants to buy from the Telangana market, he has to know the quality of the product and the quantity of the product. What measures have been taken really to implement this project successfully? I know the market conditions personally. Since my childhood, I have seen it with my eyes. Even today, the conditions have not changed. For a farmer, it is like a snake and ladder game. I

would request the Minister to tell what measures are being taken to successfully implement this project.

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Hon. Speaker Madam, first of all, I would like to state that the Agricultural Market Act is enacted by the State Governments. In 2010, the Government convened a meeting of Agriculture Ministers from all States and constituted a Committee. States were requested to amend their respective Acts so that provisions beneficial to farmers could be introduced. However, that matter did not progress further. After the new Government assumed office, a Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Shri Ashok Gulati. That Committee will be submitting its report shortly. Meanwhile, State Governments were requested to amend their mandi laws in three specific ways. First, to permit e trading; second, to implement mandi fees at a single point; and third, to ensure the validity of a single licence for trade across the entire State, since earlier separate licences were required for each mandi. Following this request, nearly 17 States have made either complete or partial amendments to their laws. Thereafter, I received proposals from 12 States covering approximately 365 mandis. Against these proposals, we have sanctioned Rs. 160 crore and funds have already been

released to six States. Under this scheme, each mandi is provided Rs. 30 lakh and an IT engineer. The first task undertaken is to establish a laboratory. Hon. Speaker Madam, you are aware that when a farmer brings produce to the market, the intermediaries or licensees arbitrarily fix prices and determine quality as they please. With the laboratory in place, the quality will be scientifically assessed so that licensees no longer hold that authority and the farmer does not suffer losses. We have presently linked 25 mandis in 21 States. This is a pilot project. We shall connect 585 mandis across the country. The ultimate objective is to ensure that farmers receive a fair and remunerative price.

HON. SPEAKER: Hukum Singh ji, please ask a short question. The Hon. Minister has explained the matter very well. This is a pilot project.

SHRI HUKUM SINGH: You have given a very detailed reply, but the problem remains as it is. The prices of pulses are not coming down, and the prices of onions are not able to rise.

HON. SPEAKER: The discussion right now is about e marketing.

SHRI HUKUM SINGH: What will we do with e trading now? Today, farmers are being forced to sell onions at Rs. 2 per kilogram, and sometimes even at Re. 1. There must be a solution to this problem,

and the solution will come only when the Government intervenes in the market, purchases onions and protects the farmers.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: This matter does not pertain to my Ministry.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Prof. Saugata Roy, Shri Jitendra Chaudhury and Shri Ravneet Singh on different issues.

The matters, though important, do not warrant *Interruption* of Business of the day. I have, therefore, disallowed all the notices of Adjournment Motion.

*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 126 to 140

Unstarred Question Nos. 1381 to 1610

* **For Questions, please visit** https://sansad.in/ls/questions/questions-and-answers .

12. 01 hours

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

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

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): Hon. Speaker Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) (No. 9 of 2016)(Compliance Audit)-General purpose Financial Reports of Central Public Sector Enterprises for the year ended 31st March, 2015 under Article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4635/16/16]

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 Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4636/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): Hon. Speaker Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Rules, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.424(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th April, 2016 under sub-section (2) of Section 23 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4637/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD.) VIJAY KUMAR SINGH): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget

(Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4638/16/16]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS (SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL): I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2010-2011, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2010-2011.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4639/16/16]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2011-2012, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2011-2012.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4640/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Chemical Accidents (Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Amendment Rules, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 902(E) in Gazette of India dated 27th November, 2015 under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4641/16/16]

[Translation]

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

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

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Maharashtra Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4642/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): Madam, I beg to lay the following on the Table: -

(1) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4643/16/16]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.1192(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd March, 2016 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.1221(E) dated 15th May, 2013 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4644/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NIHAL CHAND): Madam Speaker, on behalf of Shri G. M. Siddeshwara, I beg to lay on the Table: -

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

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4645/16/16]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (b) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4646/16/16]

[English]

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

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Land Ports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Land Ports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2012-2013.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4647/16/16]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Land Ports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Land Ports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4648/16/16]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Land Ports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Land Ports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4649/16/16]

(7) A copy of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Amendment Rules, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 966(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th December, 2015 under Section 49 of the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4650/16/16]

(8) A copy of the Central Industrial Security Force, Fire Wing (Subordinate Ranks) Group 'B' and Group 'C' Posts Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 189(E) in Gazette of India dated 23rd

February, 2016 under sub-section (3) of Section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4651/16/16]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 36 of the Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010: -

(i) The Land Ports Authority of India (Conditions of Service of Officers and other Employees) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. F. No. 13/12/2012-LPAI in Gazette of India dated 9th March, 2016.

(ii) The Land Ports Authority of India (Officers and other Employees) Recruitment Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. F. No. 13/12/2012-LPAI in Gazette of India dated 9th March, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4652/16/16]

(10) A copy of the Registration of Foreigners (Amendment) Rules, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 324(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th March, 2016 under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Registration of Foreigners Act, 1939.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4653/16/16]

(11) A copy of the Foreigners (Amendment) Order, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 325(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th March, 2016 issued under Section 3 of the Foreigners Act, 1946.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4654/16/16]

[Translation**]**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL GURJAR): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table: —

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Orthopedically Handicapped, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for the Orthopedically Handicapped, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4655/16/16]

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

(i) Review by Government of the working of the National Handicapped Finance and Development, Faridabad, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation, Faridabad, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4656/16/16]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Institute for the Physically Handicapped, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4657/16/16]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Second Amendment) Order, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S. O. 680(E) in Gazette of India dated 7th March, 2016 under Section 4d of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4658/16/16]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4659/16/16]

12. 03 hours

[English]

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 2nd May, 2016 agreed without any amendment to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2016 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 16th March, 2016. "

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (Railways) No. 2 Bill, 2016, which was passed

by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 26th April, 2016 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill. "

---

12. 03 ½ hours

PARTICIPATION OF INDIAN PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION AT THE 132ND ASSEMBLY OF INTER-PARLIAMENTARY UNION (IPU)

Report

SECRETARY-GENERAL: I beg to lay on the Table the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the participation of Indian Parliamentary Delegation at the 132nd Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union held in Hanoi (Vietnam) from 28 March to 1 April, 2015.

---

12. 04 hours

COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN

6th Report

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (GUWAHATI): I beg to present the Sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women (2015-16) on the Subject 'Empowerment of Tribal Women'.

---

12. 04 ¼ hours

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF OTHER BACKWARD CLASSES

5th Report

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (NOWGONG): I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (2015-16) on 'Measures undertaken to secure representation of OBCs in employment and for their welfare in Indian Oil Corporation Limited' pertaining to the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

---

12. 04 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

23rd to 26th Reports

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Information Technology (2015-16): -

(1) Twenty-third Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) relating to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(2) Twenty-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).

(3) Twenty-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Electronics and Information Technology).

(4) Twenty-sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).

12. 04 ¾ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

(i)Action Report Report

MAJ. GEN. B. C. KHANDURI AVSM (RETD.) (GARHWAL): I beg to present the Eighteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Seventh Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry on Defence on Army (Demand No. 23).

(ii)19th to 22nd Reports

MAJ. GEN. B. C. KHANDURI AVSM (RETD.): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence: -

(1) Nineteenth Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Defence on General Defence Budget, Civil Expenditure of MoD (Demand No. 20) and Defence Pension (Demand No. 21)'.

(2) Twentieth Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Defence on Army, Navy and Air Force (Demand No. 22)'.

(3) Twenty-first Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Defence (Miscellaneous, Demand No. 20)'.

(4) Twenty-second Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Defence on Capital Outlay on Defence Services (Demand No. 23)'.

12. 05 ¼ hours

STADING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION

10th and 11th Reports

SHRI J. C. DIVAKAR REDDY (ANANTAPUR): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2015- 16):-

(1) Tenth Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Department of Food and Public Distribution (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution).

(2) Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Department of Consumer Affairs (Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution).

---

12. 05 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

17th and 18th Reports

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Hon. Speaker, I beg to present following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour:

(1) 17th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2016-2017)' of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

(2) 18th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2016-2017)' of the Ministry of Textiles.

---

12. 05 ¾ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

12th Report

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Hon. Speaker, I beg to present the 12th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2016-2017)' (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

---

12. 06 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

20th Report

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): Hon. Speaker, I beg to present the 20th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on 'Demands for Grants (2016-2017)' relating to the Ministry of Steel.

12. 06 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE

123rd to 126th Reports

[English]

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR (KAUSHAMBI): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Commerce: -

(1) 123rd Report on Export Infrastructure in India.

(2) 124th Report on the Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/ Observations of the Committee contained in its 119th Report on Rubber Industry in India.

(3) 125th Report on the Demands for Grants (2016-17) of Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry. 14

(4) 126th Report on the Demands for Grants (2016-17) of Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

---

12. 07 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

197th Report

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the One Hundred and Ninety-seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Home Affairs.

---

12. 07 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

272nd to 275th Reports

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Madam, I beg to lay the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Industry: -

(1) Two Hundred and Seventy-second Report on Review of Provisions of Corporate Social Responsibility under the Companies Act, 2013.

(2) Two Hundred and Seventy-third Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Heavy Industry).

(3) Two Hundred and Seventy-fourth Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Public Enterprises). 15

(4) Two Hundred and Seventy-fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises.

---

12. 08 hours

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment*

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): Hon. Speaker Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

---

12. 08 ½ hours

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 192nd Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the 185th Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 192nd Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the 185th Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

---

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4660/16/16 and 4661/16/16 respectively.

12. 08 ¾ hours

(iii)Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

---

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4662/16/16

12. 09 hours

(iv) Regarding order of arbitral tribunal in the enrica lexie matter*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam, I rise to make a statement on behalf of my colleague the External Affairs Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj.

I rise to make a statement on the order of the Arbitral Tribunal constituted under Annex VII of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea concerning the dispute between India and Italy on the Enrica Lexie incident. The order, in response to Italy's request for provisional measures, was given yesterday by the Arbitral Tribunal at The Hague. The House has been following this matter since the incident in 2012 with considerable attention. It is, therefore, only fitting that we should take the House into confidence regarding these recent developments.

As hon. Members are aware, the incident in question happened in February 2012 when Italian naval personnel on board the MV

* Placed in Library, See No. LT 4659A/16/16

Enrica Lexie opened fire on an Indian fishing vessel, St. Antony, resulting in the death of two fishermen. The two Italian marines, Sergeants Latorre and Girone, who were charged with this killing were detained by the police and the case against them is presently for bail in the Supreme Court.

This case has been contested in various courts since 2012 and the two Italian Marines involved, in 2012 itself obtained bail. The bail conditions have been relaxed on numerous occasions. India's jurisdiction in this case has been challenged by Italy since the occurrence of the incident. Members would recall that we even had a situation where the sovereign undertaking given by Italy to the Supreme Court of India was sought to be repudiated.

In July 2015, Italy invoked international arbitration on this matter under the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. As a State Party to the Convention, we were obliged to join such proceedings. An Annex-VII Arbitral Tribunal was accordingly constituted that comprised five Members, from Russia, Republic of Korea, Jamaica, Italy and India. An initial request for provisional measures was made by Italy even before the constitution of this Arbitral Tribunal when it approached the International Tribunal of the Law of the Sea (ITLOS). It sought an immediate end to the restrictions

on the liberty, security and movement of the two Marines and for India to refrain from taking or enforcing any judicial or administrative measures against them, and from exercising any other form of jurisdiction over the incident. The ITLOS order did not accept Italy's plea but pronounced that all court proceedings should be suspended in the two countries and no new proceeding should be initiated.

Since India contested this Italian plea before the ITLOS successfully, this time Italy sought more limited relief from the Annex-VII Arbitral Tribunal on humanitarian grounds. It did so essentially on the argument that since the court proceedings in India were stayed, no purpose would be served by the continued presence in India of Sergeant Girone. This too was contested by India on the ground that there is no change in circumstances or urgency. It was on this matter that the Arbitral Tribunal issued its order yesterday.

The Tribunal noted that while Italy had earlier made a far reaching request that, if granted, would have removed Sergeant Girone entirely from the reach of India's legal system, this time Italy was only requesting India to relax the bail conditions to enable him to return to Italy. In doing so, Italy was prepared to accept that he remained under the jurisdiction of the Courts of India. In essence, they

proposed to change the physical location of Sergeant Girone's bail without prejudice to the authority of India's courts.

Let me make clear that the authority of the Supreme Court has been affirmed, not questioned. The issue of jurisdiction, which is at the heart of the case, is yet to be argued before the Tribunal. And even the limited relief given on entirely humanitarian considerations has been made contingent on the clear-cut undertakings provided by the Italian Government that Sergeant Girone will return to India in case Indian jurisdiction is established.

Now, let me come to the order that the Arbitral Tribunal unanimously issued as a provisional measure. It prescribed that India and Italy would approach the Supreme Court of India for relaxation of the bail conditions of Sergeant Girone. While remaining under the authority of the Supreme Court of India, he may return to Italy for the duration of the present arbitration. The Tribunal confirmed Italy's obligation to return him to India in case it was found that India had jurisdiction over him in respect of the incident.

The Tribunal has left it to the Supreme Court of India to fix the precise conditions of Sergeant Girone's bail. These could include, inter alia, him reporting to an authority in Italy designated by our Supreme Court in intervals to be determined by it, surrendering his

passport to Italian authorities and not leaving Italy without the permission of our Supreme Court. Further, Italy shall apprise our Supreme Court of his situation every three months.

I would like to inform the hon. Members that the Tribunal also placed on record undertakings given by Italy in regard to Sergeant Girone's return to India. India is assured, unequivocally and with legally binding effect, that Sergeant Girone will return to India in case of the Tribunal finding that we have jurisdiction over him in respect of the incident concerned. It noted that Italy's undertakings constitute an obligation binding upon it under international law. It has also confirmed that Italy is under an obligation to return Sergeant Girone to India if the Tribunal finds that India has jurisdiction over the Marines.

The Tribunal considers that provisional measures should not alter the situation where the Supreme Court of India exercises jurisdiction over Sergeant Girone. It has also noted that while Sergeant Girone may return to Italy during the present arbitration, during all this period he would remain under the authority of the Supreme Court of India.

Members may be assured that in due course, the Government will approach the Hon. Supreme Court for its directions on this matter. We

see the Tribunal's order not just as a recognition of India's consistent positions and the key arguments but also as an affirmation of the authority of the Supreme Court of India.

Let me conclude by making the Government's position on this case amply clear. We strongly believe that India has jurisdiction in this case and this position has been and will be our unwavering stance. As a nation that respects international law, we will pursue our case vigorously before the arbitral tribunal. The Government will fight for the rights of the victims of this incident and are confident in obtaining justice for them and their families. I am confident that we have the full support of the hon. House in this endeavour.

HON. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up ‘Zero Hour’.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No question on this. Shri Baijayant Panda.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: There are no question on this.

. . . (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: There are no questions on a statement.

. . . (*Interruption*s)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: You give a notice. Give a proper notice, not like this.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is not the practice here. I cannot help it.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will not allow anybody. You give proper notice. It is not the practice here. I am sorry.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Only whatever Shri Baijayant Panda says will go on record.

… (*Interruptions*). . . *

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way. You know it better. Only whatever Shri Baijayant Panda says will go on record.

… (*Interruptions*)… *

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Panda, do you not want to say anything?

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Madam, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important issue which kills one million Indians every year. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the practice. I will not allow you.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Kharge Ji is a very senior Member. There is neither such a rule nor practice also. That is the end of the matter. He knows it.

* Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: I know it. I will not allow them.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Panda Ji, you may continue. Only your statement is going on record.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: Thank you Madam for giving this opportunity to speak on this important matter. Madam, more than one million Indians die every year from tobacco related illnesses and the cost to the country, in medical and health costs, is more than Rs. 1,00,000 crores every year. … (*Interruptions*) In this context, Madam, the Government issued a notification that from the 1st of April all tobacco packages must have larger pictorial warnings covering 85 per cent of the tobacco package. … (*Interruptions*) This is very-very good. It has been delayed by one year. It was originally announced for 1st April of last year. It is very good but it is not enough because the Government apart from notifying it has to stand up and ensure that the lobbying and the pressure of the tobacco companies do not delay this. Some of them are indulging in pressure tactics. … (*Interruptions*) I urge the Government, it is essential for them, to stand up and make a statement that this 85 per cent pictorial warning on tobacco packages will not be withdrawn and that it must be strictly implemented.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Dr. Kirit P. Solanki are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Baijayant Panda.

[Translation**]**

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA (MANDSAUR): Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Railway Ministry towards the expansion of railway facilities in my Parliamentary Constituency, Mandsaur. The Ministry has indeed taken note of this matter for developmental purposes, and for that I wish to express my gratitude.

[English**]**

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Bijoy Chakravarty, why are you speaking? I have not called you.

[Translation**]**

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: I would request the Hon. Railway Minister that the announced railway expansion from Neemuch to Chittorgarh be commenced at the earliest. Once the survey from Ratlam to Neemuch is completed, an order should be issued for doubling the Ratlam–Chittorgarh railway line.

12. 19 hours

(At this stage, Shri Malikarjun Kharge and some other hon. Members left the House.)

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Hon. Speaker Madam, electrification works should also be commenced expeditiously. The remaining underbridges and overbridges in my Parliamentary Constituency should be completed at the earliest. This region has immense tourism potential. The railway track here already meets the standards required for semi high speed operations. I therefore request the Hon. Minister to announce semi high speed trains for this region. Along with this, train facilities should be provided on this track for the proposed Udaipur–Ujjain tourist circuit. In my Parliamentary Constituency, the stations at Shamgarh, Garoth, Suvasra, Bhesoda Mandi, Jaora, Mandsaur, Papalamandi, Daloda, Malhargarh and Neemuch Road should be equipped with new facilities. Hon. Speaker Madam, some of these stations should be declared standard stations. On both the Western Railway and Western Central Railway tracks, the train facilities requested by me from time to time should be enhanced. Thank you.

[English**]**

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam Speaker, you are aware, as per the practice and rules of the House, sloganeering is not allowed.

Secondly, making comments without the permission of the Chair is not allowed and if those things are going on record, this is not good.

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing had gone on record. I had already said that nothing would go on record.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, you try to understand our problem. The Chair says that nothing would go on record but the electronic media is covering it and the print media covers it subsequently. It has become a fashion to use everything for political advantage because some elections are going on.

It all happened during their regime and now they are calling it ‘match fixing’. Had they fixed the match earlier? Match fixing is done with regard to other issues. People are discussing about that and that will come out. Already a notice has been given and you were kind enough to admit it.

My submission is that it is an international Tribunal which has given an order. We are a democratic country and we have some understanding. A Tribunal at The Hague has given some order and the Supreme Court is going to be approached. What is the politics in this and what is match fixing? I am not able to understand.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Why are you going with Italy?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We are not going with Italy. At no time, we have gone with Italy.

Secondly, my point is that making such unsavoury remarks that too by people who have so much experience in Parliament is not good. It should be removed from the records. From the Government side, we totally condemn this allegation.

HON. SPEAKER: Actually, I have already said that only the Member whom I permit would go on record. That is why, I had said that only the statement of Shri Baijayant Panda would go on record. So, nothing else had gone on record.

Another thing is that we have made rules and according to rules when a Minister makes any statement no question is asked. That is the rule in Lok Sabha. That is why, I cannot help it. You can request for change in the rules and the Rules Committee may think about it.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The matter which Mr. Panda raised relating to the display in tobacco products that went down the din. It is only on record.

HON. SPEAKER: The House has understood it. It is all right.

[Translation**]**

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAUR): Hon. Speaker Madam, I sincerely thank you for giving me this opportunity. Through you, I wish to bring before the Hon. Sports Minister certain grievances concerning the sports talents emerging from our schools. The reality is that at the district level, tournaments are organised for school students. Those children who are selected there proceed to play at the State level, and from the State level they are selected to participate in National level games. Although this matter pertains to the State, it is extremely important for the Union Sports Ministry to understand the difficulties faced by players who reach the National level.

Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I wish to state that recently the gymnastics team of Rajasthan had to travel to Hyderabad for a tournament, but they were unable to obtain reservations. Among these players, 50 percent were boys and 50 percent were girls. I personally requested the Hon. Railway Minister, and with considerable effort their reservations were arranged in Two Tier and Three Tier, that is, in the ordinary general category coaches. Therefore, I wish to submit that as soon as any player is selected to participate at the National level, they should be provided accommodation in AC Second or Third

Tier, and this arrangement should be made by the SAI (Sports Authority of India).

Hon. Speaker Madam, my second submission is that in different States, players are given different amounts for diet, and many State Governments provide very little. My request is that children who go to play at the National level should be provided diet and other facilities uniformly by the SAI. If the SAI does not provide funds, then the Sports Ministry must undertake this responsibility, because these are national talents. If the Union Government does not nurture them, then who will? We frequently say that we are unable to win medals at the Asian Games or that we win fewer medals at the Olympic Games. If these young talents travel for three days in ordinary class compartments in order to participate in National level tournaments, how will they perform? Suppose a child from Guwahati is selected and has to travel to Thiruvananthapuram for a National level tournament. If that child has to undertake a three day journey in an ordinary compartment, what performance can be expected? Therefore, for better performance, proper diet and facilities must be provided. Through you, Hon. Speaker Madam, I appeal to the Hon. Sports Minister that my submission should be considered and implemented immediately. I thank you once again for the time given.

HON. SPEAKER: The Hon. Member Shri Mohammad Badaruddoza Khan, Shrirang Appa Barne, Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Dr. Virendra Kumar, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Rodmal Nagar, Sudheer Gupta, Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, Dr. Satyapal Singh, Devji Patel, A. T. Nana Patil, Shivkumar Udasi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Kumari Shobha Karandlaje, P. P. Chaudhary, Harish Meena, Arjun Lal Meena, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Ramcharan Bohra, Ajay Mishra Teni and Shri Sharad Tripathi have associated themselves with the issue raised by Shri C. R. Chaudhary before the House.

DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY (CHANDAULI): Hon. Speaker Madam, I express my deep gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. Through you, I would like to place before this House a matter of national importance. Across the country, holidays and various programmes are observed in the name of many great personalities. In the making of this nation, the contribution of Chakravarti Samrat Ashoka has been immense. We use the emblem dedicated to his four lions as our National Emblem. His Dharma Chakra adorns our National Flag. To honour the bravery of our valiant soldiers, we award the highest gallantry honour in peace time, the Ashoka Chakra, which bears his name. Samrat Ashoka was

born in 304 BCE, and his reign is generally considered to be between 273 BCE and 232 BCE. He unified the entire Indian subcontinent stretching from Afghanistan in the west to the present day Assam, Ahom and Myanmar in the east, and far into the south. He established several great universities. He built Takshashila and gave to the nation and the world the profound message of Ahimsa Paramo Dharma. Yet, in his name, not a single national observance. … (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: Mahendra Nath ji, long speeches are not made during Zero Hour. Please state your point briefly.

DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY: My submission is that, after obtaining the considered opinion of scholars, one national observance should be instituted in the name of Samrat Ashoka, so that the youth may draw inspiration from his deeds and dedicate themselves to the unity and integrity of the nation, thereby helping to create a positive environment in the country.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri C. P. Joshi, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Kunwar Pupendra Singh Chandel, Shri Arjun Lal Meena, Shri Ramcharan Bohra and Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey.

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): Hon. Speaker Madam, in my Parliamentary Constituency, Jamshedpur, as well as throughout Jharkhand, a severe water crisis has deepened. ... (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: A discussion on this is yet to take place, so please state your point briefly.

BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO: Hon. Speaker Madam, this is a hilly region, and therefore not only ordinary people but even animals and birds are dying due to the scarcity of water. For the past two to three years, inadequate rainfall has caused wells, hand pumps, rivers and streams to dry up completely. There is distress everywhere for drinking water. Through the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA), the Government is undertaking deepening of private ponds and the construction of dobhas at various places for water conservation. However, apart from MGNREGA, this work needs to be undertaken on a war footing under a separate scheme so that rainwater can be harvested and the groundwater level can be raised. There is no immediate relief in sight, whereas the people urgently need assistance.

Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I request the Hon. Minister and the Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation to immediately consult the State Government and announce a special package. Along with this, a plan should be formulated to ensure the provision of safe drinking water to the people on a war footing.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Nishikant Dubey, Shri C. P. Joshi, Shri Rodmal Nagar and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato.

SHRI DADDAN MISRA (SHRAWASTI): Hon. Speaker Madam, my Zero Hour submission relates to Railways. Before placing my demand, I wish to express my gratitude to the Hon. Railway Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu, and the Hon. Minister of State for Railways, Shri Manoj Sinha, because they have given a great gift to the people of Shrawasti by connecting our region with the rail network. The work they have done to fulfil the long standing dream of the people of Shrawasti is immense, and in comparison my request is very small. In the entire history of Railway Budgets, the Hon. Railway Minister had made a provision in the previous Railway Budget for the construction of nearly one thousand ROBs and RUBs. In my entire Parliamentary Constituency, there is only one railway line, the Gonda–Badhni line, which had so far been a loop line. On 22 November, both the Ministers

inaugurated its conversion into broad gauge. However, during the loop line period, the level crossings and railway gates were functioning, but now many of them have been closed. We had requested five ROBs and RUBs, but not even one has been sanctioned. At our special request, the Hon. Minister of State for Railways approved one of them, but the remaining four demands are still pending. Earlier, when the loop line was operational, people could cross from one side to the other through level crossings or railway gates. … (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: You have made your point. Do not go into such lengthy details.

SHRI DADDAN MISRA: Hon. Speaker Madam, those crossings have now been closed. Through you, I wish to request the Hon. Minister for four ROBs and RUBs. First, an ROB or RUB should be constructed at kilometre 151, between Jharkhandi and Gaizhwa railway stations. Nearly 50 villages are affected, and people have to travel almost 50 kilometres to cross.

Second, an ROB or RUB should be constructed near bridge number 149 at kilometre 170/10. This is a very old demand. Between Tulsipur and Laiburwa stations, at Manikaura Kashiram village, there was a canal crossing gate which has now been closed. Similarly, near

Bakauli Dalpur, at kilometre 135/6–7, the railway crossing has been closed. I request that ROBs or RUBs be constructed at these locations and that the movement which was earlier possible should be restored smoothly through the construction of these ROBs.

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

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I wish to raise the issue of APL and BPL classification. The Government of India has prescribed criteria for BPL, on the basis of which the State Government conducts survey and selection. In Bihar, there are approximately 1 crore 20 lakh BPL families. However, as per the criteria and point system framed by the Centre, only 60 lakh families have been categorised as BPL. Even within this, due to manipulation at the local level, APL families have been included as BPL and genuine BPL families have been shown as APL.

I wish to request the Government that the criteria laid down by you should be re-examined and changed in consultation with experts, because the points-based criteria are not accurate and are open to manipulation. There are 1 crore 20 lakh BPL families, yet only 60 lakh are being counted. Will the Government initiate the process afresh?

You have launched the Ujjwala Yojana, under which it has been stated that five crore BPL families will be given gas cylinders free of cost. However, this is not actually free, since an amount of Rs. 1,600 is, in a way, being taken as a loan. Even in this scheme, there are five crore BPL families. What will be the criteria for identifying them? Will BPL families actually receive a cylinder under this scheme for Rs. 1,600? When there is manipulation at present in the categorisation of APL and BPL, will there not be similar manipulation in the selection of these five crore beneficiaries?

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan.

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA): Hon. Speaker Madam, under the present railway freight structure, when the distance increases, the railway freight also increases. Because of this, the landed cost of coal at various consumption points in the interior regions of Gujarat becomes extremely high. For example, the ACCL Korba to Sikka TAS railway freight is Rs. 3,150 per metric tonne, whereas the transportation cost of imported coal from Indonesia to the western coast of India is Rs. 725 per metric tonne, that is 12 US dollars, and from Australia to the Indian coast it is Rs. 1,000 per metric tonne. If we consider the three monsoon months, Indian Railways

collects a busy season surcharge. Railways also determine parallel railway wagon loading capacities, and heavy penalties are imposed for both underloading and overloading. Due to the high railway freight for transporting coal to interior consumption centres of Gujarat, their fuel unit production cost increases by nearly 65 percent. As a result, GSECL power generation units automatically fall out of the merit order. Many times, because of this, the allocated coal cannot be fully utilised, and then Coal India imposes penalties for lifting less coal. In such circumstances, the Government of Gujarat has repeatedly requested that a rationalisation of railway freight charges be undertaken.

My request and appeal to the Government is that the Railways should introduce a telescopic freight policy similar to the telescopic fares charged for passenger travel.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri A. T. Nana Patil, Shri Dev Ji M. Patel, Kunwar Pashupendra Singh Chandel, Shri C. P. Joshi, Shri Rodmal Nagar and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate with the isse raised by Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon. Speaker Madam, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this burning issue concerning Delhi. Although this is a matter

pertaining to the Delhi Government and has arisen due to its negligence, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the ban imposed by the Hon. Supreme Court on diesel taxis in Delhi. I respect the law of the land and the Hon. Supreme Court. There are 60,000 taxis in Delhi, out of which 27,000 are registered as diesel taxis, and these have been shut down abruptly by the Hon. Supreme Court in the name of pollution.The order issued by the Hon. Supreme Court has come in haste, prompted by the Delhi Government's odd-even gimmick. The Hon. Chief Minister of Delhi himself is an IIT graduate. The IIT report states that in Delhi, vehicular emissions stand sixth as a source of pollution. The first major source is power plants, the second is brick kilns in the NCR, the third is industrial units, the fourth is construction activity and the fifth is waste burning. A report of the University of Buckingham, based on sampling in Delhi, states that vehicles account for only 14 to 18 percent of the city's pollution. Yet, due to the inaction of the present Government and of the previous Government, the courts have had to step in and virtually run the administration. The same has happened again through the Hon. Supreme Court. Today, 27,000 families have been forced onto the streets with begging bowls in their hands. Some people bought their taxis two months ago, some six months ago, and the Delhi

Government continued to register them even though the case was pending in the Supreme Court for the last three years. Because the Government failed to present its case, the poor people of Delhi are now paying the price for such an insensitive and inexperienced Government. I urge the Union Government to intervene in this matter, to present the case properly before the Supreme Court, and to request the Hon. Supreme Court to reconsider this decision.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Kirron Kher, Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi, Shri Ashok Nete, Shri C. P. Joshi, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Nishikant Dubey, Shri Ajay Misra Teni, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Shrimati Krishna Raj, Kumari Shobha Karandlaje, Shrimati Anju Bala, Dr. Pritam Gopinath Munde, Shri P. P. Chaudhary, Kunwar Pupendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Ramdas Tadas, Shri Ram Charitra Nishad, Shri Dev Ji M. Patel, Shri A. T. Nana Patil, Dr. Kumar and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV (SAGAR): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I thank you for allowing me to raise a matter in this House that concerns the lives and day-to-day functioning of crores of our countrymen.

Madam, there are 62 Cantonment Boards across various parts of the country, where land is categorised as Defence Land and Civil Land. Civil Land is that area where civilians reside, and Defence Land is where primarily defence personnel live. The administration of both areas is handled by a single Cantonment Board. Experience shows that these Cantonment Boards function with great inefficiency. They operate under the control of the Army, and Army officers tend to focus only on maintaining the bungalows situated on Defence Land and providing facilities there, while civilians living on Civil Land do not receive adequate civic amenities.

Therefore, through you, Madam, I urge the Government that all Civil Land areas should be converted into local municipal units and handed over to local bodies for administration. This will ensure that citizens receive proper basic facilities and that all civic arrangements function smoothly. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pupendra Singh Chandel, Shri Shrirang Barne, Shri Rahul Shewale, Shri C. P. Joshi, Shri Rodmal Nagar and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav.

SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA (JAIPUR CITY): Hon. Speaker Madam, Rajasthan is grievously afflicted by an acute shortage of

water, and in this extreme summer my Parliamentary Constituency, Jaipur, is facing a severe drinking water crisis. The traditional water source, the Ramgarh Dam, has completely dried up. Because groundwater is nearly exhausted, the entire region has been declared a dark zone. At present, drinking water is being supplied from the Bisalpur Dam, but it is insufficient. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Hon. Shrimari Vasundhara Raje ji, has formulated an important project involving link channels to bring the surplus water of the Chambal Basin, along with the waters of the Banas, Banganga and Parvati rivers, to various parts of the State for water supply. In my Parliamentary Constituency, the historic Ramgarh Dam, where the rowing events of the 1982 Asiad Games were held, is also to receive water through these channels.

Through you, Madam, I wish to draw the attention of the Government and this House to the request made by our esteemed Chief Minister, Hon. Shrimati Vasundhara Raje ji, to the Ministry of Water Resources: that the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project be granted the status of a National Project. This would enable crores of people, from Dhaulpur to Jaipur, who are suffering from drought and a drinking water crisis, to receive timely relief.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Devji M. Patel, Shri P. P. Chaudhary, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Dr Manoj Rajoria, Shri Harish Meena and Shri Dushyant Singh are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ramcharan Bohra.

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR (KAUSHAMBI): Hon. Speaker Madam, through this House, I would like to draw the attention of all towards the security of our scientists. It is because of these scientists that today we are not only self reliant in satellite launch technology but are counted among the top five nations in the world. It is because of these scientists that the security of our nation stands assured. Yet these very scientists are unsafe today. I would like to inform the House that between the years 2000 and 2013, nearly 77 scientists have died under accidental circumstances. From 2000 to 2008, approximately 56 such deaths occurred, and between 2008 and 2013, about 21 scientists died accidentally, but previous Governments never paid attention to this matter. In the Department of Atomic Energy, between 2009 and 2013, ten scientists lost their lives under mysterious circumstances. On 8 June 2009, Yelamhalingham, a 41 year old senior scientist from Karnataka, went for a morning walk at 9 a.m. and never returned. Five days later his body was found in the Kali River. Similarly, in 2010 two scientists in Trombay, in 2012 one in

Rajasthan, in 2013 one in Tamil Nadu; in 2011 BARC scientist Uma Narasimha, in the Nuclear Corporation of India Limited scientist Ravi Khachhar; on 23 February 2010, scientist M. Iyer; in October 2013, in Visakhapatnam, scientist K. K. Joshi; and Abhishivam. On 30 September 2009, two young researchers, Ang Singh and Parthapattam; and in 2012, Mohammad Mustafa; all lost their lives under sudden or unexplained circumstances. Through this House, I wish to underline that in the past ten years, we have lost a distressingly large number of distinguished scientists. The Hon. Home Minister is present in the House. I urge the Hon. Home Minister and the Government to take concrete measures for the security of our scientists and to conduct investigations into the accidental deaths of these scientists.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pashupendra Singh Chandel, Shri C. P. Joshi, Shri Rodmal Nagar and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar.

DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO (KORBA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I come from the coal belt, the land of black diamonds. There, on rich land live poor people. New mines are being opened continuously, but

rehabilitation and resettlement by SECL are inadequate. We want proper arrangements to be made first before expansion.

Recently, three mines such as Saraipali, Kartali and Ambika are about to open. After this, eleven more mines have been identified in Chhattisgarh. However, arrangements for these have not been made properly. The people living there are suffering due to polluted surroundings. Adequate hospital facilities are not available to them. Even medical services are not being properly provided. Until recently, there was an empanelment with Apollo Hospital, but it has just been terminated. Ending that arrangement was in a way appropriate because the charges there were four times higher. SECL has its own hospital, and all required facilities should be provided in that hospital.

I have one more request that a mining college related to coal should be opened in the coal belt. Further, in 2011, the then Coal Minister had announced the establishment of five medical colleges across the country. One such medical college was proposed at Manendragarh in my Parliamentary Constituency, and it should be started. Thank you.

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

[English**]**

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Madam, I would like to raise a very important matter related to the security, livelihood and civil rights of the common citizens. As all of us in the House know, vast areas of our country covering 10/11 States are suffering from the Maoists problem for more than a decade. This problem is affecting the lives and livelihood of scores of people, particularly from very vulnerable and backward sections. No peace loving, democratic and patriotic citizen would take the path they have chosen in the name of tribal development. But in the name of combating this menace, atrocities on common people are taking place thereby denying their civil rights. They should not be deprived of what is their due.

I happened to visit two places in Chhattisgarh on 17th and 18th March, 2016 – Nendra village of Usur block under the Bijapur district and Kunna Village of Shukma district where tribal people are even deprived of MGNREGA. There are alleged reports to the effect that a section of the law and order forces are heaping atrocities on women, including even gang rapes; and also looting of their even common belongings.

Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is present here. I would like to appeal to him to institute an enquiry against the alleged atrocities and also to declare a comprehensive development package for the Maoist-prone areas, and release of all innocent people who have been detained by security forces under false cases, and punishment of the corrupt officials, particularly one IG of Bastar Division …. . … (*Interruptions*). . . * under whose leadership under whom these atrocities are taking place.

HON. SPEAKER: No name should go on the record.

… (*Interruptions*)*...*[*]

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Sarva Shri Sankar Prasad Datta and Badaruddoza Khan are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jitendra Chaudhury.

[English**]**

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important matter of urgent public importance concerning my State Andhra Pradesh.

[*] Not recorded.

Madam, if asset and liabilities are to be divided among two parties, the rudimentary aspect of principle of natural justice is to divide them by taking a uniform yardstick.

Section 50 of the Andhra Pradesh Re-Organisation Act says the right to recover arrears of taxes or duties on property, including arrears of land revenue, belong to the successor State in which the property is situated and the right to recover arrears of any other tax or duty shall belong to the successor State in whose territory or geographical areas the place of assessment of that tax or duty is included on the Appointed Day, that is, 2nd June, 2014, in this case.

Section 51 of this Act says that any sum recovered as loans or advances made before the Appointed Day from any person or institution is distributed between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana on the basis of population.

Section 56 says it is the liability of Andhra Pradesh to refund any tax or duty on property collected in excess on the basis of population ratio.

All these three Sections are contradicting each other. The yardstick has to be either geographical area or population. By applying different yardsticks, Andhra Pradesh is losing Rs. 3,800 crores due to apportionment of assets based on geographical area and

liabilities on the basis of population. Since population of Andhra Pradesh is higher than Telangana, it has to shoulder more liabilities.

Hence, I request the Government of India to amend Sections 50, 51 and 56 of the Andhra Pradesh Re-Organisation Act to provide equal sharing of revenue between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana since these Sections have not applied principles uniformly and failed to apply the norms of equity and fairness and I also request that the division of Schedule IX institutions should also be made on the basis of population.

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, through you, to one of the problems being faced in my State Odisha.

There were 183 species of fish available in the Hirakud Reservoir which is situated in my constituency Sambalpur. The height of this reservoir is 630 feet and water are stored in 74,059 hectares which is spread over five districts. Due to the presence of 183 fish species, the Government of India set up a research unit there and it was working in Hirakud since 1957. Now, about six months back the Government of India has shifted this research institute to other state from Hirakud and due to this the number of fish species has drastically come down

to only 73 varieties and production of fish also has reduced by thousands of tonnes per day. So, my point is, unless this research institute is brought back to Hirakud or a new research institute is set up there, this huge fall in the quantum of fish production will continue. I would like to inform that this decision to shift this institute was processed during the tenure of the then Agriculture Minister. I was not a Member of Parliament then. But I am thankful to him that due to his intervention this decision to shift this institute was stayed and now the Government has implemented that decision and this institute has been shifted.

So, I request the Government, through you, that this institute should be re-opened at Hirakud or a new research institute should be set up for this purpose.

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to raise a matter of great public importance in this House.

Madam, the Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Modi ji, recently expressed before the nation his views on the serious subject of holding Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections simultaneously. When Lok Sabha and Vidhan Sabha elections are held separately, the Model

Code of Conduct is repeatedly imposed, causing development works to come to a halt. Leaders are also required to make repeated visits. First for the Lok Sabha elections, then for the Vidhan Sabha elections, thereafter elections to local bodies in some States, followed by Corporation elections and then even elections of cooperative banks. The entire year gets consumed in these electoral processes. People grow weary of this long, tiring and monotonous cycle. Development works get disrupted. If there is an incident of arson somewhere or a bus accident elsewhere, public representatives are unable to provide assistance because the Model Code of Conduct is in force. During this time, Government officials too tend to act according to their own discretion.

Therefore, through you, Madam, I urge the Government to take steps towards conducting Lok Sabha and all Vidhan Sabha elections simultaneously across the country so that time, effort and financial resources may be conserved. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Kumari Shobha Karandlaje, Shri Alok Sanjar, Shri Arvind Sawant, Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde, Shri P. P. Chaudhary, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Gajendra Singh

Shekhawat, Shri Shrirang Appa Barane, Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale and Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Virendra Kumar.

DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR): Hon. Speaker Madam, everywhere today the discussion is about the drought in Latur and the water crisis there. I am the Member representing Latur. I thank the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, and the Hon. Railway Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu ji, for sending water to the region by train.

Madam, through you, I would like to draw the Government's attention to a very important matter. When the Government acquires farmers' land, there is a provision that farmers must be paid a fair compensation at that very time. If a farmer is not paid fair compensation and approaches the courts for justice, and if the court, after 15, 20 or even 25 years, directs the Government to pay the farmer interest along with compensation, then the interest paid on that compensation ought to be fully exempt from income tax. The Government must take steps in this regard.

Madam, despite the fact that the previous Government had forcibly acquired farmers' land, under Section 10(37) there is a provision to levy income tax on fifty percent of the interest amount.

This was incorporated through sub section 2 of Section 56 of the Income Tax Act on 10 April 2010. Since this interest is essentially reimbursement for loss suffered, Section 10(37) must be amended to make the entire interest amount income tax free. Farmers across the country feel this necessity.

I urge the Government to take an early decision on this matter so that farmers may receive the full amount of compensation for their loss without any deduction of income tax.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Kunwar Pashupendra Singh Chandel, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta and Shri Alok Sanjar are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Sunil Baliram Gaikwad.

[English]

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH): Thank you, Madam. Madam Speaker, I want to bring to the notice of the House the issues being faced by Good Samaritans - people who help injured victims - across the Country, and the need for us to take urgent action on the issue.

As per the 201st Law Commission of India Report, 50 per cent of these people died of treatable injuries because they did not have access

to rapid assistance or care. The fear of legal and procedural hassles and in many cases the harassment that follows, is so high that people in our country are afraid to even help people in need. So, the bystanders do not come forward to help them because of this.

On May 12 last year, the Government of India took a commendable step by issuing guidelines for the protection of good Samaritans. A few months ago, the Supreme Court in its historic judgement gave force of law to these guidelines and made them binding for all States. This is a huge victory. I have been advocating for this and in fact, I have also submitted a Private Member's Bill to make sure there is a comprehensive law for the protection of good Samaritans.

Madam speaker, the Government has demonstrated great political will and commitment to the issue by notifying guidelines. But to ensure that there is accountability of various agencies, redressal of cases of harassment and a change in behaviour of bystanders on ground, we need a comprehensive Good Samaritan Law for India. The hon. Supreme Court has pointed out that the guidelines are only an interim measure until such time that a comprehensive law is passed for protection of Good Samaritans. I want to reiterate that it is with only such a law that we can ensure that our heroes are not harassed

and that more people feel secure to stand up as good Samaritans to help people in such a need. I, thus, appeal humbly to the Government of India to take their initiative forward and bring a Good Samaritan Law for India.

Thank You, Madam.

[Translation**]**

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P. P. Chaudhary, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Alok Sanjar, Dr. Satya Pal Singh, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Kirron Kher.

[English]

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for allowing me to raise an issue which concern about 20 lakh people in our country who are working under National Health Mission including about 70,000 people in our State of Odisha.

Before I proceed, I would like to thank hon. Prime Minister Shri Modi Ji who has been extremely kind to recognise the contribution made by the people working in National Health Mission. I would like to quote what the hon. Prime Minister has said: “These remarkable

successes in the field of maternal and child health have been possible through our National Health Mission. ” Obviously, the credit goes to the people who have made it possible.

Having said that, let me come to one such incident that has happened in the State of Odisha. One Shri Siva Prasad Sahoo, working in Nabarangpur in Odisha met with an accident while coming back from work and unfortunately lost his life. When his family Members went for compensation, unfortunately, they have been denied. We all know the significant contribution made by the people working in NHM. The people who are working in NHM whether they are ASHA workers or DPM and the paramedics, they have got untold miseries because several laws of the land are violated in the process. I would like to name one or two. The EPF Act states that contractual employees are eligible to enrol in PF and the liability for which lies with the Principal Employer. The Principal Employer in this case is the Government of India. This Act is applicable to all who have hired more than 20 persons. Here, we are talking about 20 lakh people. The ASHA worker earns a wage of Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 4,000. Even the minimum wages applicable in several States are violated. They are asked to sign on the dotted line for 11 months. After 11 months, they

are made to go up legally. Then there is a break of one day and after that again he continues for 11 months. So, the process goes on and on.

In view of this, I would urge upon the Union Government to consider this. This is a very important subject. I would also request the Government to implement some of my suggestions. First, regularise all those who are working as a contractual employer under National Health Mission. Second, everyone should be provided PF, ESI, accidental benefits and all required security measures. Third, we should amend the Act to make Principal Employer responsible for compliance with all labour laws of the country. Lastly, India must sign major convention C131 of ILO which guarantees minimum wage fixing compensation.

Madam, we all know how much strikes cost our country. September 2, 2015, there was a general strike which cost our nation 25,000 crore rupees. So, let us buy peace and ensure the social security and the dignity of all those who are working in NHM.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Roadmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Alok Sanjar and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.

---

12. 56 hours

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 *

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

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(i)Regarding Choice-Based Credit System (CBCS) introduced by Himachal Pradesh University

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): In 2013, Choice - Based Credit System (CBCS) had been introduced in a hasty manner by the Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) under the Rashtriya Uchhtar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) for undergraduate courses. However, the State Government and HPU in their greed to get additional annual funds of 100 crores from the centre have played with the future of its students.

With many universities across India not recognizing RUSA degree of Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) for postgraduate courses, future is hanging in balance for the students graduating in 2016 as well as the future graduates. Futher, the university has decided to raise the fees. Introduction of system in its post graduate courses had delayed the results, in some cases, for as long as three years.

I request the HRD Ministry to immediately intervene in the matter regarding implementation issues of RUSA, delayed results and proposed fee hike with HPU. Also, since the academic session for the first batch of RUSA undergraduates is about to end, it is requested that immediate directions be issued to Delhi, Punjab, Chandigarh and

other universities so that applications from HPU students be admitted until the matter is resolved.

(ii)Need to provide assistance to flood affected people of Assam

SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY (GUWAHATI): Since middle of March 2016, heavy rains accompanied by Cloud burst in Assam and Arunachal Pradesh devastated state of Assam. In Tawang A. P., 8 labourers and in Barak valley 9 labourers were washed away by flash floods. Heavy rains cut off road and rail link causing huge damages to the mature crops, more than 2 lakh houses were damaged, innumerable livestock washed away. This is first time 29 person died of thunder storm. To mitigate the flood damage of 2015 when 66 people were washed away along with 3 lakh cattle, Union Government granted Rs. 414 crores from SDRF fund to Assam. Assam Government did nothing with the Central Fund. Even State Government did not submit expenditure statement. There are huge breaches in 73 embankments. No Assam Government Minister or Officers were visible in the devastated area. I urge the hon'ble Prime Minister to help flood affected people directly, else effected people will be deprived of the grants by Union Government.

(iii) Need to open a Army Recruitment Centre in Bharatpur Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan.

[Translation]

SHRI BAHADUR SINGH KOLI (BHARATPUR): My Lok Sabha Constituency, Bharatpur, serves as the divisional headquarters for the region. Under this division fall the districts of Dholpur, Karauli, Sawai Madhopur and Bharatpur. This region lies in the eastern part of Rajasthan and shares its borders with Uttar Pradesh and Haryana. All divisional level offices for police and administration are located at this headquarters. A very large number of youth from this region are serving in the Army in various parts of the country. A small military station is also located in the Bharatpur divisional headquarters. The area is well connected by both rail and road to all parts of the country, and suitable land is available here for establishing an Army Recruitment Centre.

Therefore, I urge the Government to establish an Army Recruitment Centre at the Bharatpur divisional headquarters.

(iv) Need to take adequate measures to check the dwindling water level in rivers and other water resources in the country.

SHRI SATYAPAL SINGH (SAMBHAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a matter of utmost importance: “land shrinking under the grip of depleting groundwater levels” and the consequent disappearance of natural water sources. Although this issue is relevant across the country, in my Parliamentary Constituency there is a river called Sot. Earlier, during the monsoon, it carried a heavy flow of water. However, due to the groundwater level falling drastically, there is no flow left in it today. People have even filled parts of the Sot riverbed and converted them into agricultural fields. Because of the falling water table, the small rivers, natural springs, seasonal drains and ponds that once existed have now been vanishing for lack of water. Several blocks in my Parliamentary Constituency have been declared dark zones. This has had a severe impact on agriculture. Farmers and those engaged in agricultural work have become helpless. The existence of many animals and birds is also under threat due to declining water availability. Where earlier they roamed freely, quenched their thirst from natural water bodies and

maintained their body temperature during summers, all that has now become a thing of the past.

For the protection of human society, for safeguarding animals and birds, and for preserving the existence of disappearing water sources and small rivers, I request the Hon. Minister of Water Resources that the Government should frame a plan to desilt and restore these rivers and water bodies to their original form, and take strong measures to arrest the falling groundwater level. This is essential to ensure a continuous flow of water in these natural sources and to prevent the water table from sinking any further.

(v) Need to set up a Tea Auction Centre in Dibrugarh, Assam

[English]

SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH): Assam is the largest tea producing state in the country. It produces more than half of India's tea. It has the distinction of being the largest tea growing region in the world. With more than 800 tea estates, besides having several thousand small tea gardens, the state produces 620 million KGs of tea annually. To facilitate tea trading, Guwahati Tea Auction Centre (GTAC) was established in 1970. But for a large tea producing state like Assam, only one tea Auction Centre is not enough to cater to the needs of both the buyers and sellers. Since 80% of Assam tea is produced in the garden located in Upper Assam, there has been a public demand to set up one more tea auction centre at Dibrugarh in Upper Assam.

Surrounded by more than 200 tea gardens, my constituency Dibrugarh is a prime tea producing area. Therefore, a tea auction centre, if set up will help the tea producer a great deal in selling off their produce. Moreover, five districts of Upper Assam namely, Golaghat, Jorhat, Sivsagar, Dibrugarh and Tinsukia which produce over 400 million KGs of tea annually, will be greatly benefitted, if a tea auction centre comes up at Dibrugarh. It may be mentioned in this

connection that while West Bengal, which has an annual tea production of 315 million KGs which is nearly half of Assam's has three Tea Auction Centres and Assam though it is the largest tea producing State has only one Tea Auction Centre.

Besides, Guwahati Tea Auction Centre can't handle more than 170 million KGs of tea annually. Therefore, an auction centre at Dibrugarh will not only play a key role as the main vehicle for marketing tea in the region, but at the same time, it will also generate more employment and will provide an opporunity to the tea planters of neighbouring states like Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland to participate in tea trading more effectively.

I, therefore, request the government to kindly take necessary steps to set up a tea auction centre at Dibrugarh in Assam in the greater interests of the people of the region.

(vi) Need to ensure allocation of funds by corporate sector towards Corporate Social Responsibility component as per laid down norms and standards.

[Translation**]**

SHRI BHARAT SINGH (BALIA): I would to draw the attention of the Government towards the very low expenditure incurred last year under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR). These companies turned their backs on their Corporate Social Responsibility obligations and spent merely 1.35 percent of their net profits under CSR in the financial year 2014–15, whereas the new Company Law mandates that at least 2 percent of profits must be spent on CSR.

In comparison to small companies, large companies have been greater violators of this requirement. Out of 3,855 companies listed on domestic stock exchanges, around 1,300 fall under the ambit of the 2 percent CSR rule of the Companies Act, 2013. Based on their net profits, these companies were required to spend at least Rs. 12,000 crore on CSR, but they spent only Rs. 6,800 crore. Thus, their average CSR expenditure stood at merely 1.35 percent.

Under the Companies Act, any company with a net worth of Rs. 500 crore or more, or a turnover of Rs. 1,000 crore or more, or a net profit of at least Rs. 5 crore, is required to spend 2 percent on CSR. Moreover, 82 percent of the CSR spending was used only on education and skill development, health and sanitation, rural development projects and the environment, whereas the law permits CSR expenditure in several other sectors as well.

(vii) Need to address the problem of acute shortage of drinking water in Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat districts in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE' (AKBARPUR): I would like to inform the Government that a severe drinking water crisis has arisen in the districts of Kanpur Dehat and Kanpur Nagar, located between the Ganga and Yamuna rivers. Due to several consecutive years of scanty rainfall, the groundwater level has fallen drastically. Ponds, wells and stepwells have come under illegal encroachment, and the hand pumps installed earlier under various schemes have stopped yielding water. As a result, drinking water is not available for people or for livestock. Further, Government tubewells have become non functional, and the irregular power supply has added to the problem. Since water is not being released into local wells, ponds and distributaries, farmers' fields are drying up and crops are being destroyed. In such a situation, the State Government and the district administration appear completely indifferent to this serious crisis. To provide water to their animals, people must travel miles to the rivers. Gradually, the tributaries of the Ganga and Yamuna are also becoming waterless. Due to this devastating drought, farmers are unable to sow

their zaid crops. If timely steps are not taken to desilt the ponds, construct wells and stepwells, and ensure water supply in canals across this region situated between the Ganga and Yamuna, then epidemics will break out among livestock, and villagers will be forced to migrate due to the acute shortage of drinking water.

Therefore, I request the Government of India as well as the State Government to take immediate and necessary steps to end the acute water scarcity and to resolve the severe drinking water crisis faced by both livestock and the general public. Urgent action must be taken to address this grave problem.

(viii) Need to include Janjgir-Champa district of Chhattisgarh in National Horticulture Mission.

SHRIMATI KAMLA PAATLE (JANJGIR-CHAMPA): In my Parliamentary Constituency, the district of Janjgir–Champa, nearly 80 percent of the agricultural land is irrigated. Paddy is the principal crop here. After harvesting the crop, farmers remain without work, and labourers migrate to other States. With no source of income during this period, the economic condition of farmers becomes extremely distressed.

The National Horticulture Mission has been implemented in various districts of the country. I request the Government to include the district of Janjgir–Champa in the National Horticulture Mission, because the climate and soil here are highly suitable for fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers and aromatic plants. Along the banks of the Mahanadi, Son, Hasdeo, Mand and other rivers live Patel, Marar and Sabariya communities, whose principal means of livelihood is cultivating kitchen gardens and growing vegetables.

If Janjgir–Champa district is included in the National Horticulture Mission, unemployed people will gain employment

opportunities, the economic condition of farmers will improve, and it will also help in maintaining a clean environment.

(ix) Need to formulate a plan for development of small scale industries and skill development programmes in river islands particularly in Chandauli Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY (CHANDAULI): In my Parliamentary Constituency Chandauli (Uttar Pradesh), there are seven villages such as Gobarhan and Ramchandripur which lie in the middle of the Ganga River, with the river flowing on both sides. During the monsoon, these villages become completely cut off and movement is possible only by boat. Although a bridge is presently under construction, the situation sometimes resembles that of Majuli Island in Assam.

I request the Government of India that, across the country, for such villages situated within riverine tracts, the fertility of the land should be assessed and, under agriculture, small industries and skill development schemes, a dedicated programme should be formulated. Under a special package, the villages located in the midstream of rivers should be developed.

(x) Need to upgrade Mohini Mandal railway Halt in Sheohar Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar as Mohini Mandal railway station.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): In my Parliamentary Constituency, Sheohar, the Mohni Mandal Railway Halt is situated on the Samastipur–Narkatiaganj rail section. This halt falls under the Suppi Block of Sitamarhi district and was established in 1978. Nearly 20,000 passengers from the surrounding areas use this halt for their rail travel. However, very few trains stop here, due to which the local villagers are forced to go to other railway stations. This causes them inconvenience as well as unnecessary delay in undertaking train journeys. To remove this inconvenience and delay, it is essential in the public interest that Mohni Mandal Railway Halt be upgraded to the status of Mohni Mandal Railway Station.

I request the Government to immediately announce the upgradation of Mohni Mandal Railway Halt to a full-fledged railway station.

(xi) Need to check the reality shows in television channels where children participate and also regulate other programmes so that public and children can watch.

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): The children of any nation are its future. The United Nations General Assembly recognised this in December 1992 and adopted a resolution for the protection of children, ensuring their physical health, emotional, intellectual and social development. However, it is unfortunate that even today in our country, children continue to suffer various forms of abuse such as physical mistreatment, sexual exploitation, mental harassment and forced labour. These abuses, occurring both within the home and outside, must be examined in depth, and solutions must be found to address their problems, for the future of the nation depends upon it. The different forms of cruelty inflicted upon children cause them deep psychological trauma, leaving them mentally disturbed.

In many cases, it is often seen that young girls or small boys do not have the courage to speak about the abuse being inflicted upon them. Alongside this, children are increasingly being diverted from the right path due to excessive television viewing and the misuse of

internet surfing. Excessive violence, obscenity and sensational content on television make the minds of children violent and unstable. During their school years, when they are below 18 years of age, they are at a delicate stage and prone to choosing the wrong influences.

In such circumstances, I urge the Government to ensure that reality shows involving children, as well as provocative television programmes, are regulated through the Censor Board.

(xii) Need to provide No Objection Certificate to mines in Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): In my Parliamentary Constituency, Jamshedpur, under the Musabani Block, there are the Rakha, Chapri and Kendradih mines. These three mines cannot be made operational because the Ministry of Forests, Environment and Climate Change has not yet issued the required No Objection Certificate. This area is predominantly inhabited by Adivasis, extremely backward communities and tribal populations, and is also affected by extremism. Due to drought, unemployment and poverty, people here are compelled to migrate. Similarly, there are several other mines, such as Kishangharia, Pathargoda and Chandrapur, which remain closed because the copper blocks have not been auctioned. If all these mines are made operational, local people will get employment and the State Government will also receive revenue.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to kindly consult the State Government and immediately grant the necessary No Objection Certificates so that these mines may be reopened without delay.

(xiii) Need to inter-link rivers in the country.

COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): "increasing population and decreasing water availability" has become a matter of concern not only for our country but for the entire world. This concern is justified. According to the prophecy of Nostradamus, the Third World War would be fought over water. When this prophecy was first made, people wondered how such a thing could happen, but today the situation itself speaks clearly. Only 22 percent water remains in our country's 91 major reservoirs. Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, Telangana and many other States are facing consecutive years of drought, and a drinking water crisis has emerged. On the other hand, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh and the eastern States have faced devastating floods. Drought in one region, deluge in another and this is our reality. If the major rivers of the country and the principal rivers of the States are linked together, we can divert nature's water from destruction towards development. Rivers that cause severe devastation can be dammed and their water can be channelled into dry rivers, making it usable not only for drinking but also for irrigation. This would increase production and employment. History bears witness that since the dawn of civilisation,

all great civilisations have flourished along rivers. In the history of warfare too, the first strategic point to be captured has always been the water point. Even before Independence, efforts and thought in this direction had begun. Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who served as Labour Member under Lord Linlithgow and Lord Wavell in the British Indian Government, studied global literature on river interlinking and prepared a river valley plan similar to the Tennessee Valley Authority, taking the services of Shri Boodin, an American expert on river dams. On 8 January 1945, in this very direction, the Bhakra Dam project was formulated to provide irrigation to agricultural lands and to quench the thirst of the people of the desert regions. The Rajasthan Canal, known as the Maru Ganga and later as the Indira Gandhi Canal, was also conceptualised. Much later, our former President Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam and former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji prepared a plan for interlinking rivers. However, no effective steps have yet been taken to bring the plan to fruition. My humble submission is –

1. The water that, due to lack of management, flows wastefully into the sea should be stopped and stored in rivers or reservoirs.

2. For example, the water of the Yamuna near Naroda that presently flows into the sea can be harnessed and channelled through the desert

districts of Alwar and Bharatpur, extending up to Jodhpur and Barmer. This would also bring prosperity to Jhunjhunu, Sikar, Churu and Nagaur.

3. The ancient river Saraswati, which is believed to have flowed through Rajasthan into the Arabian Sea, should be revived. A plan should be formulated to carry the pristine Himalayan waters that pass through the regions of Yamuna, Kurukshetra, Yamuna Sagar, Sirsa, Nohar, Bhadra, Sardarshehar, Dungargarh, Bikaner, Jaisalmer, Barmer and Jalore, finally reaching the Gulf of Kutch, to the water-starved people of these regions.

If the rivers of the entire country are interlinked, the day is not far when India will once again be called the “golden bird”. What is needed is merely a strong and resolute will.

(xiv)Regarding water problem faced by Morarji Desai Residential School in Bellary, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI B. SRIRAMULU (BELLARY): Yerragudi is a border village in Bellary taluk in my Lok Sabha Constituency which comes under Yerragudi Gram Panchayat. This village borders Alur Taluk of Andhra Pradesh.

In this village is Morarji Desai Residential School having 535 students and started three years ago. There is no drinking water facility to this school though the source is within 3 KM (Tungabhadra Canal). A local youth who has a mobile water tanker provides water to the school free of cost as part of his social service.

I request the State Government as well as district administration to prepare water line estimate so that the drinking water scheme could be executed. Children should be provided with protected drinking water. There are various schemes like Border Area Development fund, scarcity relief fund for which Deputy Commissioner is the Chairperson, Rajiv Gandhi Technology Mission, MPs LAD (Local

Area Development Fund) and MLA grants through which this project could be implemented.

Necessary instructions in this regard may be given to State Government and Deputy Commissioner, Bellary. My only concern is students should not suffer from water-borne diseases.

(xv) Need to permit commercial horticulture, development of herbal hub as also wildlife tourism in Gandhi Sagar Sacntuary in Mandsaur Parliamentary Constituency, Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA (MANDSAUR): In my Parliamentary Constituency, within the districts of Mandsaur and Neemuch, lies the Gandhi Sagar Sanctuary, which was notified in 1974. In 1983, the Government of India included additional area within this notified region. The sanctuary is spread over 368 square kilometres. The Chambal River flows adjacent to it. Madhya Pradesh has 30.72 percent of its total area under forests. The State is a centre for tendu leaves, sal seeds, gum, mahua, amla, wild honey, teak, bamboo, high-quality timber production, commercial horticulture and herbal cultivation. Yet, it remains a major question why the forest sanctuary in my Parliamentary Constituency was designated as a reserved area. I would like to submit that the Government of India should consider formulating a plan to develop this region as an Ayurvedic herbal hub or for commercial horticulture so that environmental protection is ensured while generating livelihood opportunities for local people. At

present, the forest area is completely undeveloped. A research and extension unit can also be established here, and the possibility of opening it for tourists may also be considered.

(xvi) Need to take necessary measures to achieve the objectives of Krishi Vigyan Kendras and also set up more Krishi Vigyan Kendras in the country.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): The Government of India is running Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) in every district with financial assistance. Their primary objective is to provide proper training to farmers, to create awareness about modern agriculture and organic farming, and to attract people towards agricultural activities. However, these centres have not been able to function effectively. The main reasons are the inadequate number of KVKs, shortage of scientists, lack of agricultural machinery, and insufficient training programmes. Due to all these shortcomings, these centres are unable to deliver the intended results.

Therefore, I request the Government that, in the interest of nearly 70 percent of the country's rural population engaged in agriculture, and to attract youth towards farming, one additional Krishi Vigyan Kendra should be established in every district. The number of scientists should be increased, and scientists should be given Grade Pay from 5,400 to 6,000. Each KVK should be secured with proper boundary walls. An agricultural machinery bank should be

established. A six month training course should be introduced, and the capacity of the staff should be enhanced. This will ensure that the youth of our country, who are becoming disinterested in agriculture due to lack of resources and training, can once again return to farming and contribute to the progress of the nation.

(xvii) Need to declare 31st May, the birth anniversary of Ahilya Bai Holkar, as National Holiday.

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Maharani Ahilyabai, the daughter-in-law of the renowned Maratha Subedar Malharrao Holkar and wife of his son Khanderao, was born on 31 May 1725. She undertook numerous religious, social reforms and development works not only within her kingdom but across the length and breadth of India. She constructed temples at prominent pilgrimage sites, built ghats, wells and stepwells, laid roads and improved existing ones, opened annakshetras to feed the hungry, established pyaus for drinking water, and appointed scholars in temples for discourse, reflection and teaching. Not only did she renounce false pride and personal glorification, but throughout her life she strove to uphold justice. During her lifetime, the public regarded her as a Devi. Such a towering personality had never been witnessed before. At a time when disorder prevailed everywhere, when governance meant tyranny, when common people, farmers and labourers lived in misery, when religion, their only refuge, was being crushed under superstition, fear and rigid customs; when justice had neither power nor credibility, it was in such difficult circumstances that Ahilyabai created an

everlasting legacy. She was like a ray of light in darkness, even as the darkness repeatedly attempted to engulf her. Her noble thoughts and moral conduct earned her the status of a Devi in society.

In her honour, the Ahilyotsav is celebrated every year in Indore on Bhadrapad Krishna Chaturdashi. Today, there is a need that, as a tribute to her contributions, her birth anniversary on 31 May be declared a national holiday. This would be the truest homage to her.

(xviii) Need to construct a level crossing or construct a subway at Birnagar Railway Station in Ranaghat parliamentary constituency of West Bengal

[English]

DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANAGHAT): Birnagar Municipality is one of oldest municipalities in West Bengal. It is situated in my constituency, Ranaghat, in the district of Nadia, 82 km away from Sealdah, in Sealdah - Krishnagar and Lalgola Railway Section which has intersected this municipality. As a result, thousands of inhabitants who are residing on the western side of the Railway Station have been completely deprived of all kinds of major and important social and civic amenities.

All municipal services are available on the eastern side of Birnagar Railway Station. Moreover, most of the people of western side belong to Scheduled Caste and Backward Classes having feeling of deprivation of such amenities.

On the other hand, Ambulance, Fire brigade, Police vehicles cannot move to the localities for the lack of inapproachable roads as and when necessary.

Therefore, my proposal is: (1) construction of a vehicular metal road about 1 km from Bilpara to Gumtipara Gate alongside the railway lines, or (ii) construction of a level crossing to the southern end of Birnagar Railway Station and/or (iii) construction of subway/underpass at the Southern end of Birnagar Railway Station.

I am earnestly requesting the Railway Minister to look into the matter personally.

(xix) Regarding construction of dam on rivers Shilabati and Dwarakeswar in West Bengal

SHRI SAUMITRA KHAN (BISHANPUR): I would like to draw attention towards water scarcity being faced by the entire nation. In this connection, I would say that surplus water is flown away during the rainy season through rivers. This water could be reserved for raising the ground water table. In my area Bankura, Bishnupur etc. rivers like Shilabati, Dwarakeswar get overflowed during the raining season. A dam can be built on these rivers for recharging the water table. I urge the Government to take suitable steps in this regard.

(xx) Need to expedite construction of Rimoli to Rajamunda section of National Highway No. 215 in Keonjhar Parliamentary Constituency, Odisha.

[Translation**]**

SHRIMATI SAKUNTALA LAGURI (KEONJHAR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an urgent matter concerning my Parliamentary Constituency, Keonjhar in Odisha. The stretch of National Highway between Pani Koili and Rajamunda is divided into two sections, and the work on National Highway 215 between Rimoli and Rajamunda has been pending for three years. Repair works on this highway also do not get completed on time, resulting in frequent accidents on this route. This National Highway is considered the lifeline of Odisha. Unless this highway is made fully operational and suitable for smooth traffic, the social and industrial development of Keonjhar will not be possible.

I request the Government to ensure the construction of the National Highway between Rimoli and Rajamunda and to complete all required repair works within a stipulated timeframe.

(xxi) Need to improve BSNL mobile service in Buldhana Parliamentary Constituency, Maharashtra.

SHRI PRATAPRAO JADHAV (BULDHANA): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the telephone services being provided by BSNL in my Parliamentary Constituency, Buldhana, Maharashtra, which have deteriorated severely. There are very few BSNL mobile towers in my constituency, and even those that exist are not functioning properly. When equipment installed on these towers becomes faulty, replacements are not readily available. As a result, mobile signals are not available in rural areas, and people are unable to obtain mobile connections. The landline telephones also do not function properly. When a telephone gets out of order, it takes months to repair. The broadband service too is unreliable, and consequently, internet connectivity in banks is poor. This is causing great difficulty to people in carrying out their banking transactions.

I request the Government to improve BSNL's telephone services in my Parliamentary Constituency, Buldhana, install sufficient mobile towers, and repair and strengthen the broadband service so that people do not face inconvenience.

(xxii) Need to confer 'Bharat Ratna' on Late Shri Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh

[English**]**

SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDRY): Legendary actor of Telugu filmdom Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao, famously known as NTR needs no introduction. NTR was the doyen of Telugu film who strode the Indian Telugu film industry like a colossus for half a century and later carved out a niche for himself as the tallest political leader not only in Andhra Pradesh, but also in the whole country.

NTR deserves the highest civilian award "Bharat Ratna" for bringing recognition to Telugu languague and culture in the world. As a deep gesture of his selfless services to the society, I would earnestly appeal to the Union Government through you to confer posthumously "Bharat Ratna" upon the TDP party founder and former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, Shri Nandamuri Taraka Rama Rao popularly known as NTR.

(xxiii) Regarding setting up of Kurnool-Hyderabad-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Nagpur Industrial Corridor

SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY(MEDAK): The newly created Telangana is backward in major sectors such as industry, power, roads, railways, etc. Lakhs of poor people including youths and students of Mahabubnagar, Karimnagar, Nizamabad and other districts in Telangana migrate every year for employment to major cities like Bengaluru, Pune, Chennai and to faraway countries like USA, Australia and Gulf, only to face hardships and ill-treatment. So, there is a need for increase of infrastructure, basic amenities and providing employment opportunities to curtail this menace in the State.

Union Government has declared Chennai-Visakhapatnam; Chennai-Bengaluru National Highways as Industrial Corridors. Recently Bengaluru-Kurnool stretch of NH-44 has also been declared as Industrial Corridor. In continuation of this, if Kurnool-Hyderabad-Nagapur stretch of NH-44 is declared as Indutrial Corridor, the backward districts of Mahabubnagar, Ranga Reddy, Medak, Nizamabad and Adilabad in Telangana and Yavatmal, Wardha,

Chandrapur and Nagapur in Maharashtra will benefit greatly in terms of development and employment.

Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Road Transport and Highways to kindly take steps to declare Kurnool-Hyderabad-Nizamabad-Adilabad-Nagpur sector of NH-44 (about 750 kms) as Industrial Corridor.

(xxiv) Need to retain IDBI as a Public Sector Bank

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST): In the Budget proposals presented to the Parliament on 29. 3. 2016, Government of India, inter-alia, declare that it would carry forward the process of 'transformation of IDBI Bank' and 'consider the option of reducing its stake to below 50%'.

In this connection, it is stated that during the debate on IDBI (Transfer of Undertaking and Repeal), 2002 the then Hon'ble Finance Minister, Jaswant Singh, had consciously and categorically assured the Hon'ble Members of Parliament that post-conversion, Government of India shall, at all times, maintain not less than 51% of the issued capital of the company. The assurance formed the very basis for the ultimate passage of the Bill.

Clause 4 of the Articles of Association of the Bank provides that the "Union Government being a share holder of the company, shall at all times maintain not less than fifty-one percent of the issued capital of the Company. "

Further, the Government of India, informed both the Houses of Parliament in the Lok Sabha on 18. 12. 2015 and Rajya Sabha on 22.

12. 2015 respectively that all Public Sector Banks including IDBI Bank have been allowed to raise capital from public market by diluting Government of India holding up to 52% in phased manner.

To register their protest against the proposal of the Government of India to privatize IDBI Bank, Officers and Employees of IDBI Bank under the banner of United Forum of IDBI Officers and Employees implemented Nation-wide Strike action on 27. 11. 2015 and March 28,2016.

Hon'ble Finance Minister is, therefore, requested to review the decision in the matter and retain IDBI Bank as a Public Sector Bank.

(xxv) Need to set up maize-based Food Processing Industries in Bhagalpur Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.

[Translation**]**

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): In my Parliamentary Constituency, Bhagalpur, farmers cultivate maize on a very large scale. They purchase expensive fertilisers and seeds for maize farming, yet at the local level they are unable even to recover their input costs. Because they do not receive remunerative prices for their produce, farmers are sinking deeper into debt and are compelled to sell their maize at prices lower than the cost of production. There is no maize-based food processing industry in Bhagalpur, as a result of which a significant portion of the produce is wasted. If this situation continues, farmers will abandon maize cultivation altogether, become unemployed again, and agricultural development in the region will come to a standstill. This is particularly concerning because maize contributes significantly to the country's GDP.

Therefore, I urge the Government of India to establish a maize-based food processing industry in Bhagalpur, Bihar, and to allow food processing companies to procure maize directly from farmers so that

farmers in Bhagalpur and adjoining districts receive fair and remunerative prices for their maize crop.

(xxvi) Need to conduct an inquiry into the alleged hoarding and creating of artificial shortage of pulses leading to steep hike in the prices of pulses.

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK (RAJMAHAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the steep rise in the prices of pulses in the country. Last year, due to heavy rainfall and hailstorms, pulse crops suffered the greatest damage.

After the crops failed, the Government placed orders for importing pulses. However, five major brokers in the country purchased entire shiploads of imported pulses. These brokers then sold the pulses to dummy companies created by them. The addresses of these dummy companies were shown to be in different States, and together they stockpiled nearly 93,500 tonnes of pulses in warehouses. It has also come to light that, at times, international rackets involving brokers and commodity operators keep ships carrying pulses circling at sea to delay their arrival in India. When pulses became scarce in the market and prices shot up from Rs. 85 to Rs. 200 per kilogram, these brokers began releasing the stock into the market and made huge profits.

Therefore, I urge the Government to conduct a thorough investigation into this matter and take the strictest action against the culprits so that such incidents do not recur in the future.

(xxvii) Need to probe the alleged irregularities in the auction of cooprative sugar mills in Maharashtra.

SHRI RAJU SHETTY (HATKANANGALE): Maharashtra's cooperative sugar industry carries the investment of the State Government, farmers and ordinary citizens. The rural economy of Maharashtra depends heavily on this industry. Nearly 9 lakh sugarcane cutters get 150 to 170 days of employment annually from it. Thousands of workers are employed in sugar mills, and the livelihood of 3 crore sugarcane-producing farmers depends on this sector. However, for many years this industry has allegedly fallen prey to corruption, nepotism and politics. Farmers built these sugar mills with their sweat, gathering every rupee themselves. But their hard-earned money was diverted for political purposes. As a result, cooperative sugar mills began to incur losses. Eventually, their debts rose so high that banks were forced to auction the mills under the Securitisation Act. What is astonishing is that the very political leaders responsible for the downfall of these mills formed separate private companies under different names and purchased the same mills in the auction. Nowhere was transparency visible in this process. Today, building a single sugar mill costs at least Rs. 300 crore. Yet

these cooperative mills were auctioned for as little as Rs. 14 crore to Rs. 50 crore. In recent years, 35 cooperative sugar mills in Maharashtra have been sold for merely Rs. 1,076 crore, while their actual market value is over Rs. 10,000 crore. I would like to inform the Government that the Enforcement Directorate (ED) must conduct a thorough investigation into the private companies that purchased these mills, their Boards of Directors, their shareholders and the source of the funds used to buy them. Likewise, many cooperative spinning mills and agro-processing units have been sold and purchased in the same manner. The funds used in these transactions are entirely black money.

I earnestly urge the Government to order a full investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) into this entire matter and to ensure that justice is delivered to the rightful stakeholders.

12. 58 hours

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (GENERAL), 2016-17

Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism . . . Contd.

***KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR):** I would like to present my views on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism for the year 2016–17. Bundelkhand is geographically the central region of India. Even today, this area is dotted with remnants of the megalithic age. Because of its unique cultural, historical and natural heritage, the region holds immense potential for tourism. Tourism is the only service sector through which rapid economic growth can be achieved in distant and economically backward regions at very low cost. For this reason, tourism development becomes even more significant in my Parliamentary Constituency of Hamirpur, Mahoba and Tindwari.

There is a need to include Mahoba, Hamirpur, Rath, Tindwari, Charkhari and Kalinjar of my Parliamentary Constituency in the Heritage Circuit, and to include Chitrakoot under the PRASAD scheme. In Mahoba and its adjoining areas, a large number of lakes

* Speech was laid on the Table

and ponds exist such as Madan Sagar, Keerat Sagar, Kalyan Sagar, Vijay Sagar and the series of ponds in Charkhari; all of which can be developed as tourist destinations. Tourism in this region can be enhanced through boating. Along with this, there are vast employment-generating opportunities in water sports and trekking-based tourism. This expansive and scenic region, endowed with ponds, bird sanctuaries, temples, natural lakes, beautiful hill forts and stepwells, is an unparalleled area of natural beauty. If developed with various schemes of the Government of India, it will create employment opportunities for drought-stricken rural inhabitants who are forced to migrate, and bring economic prosperity to the entire Bundelkhand region. In turn, this will contribute to the growth of the country's GDP and the overall multidimensional development of the area.

Under the "Hunar se Rozgar" scheme, there is a need to establish skill development centres in my Parliamentary Constituency for training in guest services associated with the tourism sector. Many young people in my region earn their livelihood as tourist guides. Since tourists from various countries visit this area, guides must be able to communicate with them effectively in their respective languages. Therefore, there is a pressing need to set up specialised

skill centres to train these youth in multiple foreign languages and in professional conduct, so that they may serve as competent tourist guides and benefit from the growing tourism potential of the region.

Bundelkhand is a land of temples, and therefore the temples of this region need proper maintenance and restoration. Many Sun Temples are in a dilapidated condition and require immediate attention for their upkeep. The soul of Bundelkhand is its traditional folk singing, “Alha”, which is also the cultural identity of the region. Hence, there is a need to organise cultural fairs to promote and preserve this rich heritage, which will, in turn, help boost tourism.

I urge the Government of India to consider that Bundelkhand, located in central India, is connected not only by national highways and railway lines but also by air through Khajuraho, where airport facilities already exist. With minimal expenditure, Khajuraho can be declared an international airport, which will attract international tourists. This will enhance foreign exchange earnings and lead to economic progress for the people of the region.

In addition to the demands already placed before the Government, I make a special request that a “Bundelkhand Circuit” or “Chandel Circuit” be declared without delay, incorporating prominent sites of immense cultural, historical and religious

significance. These include Panna, world renowned for its diamond mines; Khajuraho, famed globally for its magnificent Chandela-era temples; Mahoba, the ancient capital of the Chandel kings who ruled central India for nearly a millennium and defended Indian culture against foreign invasions; Kalinjar, with its impregnable fort where the rocket fired by Sher Shah struck the fort wall and rebounded, causing his own death, he being regarded as the architect of Mughal and later British administrative systems; Chitrakoot, where Lord Ram spent twelve years of his exile; Dhubela, the administrative centre of Bundelkhand during the era of Raja Chhatrasal; Orchha, home to the revered temple of Lord Ram and a major centre of faith; Jhansi, with the historic fort of Maharani Lakshmibai and an important hub for the Railways and the Army; and Datia, which houses the sacred Maa Pitambara Shakti Peeth.

The creation of this circuit will become a uniquely enriching feature on the country's tourism map and will greatly contribute to transforming the destiny and the landscape of Bundelkhand, a region that may be backward in development but is blessed with immense natural and cultural heritage. Therefore, it is my strong and earnest demand that the "Bundelkhand Circuit" or "Chandel Circuit" be formally declared without delay.

[English]

***SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** Though India has completed 100 years in Civil Aviation, lot has to be done to revive the Sector. In the recent years, India has suffered disgrace in the Aviation Sector, due to the failure of safety, passenger amenities struggling to meet to International Standards. Expansion plans of National Carrier Air India and code-share agreements are still pending; also causing heavy revenue loss to Air India. Instead of rectifying the situation, as usual, the Union Government is seriously pitching for open sky policy and 100% FDI in Aviation Sector, from the current 49%.

Air India should tie-up with quality Hotel Accommodation to woo Foreign Travellers; and concentrate more on 100% on time performance. The Government should finalize the long awaited "Draft National Civil Aviation Policy". Tourism Sector should be given prior importance. Special packages and tie- up with the State Government will have a large impact on Tourists.

I draw the attention of Hon'ble Tourism Minister to give due importance on Tourist Centres Tarakeshwar Temple, Garmandaran in

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Goghat, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Birth Place and Narajole Raj bari in Chandrakona in my Constituency.

[Translation]

*__SHRI ALOK SANJAR (BHOPAL):__ The very introduction of the numerous tourism destinations that exist across our country demonstrates that India is a vast and magnificent nation. Today, we can proudly say that tourism in Hindustan is developing into a major industry. The entire world is openly praising the present Union Government under the leadership of Hon. Shri Narendra Modi ji. It is the impact of the policies of the Modi Government that the number of foreign tourists visiting India has risen sharply in the past year. Owing to the efforts of the present Union Government, we can say that India has moved up from the 65th to the 52nd position in global tourism rankings. According to the latest report of the World Economic Forum, our country's standing in the Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Index has improved significantly. In previous years, tourism conditions had deteriorated due to numerous reasons, but the saying "where there is a will, there is a way" has been proven true through visionary governance.

Tourists from various countries and regions are drawn to our nation's beauty, its natural environment, historical sites, culture and civilisation. After tourism was accorded the status of an industry by

* Speech was laid on the Table.

the Central and State Governments, the primary endeavour has been to earn greater foreign exchange. Therefore, to further promote tourism, it is essential to adopt liberal policies and make meaningful efforts to resolve the problems prevailing within the tourism sector, along with taking concrete decisions so that neither life nor the sanctity of the environment is compromised.

Human beings have always had a special affinity for travel. A few decades ago, means of transport were limited, yet the spirit of exploration among tourists remained undiminished. The very word tourism evokes images of natural beauty, culture and art. Tourism invariably inspires individuals to move from ‘I’ to ‘we’, freeing them from the narrow confines of province, language, caste, creed, sect and religious distinctions.

Through the process of tourism development, a sense of unity with the entire nation emerges. Any tourist, while travelling within the country, must engage creatively with the diverse folk cultures, lifestyles and historical evolution of different regions. This is precisely why, as a result of the various initiatives of the Modi Government, a large number of foreign tourists are now visiting Hindustan. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the Union Government is providing e-tourist visas to citizens and tourists from

113 countries at 16 airports across the nation. Because of this facility, there has been a remarkable increase in the number of foreign tourists arriving in the country on e-tourist visas between January and November last year. The number of tourists coming to India on e tourist visas has risen by 2,700 percent. I would like to inform the nation that, thanks to this successful initiative of providing additional convenience to foreign tourists, and with the support of the Ministry of Tourism, foreign exchange earnings amounting to Rs. 1,12,958 crore have been generated.

Modi ji's much-acclaimed "Make in India" programme has gained global attention, the nation is extending a warm invitation to domestic and international tourists through "Welcome to Incredible India", wholeheartedly welcoming them to this radiant land. Under the inspiring initiatives of Swachh Bharat, Swachh Smarak and Swachh Tourism, the Government has linked 25 renowned monuments and tourist destinations including the Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar, Khajuraho and the Konark Sun Temple with the Swachh Bharat Mission, thereby transforming them into model monuments. Alongside this, special facilities are being provided for tourists so that visitors leave India's tourism sites with pleasant experiences and

unforgettable memories, and are encouraged to return to explore the rest of our country's remarkable destinations.

Owing to the special interest shown by the Hon. Tourism Minister, the previously closed doors of development in the tourism sector are now opening on their own. This is precisely why tourism is today regarded as a crucial sector for earning foreign exchange. Whether the tourists are from within our own States or from across the seas, special care is being taken to ensure their comfort and convenience when they visit the soil of India. In this very spirit, the distinguished Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji, is also providing enhanced facilities at the State's tourism destinations. As a result, the number of tourists visiting the State has increased significantly. To familiarise visitors with the tourism destinations of Madhya Pradesh, the State Tourism Department under Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji's Government has prepared a splendid, song-like advertisement for domestic as well as international tourists. This advertisement not only provides information about the State's tourist sites but, in a way, extends an inviting welcome to all travellers.

In recent days the Hon. Union Tourism Minister stated that with the new initiatives undertaken by the Tourism Department, the current

number of foreign tourists visiting the country, which stands at 72 lakh, will double or even triple within the next three years. Through the new mantra of cleanliness, safety and hospitality, foreign visitors will come to know India through Swachh Bharat, Swachh Smarak and Swachh Tourism, and they will also embrace the vision of India that Swami Vivekananda dreamed of. Tourists with disabilities also aspire to visit our heritage sites, and the Government is providing special facilities for them as well.

Another innovative initiative is the "Hunar Se Rozgar Tak" programme. In the 12th Plan, this programme has been recognised as an important instrument for promoting inclusive growth. Its objective is to develop employment oriented skills in young people between the ages of 18 and 28. Under this scheme, training is provided in food and beverage service, food production, housekeeping, bakery products, preparation of patties and similar items, as well as driving. The duration of the training ranges from six to eight weeks. This programme has been acknowledged as a key initiative for skill development. The Ministry is continuously striving for its effective implementation so that it can reach the maximum number of youth across the country. For this purpose, traditional as well as innovative methods are being employed. The responsibility for implementing the

programme has also been entrusted to several institutions sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism. In addition, it has been decided to seek cooperation from the private sector, including industrial units. A collaboration has also been established with the Indian Army under this scheme, known as “Hunar Se Rozgar- with the support of the Army.”

In our nation’s sacred city of Mahakaal, Ujjain, the grand Simhastha is currently being celebrated. Under the leadership of the Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan ji, all arrangements are functioning smoothly. Lakhs of devotees and tourists are continuously visiting, taking a holy dip in the Kshipra River and offering their prayers to Lord Mahakaal. I extend an invitation to all public representatives in this House, as well as to the voters of their respective Parliamentary Constituencies, to come to Ujjain, the divine city of Mahakaal, during this Simhastha. With this, I conclude my remarks.

[English]

***SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):** Two important subjects Civil Aviation and Tourism have got immense potential for growth both in the domestic and also in the international sector. I think these two important Ministries should have been discussed separately as these Ministries are having vast areas to cover and it is very difficult for the Members to put their view points on these two important Ministries together.

First, I would like to put my views on the Ministry of Civil Aviation. To promote the growth of aviation sector in the country, the Government has multiple responsibilities including ensuring sustainable infrastructure development, affordable flying, passenger friendly attitude and their safety and security things. It is highly necessary to check the progress and deficiency of the Government in this regard.

First of all, I am coming to affordable flying. Now we are witnessing a rocketing airfare throughout the country, both in the domestic sector and also in the international sector. As airfare is rocketing, especially during peak seasons, the Civil Aviation Ministry

* Speech was laid on the Table.

has taken a stand that they are not in position to interfere because of the existing price regulating mechanism. This is not good. I would like to ask the Minister that what are the factors for fixing the airfare? One of the main factors is the Aviation Turbine Fuel (ATF). But the ATF price has been reduced drastically during the last few years as the crude oil prices in the international market has come down. Because of this reduction in ATF, the operating cost of the flights has come down drastically during the last few years and the airlines are not passing this reduction to the passengers. There is no justification of air fare hike when the price of ATF is falling.

But, on contrary, the airline authorities are increasing the airfare at will and without considering the difficulties of the passengers. Every year during holiday or festival season, the prices go through the roof. There is no effort by the Ministry of Civil Aviation to control the fares. This trend should be stopped. I feel that the Government should have a role in having some regulation of fares for the benefit of the common man and I urge upon the Government to fix maximum fare per sector so that airlines cannot charge more money than the prescribed one. This will help the passengers those who are booking the flight tickets at a very short notice.

In this year's Budget, the allocation for Air India has been drastically cut. It is very difficult for the Air India to run smoothly because of this drastic cut in this budget. The Air India will not be able to give proper service to the people. There is an urgent need to increase the Budget allocation of Air India so that the Air India can serve the people better.

The Ministry has been struggling to formulate a new aviation policy for the last two years. The draft policy was put on the website in October, 2015. This is May, 2016. The draft policy has not yet been finalized. I don't know the reasons for delay in finalizing the draft policy? I would like the Minister to expedite the formulation of the final aviation policy so that people who want to enter this line can take policy decisions in this matter.

The safety and security of the airports is also of utmost importance. There are many incidents which are happening, especially in Air India. The Hon'ble Minister should take special interest in curtailing such incidents, especially in Air India, in future. There is shortage of more than 500 cabin crew in the wide-body aircraft. This issue needs to be addressed.

Now, I would like to state about the Tourism Ministry. Tourism is the most important sector which provides maximum employment and earns maximum foreign exchange.

The previous UPA Government had introduced one of the fantastic schemes called PIDDC, but the present Government has withdrawn that scheme from the Central assistance and have already admitted that you are introducing new schemes. The PIDDC was withdrawn to introduce new schemes. What would be the expenditure for these new schemes which the present Government has introduced?

Tourism is one of the most important sectors. It is the base of employment generation and foreign exchange. Of all the sectors contributing to GDP growth, tourism is one of the most important sectors. I think the majority of our employment will be met by this tourism sector. But the expenditure side and the on-going schemes are in very much difficulty. The Government should pay special attention to the ongoing schemes of the Ministry as the tourism is a very important issue. This sector relates to the entire system of India. Tourists are the people who are contributing to a great extent in the economic growth of India.

There is a lot of scope for developing tourism in different parts of the country, particularly in Karnataka like coastline tourism,

monument tourism and rural tourism. We must focus in rural tourism, which generates a lot of developments taking place in villages. Tourists can visit many villages in Karnataka and other parts of the country. We need good communication facilities to reach those villages. We can develop small airports in Karnataka and also in other states.

Medical tourism is one of the greatest tourist sectors through which a lot of foreigners come and get good medical facilities in India. There are 143 Centres which have been started in India and 99 Centres are there in other States. Twenty-eight Ayurveda Centres have been included under this facility.

I request the Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation and Tourism to consider the above suggestions.

[Translation]

*__SHRI A. T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON):__ In 2012, the Government of India renovated the Jalgaon Airport at a cost of nearly Rs. 100 crore and equipped it with all ultra modern facilities. At present, the Government is spending about Rs. 12 crore every month on the maintenance of this airport and on salaries, yet all this expenditure is going to waste because neither domestic flights nor cargo services have been started from here till now.

Jalgaon is much closer to the world heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora caves than Aurangabad. If domestic flights are commenced from this airport, it will greatly benefit international tourists. The famous Ghrishneshwar Dham and Trimbakeshwar Dham are also very close to this location, and access to the Nashik Kumbh Mela becomes much easier from here. The birthplace of Hanuman ji also lies in this region. Starting domestic flight services from Jalgaon will not only provide immense convenience to international tourists but will also greatly benefit domestic religious travellers.

Jalgaon is also one of the country's leading producers of bananas, plastic goods and gold jewellery. In addition, it is a major hub of dal

* Speech was laid on the Table

mills. Because of this, there is immense potential for exports through air cargo from this region. Owing to parking constraints at Mumbai Airport, nearby Jalgaon could also be utilised as an auxiliary parking facility. Yet, despite all these advantages and repeated requests, domestic flights and cargo services have still not been started from here. Although certain private airlines are willing to commence domestic flights from Jalgaon, the airport authorities are not prepared to provide night landing facilities.

I request the Hon. Minister that, in view of the enormous expenditure being incurred on Jalgaon Airport and to fulfil the long pending demand of the residents of this region, the Government should immediately take action to commence domestic flight services and cargo operations from Jalgaon Airport on routes such as Jalgaon–Indore–Pune–Delhi and Jalgaon–Mumbai, and also provide night landing facilities to private airlines. This will ensure optimal utilisation of the substantial investment already made by the Government and extend the benefits of air connectivity to the people of this region.

[English**]**

***SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL):** Tourism is an important sector to maintain a good global image of our country. We have heard of numerous cases where international tourists have to face ill treatment at the hands of local citizens. Concrete steps need to be taken to address this issue and make sure we, as a country, are seen as more welcoming. The 'Atithi devo bhava' is an effective ad campaign to bring about sensitivity amongst locals when dealing with international tourists. Sensitization efforts like these need to be encouraged. I had mentioned in my speech on Demands for Grants on Ministry of Development of North East Region (DONER) week that North-East region can be developed as a major international tourist attraction.

How tourism is viewed now has changed from what it was a decade or so ago. Earlier, tourists would go to locations to view historical sites and natural wonders. But now, it has become a combination of hospitality, local heritage and visiting tourist spots. Just developing spots and building them up will not cut it, we need to also let the tourists get immersed in the local cultural flavor and discover how people live in a particular region. The tourism ministry

* Speech was laid on the Table

needs to concentrate on hospitality training and encourage tourist guides to give their guests a taste of the local culture as well. Taxi and bus drivers, paan and souvenir shop staff, hotel staff, guides and others involved in this amazing business need to be trained about cleanliness, good behavior and a gentle welcoming outlook.

The Indian Aviation Industry is one of the fastest growing emerging markets in the world. Yet, we are plagued by our own inadequacy. We need industry wide reforms and a clear, sustainable plan for growth from the Government.

Globally, the aviation market is highly competitive but in India, the market is burdened with over regulation and government interference. The cost of entry into the market is prohibitively high due to stricter measures and fluctuating costs of operations across terminals in India.

The Government needs to adopt a clear strategy to enhance air travel connectivity in the country, especially in tier 2 and 3 cities. After the entry of low-cost-carriers into the market, there has been a significant growth in the sector. However, this can still be further enhanced by developing infrastructure and creating newer connection points in smaller towns and cities. In the North-East region alone, out of the 13 airports only 7 have night landing facilities. This severely

reduces the air traffic to and from the region. If the Government enhances the existing infrastructure, then there would be an increase in tourist as well as commercial activities.

The people of Orissa are at a loss to understand why the Union Government is not able to abide by its own decision of operationalizing the international airport at Bhubaneswar after publishing the notification (date 14/11/2013) in the Gazette. Steps like these are creating inter-state disparity in air connectivity which is having an unnecessary impact on tourism. It is creating development induced inequalities. Bhubaneswar airport if connected to Singapore and Phuket, could very well enhance Buddhist circuit tourism in the east.

The Centre has narrowed the hubs to only six metros which is not only regressive but also unsustainable since these sectors have already suffered from high levels of pollution, traffic congestion and higher costs of operations. One of the major issues that are affecting the tourism sector is the lack of connectivity between different regions of the country. It is significantly cheaper for a tourist to travel to north India and then board a flight to Thailand, Singapore etc when compared to travelling within India. These issues are affecting the outflow of tourists significantly which is a sizeable loss of revenue for

the Government. If the Centre would create international hubs like Bhubaneswar airport, then it would not only help the local population through jobs creation and tourist activities but also decongest the existing terminals around the metro hubs.

The Aviation industry is also facing a significant shortage of skilled employees, the Government has been touting the "Skill India" campaign, perhaps they can contribute or, at the least create, more incentives for existing market players to expand their training centers in order to get more skilled employees for the sector. This increase in employee pool would in turn create a better market force for the aircraft carriers. The current shortage has created a higher cost for the players, which in turn has created a costlier operation costs for the carriers. The end result of this surge harms consumer interests by creating higher airfare in various sectors. Airports cover the cost of upgrades and construction by charging airlines higher landing and operating fees. This can be countered by creating a no-frills airport meant for low cost budget airlines that will in turn boost not only tourist activities but also commercial activities in these hubs. Such airports exist in most developed countries as well.

Government has to take an initiative to not only take improve the existing infrastructure, but also to create a robust incentive program

to boost regional connectivity by promoting carriers to setup hub in smaller towns and cities. The regulations that are creating negative effects on the growth prospects of this sector should be scrapped. The future of the sector is bright, only if the Government is proactive in promoting it through stakeholders. These should, however, be no partisanship in such promotions as was noticed during the last decade.

*__SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI):__ I would like to first put forward the concern related to the security at airports by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on 21st December, 2015. The Committee was appalled to see the existing interface between the Delhi Police and DIAL in respect of security related issues at the Delhi International Airport. The Committee noted the various concerns expressed by Delhi Police as regards the Security at Delhi International Airport. BCAS and the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Home Affairs also appeared to have remained unconcerned in this regard. IGI Airport, being one of the most sensitive Airports in the existing security scenario, such gaps are sure to lead to any disaster at any time. Such issues are very serious and need immediate attention of the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Home Affairs and various other stakeholders involved.

The Committee also observed that at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, Mumbai, there exist 35 pockets of slums in airport, wherein 80,000 families having four lakh people are residing. There is also hillock full of slums overlooking the operational area of the airport. The problems are persisting for the last so many years. The Committee feels that the Governmental agencies, both at the Centre

* Speech was laid on the Table

and the State level, could not rationally judge the menace of slums inside the airport area as a potential security threat. Mumbai is the commercial capital of the country. Any breach of security at the airport will have far reaching consequences.

The Committee recommended that the security component of PSF needs to be enhanced to commensurate with the security expenditure and ensure that security is not compromised at all the airports in India and the PSF security component must be deposited in the Consolidated Fund of India.

I would like to know from the Government about what steps have been taken towards this very important issue.

The revised estimate 2015-16 for expenditure on civil aviation is way below than the budget estimate 2015-16. Also, the budget estimate for current year 2016-17 has been significantly reduced. I would like to ask the Ministry the reasons for the less expenditure and also, the decrease in funds allocated.

Similarly, the revised estimate for expenditure on tourism for 2015-16 is way below the budget estimate for 2015-16. The Standing Committee on 2015-16 demand for Grants for tourism observed that the Secretary Tourism himself has admitted that allocating such a large amount of funds to Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD when they

were launched should have been avoided. The Committee was of the view that the Ministry of Tourism should anticipated the basic things relating to implementation of the scheme and utilization of the grants while allocating funds to Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD schemes during 2015-16. I would like to know the current status of these schemes.

The Committee recommended that projects under Buddhist Circuit need to be given special focus for the development of places of Buddhist importance, which have been in a state of neglect all these years. The Committee also recommended that the Buddhist places be provided with proper road/rail and air connectivity along with other tourist infrastructure of international standards including quality accommodation and food as there is a lot of scope for attracting foreign tourists every year thereby boosting up our foreign exchange earnings and employment generation in the tourism and allied sectors. I would like to know that what are the steps being taken towards the recommendations of the Committee mentioned above.

There are many significantly and beautiful forts in Maharashtra along the coasts such as the Vijaydurg Fort, Rajgad Fort, Purandar Fort, etc. Steps should be taken towards the maintenance of these forts and towards making them famous tourist destinations. Not much is

being done currently towards protecting and maintaining these signs of rich heritage and culture. Better management and awareness of these places as tourist destinations would not only lead to greater footfall of domestic and foreign tourists but also, would lead to creation of jobs in these areas and therefore, increase in standard of living of people in these areas.

Paithan, located 56 kilometers south of Aurangabad, has shot into global prominence for its beautiful silk sarees which sport intricately embroidered gold or silver borders. Measures need to be taken to grow the textile business of the state e. g. paithani sarees and thus, it would be advisable for the tourism ministry to promote the famous textiles of Maharashtra as more number of tourists would mean more business for the people and additional jobs.

*SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA): I congratulate the Union Government for providing 70 percent hike to the Tourism Ministry in the Union Budget with an allocation of Rs. 1,590 crores to focus on infrastructure development and promotion and publicity initiatives. Rs. 932 crores were allotted to the Ministry in the 2015-16 budget, and the achievements of the Ministry in the year were significant. India moved 13 positions ahead from 65th to 52nd rank in Tourism and Travel competitive index as per World Economic Forum Report. I congratulate the Hon'ble Tourism Minister for his achievements.

Coming to Andhra Pradesh, first of all I want to thank the Hon'ble Minister for allotting Rs. 100 crores for development of Tourism activities in our Kakinada District from where I am representing as MP. Andhra Pradesh is one of the few states in India, which has a rich diversity in terms of tourism and has the capacity to attract tourists across all age groups. Investments of Rs. 12,000 crores have already been tracked and our State is using new and innovative ways of attracting more tourists. The state has been growing in popularity, with a jump in tourist footfalls from 93 million in 2014 to 122 million in 2015.

* Speech was laid on the Table

With a focussed strategy, Andhra is trying to become a leading tourism hub in the country. In that process, we aimed for investments worth Rs. 20,000 crores in the tourism sector by 2029, and we hope to get support from the Centre in achieving this target. Andhra Pradesh is looking at new and innovative ways to boost tourism, with ideas such as heli-tourism, cruise tourism, spiritual tourism, and shopping festivals. We also look to develop nature and adventure tourism and culinary tourism. We want to develop our 900 kms longest coastal line as a marine hub for tourism. We are planning to develop tourism on internal standards and look forwards to working closely with the Ministry to achieve our goals. We request a helping hand from the Tourism Ministry.

[Translation]

***SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** I support the Demands for Grants presented for the Ministries of Civil Aviation and Tourism. I congratulate the Government for deciding in this Budget to revive nearly 160 old, non-operational airports this year, each requiring an expenditure of about Rs. 50 to Rs. 60 crore. Along with this, the Government has also taken the decision to significantly expand the functioning airports. This will increase the number of domestic flights, enhance passenger traffic and accelerate the pace of development. In this expansion plan, priority must be given to the airstrip located in Devangana Valley of Chitrakoot, which falls within my Parliamentary Constituency and is presently under the control of the State Government. Considering the global importance of Chitrakoot as a renowned pilgrimage centre, work on this airstrip should begin at the earliest, and domestic flights should be started from here without delay. The enhancement of compensation for passengers to Rs. 1 crore in cases of accidents is also commendable, as it will help ensure the safety and security of travellers.

The Government has made special efforts to promote tourism, resulting in a remarkable increase in both foreign and domestic tourist

* Speech was laid on the Table

arrivals. The Hon. Prime Minister himself is taking keen interest in making India a major global tourism hub. I am grateful to the Hon. Tourism Minister and the Hon. Prime Minister for formulating a plan to develop the Bundelkhand region, which is full of tourism potential, into a dedicated tourism hub. Chitrakoot Dham is being included in the Ramayana Circuit, and development plans for it are underway, which is indeed a commendable step. There is a need to declare the Chitrakoot Dham area as a Free Zone so that pilgrims may conveniently move within this sacred region, which is spread across the two States of Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh.

Sites such as Kalinjar Fort, Madka, Bharat Koop, Rajapur and the Valmiki Ashram can be developed to attract tourists. Pilgrimage circuit trains may also be operated through this region to connect various pilgrimage destinations across the country. With these observations, I conclude my remarks while supporting the Demands for Grants.

[*]**SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI (MUNGER):** I am presenting my written statement on the Demands for Grants under the Ministry of Tourism.

In my Parliamentary Constituency, the district of Munger is home to several significant pilgrimage and tourist sites such as Chandi Sthan, Sita Kund, Sita Charan, Kastrani Ghat, Mir Qasim's Fort, Bheem Bandh, Rishi Kund and Kali Pahad. At Sita Kund, hot water flows continuously throughout the year, and Chandi Sthan is one of the important Shakti Peeths where, according to belief, the eye of Maa Parvati had fallen. The Mahabharata records that the generous King Karna donated one and a quarter maunds of gold daily at the site known as Karna Chaura. These sites attract tourists from across the country as well as from abroad. In Lakhisarai district, Maa Tripurasundari Temple (Barhiya) and the Shiva Temple at Ashok Dham are noteworthy tourist destinations. In Patna district, the Surya Narayan Temple, Baba Parshuram Temple and Baba Chauharmal Temple (Mokama) are important religious sites where a grand three day fair is organised every year during Chait Purnima. Hon. Union Minister Shri Ram Vilas Paswan ji visits this fair annually. Tourists from all corners of India and from abroad attend this major event.

---

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

In all three districts of my Parliamentary Constituency there exist historically significant tourism sites which receive visitors from every corner of the country, along with a substantial number of foreign tourists. However, due to inadequate maintenance and poor arrangements by the State Government, foreign tourists in particular face considerable difficulties while visiting these religious and tourist locations.

I request the Union Government to accord the status of recognised tourist sites to Chandi Sthan, Sita Kund, Sita Charan, Kastrani Ghat, Mir Qasim's Fort, Bheem Bandh, Rishi Kund, Kali Pahad, Maa Tripurasundari Temple, the Shiva Temple at Ashok Dham, Surya Narayan Temple, Baba Parshuram Temple and Baba Chauharmal Temple. Granting these places official tourism status will increase tourist footfall, which in turn will promote the development of both the State and the region.

[English**]**

***SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD):** The total Plan outlay in respect of Civil Aviation sector for 2016-17 is Rs. 4417. 00 crores, of which the budgetary support is Rs. 2000. 00 crore (plan). On the Non-Plan side, approved outlay of Ministry of Civil Aviation for 2016-17 is Rs. 590. 72 crores which is earmarked for establishment related expenditure of various organizations under the Ministry as well as payment of subsidy for operating Haj Charter flights. Thus, the total expenditure on the Ministry of Civil Aviation for 2016-17 is estimated at Rs. 2,591 crores. Budgetary support of Rs. 1713. 00 crores have been earmarked for equity infusion in Air India Limited for FY 2016-17. Budgetary support of Rs. 42. 30 crores have been earmarked for National Aviation University, Airports Authority of India has been provided with Rs. 100. 30 crores out of which Rs. 28. 70 crores have been earmarked for its project at Pakyong, Sikkim (North Eastern Region). Budgetary support of Rs. 79. 00 crores have been provided to Directorate General of Civil Aviation to pursue their plan schemes. A provision of Rs. 65. 00 crores have been made for Bureau of Civil Aviation Security for meeting expenditure towards their plan schemes. Token provision of Rs. 10. 00 lakhs each has been provided

* Speech was laid on the Table.

to Aero Club of India, Pawan Hans Ltd, IGRUA and Hotel Corporation of India Ltd. Of the total expenditure, the highest allocation is towards Air India at 66% (Rs. 1,713 crore). This is followed by allocation towards the subsidy for operation of Haj Charters at 17% (Rs. 450 crore), and allocation towards the DGCA at 6% (Rs. 157 crore).

The Economic Survey 2015-16 has observed that the civil aviation industry in India is experiencing a new era of expansion. This has been the result of the concerted efforts of this Government. Due to the policies of this Government such as increasing private participation under Public Private Partnership (PPP), development of greenfield airports, restructuring and modernization of airports, FDI in domestic airlines, increase in number of Low-Cost Carriers (LCCs) and emphasis on regional connectivity, coupled with cutting edge information technology interventions.

The Budget support has made it possible to develop India as a hub for Maintenance, Repair and Overhauling (MRO) in Asia, thereby driving forward the Prime Minister's vision for Make in India. Under this, the following provisions have been made for the MRO business in India: the tools and tool-kits used by the MRO have been exempted from Customs and Excise duty. The exemption shall be given on the

basis of documents certified by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation. Procedure for availment of exemption from customs and excise duty being simplified based on records and subject to actual user condition. Restriction of one year for utilization of duty-free parts being removed. The notification on Standard Exchange Scheme has been revised to allow import of unserviceable parts by MROs for providing exchange/advance exchange. Foreign aircraft brought to India for MRO work will be allowed to stay up to 6 months or as extended by the DGCA. The aircraft can carry passengers in the flights at the beginning and end of the stay period in India. In case MRO ground handling, cargo and ATF infrastructure facilities are co-located at an airport, including heliport, it will get the benefit of 'infrastructure' sector with benefits under S. 80-IA.

The MRO business of Indian carriers is around Rs. 5000 crores, 90% of which is currently spent outside India - in Sri Lanka, Singapore, Malaysia, UAE etc. Given our technology and skill base, the Government is keen to develop India as an MRO hub in Asia, attracting business from foreign airlines while retaining the domestic business. The above budget provisions will go a long way in realising this aim.

The MRO sector in India is still at a nascent stage and with preference towards air travel growing in the country, the industry in all likelihood has the potential to grow big. However, presently India lacks cost competitiveness in the global market and thus forcing several airlines to choose overseas markets for MRO services than carrying out such activities in India. There are several reasons behind it, tax being one of them. Currently activity of MRO is subjected to service tax at the effective rate of 14. 5% making the said service costlier. Thus, exemption from service tax will operate in tandem with the customs duty relief on parts imported and will help the aviation industry to optimize cost of aircraft operations. The Draft National Civil Aviation Policy 2015 plans to zero rate Service Tax on output services of MRO and this is something the civil aviation is looking forward to.

The Budget provision for this sector also reflects this Government's fundamental belief in inclusive development. The Government aims to improve connectivity to unreserved and under-served areas of this country thereby increasing regional connectivity.

The Report on Air Connectivity under the Chairmanship Rohi Nandan stated that Regional Dispersal Guidelines although intends to promote connectivity to in order to fulfil the commitment of flying on

certain routed, airlines tend to Cherry-pick or indulge in cream skimming to limit their commercial losses. This leaves out large areas from air connectivity. Under the Draft Civil Aviation policy has proposed a revision of the Route Dispersal Guidelines (RDG). This was introduced in 1994 and since has not been revised in 22 years. The NDA Government has taken steps to improve connectivity by revising RDG. Following are the important changes to be made: Category I will be rationalized by adding more routes based on transparent criteria, i. e. flying distance of more than 700 km, average of more than 700 km, average seat factor of 70% and annual traffic of 5 lakh passengers. The percentage of Category I traffic to be developed on Category II and IIA will remain the same. For Category III routes, the percentage will be 35% of the Category I traffic. Scheduled airlines permitted to trade Available Seat kilometres (ASKM) of helicopters and other small aircraft (Maximum AUW not exceeding 40 tonnes).

The Budget 2016 provides that the Union Government will partner with the State Government to develop airports and airstrips. The Minister shared with the media persons the following Action Plan for revival of such airports. Identification of airstrips controlled by State Governments: (i) The State Government can approach AAI

provided airport is handed free of cost to AAI and can meet half the cost of revival of their airports (ii) Airport/Airstrips under control of State Governments will be identified for development in consultation with State Governments and airlines to make such airports operational. (iii) Commitment from the State Governments on tax exemptions, reimbursement of expenditure of the recurring operational cost by providing free electricity, water and security to the airport. The entire airport project to have tax exemption from all municipal/property tax and VAT on ATF are to be brought down. State Government to share the costs for identified airports/airstrips proposed to be developed.

For the RCS Airports the Union Government will provide concessions in the form of exemption of service tax on tickets under the Scheme. ATF drawn from RCS airports shall also be exempted from excise duty. The AII will waive landing, parking and terminal landing charges. Only Nominal Route Navigation and Facilitation charges shall be levied.

Viability Gap funding for operators under RCS shall be given for a period upto 10 years. VGF shall be shared on an 80:20 (NE 90:10) ratio by the CG and SG. Operators shall be provided by an easy entry and exit options too.

The Finance Minister has revealed in the Budget speech that 160-odd domestic-only airports operated by the Airport Authority of India (AAI) has not seen a scheduled flight this year, official data shows, though some are older airports designed primarily for chartered planes. The ghost terminals were built largely by the previous government, which planned 200 'no frills' airports, encouraged by rising air travel and the need to connect far-flung regions. This Government through AAI will revive no-frill airports at an indicative cost of Rs. 50 crores without insisting on its financial viability.

Furthermore, this Government will develop 10 of the 25 non-functional air strips. Helicopters play a key role in remote area connectivity, intra-city movement, tourism, law enforcement, disaster relief, search and rescue, emergency medical evacuation, etc. India currently has less than 300 civilian helicopters, as compared to Brazil, for example, that has over 1300. It is thus important to develop this sector.

In the Draft National Civil Aviation Policy, the Government plans to liberalize the regime of bilateral rights leading to greater ease of doing business and wider choice to passengers. The Government plans to liberalize the regime of bilateral rights leading to greater ease

of doing business and wider choice of passengers. The Government also wants to liberalize charter flights.

This Government is also making efforts to modify the 5/20 rule (India carrier to have 5 years' experience flying domestically and 20 aircraft fleet before being allowed to fly abroad) to create a level playing field.

Air cargo has a high employment potential, especially for semi-skilled workers. Currently air cargo volumes in India are extremely low as compared to other leading countries due to high charges and high turnaround time. The Air Cargo Logistic Promotion Board (ACLPB) has been constituted to promote growth in air cargo by way of cost reduction, efficiency improvement and better intermenstrual coordination. The Government has commenced 24x7 Customs operations at several airports.

I am thrilled to note that in the Draft National Civil Aviation Policy has reflected this Governments intention to make travel by flight as accessible and affordable as possible. It has called for the reduction of airfare especially in the regional routes. The Draft has proposed that Rs. 2500 per passenger, indexed to inflation for a one-hour flight on Regional Connectivity Scheme routes. The Government is targeting 30 crores domestic ticketing by 2022 and 50 crores by

2027, and international ticketing to increase to 20 crores by 2027. Similarly, cargo volumes to increase to 10 million tons by 2027. If this step comes into fruition the dependence on the railways could reduce especially for those travelling 1st AC and 2nd AC. In this way a healthy competition can be sustained between the different modes of transport.

A number of initiatives were undertaken by this Government in 2015-16 in this sector: During the year 2015-16, a number of policy measures were implemented to accelerate the growth of the Civil Aviation Sector, which included civil aviation cooperation, development of aviation infrastructure and enhancing training facilities.

Air Services Talks: During the year 2015, Bilateral Air Services talks were held with following countries and ASA/MOU/Agreed Minutes were signed with New Zealand, Mongolia, Barbados, Seychelles, Republic of Korea, Oman, Kenya, Sweden, Ethiopia, Finland, Kazakhstan, Bulgaria, Fiji.

International Civil Aviation Negotiation (ICAN) Conference, 2014: - The ICAN Conference was held in Antalya, Turkey from 19th to 23rd October, 2015. The Indian delegation representing Ministry of Civil Aviation participated in the Conference and negotiated with the

delegations from 11 countries. During these negotiations, "Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)" was signed with six countries namely Finland, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Sweden, Norway and Denmark, Oman and Ethiopia and "Agreed Minutes" with Serbia, Greece, European Commission and "Record of Discussion "with Burnei, Darussalam and Qatar.

FLEET AUGMENTATION of DGCA has granted permit to two Regional Airlines viz Air Pegasus and Turbo Megha Airways which started operation in May, 2015 and July, 2015 respectively. Air India board approved acquisition of three 3B-777-300 ER's. Air India has also approved to lease 15 more A 320 family Aircraft in 2016.

Durgapur International Airport in West Bengal, with an investment of Rs. 750. 00 crores was operationalized on 18th May, 2015. Chandigarh Airport Terminal at an investment of Rs. 924. 00 crore completed and inaugurated on 22nd October, 2015. Tirupati Airport Terminal with an investment of Rs. 174. 00 crore completed and inaugurated on 22nd October, 2015. Khajuraho Airport Terminal with an investment of Rs 75. 00 crore operationalized on 19th October, 2015. Vadora Airport Terminal with an investment of Rs. 116. 00 crores to be completed by 31st March, 2016. Work for new airport at Navi Mumbai and Mopa, Goa to be awarded soon at a cost of Rs.

18,000. 00 crores. In principle approval for new ariport at Dholera (Gujarat) and site clearance for new airports at Bhogapuram, Nellore, Kurnool in Andhra Pradesh and Bhiwadi in Rajasthan have been granted.

A comprehensive e-Governance project has been initiated by DGCA to make available about 160 services online, which involve licenses and various clearances to airlines, airports, Pilots etc. This system will promote transparency increased efficiency and service delivery, leading to greater ease of doing business. DGCA has paid Rs. 18. 63 crores on this scheme and it is likely to be completed during 2016-17.

GAGAN, the space-based augmentation systems for airspace has been taken up in collaboration with ISRO. The project was completed in two phases after meeting the compliance of DGCA. The 7th IRNSS satellite by the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) yesterday. The new satellite -IRNSS-1 G - completes the entire cluster of the independent regional navigation system, which was first initiated in July 2013.

National Institute of Aviation Training and Management (NIATM) infrastructure works have been completed at Gondia, Maharashtra. Facilities at Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Academy

have been upgraded so as to increase the capacity to 100 pilots per year. India's Aviation Safety rating by the Federal Aviation Authority of the USA has been upgraded to Category -I. AAI has implemented Colour Coded Zoning Maps at important airports, in which local authorities have been authorized to approve building plans based on the height of building against the colour mentioned. This does not require the approval of AAI. Online OC applying system for building height has been upgraded for calculating and issuing online NOCs thus making the process transparent, paperless and efficient. Timeline for issuing NOC has been reduced from 6 to 3 weeks.

Another thing the present Government can be credited with is the turnaround it has brought in the civil aviation sector and Air India. The Government has been successful in injecting some discipline into Air India. Air India has improved drastically after the merger and FY 2015-16 is the first time there is no operational losses.

Air India has been able to make operational profit two years ahead of the target as per its turnaround plan. Better on-time performance and increased availability of passenger aircraft, increased cabin manpower and more aggressive marketing are some other reasons the airline's financials are improving. 58 narrow body aircrafts have been made available against the 52 that were available

in previous months. This alone has helped Air India corner more passengers as per the turnaround plan.

The net losses of Air India have seen a great reduction ever since this Government has come into power. In 2012-13 the losses were Rs. 5490. 16 crores which increased in 2013-14 Rs. 6279. 60 crores in 2014-15 it reduced to Rs. 5859. 91 crores and in 2015-16 it is Rs. 3529 crores.

The operating losses of Air India have consistently reduced in 2014-15, the same stood at Rs. 2,636. 19 crores as compared to Rs. 5,138. 69 crores in 2011-12. For the first time since merger of Air India and Indian Airlines in 2007-08, Air India is expected to earn a modest operating profit during 2015-16. The Airline is expected to make net profit in 2019.

The main areas in which the company has registered improvements in Financial Year 2014-15 in comparison to Financial Year 2011-12, when the TAP was initiated are as follows: The overall Network On Time Performance (OTP) of the company has improved from 68. 2% in 2011-12 to 72. 7% in 2014-15. The Passenger Load Factor has improved to 73. 7% in 2014-15 from the Passenger Load Factor of 67. 9% in 2011-12. The Network Yield achieved is Rs. 4. 35/RPKM in 2014-15 as against Rs. 3. 74/RPKM in 2011-12. The

number of Revenue Tax has increased from 13. 40 million in 2011-12 to 16. 90 million in 2014-15. The Operating Loss has consistently reduced since merger and in 2014-15 the same stands at Rs. 2171. 40 crores as compared to Rs. 5138. 69 crores in 2011-12. The Company has turned EBIDTA positive by Rs. 541. 60 crores as against the negative EBIDTA of Rs. 2236. 95 crores in 2011-12. Total Revenue increase from Rs. 14713. 81 crores in 2011-12 to Rs. 19718 crores in 2014-15 i. e. by Rs. 4026. 31 crores viz 33. 25%.

There has been a great leap in passenger traffic too after this Government has come into power. In 2012 the traffic was only 588. 19 lakhs and in 2015 (upto just October) it is Rs. 673. 83 lakhs.

The effect of the policies of this Government which has led to increased passenger traffic has also resulted in increase in passenger revenue earned by Air India after this Government has come into power. In 2011-12 there AI earned only Rs. 11,423. 29, 2012-13 saw a slight increase with Rs. 12,494. 44 lakh. In 2013-14 passenger revenue for AI is Rs. 14,150. 73 crore which after this Government took over is Rs. 16,377. 00 lakhs.

The recently released FICCI-KPMG report 'India Aviation Report 2016' stated that with 81 million trips, India's domestic aviation market grew at over 20. 3% during Jan-Dec 2015 - the highest

growth rate recorded in the world. India is well on its way to become the third largest aviation market by 2020. The report stated that increase in tourism, visa reforms, etc. have placed India in a unique position. According to the report, the Indian civil aviation industry has exhibited tremendous resilience to the global economic slowdown and ranks ninth in the global civil aviation market. This is attributed largely to the growing economy, increased competition among airlines, especially among low cost carriers, modern airports, greater use of technology, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and increased emphasis on regional connectivity. This is all due to the far-seeing policy frameworks of this Government.

On the international routes too according to International Air Transport Association (IATA), passenger traffic on international routes showed an increase of 6. 5% in 2015 compared to 2014. In comparison, during April-December 2015, international passenger throughout at Indian airport grew at 7. 7%.

Bilateral Traffic Rights: Open sky on reciprocal basis with SAARC countries and countries beyond a 5000 km radius from New Delhi. Indian carriers will be free to enter into domestic code share

agreements *with foreign carriers to any point in India available under their respective ASA. No prior approval from MoCA is required. Indian carriers simply need to inform the MoCA 30 days prior to starting code sharing. A review will be carried at least once in five years to consider the requirement of further liberalization.

It is important that this Government continue to implement its core principal of inclusive development. The report strongly suggests that in order to ensure high-geared growth, it is imperative to broaden the base of domestic flyers through greater air connectivity in Tier 2/3 cities. Many Indian states have taken positive initiatives, largely in the field of development of airports, reduction in sales tax rates on ATF and direct subsidy to airlines for improvement of connectivity.

In this regard, I would like to request the Minister to improve the security at the Hubballi Airport in my constituency which is presently only being manned by the state police. In addition, CRPF personnel should also be stationed there. Further I would like to request the

* It is a co-operative arrangement whereby two or more airlines sell seats on a single route and for each others' flights to provide passengers with a wider choice of destinations. A seat can be purchased on one airline, but is actually operated by a co-operating airline under a different flight number or 'code'. For example, a code share agreement between Jet Airways and Etihad Airways for a Delhi-Paris flight would mean for both the airlines could sell seats on the same route. White Jet Airways for a Delhi-Paris flight would mean that both the airlines could sell seats on the same route. While Jet Airways will undertake the journey from Delhi to Abu Dhabi, the onwards flight to Paris will be made by Etihad.

Ministry to improve air connectivity of my constituency, Hubballi. Presently, Air India has approved an in-principle flight connecting Hubballi from Mumbai but the Airport Authority of Mumbai has refused to provide a slot for the said flight which is stalling the whole process. Citizens are being denied air connectivity to an important destination. I thus request the Minister to urge the Airport authority to allot the slot at the earliest.

Further I request the Ministry to fulfil long standing demand of the residents of north Karnataka to improve the connectivity of north and south Karnataka by introducing Air India flight between Bangalore and Hubballi. The Connectivity of North Karnataka has often been ignored as compared to South Karnataka. I also urge the Ministry to start a flight between Delhi to Hubballi which can be via Pune as the earlier Spice Jet flight on this route was discontinued. Apart from that I would just like to congratulate this Government in taking care of tier II and III cities and truly implementing 'Sab ka Saath Sab ka Vikas'.

India's position in the Tourism and Travel Competitive Index has improved by 13 positions from the 65th 2013 under the previous UPA Government to the 52nd 2015 position under the present Government. This is because of the efforts taken by this Government in various

fields of tourism, which tries to ease the experience of every kind and category of tourist in this diverse country.

The Foreign Exchange Earnings during April to February 2016 is Rs. 1,27,614 crores with a growth of 12. 53% as compared to the same period last year. Foreign Tourist Arrivals has also gone up by 5. 84% for the period of April to February for 2016 as compared to the last year.

The Government has launched the Swachh Paryatan to monitor cleanliness of 35 most visited monuments. This project is being implemented by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India through DeGS and NIC. Since the general public and the tourists are the largest stakeholders in keeping the monuments clean, the Ministry of Tourism has decided to facilitate the general public to communicate their complaints about any unclean area/garbage piles in and around tourist destinations. The other recently launched Tourist Infoline is also immensely successful getting 18000 responses daily. This mobile app enables a citizen to take photograph of garbage at the monument and upload the same along with his/her remarks. The application then sends an SMS to the ASI Nodal Officer concerned with the monument upon receipt of which the Nodal Officer gets the garbage cleared/removed. The Nodal Officer thereafter sends confirmation

about the redressal of the complaint through an SMS to the complainant.

For safety and security of tourists a 24x7 Toll Free Multi-Lingual Tourist Helpline in 12 Languages including Hindi and English on 1800111363 or on a short code 1363 offering a multi-lingual helpdesk" in the designated languages has been launched.

First meeting of "National Medical and Wellness Tourism Promotion Board" was held under the Chairmanship of Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State (I/C) for Tourism and Culture Key Members, including representatives of well known hospital chains, other stakeholders and the representatives of related Government Departments, Tourism and Hospitality sectors and experts in various disciplines including Wellness and Yoga participated in the meeting. The Board plans to build up a Data Bank of available resources in the field of Medical and Wellness services in the country and to develop mechanism to disseminate such information to the source markets. The Board observed that the healthcare delivery system in the country has improved and there are several positive factors in our healthcare system due to which several countries now look East, particularly India because of the quality offered at affordable cost.

Union Government had launched e-Tourist Visa Scheme (as Tourist Visa on Arrival Scheme) in November 2014. The e-Tourist Visa Scheme facilitates pre-authorization of Visa i. e. electronic travel authorization given to foreigners prior to travel. Under this scheme, an applicant registers for visa online and receives an email authorising him/her to travel to India after it is approved. On arrival, the visitor has to present the authorization to the immigration authorities who will in turn allow them to enter into the country. The scheme seeks to tap the vast tourism potential of India which still remains untapped and explored. During April to February 2016 a total 5,74,813 tourists arrived on e-tourist visa with growth of 590. 77% as compared to the same period last year. Now the E-Tourist Visa is available for 150 countries.

The Union Ministry of Tourism provides Central Financial Assistance (CFA) to State Government/Union Territory Administrations, including the places of religious importance, for various tourism projects in consultation with them subject to availability of funds, inter-se priority, liquidation of pending utilization of certificates and adherence to the scheme guidelines. For development of tourism infrastructure in the country, the Ministry of Tourism has introduced two new schemes in 2014-15 i. e. PRASAD-

Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive and Swadesh Darshan - Integrated Development of Theme-Based Tourist Circuits. Under PRASAD thirty cities have been identified for development initially, namely: Amritsar, Ajmer, Dwarka, Mathura, Varanasi, Gaya, Puri, Amaravati, Kanchipuram, Vellakanni, Kamakhya, Kedarnath and Guwahati. Under Swadesh Darshan scheme, Spiritual Circuit has been identified as theme circuit for development.

I request the Ministry to develop my Constituency of Hubballi as a tourist hub. Hubballi forms the Centre of North Karnataka and has many destinations in and around it. For example Hampi, Pattadakal both World Heritage Sites under UNESCO in Karnataka and Aihole and Badami are under consideration for World Heritage Sites are located very close to Hubli-Dharwad. They contain structures including Hindu and Jain temples belonging to the Vijaynagara and Chalukya Dynasties. Other important sites that attract many tourist scholars and students wanting to study these historic locations are Bijapur Laxmeshwar which also lie in close proximity to Hubli.

Kittur Fort which was held by Rani Chennamma, a woman warrior of Karnataka who revolted against the British in 1824,

Bankapur Fort, Savanur Nawab Fort, Utsav Rock Garden Gottagodi are other important tourist places around Hubli.

Hubli is also the epicentre of pilgrims from around India who want to visit the many holy sites situated in and around it. Hubli pilgrimage centres like Siddharodh Mutt, Moorusavir Mutt, Savadatti Yellama Temple and Murguga Mutt near Dharwad attract many lakhs of people here every year.

Besides this heritage and religious sites Hubli and Dharwad are also known for the rich natural beauty. Sirsi, Yana, Sahasraling - famous for being the location where around a thousand lingas which are carved on the rocks in the river bank are also sites to frequented by many tourists, besides this the Western Ghats which is also a world heritage site are located very close the Hubli-Dharwad, Dandeli Wildlife Sanctuary and Anasi Tiger Reserve famous for their wildlife and varied flora and fauna is situated close to my Hubli-Dharwad.

These sites also attract lots of adventure tourism like trekking and water rafting at Kali river etc. for all these sites, Hubli is the place most tourist including a substantial number of foreign tourist use as a base and thus it important to develop it as tourist site.

[Translation]

*__DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO (KORBA):__ I would like to express my views on Civil Aviation.

I am a Member of Parliament from Chhattisgarh. At present, there is only one airport in the State, located at Raipur, which functions as both a domestic and an international airport. The distance from Raipur to Bastar is 350 kilometres. My region, comprising Korba and Korea, lies about 250 to 350 kilometres away. The distance to Naya Raipur is around 300 kilometres.

If another airport is to be made operational in Chhattisgarh today, then Bilaspur is the most suitable location. It is home to the Central University and serves as a key administrative centre of the State, being the headquarters of a Commissionerate. An airport already exists there, but it is not available for use by the general public. Therefore, it should be opened for public operations at the earliest.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

[*]**SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR):** I request the Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to commence airport operations in Bilaspur city.

Bilaspur city, which falls under my Parliamentary Constituency, is the second largest city of Chhattisgarh after the State capital, Raipur. The High Court of Chhattisgarh is located in Bilaspur, making it the judicial capital of the State. Bilaspur is also a major commercial centre and houses the headquarters of the South East Central Railway Zone (SECR), from where hundreds of trains pass through Bilaspur Railway Station every day. The headquarters of South Eastern Coalfields Limited (SECL) is also situated here. The Bilaspur region shares its boundaries with Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Odisha and Maharashtra.

The origin point of the Narmada River and the well-known tourist destination Amarkantak is primarily accessed through Bilaspur. The region also contains several other important tourist, historical and scenic sites such as Ratanpur, the Mahamaya Temple, Shivri Narayan, Janjgir-Champa, Korba, and others. Major hospitals like Apollo and SIMS are also located in Bilaspur. Since the State currently has only one airport, air travelers from this region face great

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

inconvenience. Passengers from Sarguja, Korea, Raigarh and Korba have to travel all the way to Raipur or even to Jashpur for air connectivity. From Balrampur–Sarguja, the distance to Raipur Airport exceeds 350 km. Building an airport in Bilaspur will greatly benefit travelers from all these areas. Moreover, starting air services from Bilaspur will significantly boost tourism prospects in the entire region. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to take immediate steps to develop and operationalize an airport in Bilaspur.

[*]**SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA (MANDSAUR):** I would like to express my support for the supplementary demands related to tourism. Over the past two years, tourism in India has expanded significantly. People from across the world and across the country are increasingly drawn to explore Indian tourism. Along with personal or leisure tourism, attention is now being given to sectors such as medical tourism, rural tourism, agricultural tourism, and industrial tourism. I urge that it is necessary to develop these new areas of tourism today. In the budgetary allocations, I would request that a new tourism circuit from Udaipur to Ujjain be established, which should include the parliamentary constituencies of Udaipur, Chittorgarh, Mandsaur, Dhar, Khargone, Ujjain, Dewas, and Indore.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

[English]

*__DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH):__ I would like to request Hon'ble Minister to complete the renovation and modernization of Jharsuguda Airport in Odisha. Jharsuguda is the industrial capital of Odisha. This airport is the second largest in Odisha and one of the oldest airport of the country used during 1945, Second World War. With the setting up of this airport not only trade and commerce but also tourism and culture will be flourished. As decided by the Ministry, the modernization of this airport should be completed by 2016 but unfortunately this work is not in progress in proper perspective to be completed by 2016. Therefore, this has to be expedited.

The Tariff rates of air tickets should be decreased to enable the lower middle class and middle class people to travel various parts of the country and abroad. This will help a lot for promotion of tourism and civil aviation.

Odisha is an important destination in respect of heritage, culture, art and craft, wild life, fairs and festivals, flora and fauna, lovely beaches, temples, etc. But, there is urgent need to improve the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

infrastructure, law and order, publicity, hospitality management, etc. Most of the important tourist destinations in Odisha don't find place in the tourist map of the country. For example, Nrusinghanath site has immense tourism potential, where one can find monuments, religion, tribal life, flora and fauna, wild life, water-falls, medicinal herbs, history and culture, music and dense and above all adventure tourism. This matter I have already raised in the House to take appropriate steps for the promotion of tourism of Nrusinghanath. Sufficient funds should be allocated to programmes should be worked out so that it will be a important tourist destination both for domestic and foreign tourists. Vikramkhol Rock Shelter in Jharsuguda district is famous for pre-historic pictorial writings and scenic beauty. But due to lack of proper communication and infrastructure, tourists are not reaching the site. Therefore, funds may be allocated for the infrastructure development of this site. Another important site in Jharsuguda district near Braznagaar is Chandi Temple famous for scenic beauty and forest and river which require improvement for tourist amenities.

Bargarh district is also popular for world famous beautiful handloom and handicrafts, specially Sambalpuri tie and dye. Mega Handloom Parks can be set up in Bargarh district to make it an important tourist destination. The tourist can know the technique

Sambalpuri tie and dye and purchase the garments clothes directly from weaver as well. The weavers will be directly benefitted by this programme.

Dhanu Yatra "or the festival of Bow" is celebrated in Bargarh, Odisha is recognized as the National festival. It is famous for world's largest open air theatre, where lakhs and lakhs of tourists came to enjoy the festival held during the months of December, January continuous for two weeks. This festival centres round dance-drama on Krishna and Kamsa of epic fame, foods and crafts music and dance art and artifacts, etc. The whole town become a open theatre. But, unfortunately this unique festival does not find place in the tourist map of the country. Therefore, I will urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to provide sufficient funds for the promotion of this Dhanu Yatra and include in the tourist map of India.

I will urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to include Lalitgiri, Ratnagiri, Udayagiri, Langudi, Nrusinghnath, Boudh, Shyamsundarpur, Pargalpur, Ganiapali, Dhauligiri, in the Budhist circuit of the country. Budhism and Bhudhist heritage of Odisha played an important role in Budhist world.

I will request the Ministry to organize music and dance, handlooms and handicrafts, foods and traditional cuisine, markets in

the important tourist spots of Odisha. It will not only attract the tourist at large, but also local artists and people will be benefitted financially.

Again, I will request for proper maintenance of safety and security of the tourists in the tourist destinations and proper publicity so that tourists from different parts of the globe will come to our country and enjoy the time in our country and leave with a sweet memory.

[Translation]

*__SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH):__ Today, the House is discussing the budgetary grant demands of the Ministry of Tourism for the year 2016–17. I support these grant demands and would like to express a few thoughts on this subject.

Our country is one of immense diversity, with multiple cultures and civilizations. Various forms of lifestyle have evolved here. When you travel just a few kilometres from one place to another, you can already observe social and geographical changes. Across India, nature, culture, wildlife, rivers, valleys, mountains, plains, ancient historical heritage, religious sites, and numerous scenic locations exist with their unique splendour. Because of these natural gifts, our entire country has the potential to be developed into an extraordinary tourism hub for the world. For this, adequate resources and financial investment are necessary. In many parts of our country, there are beautiful sites, ancient monuments, and centres of faith that still remind us of our culture and ancient civilization. Many of these, however, are turning into ruins or fading away due to lack of restoration. These heritage sites must be preserved and revived.

*Speech was laid on the Table.

In this context, my Lok Sabha constituency, Mishrikh, includes the sacred pilgrimage sites of Mishrikh and Naimisharanya. The Puranas describe that when the sages asked Lord Brahma to show them a holy place untouched by the effects of Kaliyuga, where worship, devotion, and penance could quickly yield desired results and Brahma fulfilled their wish by creating a divine chakra from his mind. He released it, declaring that wherever its naimi (central part) would fall, that land would be supremely holy and instantly rewarding. As the naimi fell in this region, it came to be known as Naimisharanya. Naimisharanya is a sacred pilgrimage site of the Satya Yuga, believed to be so pure that merely visiting it destroys one's sins. It is also known as Naimisha or Neemsar. Among its major holy spots are Chakra Tirtha, Lalita Devi Temple, Vyas Gaddi, the sites linked to Svayambhu Manu and Satarupa, Soot Gaddi, Hanuman Garhi, Pandav Fort, Dashashwamedh Ghat, and Dadhichi Kund. Even today, lakhs of devotees visit this sacred place daily, especially on every Amavasya and Purnima. However, despite its immense religious significance, it has never been developed as a tourist destination. There are no proper travel or transport facilities, no adequate arrangements for devotees to stay, and the pilgrimage sites have not been restored or maintained although this is urgently needed.

Therefore, I request the Hon’ble Minister to include this ancient pilgrimage site in the official list of tourist destinations and to develop it as a full-fledged tourism centre.

[English]

*__SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM (JAMNAGAR):__ I would like to state some interesting facts under the Ministry of Civil Aviation. India is set to become the third largest civil aviation market by 2020, according to a report by FICCI-KPMG. With over 81 million trips, India's domestic aviation market grew at over 20. 3 percent in 2015, which is the highest growth rate recorded in the world. With these statistics, I would like to congratulate our Hon'ble Minister of Civil Aviation Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Ji and our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji under whose leadership there has been a shift in policy paradigm resulting in this enormous growth. This is attributed largely to the growing economy, increased competition among airlines, especially among low cost carriers, modern airports, and greater use of technology, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) and increased emphasis on regional connectivity. The private sector has also become a big participant in this sector.

However, due to an economic slowdown in Europe and North America and growth in the Asia Pacific region in the last few years, the global air traffic forecasts for 2030 have reported that India and China will become the epicenter of supply and distribution. This may

* Speech was laid on the Table.

result in an increase of traffic share of Asia Pacific in the global traffic and a corresponding decline in the share of North America and Europe. The Indian Civil Aviation industry has exhibited tremendous to the global economic slowdown and ranks ninth in the global civil aviation market.

I would like to mention that the National Civil Aviation Policy (NCAP2016) is likely to provide a significant fillip to the industry. The various fiscal and monetary incentives, liberal policies focused on 'ease of doing business' and enhanced push for regional and global connectivity are extremely positive. Steps taken to revive and operationalise around 160 airports in India, if chosen carefully, will improve air connectivity to regional and remote areas. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) in the sector will get substantial support from the state in terms of financing, concessional land allotment, tax holidays and other incentives. The NCAP will boost the industry even further.

However, there remains a responsibility on the part of the Government to regulate airline pricing in the interest of the common people. The DGCA should formulate guidelines or there has to be an authority which will assess the pricing of airlines. I believe that whole intention of policy making is to give people the benefits that they are entitled to. I think it is a shame that the airlines did cash in on the 'Jat'

agitation right in the heart of Delhi NCR. It is extremely unfortunate that the flight rates skyrocketed during the Chennai floods. Unless, our policies can reach out to people in need, I think the entire purpose of policy is defeated. The sole aim of policy should be its people and hence, I would strongly recommend that the Ministry brings in some form of a regulatory body to check arbitrary airfare pricing.

Also, our systems will have to be more transparent. Public and private airlines should have a mechanism to publish their maximums and minimums on their website. This should be open for the public domain so that the operation of an airline pricing is transparent and can be reviewed.

Next, I would re-iterate my concern; which I have already raised through a Parliamentary intervention is that the DGCA should consider formulating guidelines for assessing the mental health of pilots and ensure that implementation is done in the best possible manner.

Moving on, I must mention that bringing in policy transformation in the sector not only impacts the particular sector but is interdependent on other sectors. With this I would like to mention the tourism sector. I am happy to mention that India introduced e-tourist

visas in November 2014 - the scheme was extended to citizens of 37 countries in February this year, taking the total to 150 such countries.

In March this year, 1,15,677 tourists availed of the facility, marking a four-fold increase from 25,851 in March 2015. Foreign tourist arrivals (FTAs) to India rose 11. 3% in February this year to 8. 47 lakhs from 7. 61 lakh visitors in February 2015, while foreign exchange earnings (FEEs) rose 6. 33% in February 2015. Tourism is a major engine of economic growth, an important source of foreign exchange earnings and a generator of employment of diverse kinds in many countries including India. The State Government, through the Department of Tourism, has been taking up certain promotional activities in Tourism with livelihood generation for masses by optimum utilization of locally available resources and technology. However, I would like to request that the Government looks into department related under-spending which might otherwise prove to be detrimental to the tourism sector in India.

As articulating my request (even though this is not new) I would like to bring in the issue of Air India to be considered. The Ministry spends majority of its funds on Air India (about 66% in 2016-17). For the last several years, Air India's financial health has been poor. According to the Ministry, reasons for Air India's losses include

adverse impact of exchange rate variation due to the weakening of Indian Rupee, high interest burden, increase in competition, especially from low cost carriers and high fuel prices. Air India has been struggling to improve its efficiency, and compete with the private airlines. I would request the Government to provide maximum support and assistance to revive Air India, since Air India is our own and the Government should do everything possible to get glorious day of Air India back.

Considering that ATF forms about 40-50% of the total operating cost for airlines, the high cost of fuel makes it difficult for incumbent Indian airlines to grow, and for new air carrier service providers to enter India's civil aviation market. It has also been observed that high fuel costs also affect the airlines' abilities to invest in other services such as buying more aircraft, and servicing more routes. A possible marketing and investing in Air India should be focused and also on quality and improved services of the Airline.

Secondly, as I have already submitted a representation to the Ministry; I would like to highlight one long standing demand of the people of my constituency, Jamnagar. The request stands to induct direct flight from Jamnagar to New Delhi. Presently, there is a solo flight operating from Jamnagar to Mumbai and there is very little

connectivity with the Northern, Southern or Eastern parts of the country. People travelling to New Delhi for work either has to travel through Mumbai or via Ahmadabad. Starting direct flights to New Delhi will not only help the people of my constituency execute business in a time bound manner but will also reduce out of pocket expenses of travelling via other cities.

Further, a large number of people travel from Jamnagar to Delhi via Mumbai on an everyday basis through the solo Air India flight that operates between the two airports. This necessitates a long wait at the Mumbai airport to avail the next Air India connecting flight to New Delhi. With the present flight schedule, people travelling to Delhi for work will only reach the capital in the evening which is an added burden on the person both financially and in terms of time. Since the present Government is committed to infrastructure development and running innovative programmes to build Smart Cities, I would sincerely request the Minister to consider upgradation of Jamnagar airport. Due to a footfall in increasing passengers the airport needs upgraded capacities to cater to the growing demand. Especially, at a time when some other States are being classified as Tier II cities like Andhra Pradesh, the Ministry should also give equal importance to the State of Gujarat. Jamnagar is a major industrial hub in the State of

Gujarat. The constituency not only hosts major oil refineries (Reliance and Essar), big corporates but is also home to a lot of MSMEs and the brass component manufacturing sector.

Due to the volume of business activity in the region and the strategic location of Jamnagar it is essential that air connectivity to this area to be considered. Hence, I would request the Minister to revise the Air India flight timings to an appropriate morning slot, so that this problem could be resolved and people travelling to city for work can reach Delhi at least mid-day.

And finally as I conclude, I am thankful that the present Government has declared Dwarka, as a heritage city under HRIDAY yojana, but this also put additional responsibility on the Government to make travel easier for pilgrims and tourists. Therefore, my request and demand should be prioritized by both the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry to promote religious tourism and enhance business opportunities through air connectivity and investment in infrastructure. I congratulate the Government for its initiative to make the Civil Aviation sector growth-oriented; at the same time, I would urge the Ministry to also consider my demands of grants that I have stated here.

[Translation]

*__SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHHAJAHANPUR):__ Mahoba is a major driver of the country's development. It is an important source of foreign exchange earnings and a source of various types of employment in India. In 2015, around 8 million foreign tourists visited India, but this number is still not even one percent of global tourists.

Our Prime Minister has said that if we want to develop tourism, then 125 crore Indians must take a pledge to help keep tourist sites clean.

India's rich cultural, historical, religious, and natural heritage offers immense possibilities for the development of tourism and employment generation.

The Hon'ble Minister has made commendable efforts to develop the Buddhist pilgrimage site of Shrawasti as a world-class tourist destination. Along with this, funds of ₹170 crore each have been allocated for the Buddha Circuit and the Ramayana Circuit to promote them as global tourist attractions.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

A plan of ₹15,000 crore has been prepared to develop various regional religious sites under tourism

Along with Devipatan Temple, Sarnath, and Raja Suheldev, I would like to draw attention to the Jalalabad region of my parliamentary constituency, which holds mythological significance as the birthplace of Lord Parashurama. It is believed that the ashram of Mother Renuka and the ancient remnants of the descent of River Ramganga are located here. I request that this land of martyrs from India's freedom struggle, home to the immortal heroes Pt. Ram Prasad Bismil, Dr. Roshan Singh, and Ashfaqulla Khan, also be developed as a tourism centre.

On the Shahjahanpur–Jalalabad to Farrukhabad route, an air traffic control point is already established. I request that an airstrip also be constructed there.

[English**]**

***SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA):** On the outset, I need to congratulate both ministries for taking strong steps in the development of their respective sectors. The budget too has provided them a push in the right direction. Swades, Prasad and Hriday schemes are vital interventions in channelizing tourism growth in specific areas. Also, MICE promotes co-operative federalism by assisting states in hosting conferences.

Moreover, I would like to highlight the hard yards put by the Rajasthan Government in further enhancing its reputation of attracting most tourists both domestic and abroad. The push given to tourism with a new campaign has been appreciated by many. I am highlighting some opportunities for development of tourism in my constituency below. I am sure the Ministry will take not of it.

Kota, Bundi, Baran, Jhalawar are important locations from tourism point of view. Let me highlight that, Chambal river flows all through the year. Hence I urge the Minister to develop the up and down stream and make provision for water sports in this area. Alniya Shal Chitra Gram, Badouli-Shiv Mandir, Atomic Energy Centre in

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Rawatbbhata, Budhadith Sun Temple, Bird Sanctuary in Digodh, Sorsan park, Mukundra Tiger Hills. Gadariya Mahadev Temple and several other such locations attract tourists in big numbers. Hence I urge the Minister to kindly consider these locations for development under several of its well-planned schemes. Similarly, Bundi is a historical place in my constituency and has great cultural significance. Gadh palace in Bundi is an important tourist destination. People flock to watch the art gallery in the palace. Jaitasagar, Sukhmahal, Bhimlat, Rameshwar are some of the other key tourist locations in Bundi which require attention of the tourism ministry.

Gangajal fort, Surya Mandir and Herbal Garden in Jhalrapatan, Gagron Durg (World heritage site), Kolavi Budh Cave should be considered for development. Similarly, such locations in Baran are Kakoni Mandir, Vilasgadh, Shergadh, Nahargadh, Shahbad fort, Kapil Dhara. All these places mentioned above under Hadouti region should be included under a tourist circuit by the Ministry.

An increasing population demands for new infrastructure, for tourism to flourish there needs to be proper network to make travelling as convenient as possible. While the Railways has been giving thrust with several tourist trains, aviation too has seen manifold growth. At present the domestic air traffic is around 70 million while here is

potential of 300 million. I welcome the steps proposed in the Civil Aviation policy which plans to strengthen the sector. I hope the Ministry will consider the 5/20 rule for airlines so that the sector will be more competitive and benefit the country as it has been mentioned in the policy. Moreover, I congratulate the announcement for domestic value addition with reforms in the Maintenance, Repair and Overhauling (MRO) area. This will boost Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji's scheme of Make in India making the country a hub in the MRI Sector. Another key announcement discussed in the civil aviation policy and rightly backed by the budget is the development of 160 unused airstrips owned by Government.

Apart from being a students' hub, Kota is also known for its industries. There are plenty of people who travel in and out of Kota thereby making it an attractive space for development of aviation. Kota has an airstrip which can be further developed in co-ordination with states. I urge the Minister to kindly consider the development of Kota airstrip. Between 1982 and '92, Kota used to have air connectivity. And I strongly recommend the Ministry to include Kota in the list of 160 airstrips. Finally, the proposed idea of opening up FDI in aviation beyond 49% will help aviation grow in the country. I

hope these steps will make air travel easier and also affordable thereby adding an untapped market in second and third tier cities.

*__SHRI P. K. BIJU (ALATHUR):__ The civil aviation in our country is growing by leaps and bounds. Thanks to the entry of low cost carriers expanding middle-income group, and growing economic activity in the country. On the one side we are witnessing the fast expansion of private sector in the civil aviation and on the other side there is a fast deterioration of the Government sector and Air India. For long, there has been a hue and cry for privatization of Air India. Any talk of privatizing Air India (AI) would be premature at this stage even as there is a need to re-visit its Turnaround Plan (TAP) in view of the changing micro-economic situation.

The state-run carrier has shown a marked improved in its finances in the last fiscal and has met some of the key targets as stipulated in the TAP. In 2013-14 the total loss of Air India was rupees 5,490 crores. In 2015-16 it has come down drastically to rupees 2,291 crores. Besides Air India, the overall debt burden of all the carriers in India is growing. In 2011-12, the total debt of airline industry was about US $ 20. With regard to private airlines, anti-competitive pricing has been an issue. For 4example, recently, the Competition Commission of India imposed penalties worth Rs. 258 crores on a few private airline companies for colluding on fuel surcharge costs. Air

* Speech was laid on the Table.

India will not be "privatized" is a cross-party policy that has stood the test of time, government stance and the preferences of individual personalities. It would be too early to talk about privatization of Air India at this stage. What you actually need is a complete re-look at the airline's revival plan and then decide whether it should remain with the State or go to private hands.

My takeaway from this is that the appetite for genuine public sector reforms in the country continues to be limited and the story of Air India tells us why. It is embarrassing to list the problems with Air India. It is a drain on the public exchequer. It has some of the highest paid employees in the public sector, with the lowest productivity. It provides no essential services that other Indian "flag carriers" cannot provide. One has to consider all these factors and then take a pragmatic view on the whole issue.

The total expenditure on the Ministry of Civil Aviation for 2016-17 is estimated at Rs. 2,591 crores. Of the total expenditure, the highest allocation is towards Air India at 66% (Rs. 1,713 crore). This is followed by allocation towards the subsidy for operation of Haj Charters at 17% (Rs. 450 crore), the allocation towards the DGCA at 6% (Rs. 157 crore). Total allocations towards the Ministry have decreased by 38% from the revised estimates of 2015-16. The

expenditure of the Ministry in 2015-16, revised estimates, was 37% lower than the actual expenditure in 2014-15.

Take a look at the costs the Government has incurred on chartering Air India flights for ferrying the Prime Minister. For Prime Minister, who has so far used the Air India chartered flights for 55 days during his 13 foreign visits, no bills for as many as eight visits have been received by the Government, bills for four visits are under process and the bill for only one visit has been computed. Civil servants and Ministers appointed to either run or monitor Air India implement their own fads - merge and airline, sell bilateral, buy new generation aircraft - and then vanish with no accountability for their actions.

Privatization of the airports is another controversial subject. Most airlines fear that the privatization of Indian airports is only going to add to their financial woes with operational costs shooting up. Airlines point out that over the past three years, the airport charges borne by them have increased by 346 percent in case of Delhi airport and 164 present in case of Mumbai airport. In the case of Chennai and Kolkata where the Government has spent about INR 2,400 crore each in development and modernization, the charges have gone up by 269 percent and 385 percent respectively. Air India, for example is

required to pay 87 percent more airport charges in Delhi to land a Boeing B787 Dreamliner than paid at the Singapore airport. Landing a Boeing B777ER in Delhi costs the airline 230 percent of the costs in Dubai. The International Air Transport Association, IATA, which represents over 250 airline operators across the world, went on to endorse the view that the Government stop looking at privatization as a "panacea" or cure to all the problems ailing Indian airports. While a 'commercial flavour' may be introduced by privatizing them, the country or the Government can hardly expect to make more money.

I conclude my speech with the strong conviction that the total privatization will not be a cure for the ailing civil aviation industry. Instead strategic steps should be taken to protect the Air India and develop plans to ensure the financial health of it. Total privatization is a tested and failed approach in many countries and India is not going to be benefited out of that.

[Translation]

*__DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):__ Over the past two years, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism has, through its excellence, achieved a new stature both nationally and internationally. For this, I wish to congratulate the Hon. Minister. Our airports today figure among the best in the world, and in international competition, the Delhi and Mumbai airports, with capacities ranging from 25 to 40 million passengers, have secured the first and fifth positions respectively.

This is a matter of immense satisfaction and pride for the entire nation that, under the leadership of the visionary Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, special emphasis is being placed on the development of infrastructure. In this direction, ambitious plans have been formulated to elevate air, road and water transport to international standards. On the one hand, the country is constructing new airports, while on the other, long-term plans are being drawn up for the upgradation of existing airports. I believe that for a long time there have been challenges such as enhancing airport capacity, human resource development, land acquisition and obtaining governmental clearances, but the Government is taking effective steps in this

* Speech was laid on the Table.

direction. The Government is striving to establish India as a trade and tourism hub. As a result of Government policies, passenger growth at Delhi Airport stands at 15.7 Percent, Mumbai at 16.1 Percent, Bengaluru at 25.2 Percent and Hyderabad at 22.0 Percent, placing them among the top airports in the world. At present, the Indian aviation industry, valued at USD 16 billion, is the world's ninth largest market. We have set a target of becoming the third largest aviation market by 2020, and by 2030, we are fully prepared to emerge as the largest aviation market in the world.

The Government is fully cognisant of the fact that, in the times to come, the Asia Pacific region will remain the principal hub of global aviation. The Government also recognises that the development of the aviation sector has not only a catalytic impact on the economy but also an inductive effect, as a result of which several allied industries flourish alongside air services. The large-scale investments made recently under the PPP mode clearly reflect the Government's seriousness and commitment in this regard.

On the one hand, the Government is making visa, immigration, customs and airport transfer processes simpler and more facilitative. On the other hand, it is focusing on enhancing excellence in services at airports by strengthening areas such as MRO services, ATF

facilities, dynamic gate management and minimum connecting time, thereby raising overall standards to global benchmarks.

The Government is resolutely committed to taking our national carrier, Air India, to new heights. While Air India has completed the digitisation of its entire set of files and, by joining the Star Alliance, has been able to significantly strengthen its international branding, the arrival of the new CMD has ushered in a new work culture within the organisation. For this positive transformation, the Hon. Minister deserves appreciation and congratulations.

At a time when the entire world is grappling with the challenges of a weak global economy, certain developments in the national and international market environment have been able to create an encouraging atmosphere for the Indian economy. The reduction in the price of Aircraft Turbine Fuel has made air travel considerably more affordable. In addition to this, the advent of a stable and strong political Government in the country, followed by a series of positive measures, has led to a significant change in the spending capacity of people in the domestic sector. Through the tireless efforts of the Government, India has been able to establish itself as a major destination from the tourism perspective. Recognising the long-felt need for visa reforms, comprehensive changes have been undertaken,

which have had a positive impact on the number of international tourists. I would like to specifically point out here that the campaign to make India a preferred destination for tourists is beginning to bear fruit, and in this direction, the target of 300 million domestic tourists by the year 2020 is a significant and forward-looking step.

As you are aware, the State of Uttarakhand is extremely sensitive from an environmental perspective. This strategic region, surrounded by two international borders, has a pressing need for the strengthening and expansion of civil aviation services. I humbly request that the expansion of the Jolly Grant Airport at Dehradun be undertaken at the earliest. This expansion would not only enable large Boeing aircraft to operate there but would also facilitate the commencement of cargo services. In Uttarakhand, airports and airstrips including Jolly Grant, Pithoragarh, Chinyalisaur, Saun, Pantnagar and Gauchar should be upgraded. On the one hand, there is a need to introduce new services at these airports, and on the other hand, infrastructure development works at these facilities should be actively promoted and expedited.

According to industry projections, the tourism sector is expected to grow at an annual rate of 7 Percent over the next ten years. For the first time, the Government has recognised that meaningful

transformation in socio-economic life can be brought about only through integrated infrastructure development in the aviation and tourism sectors. As per the data of the WTTC, the Indian tourism industry is among the world's fastest growing industries. While the tourism sector is growing at a rate of 7 Percent, it is providing employment to 37 million people, which constitutes approximately 9 Percent of total employment.

I request that, in view of the strategic importance and sensitivity of Uttarakhand, maximum possible air services be provided to the State from the country's metropolitan cities. In particular, there is an urgent need to commence services between Dehradun and Pantnagar without delay. Serious efforts must also be undertaken to enhance inter-connectivity among the airports of the State.

Haridwar, apart from being the gateway to Devbhoomi Uttarakhand, is the spiritual capital of the world. Rishikesh and Haridwar are centres of faith and are also the venues for the Kumbh, the world's largest religious and spiritual congregation. In addition to this, Haridwar serves as the gateway to the Rajaji National Park, is a major centre for Ayurvedic medicines, and stands at the heart of the socio-economic transformation of the entire State of Uttarakhand. Millions of devotees from within the country and abroad visit

Haridwar on various occasions to take a holy dip in the mokshadayini and patitpavani Ganga. As the State gateway for the Char Dham Yatra, lakhs of pilgrims commence their sacred journey from Haridwar itself.

With a view to promoting religious, cultural and tourism activities, and to enable people from within the country and abroad to gain a proper understanding of our cultural values, there is a need to establish a dedicated centre. I have observed that a large number of inquisitive tourists from India and overseas visit Haridwar, but often receive incomplete and, at times, incorrect information. Through such a centre, we would not only be able to acquaint people with our timeless Indian culture but also create greater awareness about our rivers, particularly the Ganga.

The significance of the Ganga, its unique ecology, its cultural and mythological importance, information about glaciers, and from the perspective of tourism, such a centre would be able to brand Haridwar as a global tourist destination. In this context, I wish to state that Haridwar is not merely a centre of faith for Hinduism; people from many nations come here to seek spiritual fulfilment. In such a situation, it is essential that they receive accurate and scientific information of all kinds. In a culturally significant centre like

Haridwar, there is an urgent and undeniable need for a cultural centre or a museum.

I had the privilege of organising the Kumbh during my tenure as Chief Minister. Citizens from hundreds of countries were witnesses to this grand event. On many occasions, I felt that there was a lack of information for tourists relating to Indian religion, culture, philosophy and spirituality. Unfortunately, there is no museum or information centre in the entire region where all such information is available under one roof. I humbly request that, in order to promote tourism in the Haridwar region and for the preservation and promotion of Indian religion and culture, a Ganga Museum be established, so that Haridwar may emerge as a major centre of tourist attraction.

The devastating and catastrophic floods that struck Uttarakhand in June 2013 completely shattered the social and economic life of the entire region. In this massive deluge, more than ten thousand people lost their lives, and the regional economy was totally devastated. ASSOCHAM, in its assessments, has estimated that the tourism industry alone suffered losses amounting to Rs. 12,000 crore during this disaster. Nearly one hundred and eighty thousand people who were directly or indirectly dependent on the tourism industry for their

livelihood are today compelled to wander in search of survival. Thousands of such individuals had taken loans from banks and financial institutions and are now living in an atmosphere of despair and hopelessness. Financial institutions have even begun auctioning whatever little property remains with them. In such extremely difficult and adverse circumstances, I urge that the Ministry of Tourism announce a special package for the region, so that the people of this strategically sensitive and economically crippled area may once again be given an opportunity to stand on their own feet. Even today, the impact of this terrible calamity continues to have serious repercussions on the social and economic life of the people of the State. The youth of the region are being forced to migrate, which is emerging as a major threat to national security.

I respectfully request the Hon. Minister to kindly take the following steps for the integrated development of the tourism sector:

A comprehensive action plan should be prepared under the supervision of the Tourism Department for the development of tourism across the entire region, ensuring local participation and **establishing eco tourism villages**. In a phased manner, villages across the State that can be linked with eco tourism should be identified. To ensure successful implementation, local youth should

be provided with appropriate training and financial assistance to enable them to establish units in their own villages. The Ministry of Tourism can utilise its promotional machinery to attract tourists from within the country and abroad.

Through the Ministry of Tourism, a special financial package should be announced to waive all loans extended in the disaster affected areas. This should include lodge and hotel owners, taxi operators, mule owners and shopkeepers in the affected regions. The Union Government can assist the victims by providing financial resources to the State Government for waiving the loans of those affected by the disaster.

The Tourism Department should, on the lines of the Vaishno Devi model, mobilise adequate resources with the cooperation of various private sectors for the infrastructure development of the Char Dham, Hemkund Sahib and Pir Baba Kaliyar.

The Ministry of Tourism should utilise its extensive network spread across the country and abroad for the marketing of regional products, assisting local people in obtaining fair value for their produce and facilitating effective marketing. This may include medicinal herbs, organic products, flowers, woollen goods and handicrafts. By making special arrangements for the marketing of

organic products, the regional economy can be significantly strengthened.

Under the Skill Development Programme, employment oriented courses related to the tourism industry should be conducted in various regions of Uttarakhand.

By establishing coordination among employment programmes being implemented by different Ministries, tourism related programmes should be specifically incorporated for the hill regions. I suggest that, with the involvement of the private sector, the curriculum of these programmes be aligned with the requirements of the tourism industry.

Once again, I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon. Minister for his ambitious and development oriented initiatives, and I express my hope that the dream of a prosperous and best India will be realised.

***DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY (CHANDAULI):** While discussing the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tourism and Culture, my following demands and suggestions may be added:

The Hon. Minister of Tourism, under the guidance of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has made highly commendable efforts. I congratulate the Hon. Shri Mahesh Sharma for the same.

My suggestion and request is that, within my Parliamentary Constituency No. 76, Chandauli, in Varanasi district, a substantial amount has been sanctioned by you for the Shri Markandeya Mahadev shrine. For this, I express my gratitude and request that the said Shri Markandeya Mahadev site be included on the Government of India's tourism website. Further, water tourism and water sports should also be initiated at the Ganga–Gomti confluence site, where a substantial volume of water remains in the Ganga throughout the year.

Further, the development of the Kapildhara ancient shrine, which is the starting point of the Panchkosi Parikrama in Varanasi, may be undertaken, and the beautification of the hermitage of the great saint Baba Jagannath Das at Lohta may also be carried out.

---

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Additionally, within the same Parliamentary Constituency, under Chandauli district, the sites associated with the great saint Baba Kinaram at Ramgarh and Tandakala, Shri Kaleshwar Nath Temple at Barthi, Shri Brahmani Mata Temple at Kabalra, the unique Shri Ved Vyas Temple at Madiya, and the sacred pilgrimage site at Gul Madawar should be beautified so as to promote tourism development in the region.

[English**]**

***SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI (HAVERI):** I thank you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism for 2016-17. To boost air connectivity, the Government is preparing an action plan to revive 160 airports and airstrips, each would cost about Rs, 50-100 crore. Presenting the Budget for 2016-17, the Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley Ji said the Government is drawing up an action plan for revival of unserved and underserved airports. "There are about 160 airports and airstrips with State Governments which can be revived at an indicative cost of Rs. 52 crores to Rs. 100 crores each.

Hon'ble Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley Ji said that we will partner with the State Governments to develop some of these airports for regional connectivity. Similarly, 10 of the 25 non-functional air strips with the Airport Authority of India will also be developed.

The Draft policy has mooted various measures to boost regional connectivity including setting up of no-frills airports and providing viability gap funding for airlines. Among others, the draft policy has

* Speech was laid on the Table.

proposed that there would be no service tax on tickets under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) apart from service tax exemption for Scheduled commuter airlines taking jet fuel from RCS airports.

Among the five airports to be developed by the AAI, the Hubli airport serves the twin-cities of Hubli and Dharwad in northern Karnataka. The plan to upgrade the Hubli airport was first approved in 2005 and after much delay, in January 2013, the Government of Karnataka and the AAI signed a memorandum of understanding to develop the airport.

Reports say the AAI intends to upgrade the existing infrastructure and turn the airport into an all-weather one at a cost of Rs. 1. 6 billion. The State Government in 2012 acquired nearly 600 acres and handed it over to the AAI. The upgradation includes the expansion of the airfield to 615 acres, the runway to 7,500 ft. The development of the Hubli airport also includes efforts to make it capable to handling larger passenger aircrafts like the Boeing 737 and Airbus 320/321. Last year, a Spice Jet plane from Bangalore, with 78 people on board, skidded off the runway after landing at Hubli airport in Karnataka due to heavy rain.

However, the Government has reduced budgetary allocation to the civil aviation ministry by 17% to Rs. 4,417 core from Rs. 360. 95 crores the previous year. Of that amount, state run airlines got a grant of Rs. 2,065 crore- significantly lower than their demand of Rs. 4,300 crores. That the Government should chalk out a solid fiscal roadmap for Hubli airport in Karnataka.

The Ministry of Tourism (MOT) has taken various initiatives to develop the tourism sector in the country to make it very attractive, affordable and easy for both international and domestic tourists. The report pointed to the large growth in the tourism sector, whose contribution to GDP was $ 125. 2 billion in 2014, and is expected to reach $259 billion in 2025 (accounting for 7. 6 per cent of India's GDP). In 2015, India is estimated to have received $ 109. 6 billion in revenue from domestic and foreign tourists. India invited around 7. 8 million foreign visitors in 2015. Government initiatives, such as e-visas and expansion of visa-on-arrival facilities are expected to fuel further foreign tourist arrivals. However, foreign tourist were attacked and looted in the country. There has been an increase in the incidents of crime against foreign tourists especially women tourists in the country. The Government should chalk out strict monitoring system

in various parts of the country in view of the rise in crime against tourists especially, foreign women tourists.

Tourism is a big employment generator. For every USD 1 million invested in tourism creates 78 jobs. India has an excellent opportunity to benefit from visa reforms and infrastructure improvements under the new Government. The overall contribution of India's travel and tourism sector of the overall economy is still relatively low (6. 8% of GDP, against a global average of 9. 8%). This reveals the depth of the problem that India faces, but also the opportunity.

"According to World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) forecasts, travel and tourism has the potential to contribute 46 million jobs to the Indian economy by 2025. But this growth will not happen by itself, and needs careful management, particularly in the area of human capital development. Failure to plan properly for talent requirements leads to lower growth, reduced investment, less innovation and declining competitiveness - for both countries and companies. "There needs to be systematic and simultaneous infrastructure development for expansion of tourism.

[*]**SHRI PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (BHUBANESWAR):** Please include light and sound for Khandagiri and Baruni-Khurda.

The State Government of Odisha has already proposed but not yet implemented by the Government of India.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

[Translation]

*__SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR):__ I rise to express my sentiments in support of the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism for the year 2016–17.

At the outset, I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, under whose able leadership the Hon. Minister for Civil Aviation and Tourism has made earnest and meaningful efforts to promote this sector.

While tourists derive pleasure from travel and sightseeing through tourism, for pilgrims, pilgrimage is a centre of faith and devotion, which opens the path towards spiritual upliftment and liberation. Therefore, I urge the Union Government that, along with the Ministry of Tourism, a separate Ministry for Pilgrimage should also be constituted.

Among the major initiatives of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, alongside tourism, pilgrimage has also been accorded due encouragement and promotion.

Buxar, my Parliamentary Constituency, renowned as the tapo-bhoomi of Vishwamitra and popularly known as Mini Kashi, was

* Speech was laid on the Table.

known in ancient times as Vyaghrasar, a name bestowed by sages and seers. It has been an important centre of ancient culture and spirituality. The Buxar Lok Sabha constituency encompasses areas of three districts of Bihar, where, alongside tourism, there exist numerous mythological and sacred pilgrimage sites. In Buxar, there are revered sites such as the Vishwamitra Ashram, the temple of Nath Baba, and the temple of Mata Ahalya at Ahirauli. It is from here that Lord Shri Ram is believed to have commenced the Panchkoshi Yatra, which is still celebrated with great fervour by a large number of devotees along the banks of the Ganga. In Brahmpur, there stands the ancient temple of Baba Brahmeshwar Nath, popularly known as Manokamna Shiv. Dumraon is home to the ancient temple of Maa Dumrajinī. In Kaimur lies Maa Mundeshwari Dham and Maa Tarachandi Dham. Bihiya houses the ancient temple of Maa Mathinī. Ara is known for the Maa Bakhorapur Kali Mata Temple and the shrine of Iron Devi. In Sasaram, Rohtas, there is Bhaluni Dham. Bhagalpur has Vriddheshwar Nath Dham, while in Banka stands the Madhusudan Mandar Parvat. Devotees throng Baba Baidyanath Dham at Deoghar, Ajgaivinath Dham at Sultanganj, and the sacred centres of Gaya and Bodh Gaya, where rites such as pind daan for ancestors are performed. Thus, across the Lok Sabha constituency and

indeed throughout Bihar, there are numerous pilgrimage sites which attract thousands of devotees who visit these sacred places for pilgrimage and spiritual fulfilment.

For the proper care, protection and preservation of all these ancient shrines, a Ministry of Pilgrimage under the Ministry of Tourism should also be constituted, so that mythological sites, ancient shrines and religious places may be safeguarded and the faith of devotees strengthened and kept vibrant.

Champapuri in Bhagalpur is the sacred land of the Jain Tirthankaras and its development is essential. Similarly, the Sun Temple at Deo in Aurangabad, Bihar, is an important pilgrimage site associated with the great festival of Chhath. Its development is also necessary.

In the Mithilanchal region, the development of sites such as Kakibari in Darbhanga, and the temples associated with Vidyapati and Ugna Mahadev, is also necessary.

*__DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):__ As far as the Ministry of Civil Aviation is concerned, the airport in my area, Ahmedabad, has been declared an international airport and has been named the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport. From across Gujarat, a large number of passengers travel to countries all over the world. Therefore, through you, I humbly request that the Ahmedabad International Airport be connected with foreign countries through direct flights. People from Gujarat travel extensively to destinations such as the United States of America, Canada, Europe, the Gulf countries and Australia. At present, the available flights operate via Delhi or Mumbai. During this process, passengers are required to change aircraft, and since the aircraft connecting to Ahmedabad are smaller, passengers often have to take additional flights to reach Ahmedabad. On several occasions, their baggage is also left behind. Through you, I request that Ahmedabad be connected to all major international destinations through direct flights.

I demand that the Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel International Airport, Ahmedabad, be included in a pilgrimage circuit connecting key places associated with the life of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, namely his birthplace Mhow, Deeksha Bhoomi at Nagpur, 26 Alipur Road in

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Delhi, and Chaitya Bhoomi at Dadar, Mumbai, so as to facilitate pilgrimage and promote cultural and social awareness.

[English**]**

***SHRI B. N. CHANDRAPPA (CHITRADURGA):** Civil Aviation sector is one of the important sectors of our economy. But I am sorry to say that this sector of civil aviation has been neglected to a large extent. I say this because the National Civil Aviation Policy has not been finalized. The Government had finalized the draft of the NCAP in October 2015 and it was put on public domain. But we have not heard anything about the finalization of the policy. This clearly shows how much scant attention is being paid to this sector.

This Government has been saying that they would encourage domestic travel by reducing the cost of travel. On the one hand, the Government has been saying that they would make the air travel cheap to cater to even the middle class people, on the other hand, the cost of Air Turbine Fuel is being increased every now and then. If we see the cost of ATF in the international market, we would find that it is getting cheaper and cheaper but in case of our country, the cost of ATF is going higher and higher. If the cost of ATF is increased, how can the Government provide cheap air travel? I do not understand this. This has in turn hiked the cost of air travel.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Now I come to tourism sector. India is proud to be a country with many tourist destinations. The Government has come out with 13 domestic tourism circuits under the heading Swadesh Darshan. I wish to share here that tourism and culture both are inter-twined. We cannot separate one from the other. When I go through the details of number of projects and amount sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme from 2014-15 till date, I find that my State Karnataka has been totally neglected. So far, under this scheme, an amount of Rs. 1513 crore has been sanctioned, but not even a pie has been sanctioned for any project from Karnataka. In the same way, when one goes through the number of projects sanctioned under the scheme of Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive (PRASAD), Karnataka State has been totally neglected. Not a single project under this head also has been sanctioned till date.

I come from Chitradurga Parliamentary Constituency of Karnataka. We have got a famous Chitradurga Fort. This Fort was built between 17th and 18th century during the Vijayanagara Empire. The Fort is a unique symbol of unity as it has both a temple and a Mosque inside it. Although it figures in the list of monuments of national importance as per ASI, yet it is not being maintained properly. I would request the Minister that this Monument should also

be developed as one of the tourist destinations in the State of Karnataka.

I would like to raise another important issue. We have got 29 States and 7 Union Territories. Each State has got its own important tourist and historical places of interest. I would suggest that the Union Government should start a tourism package for each of the State and also give wide publicity to such tourism package depending on the period of the year when it would be the most suitable time. Right now, people may be aware of the State and some of the tourist centres, but they are not aware about the period when it would be most suited to visit that particular State.

Another issue that is of vital importance is of tourism police. We should have tourist police in all the places of tourist importance. This would definitely help not only our Indian tourists but also the foreign tourists. The personnel belonging to tourism police would be able to guide the tourists in a better say and would thus save the tourists from the hands of the touts.

Another issue is about the registration of tourist operators. There have been many tourist operators in the country who promise so many things to the tourists before starting a journey but later on, they leave the tourists in a lurch to fend for themselves. This has created a very

bad impression in the minds of tourists. I would suggest to the hon. Minister to ensure that all the tourist operators in the country should be registered so that they are able to adhere to minimum standards.

13. 00 hours

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU): I thank all the Members for their useful views, inputs and suggestions. All your ideas have certainly given us a lot of good feedback on how we can further tweak and streamline our policies and action plan for a more consumer-friendly and sustainable growth of Civil Aviation in India.

I represent a sector which has shown a robust growth rate in terms of passengers carried, both domestically and internationally.

From 2014-15 to 2015-16, our domestic passenger traffic grew from 70 million to 85 million making India the land of 21 per cent growth rate, as far as Civil Aviation is concerned. This is heartening news for all of us. Presently, we are ninth in the world in terms of passenger traffic and we hope to become the third largest civil aviation economy in the world by 2022. This will require substantial upgradation of airport capacity, connectivity as well as consumer friendly regime with our ultimate aim of 'taking flying to the masses'.

I am happy to share with you that the Airports Authority of India has planned an infrastructure investment of over Rs. 15,000 crores in the next five years to achieve this objective. This shall include new airports, expansion of existing ones, upgradation of ANS

infrastructure as well as cargo facilities. Projects for upgradation of 39 airports have been either already started or in the pipelines. In addition, 15 non scheduled airports will be revived for VFR operations. In 2015-16, Durgapur International Airport built with an investment of Rs. 750 crores has been operationalized. Besides, new terminals were also operationalized in Chandigarh, Tirupati and Khajuraho. Vadodra airport terminal and a new heliport at Rohini will be completed within July 2016. Besides, process for selection of developers at Navi Mumbai and Mopa in Goa at the approximate total cost of Rs. 18,000 crore is also underway. The Ministry has also given in-principle approval for the new airport at Dholera in Gujarat and site clearance for airports at Bhogapuram, Nellore, Kurnool and Bhiwadi.

Over the last two years, there has been a significant improvement in Customer Satisfaction Index at Indian Airports with the Airports Authority of India emerging as one of the top service providers of international standards. In a survey conducted in 2015 by the Airport Council International (ACI), which is a global body of airport operators across the world, Jaipur and Lucknow have been ranked first and second in the world in the category of two to five million passengers' airports. Goa and Thiruvananthapuram have been placed fourth and fifth in the same list. Srinagar has been ranked second in

the category of up to two million passengers. Mumbai and Delhi joint venture airports have been ranked joint first in the category of 25 to 40 million passengers. The Airport Service Quality Rating of major AAI airports is 4. 53 against a world average of 4. 13.

13. 04 hours (Shri Pralhad Joshi *in the Chair*)

To boost connectivity, we have issued licenses to four scheduled and 13 non-scheduled airlines to operate in the country since June 2014. The number of aircraft available with the scheduled airlines has gone up from 381 to 428 in the last two years of this Government. Correspondingly, the number of seats available has also increased by about 12 per cent from 66,758 to 74,499 (on a daily basis). The number of domestic departures per week, which was about 11,934 in summer of 2014 has increased to 14,869 in the summer of 2016. This translates into a growth rate of almost 25 per cent in the last two years.

Air India continues to serve us well, and after a long wait of 10 years, has made an operational profit this year. This is a development, which brings immense satisfaction to all of us. By cutting its operational expenses by almost 11 per cent, Air India has turned from a Rs. 2,636 crore loss making unit in 2014-15 to a Rs. 8 crore operational profit unit in 2015-16. It has also joined the Star Alliance

in 2014 which has helped it to integrate better with the international civil aviation market. I need hardly remind you of yeoman's service that Air India has provided to the nation in the hour of crisis – evacuating about 6,000 nationals from Yemen, 1,300 workers from Iraq and Libya and 17,500 passengers from quake-affected Nepal. It will induct 28 more aircraft in its fleet by January, 2018, and by 2020, its fleet size is likely to grow, by about 100 aircraft to about 232 aircraft.

The Budget proposals for the year have given a shot in the arm towards the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government in the civil aviation sector. The Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul business of the Indian careers is almost to the extent of Rs. 5,000 crores out of which 90 per cent of this money gets spent outside the country even when we have the capacity. With a view to retain this business, as also to develop India as a hub for MRO operations in Asia, several tax exemptions have been proposed in the Budget announcements. This will provide multiple benefits, for example, generate employment, build capacity, provide cost effective maintenance, reduce turnaround time and save valuable foreign exchange.

The Budget proposals as well as the Draft Civil Aviation Policy lay focus on regional connectivity with an aim of providing affordable

aviation services in Tier-II and Tier-III cities. Concessions may be provided in terms of reduced airport charges, navigation charges, electricity, water charges and security charges. We propose to partner with State Governments to revive some of the 160 airstrips owned by them as also to develop 10 out of 25 non-functional airstrips with the Airport Authority of India. To keep the ticket prices affordable, the Viability Gap Funding is also being looked at.

We also realise the importance of development of Air Cargo Sector. During 2015-16, Common User Domestic Cargo Terminals were made operational at 12 airports and six more sites are planned for 2016-17. The growth rate in this sector has been a modest six per cent (We carried a total of 20. 23 lakh tonnes during April-December, 2015) which provides us with an opportunity to explore further development avenues in this area.

Technology is a great enabler. The DGCA has initiated a comprehensive e-governance project title e-GCA, which will enable it to offer 160 services online to stakeholders. This system will promote transparency, increased efficiency and service delivery, leading to greater ease of doing business. The first set of such services will be launched this month. Also, AAI has launched an improved online system for issuance of height clearances and colour coded maps

have been finalised for 16 cities, which enables the municipal bodies to grant height clearance locally. India has also become the first country in the equatorial ionospheric region and the fourth in the world to use satellite-based navigation system, GAGAN for approaches with vertical guidance service. Biometric access control systems shall also be installed at major airports by October, 2016 for enhanced security.

Cochin airport has become the first in the world to exclusively run on solar energy with a total installed capacity of 12 megawatt. Delhi and Hyderabad international airports also have eight and five megawatt plants respectively. The Airports Authority has already established 4. 55 megawatt of solar capacity at its airports and installation of further 23. 80 megawatts are underway.

I am also happy to share with you that all airlines have strongly adhered to the Route Dispersal Guidelines under which they provide connectivity to the remote and under-served regions of the country. The performance of all airlines is considerably in excess of the targets.

It will continue to be our endeavour to keep our airports and skies absolutely safe through foolproof adherence to prescribed international standards. I inform you with a high degree of satisfaction that in a very recent audit conducted by ICAO, our compliance rates

as regards quality control, regulatory framework and in-flight, passenger and cargo security were assessed to be 99. 25 per cent against a world average of about 66 per cent.

The ICAO audit of DGCA was also successfully completed in 2015 and no safety concerns were raised.

I shall now proceed to discuss some of the concerns raised by the hon. Members.

13. 12 hours (Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair*)

Many Members had voiced their concern in regard to the steep increase in airfares during unpredictable disruptions in transport services on account of natural calamities, agitations etc. The Government also has seized of the matter. It has been strongly intervening with airlines to ensure that the inconvenience to passengers is minimised. For example, during the Chennai floods, alternate flight operations were commenced from the Arakkonam airbase of the Navy with the active cooperation of many airlines and capping of fares from Arakkonam to Bengaluru and Hyderbad at Rs. 2, 000. On the request of the Ministry, the airlines came forward to launch additional flights during Srinagar floods, the earthquake in Nepal and the Jat agitation. However, taking into account the concerns

of the hon. Members, the Ministry will commence the process of consultation with stakeholders, including airlines to explore the possibility of appropriately containing the fares for short duration on the affected sectors during natural calamities, agitations etc.

Another concern which the hon. Members have voiced is about the reduction in ATF, Aviation Turbine Fuel, which is not being translated to airfares reductions. So, we did an analysis of 23 routes and we realised that in the airfare from January-March, 2015 to January-March, 2016, there was a reduction, the average being 18. 10 per cent, which translates that the reduction of ATF is being passed on to the consumers.

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Mr. Minister, what about the Gulf sector? I had mainly pointed out about the Gulf sector. There is no reduction. But on the other way, the fare was being hiked. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Not now, we will look into this later.

. . . (*Interruption*s)

[English]

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: You see, we in India have any control on Indians. That is the thing there. So, international passenger thing is different. We will come to that. Of course, the concern Venugopal Ji had raised was on ATF prices, which I have already talked about. First of all, I also intervened there, and he mentioned that he was not talking of taxation. All ATF is zero tax based outside India. Whatever is international, the nation in which the airline is registered is responsible to that nation. So, this happens that way.

Then, you had talked about some airline also. I tried to make my enquiries and no airline of Kerala Government is pending with the Government of India. They have not even applied. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR-BARAN): Yes, they have not applied.

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: What happened to you? It is my right to ask the question. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please allow him to conclude.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: After the Hon. Minister has replied, you may raise your questions.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: He is answering to my question.

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: We answer to the questions of the Members substantially. But how does the Government work where imaginary questions are asked? There has to be some substance in what the questions are asked. We have not denied any airline which has applied with us. Since this Government has come, four airlines have got their permissions. They are flying.

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, give me just a minute. Yesterday, I spoke on the issue that the Kerala Government has given a request to the Civil Aviation Ministry, Government of India. That is for what? It is for relaxing the conditions.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, please conclude your reply. Thereafter, if any Member wishes to ask a question, they may do so. Kindly complete your statement.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: Sir, all right. I will try to give my reply. It is an imagination. No Government or any airline in the name of Kerala Airline has applied with the Government of India. Of

course, any Indian registered airline will follow the Indian rules. There is a Route Dispersal Guideline. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL: There is a Cabinet note on that. That is what I am telling you.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, please address the Chair and conclude your statement.

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: Very well, we shall comply with the directions given by the Chair.

[English] Then, he wanted to know about the runway work in Calicut Airport, which was taking a lot of time. This air site pavement work commenced in August, 2015. The stipulated date of completion is 2017. All efforts are being made to complete all the works, not only Calicut but whatever it is, by December, 2016. So, I think they are on time.

Now the Members have raised issues like Dushyant Singh Ji had also raised a matter about purchase of 68 aircrafts in November, 2004. This matter is before the Public Accounts Committee. I understand that the PAC has taken oral evidence of the Ministry on 8th April,

2016. They have asked for additional information which I think is going to be submitted to them by 5th May, 2016.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, ... (*Interruption*s)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nishikant Ji, please allow the Hon. Minister to conclude his statement. Otherwise, if Hon. Members keep intervening, how many Hon. Members can we restrain?

. . . (*Interruption*s)

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: The PAC has already submitted its report. We have taken evidence on the Action Taken Note. ... (*Interruption*s)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister Sir, please continue with your statement. No questions are to be answered at this stage. You may reply to the questions at the end.

SHRI ASHOK GAJAPATHI RAJU: Yes, Sir.

[English]

So, I understand that the matter is going to come up before the PAC this month itself.

Another issue raised was about the Dharmadhikari Committee, which went into the issues when the Indian Airlines and Air India were merged. I understand that 226 issues were raised by them, out of which 12 are still to be implemented and 12 are at different stages of completion. Of these issues, five relate to training, four to IT and three to HR.

Prof. Saugata Roy raised an issue of the North East in respect of viability gap funding. Alliance Air is operating ATR 42 aircraft in the North Eastern region. It is based in Kerala. Operations are carried out with the viability gap funding from the Ministry of DoNER. The agreement is valid up to March 2017. Further, the Ministry of Home Affairs also provides for helicopter operations in the North East region.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, we had a national civil aviation policy which we wanted to formulate. We had extensive consultations with all the stakeholders. This was put on the net and in a very transparent way everybody had made his suggestions. Based on this, we want to make the Indian skies more vibrant seeing that there are a large number of airports which are inoperational. In our country we have a lot of airstrips which the hon. Members have been talking about, which were probably constructed during the Second World War. About 160

of these airports are with the State Governments. A few of them are with the Government of India, Defence and others. There should be a few in private hands also. So, what we could probably revive is that we need to develop a strategy which is in an advanced stage of finalization.

All suggestions have come in and are getting examined. These have now been circulated for inter-Ministerial consultations as they cut across certain Departments within the Government of India. Once that comes out of it, if any changes are required in earlier policy, it would be decided by the Cabinet. It will have to go there and come out. That is a general procedure, which is going on.

Then, a concern was expressed about the Boeing 787 Dreamliner aircrafts. Of course, we did have certain troubles there which have been ironed out. Right now, the Boeing, the aircraft manufacturing company is giving spare parts to Air India.

So, I do not see any further problem as far as that is concerned. Some people have talked about connectivity, particularly international connectivity. In most places, it starts as a hopping flight. As the customers grow and ticketing grows, they convert it into a direct flight. So, we start with a hopping flight and then, depending on ticketing, convert it into a direct flight. This is being done everywhere.

A lot of questions have come up about individual airports. Those questions are being attended to. If I start replying to each and every thing here, it will be little tedious for the hon. Members. So, with regard to what all Members have talked about individually, I will definitely send them the information on that.

We are happy that in the Budget Speech itself, the Finance Minister had indicated that we would have no-frills airport ranging between Rs. 50 crores and Rs. 100 crores in some of these places. So, we have to fix up the criteria of how we are going to select those places. The Department is doing precisely that and we are working on it.

The Greenfield Airport Policy continues. We will be supporting all the State Governments who come forward to bring in greenfield airports.

The employees' grievances were mentioned here. We look into all that. The issue of removing of slums, which are there in certain places, from airport lands was also raised. That is also being looked into because we have a good and reasonable safety record and we cannot sacrifice that.

Individual Members have mentioned about all types of places, airstrips and airports to be done. We will definitely look into them and keep the hon. Members informed. It includes the one at Jewar also.

Then, a gentleman talked about having no airport in Arunachal Pradesh. I understand that some work is going on there and whenever it is ready, flights will start. We will motivate all the airlines to go there.

Then, there was interest expressed on the MRO industry. Of course, this has potential in our country. We need to get this activity back again and the Finance Minister had given some tax concessions here which, we hope, will help us in bringing this activity and generating employment in the country.

Now, sea planes are also permitted to operate in our country. In fact, in Maharashtra and Kerala, there are some aircraft undergoing the certification process. Micro light aircraft are also permitted within our country.

The DGCA has brought out regulations for air ambulance services also and a circular for helicopter emergency medical services. That is also being done.

A lot of people have asked for connectivity to different parts of the country and individual airports. We will be looking into all that, including the airport which is coming up in Sikkim. So, by and large, this is what it is.

We have been fortunate that the Prime Minister has guided us on two occasions. We have had the benefit of his suggestions also. We have also been benefited by the suggestions of the 231st Report of the Parliament on Aviation.

There are a few Cut Motions given by the Members. I would request the Members to withdraw these Cut Motions and not press for them.

With this, after a long gap of about 10 years, I understand that this Demand has come in for discussion on the floor of the Lok Sabha. We are very happy that everybody is discussing Civil Aviation and with everybody's support India can rise to its potential and be the third Civil Aviation force in the world by 2022 and we hope to make that a reality. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation**]**

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): Hon. Chairperson, I rise to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tourism. India is a country with immense potential in the field of tourism, yet we have not been able to fully harness this vast potential. This is a bitter and painful truth. India is a country that possesses 73 Percent of the world's Himalayan region, where tourism is possible 365 days a year and round the clock, where we have wildlife, deserts, snow, and a coastline stretching nearly 7,500 kilometres. We have diverse forms of tourism such as niche tourism, golf tourism, eco tourism, rural tourism and medical tourism. It is indeed a matter of concern that we are able to attract less than 1 Percent of the world's tourists to our country, approximately 0.68 Percent. Despite this, tourism contributes 6.8 Percent to our Gross Domestic Product. Nearly 12 Percent of employment, directly and indirectly, is generated through the tourism sector.

I would like to assure the House that the Government of India will work in close coordination through the Ministry of Tourism, the

Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Culture. This is the vision of the Hon. Prime Minister. When we speak on the global stage, we do not merely speak in terms of billions or trillions of dollars, but about India's rich and profound culture. The Hon. Prime Minister's vision is that tourism should become not only a source of foreign exchange earnings for our country but also a major generator of employment.

It should also serve as an instrument of women's empowerment. I am pleased to inform the House that although less than 1 Percent of global tourism comes to India, even then foreign exchange earnings amounting to Rs. 1,35,000 crore accrue to the Government of India through international tourism. I am also happy to state that, compared to the previous year, while global growth has been only 4.5 Percent, India has achieved a growth rate of 9.6 Percent.

Hon. Chairperson, this is a very significant achievement for a developing country like India that foreign exchange earnings, which stood at Rs. 1,23,000 crore in the previous year, have increased to Rs. 1,35,000 crore this year, and that India's growth and improvement in terms of foreign tourist arrivals has further strengthened in comparison to the global average.

Hon. Chairperson, wherever the Hon. Prime Minister has spoken on the global stage, whether from the ramparts of the Red Fort, at Madison Square in the United States of America, in Sydney, Australia, or even as recently as a week ago in the Mann Ki Baat programme, he has consistently accorded priority to the importance of tourism and to India's position in this regard. We are moving forward with the resolve to realise that very vision of the Hon. Prime Minister. Through the combined efforts of the three Ministries, we seek to take India's dense and profound culture, its rich heritage and culture, to every corner of the world by giving wings to tourism through aviation. It is our aspiration that tourism should become a defining identity of India, enhance the nation's prestige, and emerge as a strong pillar of India's economy. This is the essence of our thinking. It is under this very approach that the growth witnessed in foreign tourist arrivals over the past year has been possible, primarily because people across the world have developed renewed confidence in India, and it is this confidence that has made such progress achievable.

Hon. Chairperson, a Government came to power in this country nearly two years ago. That Government ignited a ray of confidence among the citizens of the country, among the youth, and across the

world. I would also like to ask the people of the nation whether they agree that the respect for India, for Indianness, and for the people of India has today reached far greater heights than ever before over the past two years. There can be no two opinions on this, and I have complete confidence in this belief. It is precisely because of this renewed confidence that the progress achieved in the field of tourism has taken place. The increase witnessed in the number of both domestic and foreign tourists, as well as the growth in foreign exchange earnings, is a clear indicator and a reflection of the fact that the trust of people across the world in our country has strengthened today.

Sir, I would also like to say to Members of the media, to all my fellow Members of Parliament, and to the Hon. Members of this House that, in carrying forward this image of India, we must act as ambassadors of the nation. As representatives and messengers of India, we should take our culture and our collective strength to every corner of the world.

Sir, sometimes discussions arise suggesting that India is not a clean country or that India is not a safe country. Such perceptions must be decisively dispelled through our actions. I wish to share an experience in this regard. Approximately two months ago, I travelled

to South Africa in connection with official work of the Government of India. When I was staying at a hotel, in the evening after dinner, as part of what is commonly referred to as a post dinner walk, I wished to walk in the hotel lawn. At that time, it was 9.00 p.m., and I was informed by the security personnel there that it was not safe to go beyond the lawn. I was advised that it would be better if I walked inside my room. I woke up at 6.00 a.m. the next morning and, as per my routine, wished to go for a morning walk. I would like to state that I was not even allowed to cross the hotel boundary and was again told that it was not safe to proceed further. We, on the other hand, say with confidence that our India is safe. India is a vast country, and we stand strengthened by the collective power of 125 crore people.

Sir, when we speak about cleanliness in India, I wish to point out that by attaching importance to what may appear to be a small issue, the Hon. Prime Minister has launched a nationwide movement and shown us how India can be made clean. Our tourist centres are being made cleaner, and when the cleanliness movement was initiated and emphasis was laid on the construction of toilets in villages and at tourist destinations, some people initially laughed and remarked that the Hon. Prime Minister was focusing on small matters such as cleanliness and toilets. However, today these very initiatives have

taken the form of a mass movement. Across the country, cleanliness has become a people's movement. Today, the common citizen is concerned and is making efforts to ensure that we no longer create filth and that we maintain cleanliness in our surroundings. The scheme launched to construct toilets in every household, while enhancing the dignity and honour of mothers, daughters and sisters, will, I believe, have far reaching consequences. It may appear to be a small step, but its impact will undoubtedly be profound and long lasting.

Hon. Chairperson, We have selected 35 tourist destinations in the first phase and have developed them as model monuments. In this initial phase, we are taking up those issues which are of primary importance from the perspective of tourism. With regard to tourism, we have adopted the concept of clean tourism and model tourism, and have initiated cleanliness at these sites in the form of a movement. It is our considered approach to ensure that our tourist destinations are maintained in a clean and well managed manner. [English] Safety, security and hospitality are the three pillars of tourism. We have tried to address all these issues together. We have tried to link the cleanliness issue with the national movement of hon. Prime Minister that Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and we have tried to clean our monuments. We have initiated a mobile app for tourism at all those

monuments. After downloading this mobile app on their phones, anybody can forward information about any debris or waste material anywhere at the tourist place. Immediately after receiving this information, our officers will have that place cleaned and give a report to the Ministry and also to the person who submitted that information. This is an initiative that the Ministry of Tourism of the Government of India has taken to address the issue of cleanliness.

When we talk of safety issues, yes, it is a matter of concern for all of us. Even if a single event happens in our country, it has multifarious effect on tourism, especially on inbound tourism. We want to convey to the masses of this country and the world community that India is a safe country; it is not an unsafe country for tourists. In a country of 125 people, a single event or some event does not denigrate the image of our country.

Regarding hospitality, we are known for our hospitality. If we go to States like Rajasthan, if we go to States like Kerala, people are really hospitable. We are a classical example. I compliment Kerala that they have developed their State as a place of tourism. Rajasthan also has done that. These are the leading States who have given tourism a new definition and definitely they need to be applauded for

that. Now what we need to do is that we take this strength of ours to all the States of our country.

North-Eastern States are beautiful. They have really done a commendable job. Let me compliment Sikkim people for making Sikkim a centre of organic farming a totally organic State. What Sikkim has done is really a commendable job. I visited Sikkim twice during this year and I could see that there is total cleanliness and total honesty in tourism. Let me compliment Sikkim for that. Of course, our hon. Prime Minister has taken a special initiative to tap the potential and growth of our eight North-Eastern States which we are really proud of. The amount of scenic beauty these North-Eastern States have to offer is unmatched.

Sometimes it is a really painful affair for us also. [Translation] this is also a matter of concern for us. It is a matter of happiness that the youth of our country travel to every corner of the world. However, before going abroad, it is important that they understand and experience the dense beauty of India and its rich heritage and culture. The Government of India is making continuous efforts in this direction. When the youth of India travel as tourists to countries such as Thailand, Dubai and Singapore, it is indeed a matter of pride and honour for us.

I come from a small village where even today electricity was not available for a long time. I had never even dreamt that in my lifetime I would get an opportunity to travel by aeroplane. That was my dream. The Government of India is striving to ensure that the common citizen of the country can fulfil this dream. The Hon. Prime Minister has envisioned that, even after 68 years of Independence, for the 18,000 villages that still lack electricity, there should not remain a single village in the country without electricity by 2018. Electricity will be provided to all these 18,000 villages. Thirty or forty years ago, in the village where I lived, we studied by the light of mustard oil lamps and lanterns. We never imagined that the common man of this country would one day be able to travel by aeroplane. Such a thought had never crossed our minds.

It is the vision of the Government of India and of the Hon. Prime Minister to take tourism to greater heights. With this objective, a clear and forward looking thought process and well conceived plans have been put in place. I would like to congratulate the Government of India, and I also congratulate all of you, because even after 68 years of Independence, obtaining a visa earlier used to take four to six months. However, this Government announced last year that out of 190 countries, it would endeavour to provide e visa facilities to 150

countries. I am pleased to state that the Government of India has fulfilled that vision. Today, e visa facilities, visa on arrival facilities and e tourist arrival facilities are available to 150 countries. This was a bold and far reaching initiative. Such vision could only be realised by a Prime Minister like Hon. Shri Narendra Modi. Through his firm resolve and determination, this objective has been achieved, and today e visa arrival facilities are available to 150 countries. The results of this initiative have also begun to emerge.

I am pleased to inform the House that since the introduction of the e visa facility, as many as 8,13,000 tourists have visited the country using this facility. This is a matter of pride and honour for all of us. It has not only boosted tourism but has also strengthened the confidence of people in India. Certain suggestions were made for further improvement in the e visa facility, such as extending the 30 day visa to 60 days, providing multiple entry visas, and expanding biometric facilities at airports. The Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of External Affairs and the Ministry of Home Affairs have worked together to enhance and improve these facilities, and the results have already begun to emerge.

If we look at the percentage growth from January to April, it is very significant. I am happy to state that 3,60,000 tourists used the e

visa facility during these three months alone. Our objective is to extend the e visa facility to medical tourism visas and MICE tourism visas as well. In this direction, all the Ministries are working in coordination. A committee has been constituted in the Ministry of Tourism in which all the concerned Ministers are collectively striving to find comprehensive solutions to issues related to tourism.

Cruise tourism in our country was virtually negligible. Despite having a coastline of nearly 7,500 kilometres, with States such as Kerala, Odisha and Gujarat, and regions like Mumbai, only about 0.4 Percent of tourists were arriving through cruise tourism. Hon. Chairperson, the Government of India has taken concrete steps to promote cruise tourism. Through cruise tourism, a Berry Times Conference was held in Mumbai about fifteen days ago, in which the Ministry of Shipping, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Culture, the Ministry of External Affairs and all other concerned stakeholders jointly reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening cruise tourism. They deliberated on how cruise tourism can be developed as a national strength. I am confident that in the times to come, India will also emerge as a major hub of cruise tourism. This is our firm belief.

Hon. Member, the issue of security has been raised as to whether we will be able to provide a safe environment to our incoming domestic and foreign tourists. There can be no two opinions that this is a matter of concern for all of us. In this regard, the Government of India has undertaken a unique initiative. Whenever a foreign tourist arrives at our airports, and at present the e-visa facility is available at 16 airports, the tourist is welcomed with a welcome card. They are received through a meet and greet facility, and through that card, while welcoming the tourist, we also gently request them to keep certain small aspects in mind. We convey to them that they are most welcome, and since they have come to India as tourists, they should be mindful of certain things. India has its own social structure and its own geographical diversity. We do not convey this in a manner that creates fear; rather, with respect and courtesy, we try to inform them about the sensitivities they should be aware of while travelling in India. This forms an integral part of our welcoming process. Our endeavour is also to provide a SIM card within the welcome kit, along with certain additional convenience facilities. Discussions are currently underway with various Ministries, as it often takes tourists two to four hours merely to obtain and activate a local SIM card. Our effort is to provide them with a pre activated SIM card. This too is

part of our initiative. Thereafter, we have taken another distinctive step, and I would request the House to appreciate this effort. We have launched a helpline number 1363. This helpline is available in 12 languages. Earlier, there were difficulties when tourists speaking German or Russian, for instance, found it hard to communicate with our officials. We have now made this facility available in 12 languages. It is a toll free number, 1800 111 363, and the short code is 1363. This facility is available with immediate effect. Tourists are guided promptly, and we have already begun to witness the positive impact of this initiative.

Hon. Chairperson, I would also like to explain the reason why this thought occurred to us. A daughter from my Parliamentary Constituency, the daughter of a poor father, went to the United Kingdom for studies on a scholarship provided by the Government. During a fifteen day vacation, she travelled to Spain along with two of her foreign friends. There, her purse, passport and credit card were stolen. Although a report of the theft was lodged, her two foreign companions left her alone and returned to London to resume their studies. In a country like Spain, where there is a language barrier and several other difficulties, that young woman was left completely alone. To add to her distress, she did not have a single rupee, dollar or

euro in her possession. She contacted the Government of India and approached the Indian Embassy there, but she was informed that immediate assistance could not be provided. Our Ministry of External Affairs arranged for a passport for her, which took two days. During this period, when she did not even have a single rupee, the question arose as to where she would eat and where she would stay. In such circumstances, our social institutions came to her aid. Through our efforts, the local Gurudwara was informed, and that daughter stayed there at the Gurudwara. Thereafter the authorities in the United Kingdom informed her that a visa could not be issued from there. They said that while the Indian Government had provided her with a passport, they could not issue the visa. The question then arose as to how the visa would be obtained. She was told that she would first have to procure a letter from the university where she was studying. However, how was she to obtain such a letter when her laptop and iPad had also been stolen and she had lost everything. Somehow, she managed to arrange the letter, after which her application reached the UK High Commission. It took twelve days for her to receive the visa. I am narrating an incident that occurred abroad. Had such an incident taken place in our own country, perhaps we ourselves would have raised serious questions. A young woman, someone’s daughter, was

compelled to live under such circumstances for fourteen days. I wish to place on record my gratitude to the Gurudwara Committee, which sheltered that daughter for twelve days, provided her food and took responsibility for her safety. One Indian citizen there also gave her 300 euros. The Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India provided her with 200 euros and assured her of assistance with her passport. Therefore, I would like to emphasise that it took fourteen days for that daughter to travel from Spain to the United Kingdom. It is precisely to address and prevent such hardships that we have launched this helpline. If any domestic or foreign tourist finds themselves stranded for any reason, this single window system will be activated. Our officers are in place, and we have discussed this very incident with them to ensure that such assistance can be made available promptly. This facility has already been put to use. I wish that the maximum number of people make use of this facility, so that a sense of confidence may be instilled in the hearts of tourists. The most important element here is trust. The greatest achievement of this Government is the trust that has been built among the people of the country and among people across the world in India’s systems and institutions. This is our most significant accomplishment. It is under

this very spirit of trust that we have initiated this service through the helpline.

We have understood the importance of tourism. Hon. Venugopal Ji had raised a question yesterday, and I am responding to it here as well. Earlier, there was a scheme called PIDDC, that is, Product Infrastructure Development at Destinations and Circuits. This scheme had been in operation for a long time. Under it, someone would request the construction of a road, someone a bridge, and someone else a four room guest house. Such works were undertaken. Proposals used to come from various Hon. Members of Parliament and from different State Governments, and through that scheme, works were carried out from a tourism perspective. However, it was realised that in this manner we would not be able to weave tourism into a single, integrated framework. We would not be able to bring all facilities under one roof. Therefore, the Government of India introduced theme based schemes. One such scheme is the “Swadesh Darshan” scheme, under which we launched 13 circuits. The second is the “PRASAD” scheme, through which pilgrimage destinations were specifically addressed. Places such as Amritsar, Mathura and Ajmer have their own distinct pilgrimage significance. It was felt that unless we understood this significance in an organised manner, and unless we

were able to fully tap this potential, merely working on an a la carte basis, as was done earlier, would not suffice. Therefore, with a planned approach and with the objective of giving tourism a new identity, 13 important pilgrimage cities were initially included under this scheme. This is a continuous process, and in the coming times it will be expanded to include more cities. There can be no two opinions about this. Under this ongoing process, proposals are often received from Hon. Members asking whether their city can also be included under the "PRASAD scheme", or whether a new circuit can be declared under the "Swadesh Darshan scheme". I believe that through the "Swadesh Darshan scheme", we are in a position to fully realise the vast potential of tourism in our country.

In this manner, through both these schemes, we have made a renewed effort to ensure that all forms of tourism, whether wildlife tourism, heritage tourism, desert circuits or coastal circuits, are comprehensively covered and effectively developed under a unified framework.

14. 00 hours (Shri Pralhad Joshi *in the Chair*)

Keeping in view the importance of tourism, we have made focused efforts particularly for Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, the two large States

of the country. An amount of Rs. 500 crore has been released for tourism development in Bihar. I would like to inform the House that this time we have received a budgetary allocation of Rs. 1,500 crore. It is true that there was some shortfall on our part last year in fully utilising the allocated budget. The reason for this was that both our schemes, Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD, were new initiatives. When we wrote to the State Governments asking them to submit Detailed Project Reports, certain deficiencies were noticed, and the proposals had to be returned for correction. Since both these schemes were new, this resulted in some delay and, consequently, the funds could not be utilised to their full extent initially. Hon. Venugopal Ji had mentioned an amount of Rs. 667 crore. In fact, the actual figure was Rs. 838 crore. Last year, Rs. 850 crore was sanctioned to us, out of which Rs. 838 crore, that is, 98.5 Percent of the amount, was utilised. We acknowledge that since these were new schemes, there were some difficulties in receiving DPRs from the State Governments in a timely manner, which led to this delay.

We have initiated a sound and light show at Sarnath. ITDC is our institution through which we are taking forward the sound and light shows. Keeping in view the importance of Uttar Pradesh from the tourism perspective, we have identified three special circuits, nearly

60 Percent of which fall within Uttar Pradesh. Despite being the largest State in the country, Uttar Pradesh has not developed to the extent it should have from the perspectives of tourism and civil aviation. The Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, recognised this reality and accordingly declared three religious circuits, namely the Buddha Circuit, the Krishna Circuit and the Ramayana Circuit. Approximately 60 Percent of these circuits are located in Uttar Pradesh. At times, this also becomes a matter of concern for us that in a State with a population of about 220 million, there are effectively only two functional airports, Lucknow and Varanasi. The airports at Allahabad and Gorakhpur are of very limited capacity. Thus, in a State with a population of 220 million, there are only five airports in total. Our plan is aligned with the initiatives of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India. I would like to thank our Hon. Minister Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Ji, under whose efforts and visionary leadership new schemes have been introduced by integrating civil aviation with tourism. I congratulate him for this achievement. For the first time in the history of the country, a dream cherished by the son of a poor father like me, whether I would ever be able to travel by air in my lifetime, has been realised. Under the guidance of the Hon. Minister, the Ministry of Civil Aviation has

fulfilled this dream not only from the tourism perspective but also for the common citizen, who may wish to travel by air not merely for tourism but for any purpose or even out of personal aspiration. This dream has been realised through the Regional Connectivity Scheme.

Our country has as many as 486 airports, of which only about 80 are presently operational. We now propose to provide schemes ranging from Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 100 crore at nearly 80 to 100 airports. Through the Regional Connectivity Scheme, connectivity will also be extended to Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities, where the fare for flights of up to one hour will not exceed Rs. 2,500. I wish to place this information before the House. As a result of this initiative, Uttar Pradesh will be connected, Bihar will be connected, the North Eastern region will be connected, Ladakh and Leh will be connected, and there will be a significant boost to tourism as well. … (*Interruption*s) Punjab will also be connected, Bathinda will also be connected. Please do not be concerned. … (*Interruption*s) Himachal Pradesh, along with all other States, will also be connected. … (*Interruption*s) This scheme is not meant for any one State alone; it is intended for the entire country. Nearly 100 airports which have remained unused will be revived. … (*Interruption*s) Some people construct airports for their own families. The Government of India wishes to construct airports for the family

of India, for the people of the nation, so that the common citizen of India can avail of these facilities. It is with this vision that such a comprehensive scheme is being prepared.

Through the Aviation Policy, after a lapse of 22 years, an effort has been made by this Government to introduce new changes in the Regional Connectivity Scheme and the Route Dispersal Guidelines, which had not been touched for a long time. I would like to assure the House that the current share of global tourism coming to our country, which stands at about 0.68 Percent, is something we aspire to raise to 1 Percent by the year 2020 and further to 2 Percent by the year 2025. This is our dream and our resolve. For improving connectivity in the State of Uttar Pradesh, we have identified eight airports. … (*Interruption*s)

[English]

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

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Except the Minister's speech, nothing else is going on record.

… (*Interruptions*). . . *

* Not recorded.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you.

[Translation]

Through our Regional Connectivity Scheme, all 80 airports will be connected. Even smaller regions such as Jabalpur and Chitrakoot will be taken forward from the tourism perspective. Hon. Raj Kumar Saini Ji had raised the issue that there is not a single airport in Haryana ... (*Interruption*s)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I wish to raise a point of order.

[English]

Next discussion will be on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. The Guillotine is scheduled to be held at 6 o'clock. The more we devote time to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism the better it is. The Minister is educating us and there is no doubt about it. We should be educated because the steps that this Government is taking are laudable and we should all appreciate them. We have certain questions also to ask.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We have already discussed this subject for more than five hours now. The time allotted was three hours.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Let me complete. Adequate time should be given for the discussion on the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation also.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): It is absolutely appropriate. We have decided the time accordingly. I think a comprehensive reply has come. Actually, two Ministries, the Ministry of Civil Aviation and the Ministry of Tourism, have been taken up together. So, this has taken a lot of time. But I am sure the hon. Minister would conclude in the next five minutes. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Minister, you please conclude within five or six minutes.

Hon. Minister, please continue and be brief.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Shri Venugopal, now I will just reply to your issues. My statement is over. I will address only those issues which the hon. Members have raised.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Including my issue.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: All right.

[Translation]

Sir, I am new to politics and also consider myself a student. The Hon. Prime Minister entrusted me with the responsibility of a Ministerial position, for which I express my gratitude to him. However, when a student appears for an examination, the results are also declared. The result of this student has also come. I am pleased to inform the House that according to the World Economic Forum, where we earlier stood at the 65th position on the tourism index, we have now risen to the 52nd position. This is a direct jump of 13 places. This reflects India's strength, India's identity, and the growing respect for India on the global stage.

Sir, I would like to respond to the issues that have been raised in the House by my fellow Hon. Members. Hon. K.C. Venugopal Ji had raised the issue that we were not able to fully utilise the financial budget. I accept this fact, but I would like to clarify that this was due to the schemes being new, which led to certain initial constraints. With regard to Kerala, he had raised specific concerns. I would like to inform him, and I had also mentioned this earlier, that by the time the Utilisation Certificates were received from Kerala, the earlier funds

had already lapsed. However, I had assured you at that time that we would make good this shortfall for Kerala. I am pleased to inform the House that this year we have sanctioned projects worth Rs. 202 crore for Kerala, and an additional project worth Rs. 99 crore is presently in our pipeline. Under the Eco Tourism Circuit, projects amounting to Rs. 98 crore have been sanctioned. With regard to the Padmanabhaswamy and Sabarimala circuits, the Hon. Prime Minister had directed that these be accorded priority. In compliance with the directions of the Hon. Prime Minister, while also respecting your request and the collective aspirations of the people of Kerala, we have taken these circuits forward. I believe that the shortfall that was earlier pointed out has now been adequately addressed. Only one matter remains pending. I have already explained my personal association with the Guruvayur Temple. As far as the remaining components under the PIDDC scheme are concerned, I would like to inform the House that the Government of India has increased the State share from 32 Percent to 42 Percent in the previous year. This change has been incorporated into the scheme, and it has been clearly stated that the enhanced allocation should be utilised accordingly. However, in the case of the North Eastern States and the Himalayan States, if a project has reached 50 Percent completion, the responsibility of meeting the

remaining financial requirement will be borne by the Ministry of Finance. I would like to place this clarification on record.

Hon. Shri Dushyant Ji had referred to two pilgrimage sites, Galta Ji and Ayodhya Ji. I would like to assure him that we are making every effort to take these up on a priority basis. Hon. Prof. Saugata Roy Ji had raised issues relating to tourist police, budget tourism and tourist guides. I would like to inform the House that tourist police units are presently in place in 14 States, though not in West Bengal. I would earnestly request all Hon. Members to convey to their respective State Governments the need to establish and utilise tourist police, because tourism is a State subject. Keeping this in view, States should constitute tourist police units to ensure the safety and facilitation of tourists.

Hon. Shri Arka Keshari Deo Ji raised issues relating to the e-Tourist Visa, wellness tourism and medical tourism. I am pleased to inform the House that, after 68 years, India witnessed a growth of 31 Percent in medical tourism last year, with a significant contribution from the State of Kerala, as well as Delhi and Mumbai. In order to provide further direction and structure to this sector, the National Medical and Wellness Tourism Board has been constituted. The objective is to ensure that no foreign tourist visiting India feels

deceived or inconvenienced. We are also making efforts to facilitate the issuance of an e-Medical Visa. Just as an e-Tourist Visa is made available, our endeavour is that an e-Medical Visa should also be provided with immediate effect. Hon. Members also raised issues relating to rural tourism and heritage monuments. Hon. Shri Raj Kumar Saini Ji spoke about tourism in Kurukshetra. Hon. Chautala Ji is also present here. I would like to inform the people of Haryana that, through the Krishna Circuit and by highlighting the origin of the Saraswati River, we have made concerted efforts to develop Kurukshetra as a world class tourism destination. Under this initiative, we are also planning to provide air connectivity to Kurukshetra, which will be pursued through the Regional Connectivity Scheme. Our smaller airports such as Jaisalmer, Bikaner, Kota and Bathinda are fully ready, and we propose to utilise all these airports through our Regional Connectivity Scheme.

Hon. C.P. Joshi Ji has drawn attention to Pushkar, Udaipur, Chittorgarh and the Maharana Pratap Museum. I assure Hon. Joshi Ji that we will certainly make efforts to include these within an appropriate tourism circuit. Hon. Shri Daddan Mishra Ji had referred to Shrawasti. I had the opportunity to visit Shrawasti when the Hon. Member himself accompanied me. He highlighted Devipatan and

Shrawasti, and we will make all possible efforts to include them under the Buddhist Circuit. We will also endeavour to utilise the airstrip at Shrawasti through the Regional Connectivity Scheme. Hon. Shri Rajesh Ranjan (Pappu Yadav) Ji spoke about Bihar, Champaran, Baba Vishwanath and the Gandhi Circuit. We shall also make efforts to incorporate these destinations within our various tourism circuits.

Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra Ji raised the issue of construction and renovation of sites associated with Anandpur Sahib, Hazur Sahib and Guru Gobind Singh Ji. Hon. Jagdambika Pal Ji remains extremely vigilant with regard to tourism. I congratulate him and also thank him, because when such committed individuals remain Members of Parliament, they also keep Ministers alert and attentive. … (*Interruption*s) As an elder brother, he only pulls our ears and does nothing else. I would like to assure the House that by including Kushinagar, Sarnath and Piprahwa within the Buddhist Circuit, this circuit will acquire a renewed identity and global prominence. Hon. Sharad Tripathi Ji referred to Lahuradeva in Sant Kabir Nagar, and also spoke about the development of Upiya and the introduction of houseboats in the lake. I assure him that these matters will also be examined from the tourism perspective. Shri Ninong Ering raised concerns regarding poor connectivity in the North Eastern region and

issues related to foreign tourist earnings. I will take due cognisance of these matters. Hon. Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav Ji brought to my notice issues relating to Deoghar Airport, Vikramshila, Sultanganj, Rajgir and Motihari. I assure him that the issues of tourist safety and security highlighted by him will be examined seriously. I would be happy to sit separately and discuss these matters in detail, so that we may collectively explore ways to take tourism in these areas to new heights.

With regard to Deoghar Airport, the Hon. Minister has already given an assurance. I would also like to assure both my colleagues from Uttar Pradesh that the Hon. Minister has announced that work on Kushinagar Airport has commenced. As far as the Jewar Airport is concerned, after a gap of twelve years, the State Government and the Union Government have today reached a consensus on taking forward the work on the Jewar Airport. ... (*Interruption*s)

Shri Shankar Prasad Datt Ji raised issues relating to the Agartala Circuit and the ropeway in Tripura. Dr. Arun Ji and Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy Ji raised matters concerning medical tourism, Telangana and foreign tourists. I thank all of you for your valuable inputs. I would also like to thank Shri K. Srinivas Reddy Ji from Vijayawada, Shri Bhole Singh Ji, and Shri P. D. Rai Ji from Sikkim,

and I would like to say that we will continue to receive your suggestions from time to time. We are committed to taking forward India's identity from the tourism perspective. I extend my sincere thanks to all Hon. Members. With regard to the Cut Motions that have been moved, I would request all Hon. Members to kindly withdraw them and allow our Budget to be passed. ... (*Interruption*s)

Shri Prahlad Joshi Ji had raised the issue of seeking slots for an Air India flight on the Hubballi–Mumbai sector. I would also request the Hon. Minister Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju Ji to kindly consider this request. ... (*Interruption*s)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I shall now put cut motion Nos. 1 and 2 to the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Civil Aviation moved by Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I shall now put the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Civil Aviation to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2017, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the second column thereof against Demand No. 9 relating to the Ministry of Civil Aviation."

Demands for Grants (General), 2016-17 in respect of Ministry of Civil Aviation

voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	**Name of Demand**	**Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 2016**		**Amount of Demands for Grants voted by the House**	
1	2	3		4	
		Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)	Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)
9	Ministry of Civil Aviation	135,09,00,000	296,70,00,000	675,43,00,000	1483,50,00,000

The motion was adopted.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I shall now put cut motion Nos. 1 to 3 to the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Tourism moved by Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I shall now put cut motion Nos. 7 to 10 to the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Tourism moved by Shri Rajeev Satav to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I shall now put cut motion Nos. 15 to 34 to the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Tourism moved by Shri Sankar Prasad Datta to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I shall now put the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Tourism to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2017, in respect of the head of Demand entered in

the Second column thereof against Demand No. 88 relating to the Ministry of Tourism."

Demands for Grants (General), 2016-17 in respect of Ministry of Tourism voted by Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	**Name of Demand**	**Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 2016**		**Amount of Demands for Grants voted by the House**	
1	**2**	**3**		**4**	
		Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)	Revenue (Rs.)	Capital (Rs.)
88	Ministry of Tourism	264,88,00,000	18,00,000	1324,39,00,000	87,00,000

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Tourism is passed.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 3. 15 p. m.

14. 21 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till

Fifteen Minutes past Fifteen of the Clock.

_____

15. 19 hours

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

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

APPROPRIATION ACTS (REPEAL) BILL, 2015

(Amendments made by Rajya Sabha)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, the House shall take up Item No. 35 - Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): I beg to move:

> "That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill* to repeal Appropriation Acts [including Appropriation (Railways) Acts] be taken into consideration: –

* The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on the 11th May, 2015, and transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its concurrence. Rajya Sabha passed the Bill with amendments at its sitting held on the 27th April, 2016 and returned it to Lok Sabha on 28th April, 2016.

ENACTING FORMULA

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

CLAUSE 1

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

THE SCHEDULE

3. That at page 2, line 34 be *deleted.*

4. That at page 11, line 53 be *deleted.* "

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to repeal Appropriation Acts [including Appropriation (Railways) Acts] be taken into consideration: –

ENACTING FORMULA

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

CLAUSE 1

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

THE SCHEDULE

3. That at page 2, line 34 be *deleted.*

4. That at page 11, line 53 be *deleted.* "

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We shall now take up amendments made by Rajya Sabha. I shall now put amendment Nos. 1 to 4 made by Rajya Sabha together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"**ENACTING FORMULA**

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

CLAUSE 1

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

THE SCHEDULE

3. That at page 2, line 34 be *deleted.*

4. That at page 11, line 53 be *deleted.* "

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Minister may now move that the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Appropriation Acts (Repeal) Bill, 2015, as passed by Lok Sabha, be agreed to.

SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Madam, I beg to move:

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

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

---

15. 21 hours

REPEALING AND AMENDING (THIRD) BILL, 2015

(Amendments made by Rajya Sabha)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House shall now take up item No. 36. Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA): Madam, I beg to move:

> "That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill* to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments be taken into consideration: -

ENACTING FORMULA

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

* The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on the 6th August, 2015, and transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its concurrence. Rajya Sabha passed the Bill with amendments at its sitting held on the 27th April, 2016 and returned it to Lok Sabha on 28th April, 2016.

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 3, *for* the bracket, words and figure "(Third) Act, 2015", the word and figure "Act, 2016" be *substituted*.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

3. That at page 2, lines 21 and 22 be *deleted*. "

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

"That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill to repeal certain enactments and to amend certain other enactments be taken into consideration: -

ENACTING FORMULA

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

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 3, *for* the bracket, words and figure "(Third) Act, 2015", the word and figure "Act, 2016" be *substituted*.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

3. That at page 2, lines 21 and 22 be *deleted*. "

The motion was adopted.

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

The question is:

"ENACTING FORMULA

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

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 3, *for* the bracket, words and figure "(Third) Act, 2015", the word and figure "Act, 2016" be *substituted*.

THE FIRST SCHEDULE

3. That at page 2, lines 21 and 22 be *deleted*. "

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Minister may now move that the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Repealing and Amending (Third) Bill, 2015, as passed by Lok Sabha, be agreed to.

SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Madam, I beg to move:

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

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

_____

15. 23 hours

DEMAND FOR GRANT (GENERAL), 2016-17

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House will now take up discussion and voting on Demand No. 50 relating to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

Hon. Members present in the House whose cut motions to the Demand for Grant in respect of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation have been circulated may, if they desire to move their cut motions, send slips to the Table within 15 minutes indicating the serial numbers of the cut motions they would like to move. Only those cut motions, slips in respect of which are received at the Table within the stipulated time, will be treated as moved.

A list showing the serial numbers of cut motions treated as moved will be put up on the Notice Board shortly thereafter. In case Members find any discrepancy in the list, they may kindly bring it to the notice of the Officer at the Table immediately.

Motions moved:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2017, in respect of the head of Demand entered in the Second column thereof against Demand No. 50 relating to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation."

Demands for Grants (General), 2016-17 in respect of Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

No. of Demand	**Name of Demand**	**Amount of Demands for Grants on Account voted by the House on March 2016**		**Amount of Demands for Grants submitted to the vote of the House**	
1	**2**	**3**		**4**	
		Revenue (Rs.)	**Capital (Rs.)**	**Revenue (Rs.)**	**Capital (Rs.)**
50	Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation	1276,83,00,000	___	4134,17,00,000	___

SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): Madam, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is a very important Ministry. It touches upon the people who reside in the urban areas.

Out of 121 crore people who reside in this country, 38 crore people are residing in the urban areas. Out of these 38 crore people who are residing in the urban areas, 35 per cent of them are qualifying to become poor. That means, they are entitled to the benefits which they get under this Ministry. So, out of 38 crore people, who are residing in the urban areas, 35 per cent of them qualify as poor. That is the information furnished by the survey that had been conducted by the Socio-Economic Caste Census.

Madam, before going to the subject, I would just like to bring to the notice of the hon. House and share my views with this House as to what is the reason for this growing population in these urban areas. Now, the trend is that the people are moving towards the urban areas in search of employment and to eke out their livelihood. Further, we can say that in the rural areas, particularly, the agriculture on which the agriculturists and the agricultural labours are depending upon to eke out their livelihood is no more a lucrative profession for them. It is because of the continuous drought situation prevailing all over the

country and depletion of underground water. Even the farmers, who own sufficient lands in the villages, are also finding it very difficult to eke out their livelihood. Well, such being the case, it becomes inventible for the agricultural labourers to think of an alternative profession to eke out their livelihood.

Even the Governments – respective State Governments or the Government of India – are not being able to improve the living conditions of the agriculturists and the farmers. So, they are disappointed. But they hope that they would get something in the urban areas. That is why the people have now started moving towards the urban areas. That is the trend, which we have been noticing.

Madam, there are two important schemes, which directly deal with a large section of society, which comes under this Ministry. One is Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and the other is National Urban Livelihood Mission. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is now being introduced by this NDA Government. Earlier, the UPA Government had one programme, which was named after Rajiv Gandhiji, which was being called as Rajiv Awas Yojana. Under Rajiv Awas Yojana also, the UPA Government was doing wonderful and tremendous work to meet the demands of these urban people, who wanted shelter and also to improve their living condition.

Now, Madam, this NDA Government have got their vision and mission with regard to housing. Having renamed this scheme as Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, they have got a mission to provide 'Housing for All by 2022'. That is their mission. We welcome it. We can definitely appreciate the concern of the Union Government to provide housing for all the needy people by 2022.

But now we have to see whether the Government is really concerned about this vision or mission. What is the budgetary allocation and support for these two schemes to fulfil their dream of providing housing for all the people by 2022? The target and the amount they have earmarked are very important.

Madam, the Census discloses that up to 2011-12, 1. 86 crore people or approximately about two crore people in this country were residing in the urban areas, are badly in need of shelter for them. By the end of 2020-22, approximately this Government or any future Government, which comes to power, will have about six years of time from today, to fulfil the dream of this NDA Government of providing Housing for All by 2022.

The requirement of houses by 2022 is 3 crore and 41 lakhs. So, if really the Government is concerned about their announcement in the Budget and also about their Mission to provide 'Housing for All'

by 2022, they should act fast. What is their performance last year and what is their plan for this year? That is very important. The total budget allocation for the entire Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA), for 2014-15 was Rs. 6,008 crore. The revised estimates were Rs. 3,413 crore. For 2015-16, it was Rs. 5,634 crore but the revised estimates were only Rs. 1,961 crore. For 2016-17, the amount earmarked is only Rs. 5,411 crore. If that is the case, if they proceed in the same way for one or two years more, can they really reach the target of providing 'Housing for All' by 2022? That should not remain as slogans.

We have reposed too much confidence on Shri Venkaiah Naidu Ji who incidentally represents Karnataka. We are reposing a lot of confidence. But we are disappointed. Forget about what he is trying to provide to Karnataka. What are the efforts to provide housing for the people who reside in this country and who are residing in the urban areas? For the last three years consistently, the allocation of Budget is being reduced.

Madam, for example, for the year 2014-15, the amount that was given to the PMAY was Rs. 1,892 crore. For the year 2015-16, it was Rs. 4,618 crore but unfortunately, the revised estimates were only Rs. 1,415 crore. For this year, they have got about Rs. 5,075 crore. The

Standing Committee have expressed their dissatisfaction about under-utilization of funds in this area. They have further mentioned that the officials who deposed before the Standing Committee, had clearly said that they required at least Rs. 8,816 crore for this year to meet this year's demand for the approved projects. If that is the case, then how are they going to achieve the target? Why are they simply announcing their vision and mission without giving any financial support? It is of no use and we are simply discussing on the floor of the House. It is of no use. Why am I telling this? I will bring to the notice of this hon. august House how the scheme has been taken seriously for the last three years. These are the figures which are furnished by the hon. Minister while answering Starred Questions on the floors of the House in Rajya Sabha and in Lok Sabha. I will only mention the period after this Government took over. In the year 2015-16, they discontinued the scheme RAY, that is, Rajiv Awas Yojana.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee also mentioned that repeated change of names will also create problem and confusion among the Government as well as the people, and that is also one of the reasons for underutilization of funds. These are the remarks made by the Standing Committee. This is the answer given by the hon. Minister. As on 1st March, 2016, the total number of houses

sanctioned—there is only one housing scheme now—or the number of dwelling units involved for construction during the current year is this much. It is because after this scheme is introduced, the information furnished is that under PMAY, no target is achieved but the progress is that 5,08,902 houses are sanctioned or under construction. That is the answer furnished by the hon. Minister. This is for one year.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. Your Party has got another speaker.

SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: Madam, I have taken only 10 minutes' time. Definitely, with all responsibility I am telling you I will complete in another five minutes.

Madam, only 5,08,902 houses are under construction. If at this rate the construction is proceeded, how can they reach the target of providing houses to all by 2022 by providing at least a minimum of 3,41,00,000 houses to the people who are residing in the urban areas? It is an impossibility. The hon. Minister should fairly concede that it is an impossibility to fulfill the target at this rate.

Housing is very important for States which are given special status under article 371. Under article 371, Maharashtra and Gujarat are given special status. Likewise, under article 371J, Karnataka is

also given special status. If one visits Hyderabad and Karnataka, definitely, anybody will come to the conclusion that it is a place where much thrust should be given or at least, in the cities or towns which are located in these States and are covered under article 371J. Assam also comes under article 371 where there is no housing under PMAY. There is no housing under PMAY in Karnataka.

Fortunately, very recently, after giving these figures, the hon. Minister was kind enough to sanction 16,000 houses to Karnataka whereas the requirement in Karnataka is 10, 02,000 houses. But the hon. Minister, who is representing Karnataka, who is likely to be re-nominated in the coming elections also—we are really proud of you—fortunately, has given 1,93,147 houses to Andhra Pradesh to which State he is belonging. But you have not given any houses to Karnataka. Only recently you have given 16,000 houses to Karnataka. This is really injustice. How can we answer the people of Karnataka when you have given 1,93,147 houses to Andhra Pradesh? Of course, we are happy. That State also deserves it. But how can we tell our people that no houses are given by hon. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu who is representing that State?

Finally, I will mention only one point. Another aspect is, poverty alleviation is also very important.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Muddahanume Gowda, please conclude.

SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: Madam, I will finish in two minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You conclude in one minute.

SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: I finish it in two minutes only.

Madam, even the funds allocated for the National Urban Renewal Mission is very, very meagre. Unless the poverty is alleviated, unless the people who are residing in the slums are economically empowered, how can you improve the conditions of these people? It has been announced that 100 smart cities will be constructed in the country. But unless the financial position of the people who are residing there is not improved, how can you fulfil that target?

For 2014-15, Rs. 703 crore was earmarked whereas for 2016-17, only Rs. 325 crore is earmarked. The hon. Minister is fortunately representing Karnataka. But we are not happy. Even your own officials before the Standing Committee requested for higher funds. So, you should rise to the occasion and raise more funds. This is an

area where you can touch the people who are really in need of houses and improve their economic condition. Thank you.

CUT MOTIONS

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): As the hon. Member has taken my name and made some comments, I want to say a few words. Madam, I will answer elaborately once all the Members have spoken.

One point the hon. Member made is why Karnataka has been given only 16,522 houses. I want to tell all the hon. Members that there is a system of it. A State has to ask how many houses it requires, how many cities it requires, these are the beneficiaries, etc. Then, we examine it. There is a committee to finalize it. So, the total number of houses asked by Karnataka is 16,522. Total number of house sanctioned for Karnataka is 16,522. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go in record except what Shri Suresh C. Angadi speaks.

… (*Interruptions*). . . *

* Not recorded.

SHRI SURESH C. ANGADI (BELAGAVI): Respected Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this subject. Housing is one of the most important sectors after agriculture and textile, which can provide employment to the youths and the people of the country.

Madam, housing is a burning problem which is prevailing in the country. This sector is contributing next to agriculture and textile in terms of labour and economic development. In anybody's life, anywhere in the world, for a human being or an animal, two things are very important, that is, food and shelter. In addition to this, cloth is a must for human beings. These are the basic necessities for the living beings.

Since Independence, we all have given assurances to the people for *roti, kapda aur makan.* Many elections have been conducted on the promises of providing these three things. But till date we could not achieve this target. But Shri Narendra Modi Ji has assured that around 6 crore houses will be provided to the people of this country by 2019.

In the last 68 years, many elections have been fought only on this issue. Every time the assurances were given, but nothing was fulfilled by the previous Governments. Food, shelter and clothing are the basic necessities. All these assurances were given election after election –

sometimes winning and many times losing. But still it is the most successful, tried and trusted formula for all the political parties.

Madam, I hope that all of us will agree with this. Incidentally, everybody in his life-time, irrespective of his social status, economic condition, income level, availability and affordability, wants to own a house to live in with his family. For some people, this dream is realized and for many others, this dream is not realized and it remains a dream only. In some communities and States, an eligible groom will not even get a bride if he does not have his own house in his native place. This is the situation in the country.

Madam, I must thank Shri Narendra Modi and Urban Development Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu for they have chosen my city to be developed as a smart city. How should a smart city be? In a smart city, a young man always looks for a sweet home. After having education and getting employed, a person's dream will be of having a sweet home. In order to have that sweet home, he runs here and there in this country.

After Independence, still the Government has not made the proper arrangements for people to get the housing. Any nation's development is dependent on activities in the housing sector. Next year, we are completing 70 years of Independence. We are all proud

of it, but surely not about the prevailing housing problems across the country.

As my friend Shri Muddahanume Gowda said, the major issue rests with the State Government. Until and unless you provide the land, no housing can come up. Here, the Centre and the State have to concurrently agree. The State has to provide the land and the Union Government will provide money for the poor to have housing so as to elevate his economic status. Most of the times, in most of the States, the schemes sponsored by the Union Government are not reaching the village level. The responsibility lies on the panchayats. If a Gram Panchayat selects a proper person and provides housing to the poorest of the poor, then the purpose of such schemes can be fulfilled. Now, the responsibility lies on all the political parties and not on any one. So, the dream of Mahatma Gandhi should be fulfilled in the 70th year of our Independence with Shri Narendra Modi having set a target of constructing six crore houses – two crores in urban areas and four crores in rural areas. For this, the respective State should take more interest and work hard. Honestly, the Gram Panchayats, the purasabhas, the corporations and the corporators should sincerely work for the upliftment of the poorest of the poor of this country. Then only, it is possible to do so.

Madam, due to stagnation in agricultural production, lack of job opportunities, absence of basic amenities and poor living conditions in rural areas, people are migrating to towns and urban areas, contributing liberally to already existing problem of housing in urban areas.

The rural housing problem has been totally neglected by the Government in the first decade of Independence. It woke up only in 1957 during 2nd Five Year Plan. From 1957 to 1997, only Rs. 1,419. 80 crore were allocated for housing against which utilisation was Rs. 187. 81 crore only. Utilisation of Rs. 927 crore from 1987 to 1997 is not available.

Madam, housing problem can be divided into rural housing, urban housing, affordable housing and slums. In the year 2001, the shortage of housing was 3. 1 crores for a population of 102 crores. About 80 per cent houses in the rural areas do not have safe drinking water, bath-rooms, toilets etc. Added to that, our population growth is very high and available land space is inadequate to solve the problem. Rapid urbanization is liberally contributing to all sorts of problems like water, crime, increasing slums, unhygienic living conditions, etc.

At present, there is a shortage of around 46 million houses in the country as a whole, which means that about three per cent population

are living without homes; five per cent are living under non-serviceable *katcha* houses; and 12 per cent are living under non-serviceable houses as per the 2012 data. Over 75 per cent of homeless are from Economically Weaker Section (EWS) and 25 per cent are from Low Income Group (LIG).

Only 22 per cent urban houses and 30 per cent rural houses are having toilets in the house itself and rest are depending on common toilets or are defecating in the open. Even after 68 years of Independence, no one understood why toilets are needed in general and for women, in particular, but within a year of assuming power our Prime Minister not only understood it, but is also striving for achieving "toilets for all" as soon as possible. Due to lack of toilets, particularly, the women are facing health problems and spending their hard earned money for medicines. Now, I hope that those who are making a mockery of the Prime Minster's toilet scheme understand the hygienic reasons behind the scheme and co-operate. I would request for active co-operation in its successful implementation and contribute towards *Swasth Bharat*. This is the major problem that we were facing for the last 68 years.

The policy of the present NDA Government is to provide housing for all by 2022 and for which the Government has fixed a

target of constructing 20 million houses over a period of 7 years under the affordable housing scheme and to celebrate our 75th year of Independent India in a befitting manner as a tribute to the father of the nation. The scheme would cover all 4,041 towns across the country, and construction would take place in three phases for different States and towns across the country.

It is heartening to note that an estimated expenditure of Rs. 81,975 crores is needed over a period of three years to complete 10 million houses by the Union Government for this task of fulfilling the housing for all scheme and the vision of the present NDA Government would be fulfilled in a planned and time-bound period. Our Government is also encouraging housing by means of subsidies for EWS and BPL category people in both rural and urban centers.

Madam, there is a proverb that: "Fools build houses, wise men live in them". But today, things have changed. The wise men have to construct houses. All these days' urbanization has taken place and people are moving from rural areas to urban areas because of unemployment and other problems like lack of education. Now, the dream of our Prime Minister -- and as stated by Dr. Abdul Kalam -- was to provide all urban facilities in the rural areas. … (*Interruptions*)

It is not just a slogan, but we have already given whatever the State Government has asked for.

I must congratulate Mr. Venkaiah Naidu for he has fulfilled 100 per cent whatever the State Government of Karnataka has requested from him. I thank Mr. Venkaiah Naidu and hon. Prime Minister on behalf of Karnataka for providing houses. I would request my colleagues, through you, Madam, that if anything is required by the Government of Karnataka, then our Government and my Prime Minister is ready to give anything.

I must thank them that they have given two Smart Cities in Belgaum and Davangere for Karnataka, and I thank the concerned State Government also. The officers provided beautiful works in my Corporation – the Mayor, the Deputy-Mayor, the Corporators, the Corporation Commissioners and the officials have also struggled hard to get the cities selected in the list of first 20 Smart Cities.

Housing is an important sector after textiles and agriculture, which can provide more employment to the youth. Today, this technology should be changed. All these days, we have been thinking of building the house. Instead of housing, it must be a sweet home. A sweet home is more important for a young person. The whole world is focussing on India today. We have to provide infrastructure for that.

I would request the Government of India and the State Governments that they must provide all the facilities like road, water, sanitation, garbage cleaning and electricity, before construction of any housing colony. All these facilities should be set up first. Then only, the poor man will be able to afford to have a house. He is not able to construct a small house because of this type of expenditure. Each village should have its own planning. A special direction should be issued from the Union Government for that. Accordingly, the development should take place. Whatever facilities are available in the cities; the same facilities should be provided in the rural areas also. Then only the gap between the urban and the rural areas can be bridged. Otherwise, the gap will get widened. This would result in migration of rural youth to urban areas. And the urban area will become a congested one. It will have all the problems of transport and all that.

I would also request the Government to consider the issue of stamp duty. The problem that the people are facing to have their own house is because of the high stamp duty. I would request the State Government to reduce the stamp duty. Recently, in Karnataka, the stamp duty has been increased very heavily. A poor man cannot afford to have his own house. In the earlier Government, there was a problem

due to this stamp duty. It was a big scam at that time. All such things should not happen. A poor man should get the house.

I would say that land is a major issue. My friend Shri Muddahanume Gowda was saying yesterday that Tumkur should be given an industrial corridor. Shri Arun Jaitley has promised him. But, without giving the land, how can the industry come up there? It is the responsibility of the State Government. I would request all my colleagues to prevail upon the hon. Chief Minister and bring an amendment to the Land Acquisition Act. If the acquisition of land is given, development can take place; industries can come up and even housing can also come up. Without land, we cannot construct a house. My earnest request to all the State Governments is that they should cooperate in providing the land. Then only the development can take place. Without land, schemes will only remain in papers.

Ours is a federal structure. States should also come forward to help the Centre. If both the Centre and the States come together, then only the vision of Mahatma Gandhi will be successful and India will become the shining example. We can show to the world that India is also quite strong. We can also have smart cities and smart villages. This would fulfil the aspiration of Shri Narendra Modi.

With these words, I conclude.

PROF. DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA (BARDHMAN DURGAPUR): Madam, I thank you for giving me a chance. I know this is a very important matter. With the aim of Housing for All by 2022, the Union Government has launched a new programme called the PMAY. I would say that there were other programmes earlier like the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission and also the *Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana*.

16. 00 hours

Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana is already closed but the other scheme will be implemented up to 2017. I would say that this new programme is also just old wine in new bottle. As the previous speaker has already said, just like your budgetary allocation for the other social sectors, your budget allocation for this sector also is meagre.

We are aiming at construction of 58,456 houses. This scheme will be beneficiary led. The houses will be constructed on the beneficiaries' own land with the contribution of the Central and State Governments. For the poor people who do not own land, 23,301 affordable houses will be constructed wherein the State Government will be giving land and the Union Government will give Rs. 1. 5 lakh for construction for each family.

16. 01 hours (Shri Hukum Singh *in the Chair*)

I am also happy that there will be 81,757 houses constructed among which West Bengal will be having 27,830 in 38 cities. You have already said that if the State asks for it, then only you will make the allocation. I am happy that the State Government of West Bengal has asked for it. At the same time I am sorry to say that many people in West Bengal do not own houses and are living in slums because of heavy influx of people from various places and rural areas.

The main issue is of non-availability of land, especially so in West Bengal. I would like to ask as to how many of these poor people will have their own land to construct houses and where is the land available for the Government itself to give to people under affordable housing scheme. A study done by the Chennai Economical Group in 2005 stated that in West Bengal people are living in rented houses in most of the slum areas. They are not pucca houses but they are rented houses. So, it is my request that the Government should review this Yojana in a scientific way.

As the previous speaker has said, just constructing a building will not do, we need to construct toilets, we need to construct the road, we need to provide water and sewage facilities, we need to provide

transport facility, and also we need to make available some extra space also so that these houses will become really habitable. The main aim of this scheme is rehabilitation of slum dwellers, promotion of affordable houses in an affordable PP model. However, what is usually done is that a slum area is given to a promoter or land developer. But after constructing the houses, the area becomes so crowded that the houses would not be even habitable.

I think, we can reconsider things. There are other provisions where I can give examples of countries. There should be inclusionary house for all. We are making housing complexes in many places where we can make a rule that there will be inclusionary houses for the low income groups which the promoter or developer will build and give on rent because rental is a much better way.

With this, I thank you, Sir, and conclude.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Those Hon. Members who wish to lay their speeches on the Table of the House may do so.

[English] Shri Baijayant Jay Panda.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important issue.

I want to talk in a constructive criticism manner because there are many things for which I wish to compliment the hon. Minister and his Government; yet at the same time, I would like to point out that there are many steps that they need to take to better align the intentions that have been stated and the usage of the money for which this House is being asked to approve.

We all know that in India while we have a very large problem in rural India urbanisation is increasingly becoming a serious problem that has not got enough attention. For many decades, we have used and we have heard the phrase that what every Indian needs is '*roti, kapada, aur makan*'. In fact, by the turn of the century, 16 years ago, my late friend Devang Mehta who used to head NASSCOM coined a new phrase, that we all need '*roti, kapada, makan, bijli, and bandwidth*'. I compliment the Minister and his Government because

they have been announcing good projects for all of these schemes, particularly bandwidth and *bijli*. The good intentions and the numbers which they are announcing are very good. I would give an example. The programme which used to be called 'Housing for All' which was re-launched last year as the 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana' has very ambitious targets. During the JNNURM period of ten years, nine lakh urban houses were built. Here, this Government has announced a target of building two crore houses by the year 2022. This means, 30 lakh new houses to be built every year. I commend this high target but I have some things to say about it.

Unless we can tackle urban poverty and unless we can tackle urbanisation, we cannot improve India. While people keep saying that India is about 35 per cent urban, the reality is if you use the measure that China is using today India is already 50 per cent urban. We must also keep in mind that no nation in the history of the world has become affluent unless it has handled urbanisation properly. Urbanisation is not only about flyovers; it is not only about the metro rail lines. It is about the basic requirement of housing for every Indian. Let me point out some of the anomalies that I would urge the hon. Minister to address.

A lot of these houses being built are lying vacant. I would like to give two or three examples. In December last year, it was noted by one of the largest newspapers in this country that about 25 per cent of the housing built for the poor under JNNURM are lying vacant. Let me give some specific statistics. In Maharashtra, out of 1,23,963 houses built for the poor, 52,966 were lying vacant; that is, almost 43 per cent were lying vacant. In Gujarat, out of 1,18,000-odd houses built, 29,126 were lying vacant, which is almost 25 per cent. I was asking some friends in this House from Maharashtra. They were telling that some of the houses built for slum rehabilitation are built as multi-storeyed tall buildings because of the paucity of land but they do not have lifts. So, you cannot expect people to live on ten or fifteen storeyed buildings if they do not have lifts. These are some of the problems that need to be addressed.

I want to also point out that I am from the State of Odisha. Odisha had only two per cent vacancy of the houses built for the urban poor. My point is this. Where it is being properly utilised, should we not allocate more money? Should we not allocate more money where housing is needed and where it is being properly utilised rather than those places where there are still a lot of vacant houses which need to be properly utilised? I urge the hon. Minister that a body must be set

up to ensure and co-ordinate with the State and municipal authorities that wherever these houses are built for the urban poor proper co-ordination must be there so that they are filled up.

It does not serve anyone's purpose if we build tens of thousands of houses for the urban poor which are not used at all. I would give you an example, Sir. There is a Report from Agra that 240 houses were built in a particular place and for the last four years they have been lying idle. They have not been used and they have deteriorated. They may not be useable any more unless more money is spent on those houses. My point is, while I compliment the hon. Minister, I would also urge him that corrective actions must be taken by his Ministry so that the funds that we approve in this House are properly utilized.

I told you that the ambitious target of 30 lakh houses to be built per year compared to the 9 lakh under JNNURM requires a lot of effort. So far, as per the Outcome Budget, by end of last year only 25 Memoranda of Agreement had been signed with States and Union Territories and that is for only 4 lakh houses. So, this needs to be dramatically increased. Unless that is done these ambitious targets will not be met.

Another point I wish to make, Sir, is the mis-alignment of utilization of funds and allocation of funds. Take for example the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, the National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM). Sir, where there has been very good utilization of money it has not been followed up with equally good allocation for the next year. Let me cite some examples here, Sir. By the way, this has been pointed out by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Urban Affairs and has been submitted to this House.

Let me give you this example. In this flagship programme despite utilizing Rs. 720 crore in 2013-14 and Rs. 697 crore in 2014-15 a revised estimate of only Rs. 250 crore was given in 2015-16 and the budget estimates of only Rs. 300 crore in 2016-17. My point is where there is proper utilization you must allocate more money. That must be the thrust of how we approve the Budget for the Government. There are other examples; where the utilization is not proper or as I pointed out there is utilization but the houses are not being used. They are lying empty and yet much more allocation is being made. So, these alignment changes have to be made.

I will give you one more example of how an alignment needs to be improved. Sir, the urban problem is not only about the metro cities, not only about the cities that have 10-20 million population, it is not

only about the cities which have one million populations. For example, I am from Kendrapara. Our municipality in Kendrapara has less than 1,00,000 populations. But even with less than 1 lakh population it has become an urban centre and we have all the problems of urbanization including slums, water problem and waste disposal.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I understand Kendrapara is the oldest municipality in Odisha which is more than 153 years old.

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: Hon. Member from Cuttack, Shri Mahtab is correctly pointing out that in Odisha Kendrapara is the oldest municipality which has led to certain advantages for Kendrapara like plumbing having become a trade since the mid nineteenth century and you can see plumbers from Kendrapara are available everywhere in India and the Middle East. They are the skilled workers who earn good salaries.

Sir, my point is under the NULM there was a demand for us to extend to 77 local bodies in Odisha which were earlier covered by Swarna Jayanti Rozgar Yojana and this has been done. I would urge the hon. Minister that this year to year changing - sometimes some of the schemes are limited to certain size of cities and next year they are cut off and again it has been re-initiated this year – has to change. It

is because if you do not have predictability of funding, there is no way that small towns and cities can have the wherewithal to make proper presentation of budget, of what they require and have access to that funding.

Sir, I know the time is limited and I just want to take a minute or two to round up. I want to compliment again for the amounts that are being made available. Just 4-5 days ago, on 29th of last month, the Press Information Bureau indicated that the Ministry has approved an investment of Rs. 9000 crore for the construction of 73205 more houses for economically weaker sections under the Pradhan Mantri Avas Yojana in the States of Maharashtra, Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir. I welcome it. Wherever in India money is being allocated by the Ministry for construction of houses for the urban poor, we will support it.

My point is that where, as in the case of Odisha, there is better utilisation, they should be allocated more funds. In terms of Memorandum of Agreement, you have signed with 25 States, Odisha is the first one which has got started. We announced in 2015 that under the PMAY, 700 houses are to be built in Bhubaneswar and moreover this will be using building material that the Technology Promotion Council has been recommending such as pre-cast and pre-fabrication

technology for quicker construction. I urge the hon. Minister to make more funds available where the utilisation is better and where the alignment of the objectives and what is actually being done on the ground is better.

[Translation**]**

***SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI):** While presenting a written submission in connection with the Demands for Grants for the year 2016–17 under the control of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, I commend the Government of India for the scheme formulated to provide housing to the urban poor and for the target set to ensure a permanent house for all by the year 2022. I respectfully request the Hon. Minister to formulate a plan to achieve saturation in housing for cities with a population of less than ten lakh by the year 2018 itself. Just as the Government is strengthening the urban poor economically through skill development programmes in various trades, the Mudra Bank, e-rickshaws, free LPG connections, free electricity connections and similar initiatives, it is also providing financial security through insurance and pension schemes. In this context, I further request the Hon. Minister that, out of the 14 Smart Cities to be selected from Uttar Pradesh, 13 cities have already been chosen, and the remaining city may kindly be selected as Lakhimpur Nagar, the headquarters of my Lok Sabha constituency, which fulfils all the prescribed criteria. Since my district is a border area adjoining Nepal, this town also holds strategic importance. I also request the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Hon. Minister that efforts be made to promote employment generating activities for poverty alleviation through food processing units, rice export, sugar export and related sectors. As this is a Terai region with abundant forests and availability of water, agriculture flourishes here, and there are several rice and sugar units which, if suitably encouraged, can generate large scale employment opportunities. This would significantly contribute to the success of the Government's poverty alleviation initiatives. I further request the Hon. Minister to formulate a plan to immediately start skill development programmes in employment oriented trades such as electrician, mechanic and mason through ITIs or other private NGOs or institutions in the urban areas of my Lok Sabha constituency, including Lakhimpur Nagar, Gola Gokaran Nath, Palia, Mohammadi, Singahi Dhaurahara Nagar, Mailani, Oel and Kheri. This will help provide housing, economic security and employment to the poor, which will certainly lead to urban development as well as an improvement in their standard of living.

***DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):** I represent an urban constituency, and today our cities are developing at a rapid pace. Through this Budget, we will have to pay attention to several issues across different sectors relating to urban areas.

I am deeply grateful to our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, and to Hon. Minister Shri Venkaiah Naidu for the many important decisions taken by the Government in this sector. Under the 'AMRUT' Urban Development Scheme, cities will be developed in a comprehensive manner, with due emphasis on roads, flyovers and various infrastructure facilities, thereby ensuring holistic urban development.

Keeping in mind the decision of our government to make 100 cities smart cities, 21 cities have been declared as smart cities in the first phase. I express my gratitude to my parliamentary constituency Ahmedabad on Smart City Ghona in those first phase and on allocation of funds.

One of the most pressing challenges in urban areas is that of slums. The decision taken by our Government under the Housing for All initiative aims to ensure that every citizen is provided with a house

* Speech was laid on the Table.

in the times to come. Wherever slums exist, all slum dwellers will be provided with their own houses free of cost under the PPP model.

Under the Affordable Housing Scheme, houses will be made available at affordable rates to the poor as well as the middle class. This is a major step, and I therefore commend the Government for this initiative.

It is equally important that the urban poor are provided with employment opportunities close to their place of residence. Initiatives undertaken in this direction are a very positive step and deserve appreciation.

Urban expansion is accompanied by the widespread prevalence of poverty. Under the Mudra Scheme, the Government has made provisions for extending loans to small entrepreneurs. Through this initiative, small vendors such as vegetable sellers, tea vendors, chaat sellers and cart operators, along with many other poor individuals, will gain opportunities for self employment and livelihood.

As far as Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women are concerned, under the Hon. Prime Minister’s Stand Up India Scheme, entrepreneurs from these sections will be provided loans ranging from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 1 crore at concessional rates of interest. Under the

Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, lakhs of youth will gain access to employment opportunities.

I thank our Government for having taken several important and decisive steps in this sector.

[English**]**

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Thank you Chairman, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to keep my views on Demands for Grants relating to the Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation.

I would say that it is an ambitious target of housing for all rather a courageous target by any standard by the Government of India to provide housing for all by the year 2022. In the last seven decades of Independence, many schemes were launched to eradicate poverty yet today, when we are on the verge of becoming super power, we are still fighting against poverty in many parts of India. We know the *nara* given by the late Shrimati Indiraji – *Garibi hatao* but it still finds resonance across crores of Indians.

A World Bank study done in May 2014 said that 58 per cent of the population still lives on less than 3 dollars a day and 22 per cent are still under poverty line. But those above poverty line are not doing better. The Ministry under the able leadership of hon. Venkaiahji is doing everything to facilitate housing for all, a goal set by our Prime Minister.

I would congratulate the Government on passing the Real Estate Bill, thereby giving protection to crores of Indians who are seeking to

buy their homes. When we look at the budget estimate, earlier provision under the Pradhan Mantri Avas Yojana was Rs. 5075 crore and Rs. 3342 crore will be given to the States as grants. But in the last week, the Grants have been increased to Rs. 9000 crore. So, I would congratulate the Government and thank the Government for increasing this budget estimate. This brings us to the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme under Pradhan Mantri Avas Yojana. People from economically weaker sections are given housing loans at 6. 5 per cent subsidized rate of interest which is applicable only to the loan of Rs. 6 lakh. But we know that with Rs. 6 lakh, we cannot buy an affordable house in urban India. So, I would sincerely request the Government to increase this cap to at least Rs. 10 lakh so that economically weaker section people could buy their own homes.

According to the KPMG report, we require 11 crore houses to achieve the target of housing for all by 2022. Obviously, it needs private capital in a large manner. As we see, the private companies do not come forward unless the Government is seen to be investing which gives them confidence to invest in this sector. The KPMG Report also states that the share of spending by the Central and the State Governments in the real estate sector is merely 3 per cent of the total investment in the sector. It has to be increased. If the Government

intends to attract private and foreign investment, then the Budget Estimate and investment by the Centre and the State Governments has to be increased.

Sir, next I would like to mention about the BSUP scheme. This scheme was introduced by the previous Government which really helped our cities to get rid of the slums. But this Government has closed down this scheme and because of the closing down of this scheme many projects have got stalled. As has been mentioned by my previous speaker Shri Panda, in the State of Maharashtra 43 per cent of the houses are lying vacant. It is because the projects have been stalled and there has been cost escalation. The Urban Local Bodies are not able to bear this cost. The earlier Government had invested in this BSUP scheme. A lot has been done in this BSUP scheme. If the Union Government allocates fund for this scheme, then the stalled projects, which are lakhs in number, could be completed and slum dwellers will get their own houses. Sir, bottlenecks at the policy level should be removed with utmost priority. If we keep changing the goal posts and keep on tempering with the policy every now and then, the private companies will hesitate to participate in this Mission. The best example of this is the Dharavi Re-development in Mumbai which is languishing for many years now. The latest round of global tendering

drew zero response. This is because there is no clarity on the part of the State Government. The area of free houses to be given to slum dwellers keeps changing after every three months. The Government is unable to decide whether it wants MAHADA to develop Dharavi or it wants a private developer. The result is that when the Government finally invited tenders nobody was interested because they did not know as to when the policy would get changed. On the other hand, a few kilometres from Dharavi, we have the Bhindi Bazar where a revolution with regard to housing is taking place in the form of cluster development. This 16. 5 acre locality is being developed by a private developer which would be a template for the other States and cities to emulate. We need more such projects. The Central and the State Governments should incentivise cluster development which will solve the problem of illegal building construction and give our citizens permanent and rightful houses. This approach is necessary because in places like Mumbai, Thane, Kalyan and in all the suburban areas, which I represent, do not have enough space. We have to re-develop the existing old structures and move vertically in order to accommodate more and more people.

The Planning Commission, which has now been replaced by the NITI Ayog, has expressed the need for new National Urbanisation

Policy. This is the need of the hour. India is rapidly urbanising and development is taking place in a structured way and our cities are becoming uglier. Such a policy also needs to be implemented with regard to solid waste management and sewage disposal. The recent example of this is the Deonar dumping ground in Mumbai. A Central team has visited the place after many incidents of fire. Capacity of dumping in Mumbai and suburban areas are at the saturation point. So, I would like to request the Government to intervene in the matter and come out with a suitable policy so that we can dispose of the waste at the local level or at the ward level. Recently the National Green Tribunal imposed a fine of Rs. 100 crore on some Urban Local Bodies in my constituency because of failure to stop sewage water from flowing into Ulhas and Valduni rivers. This also needs the attention of the Union Government.

Rain water harvesting should be made compulsory as it is done by most of the Urban Local Bodies. But I would request the Union Government to make it a Central policy and should not leave it to the discretion of the Urban Local Bodies.

Finally, the dream of providing affordable houses will get impetus when the fees and taxes will be drastically reduced. Presently, 30 to 35 per cent of the housing cost consists of fees and taxes. This

is too high and this must be reduced, or as in case of power tariff we must adopt the principle of cross-subsidy. As we all know, in the power tariff segment certain segments are charged more than the average cost of supply so that power can be supplied to economically weaker sections at cheaper rates. Let us apply the same formula here as far as fees and taxes in the real estate sector is concerned.

I would also like to draw the attention of this august House to the inadequate provision that has been made to the Urban Livelihood Mission. As per the official website of the Ministry, at present, 970 cities are under this Mission and the provision for the year, 2016-17, is nearly Rs. 325 crores and that comes to nearly Rs. 33,50,000 per city which is too meager to achieve the target of urban poverty alleviation. Hence, this provision will have to be increased substantially. Therefore, I would request the hon. Finance Minister, through you, and the hon. Minister for Housing, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, to raise the provision for urban housing substantially.

[Translation**]**

***SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA):** I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2016–17.

Across the country and the world, the pace of urbanisation is increasing day by day. Today, in several States of the country, nearly 35 to 42 Percent of the population resides in urban areas. Electricity, roads, water supply, employment and housing constitute their primary needs. To fulfil these requirements, our Ministry of Urban Development, under the capable leadership of the Hon. Minister Shri Venkaiah Naidu, is working effectively with new perspectives and initiatives. I congratulate the Hon. Minister for this commendable work.

This Ministry has taken up urban renewal missions, namely AMRUT and the mission to develop 100 Smart Cities, as priority agenda items. In the first phase, from my State of Gujarat, Ahmedabad and Surat have been selected under the Smart City initiative. Further, under the AMRUT scheme, 31 cities of Gujarat have been selected,

* Speech was laid on the Table.

which also includes my Parliamentary Constituency, Mehsana. For this, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister Shri Venkaiah Naidu.

By the year 2022, a budgetary allocation of Rs. 5,411 crore has been made under the Affordable Housing initiative and for urban poverty alleviation. This will enable the urban poor to obtain affordable and well equipped housing, bringing happiness, comfort and stability to their lives and families. This too is a highly commendable step.

My suggestions are as follows. On the lines of the Dream City Project of the Gujarat Government, similar projects should be implemented in other States of the country, and for this purpose, a policy of encouragement should be formulated by the Centre. States should be encouraged to convert solid waste into energy projects. Urban development has expanded to such an extent that flyover bridges have become essential for mobility; therefore, adequate funds should be made available to municipal corporations and district headquarters for this purpose. The ban imposed by the Delhi Government on diesel vehicles with effect from the first of May should be reviewed afresh. The level of pollution in urban areas has increased, and to control this, appropriate green cover should be developed, along with policies to promote CNG driven taxis, auto

rickshaws and private vehicles. Strict measures should be taken to provide relief to the public from traffic congestion in cities. Under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission and skill development initiatives, training and employment opportunities should be provided to the urban poor. Along rivers passing through or near urban areas, riverfronts and adventure units should be developed, along with recreational facilities, gardens and parks. Small markets operated by women self help groups should also be established there, which would further promote urban employment.

Therefore, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

*__SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (RANCHI):__ The urban population has increased at a rate of 2.8 Percent between the years 2001 and 2011. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has an important role in eradicating poverty in cities, providing employment, and ensuring housing and other basic amenities for the urban poor and middle class. There is a significant shortage of housing in urban areas across the country, and housing prices are extremely high, as a result of which owning a house in a city has become a distant dream for a poor family. Large metropolitan cities are witnessing an increasing proliferation of slums and jhuggis, and people residing within urban limits are not receiving essential living facilities. To address these issues, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was launched in June 2015, with the objective of undertaking renewed efforts to resolve housing problems in cities and to ensure urban cleanliness. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, a target has been set to provide housing for all by the year 2022. For this purpose, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Housing for All Urban Mission, was launched on 25 June 2015. Under this scheme, a proposal has been made for 746 projects involving the construction of 5,08,902 houses. For the implementation of this proposal, an amount

* Speech was laid on the Table.

of Rs. 7,545 crore has been approved, out of which Rs. 1,099 crore has been released so far.

India is the second most populous country in the world, with a population of 133 crore, accounting for 17.5 Percent of the global population, and it is projected to become the most populous country in the world by 2020. Since the attainment of Independence, the urban population has been increasing rapidly. As per the 2001 Census, the urban population stood at 27.81 Percent, which increased to 31.16 Percent in 2011. In this manner, the proportion of the rural population in India is gradually declining. In view of this trend, the task of addressing urban challenges assumes great significance, and the role of housing and urban poverty alleviation becomes critically important. For effectively addressing these issues, there is a pressing need for the allocation of adequate and increased financial resources.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, a target has been set to construct five lakh houses by the year 2022 in 1,800 cities across the country. At present, more than 183 projects are under implementation nationwide. Under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, efforts are being made to provide employment to the urban unemployed and to promote self employment, under which support is being extended to Self Help Groups (SHGs). Under this scheme, the number of SHGs

aimed at promoting self employment stood at 47,772 in the year 2013–14, as compared to 19,900 in 2012–13. In this manner, unemployment can be reduced to a considerable extent. Efforts are also being made to impart skills to urban workers across the country. As on 29 February 2016, 1,55,360 persons have been provided skill training, and proposals have been made to train an additional 20,319 persons. At present, 2,60,285 individuals are undergoing skill training. This work is being carried out under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, National Urban Livelihoods Mission. Under the same scheme, 39,851 persons have been benefited through the establishment of micro enterprises. Under this initiative, 270 shelter homes for the destitute and homeless are presently operational across the country, and proposals have been made for the construction and renovation of 770 additional shelter homes. In this regard, misuse of funds by certain groups must be prevented, and stringent provisions should be put in place to ensure accountability. Due to repeated failure of the monsoon and inadequate rainfall in recent years, water scarcity has been observed across the country. To prevent the supply of polluted water in cities, it is essential to ensure proper arrangements for safe drinking water. Consumption of contaminated water has led to several serious diseases among urban residents. To address this, drinking water

supply schemes are being implemented through municipal corporations across the country. As per estimates for the year 2011–12, the number of people living below the poverty line in urban areas stood at approximately 5.31 crore.

Through the Ministry, efforts are being made to eliminate slum areas prevalent in cities. For this purpose, under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, initiatives such as BSUP and IHSDP are being implemented to address the problems of slums and to provide permanent housing and basic amenities to those residing in slum areas. These schemes have been extended, and construction work of approximately two and a half lakh housing units is underway. These works are to be completed by 31 March 2017. Under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission, 10,17,423 houses have been constructed, out of which possession has been handed over for 7,97,501 houses. Along with these housing units, urban infrastructure facilities such as water supply, sewerage, drainage, solid waste recycling, street lighting and community centres are also being provided. Programmes are being implemented to enhance the quality of construction work in cities, and efforts are being made to facilitate access to loans to assist people in purchasing houses in urban areas. For this purpose, a Technology Sub Mission

has been established under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. In my Parliamentary Constituency of Ranchi city, there are several villages located within slum areas where permanent housing and basic amenities have not been provided to date. Therefore, I urge that additional funds be provided to the State Government for urban development in Jharkhand, so that housing can be ensured for all poor families.

In order to provide housing facilities to the needy in cities, to economically weaker sections and to low income groups, loans are being extended through primary institutions. These loans are being made available on easy terms and on a subsidised basis at low rates of interest. It has been observed that this scheme has remained confined to only a few States. Through this scheme, the State of Jharkhand has been provided with financial assistance of more than Rs. 22 crore, benefiting around 18,000 beneficiaries. Under this scheme, the amount of loan assistance should be enhanced, as the cost of house construction has increased considerably.

Therefore, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

[English**]**

***SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL):** Affordable housing has been a primary focus of governments over the years starting from the Indira Awas Yojana in 1985 to the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana at present. It has been an uphill battle to provide housing for all. I would like to start by introducing the Members to a theory propounded by social scientist James Wilson called the 'Broken Window theory'. Consider a building with a few broken windows. If the windows are not repaired, the tendency is for vandals to break a few more windows. Eventually, they may even break into the building, and if it's unoccupied, perhaps become squatters or light fires inside. Or consider a pavement. Some litter accumulates. Soon, more litter accumulates. Eventually, people even start leaving bags of refuse there.

This theory applies especially to this Ministry since it's dealing with poverty alleviation and housing. If you take a tour of any city in India today, you will find extremely dense societies which have broken windows, pipes, hanging wires and filth everywhere. I have failed to understand where the money for the ambitious Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, launched by the Primes Minister two years ago, is

* Speech was laid on the Table.

being spent. If you want his scheme and the PM Awaas Yojana to be effective, have focused teams which fix 'broken windows'. You will be amazed at how crime, vandalism and squatting goes down. While on this, I have started wondering whether 'broken windows', a mere concept elsewhere, has become a mindset in India. Probably, it has gone deep into our psyche.

Rather than fixing very basic issues related to housing throughout India, this Government is more focused on making housing available for the poor in Urban areas. In the Budget, an announcement was made on allowing 100 per cent deduction for profits to housing projects building homes up to 30 sq metres in four metro cities and 60 sq metres in other cities. This is likely to spur supply of affordable homes in urban spaces. We have to take a hard look at what we are doing and think about the future. The policies of this Ministry intensely affects a specific group of people, namely migrants.

We need to solve the problem of rural-urban migration and how it would affect our housing schemes. Take the example of Uttarakhand. Migration intensified after 2013 flash floods devastated that State. The 2011 census quotes 1,065 villages of the state as 'deserted'. The demographic changes in the hills have changed their

geo-political situation giving weight to Terai region in forms of more seats in the state assembly. This indicates a contradiction as the state was created for the overall development of hills. Basic facilities such as water, sanitation and markets being available in Dehradun forced the villagers to migrate to the city. You might blame the State Government in this case for mismanaging the situation, yet we see a similar picture emerging in many other states, especially hilly areas. Rural-urban migration is not a problem limited to a particular state, it's an issue that the whole country is facing.

Migration increases stress on public infrastructure in cities. It encourages people in rural India to give up farming and come to the cities for labour intensive jobs. There are arguments being made in favor of farmers giving up their profession and moving to other jobs, since agriculture is not profitable anymore. A part of that might be true, yet these experts do not provide an alternative solution for sustainable agriculture. Food (and water) is the livelihood of mankind, not oil and cement. We are already facing a nation-wide water crisis; it may soon lead to a massive famine. In a situation like this, we do not want our cities to crumble under the pressure and should rather have people in rural areas coming up with solutions to solve this impending disaster.

The other issue I wish to focus on is that of SMART cities. I am aware that this scheme does not fall under the present Ministry, yet it has a direct connection with poverty alleviation. The scheme is ill planned and disproportionate. I was speaking to a senior executive of the Municipal Corporation of Bhubaneswar, a city that is ranked number one on the first SMART cities list. I was surprised to find that he was not aware that the Rs. 200 crores being invested by private companies in city infrastructure is actually a loan that needs to be repaid to them. There has been a lack of communication between state and Central representatives regarding this scheme. The promotional blitz that went to push this scheme made the flaws irrelevant.

I fail to understand why New Delhi Municipal Corporation (NDMC), one of the most developed regions in the country, has been made a part of the 20 SMART city list? NDMC covers only 3% of the total landmass of National Capital Region and a mere 1. 5% of the total population lives there. It houses 2. 57 lakh people. Whereas in Bhubaneswar, the scheme will cover a total population of 8. 37 lakh people. If you divide the total amount of Rs. 500 crores which is being spent to create SMART cities with the number of people, in NDMC it comes to approximately Rs. 19500 per person and in Bhubaneswar it comes to approximately Rs. 6000 per person. This is an example of ill

thought out policy. A city like Bhubaneswar needs the funds, but NDMC doesn't. you are doing exactly what the previous government did, favoring the elite in Delhi and ignoring the rest of the country. I am one of the temporary residents of NDMC area and I do not see justification in the wastage of taxpayer's money here.

The Government has earmarked on an ambitious project to provide housing for all till 2022. An estimated 65 million people, or 13. 6 million households, are housed in urban slums, according to the 2011 Indian census. It estimates an additional 1. 8 million people in India are homeless. The Housing for All program does not talk about the urban slum dwellers. This construction programme focuses too much on driving economic growth with a concentration on new houses rather than the need to upgrade and provide services to existing communities in city slums or living on the streets. For every unit created, an untold number of households may be evicted and rendered homeless. The Government must try actively to rehabilitate slum dwellers before it starts executing this project in urban areas.

In conviction, the Government needs to come up with effective solution that will reduce the pressure on our cities and discourage migration. We need to focus on rehabilitating slum dwellers and to solve a host of problems that our cities face today. We need to

formulate and execute policies that will actively discourage further migration and resultant creation of new slums in urban areas. Urban facilities should be made available not only in pockets of affluence while the rest of the country seems deprived and in a 'broken window' state. India's target should not be to 'focus' but to diffuse development so that not only urban concentration but instead rural life must be offered on an attractive platter. Words such as Rurban must be made a reality by investing and focusing on it from now itself.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on the Demands for Grants, 2016-17, in respect of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

The Ministry is headed by a dynamic Minister, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu. Under the able leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, hon. Prime Minister of India, the Government is implementing poverty alleviation programmes. I am proud of the hon. Minister. Shri Naidu belongs to our State. He is a man of character, conduct and commitment. On behalf of our State Government, I convey my sincere thanks to Shri Venkaiah Naidu because he has sanctioned 1,93,000 houses to our State. In fact, for the last three years, before this NDA Government came to power, we got only 23,000 houses. Under the JNNURM Scheme, for the last three years, 3,90,000 houses have been sanctioned and 17,040 houses have been sanctioned in another scheme. But this NDA Government, in the first year itself, has sanctioned nearly 5,08,000 houses.

They have started many good schemes and this is also one among them. The Budget for Urban Development is like this. They have allocated Rs. 21,000 crore for it. For the Metro projects, Rs. 10,000 have been sanctioned. For AMRUT, Rs. 4000 crore have been

sanctioned. For Smart City Mission, Rs. 3200 crore have been allocated. For Swachch Bharat Mission, Rs. 2300 crores have been given. For CPWD, HRIDAY, and for North-Eastern Region, Rs. 879 crore and Rs. 200 crore and Rs. 250 crore have been sanctioned respectively. Under PMIAY, Rs. 5000 crore have been sanctioned. For NLUM, Rs. 325 crores have been given.

I do not want to give any more statistics because our friends have given many suggestions. I also convey my sincere thanks to our hon. Minister because he has sanctioned three Smart Cities to our State, namely, Visakhapatnam, Kakinada and Tirupati. In fact, some of our friends are saying that he is an unbiased man. I know him for the last 40 years. Based on the proposals of the State Governments, he has sanctioned houses and Smart Cities. Based on the recommendations, the Government of India has sanctioned 100 Smart Cities. Really, it is a highly appreciable programme.

It is not only that. They have sanctioned funds for Metro in Visakhapatnam and Vijayawada. For Amaravati also, they have given permission.

Our hon. Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu is also regularizing the slums which are below 100 yards. In the cities, the major problem is housing especially for the poor and slum dwellers.

Many of our friends have told that some of the houses which are constructed are vacant.

Sir, give me some more time to speak as I have been an MLA also and I know the ground reality there. As I worked as MLA in my constituency, I know that there are urban and semi urban areas. Even in my constituency also, thousands of houses are vacant because of lack of infrastructure. Under the JNNURM, there is the 50:50 ratio. The cost is shared by the Union Government and the local State Governments for cities having a population of five lakhs and less. In some cities, the ratio is 80:20. Many houses have been constructed by spending thousands of crores of rupees. But they have not provided the infrastructure, which costs lakhs of rupees. That is one reason. The second reason is, many poor people are living in the slums which are located in the heart of cities. But construction of new houses is done in the outskirts of cities. So, for the poor people, who work in construction sites, travelling from the heart of the cities to outskirts is very difficult. So, I request the hon. Minister to consider the location also when they are going to construct these two crore houses. If you construct houses in the outskirts, it would be very difficult for these poor people and labourers to afford transport and they cannot afford the time also. So, instead of constructing crores of houses in the

outskirts of cities, if you construct limited number of houses in the heart of cities with lift and other facilities they can take advantage of that.

The main problem is land. Land is a State subject. It is a damn shame on our part. After 68 years of Independence, one person is living in a house worth Rs. 200 crore in Mumbai, and in the same Mumbai four to five people are living in a 10X20 room. Because of liberalisation, privatisation and globalisation, the poor are becoming poorer and the rich are becoming richer.

Earlier the programmes and schemes used to be named after Jawaharlal Nehru and Rajiv Gandhi. Now, you have taken a very good decision to name these programmes after the Prime Minister, like the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. The position of Prime Minister is permanent and the persons are not permanent.

I want to appeal to the hon. Minister and to the Government of India to think over your policies. So, please try to have a standard policy on urbanisation. Why is urbanisation increasing day-by-day? It is because of poverty and drought in the rural areas. For instance, in Telangana, day before yesterday I read in Telugu newspaper, there is one Mr. Patel – Patel means he belongs to forward caste – who is

having a six-acre land, is working as a labour under the MNREGA. This happens not only in Telangana but also in other States.

So, I request the Government to eradicate poverty in rural areas. Please try to provide employment in the rural areas. Please try to provide infrastructure facilities in the rural areas as they are provided in the urban areas, like the other countries are doing. In other countries, they are developing satellite towns. They are providing the same infrastructure facilities both in urban and rural areas. … (*Interruptions*)

I live in Hyderabad. Because of bifurcation, now Hyderabad's demands got reduced. We have to decentralise the facilities. We should not just focus on the urban areas; we should focus on the rural areas also.

My last point is about employment. Why are people migrating from rural to urban areas? It is because of employment. Regarding many of the facilities, like health facilities, education facilities, employment facilities, we are only concentrating on the urban areas. So, I request the Government of India to give some concession and encouragement to people who are starting industries or hospitals or educational institutions in the rural areas so that we can eradicate poverty in the rural areas.

The hon. Minister is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs also. My humble submission to the hon. Minister is this and I hope all our MPs will agree with me. The Government of India is spending crores of rupees through various schemes. But unfortunately many of our Members are not having any say in the implementation of these schemes. For instance, in the case of housing, we are providing them with thousands of houses, but we do not have any say over the Government of India schemes. Shri Venkaiah Naidu is having a lot of experience. So, please look into this issue so that the Government of India can implement these schemes very effectively. Thank you.

[Translation]

*__SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL):__ In order to implement its ambitious scheme of “Housing for All”, the Union Government has identified 305 cities across nine States. Under the Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation scheme, at least 305 cities and towns in nine States have been identified to initiate housing construction for the urban poor. The Ministry is committed to providing financial assistance of approximately Rs. 2 lakh crore over the next six years to ensure that nearly two crore urban poor are provided with their own houses.

Among these identified cities and towns, 36 are in Chhattisgarh, 30 in Gujarat, 19 in Jammu and Kashmir, 15 in Jharkhand, 15 in Kerala, 74 in Madhya Pradesh, 42 in Odisha, 40 in Rajasthan and 34 in Telangana. This “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana” of the Union Government was launched on 25 June last year by the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. Under this scheme, a target has been set to construct two crore houses for the urban poor by the year 2022, when India will complete 75 years of Independence.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Our Government is committed to implementing six essential reforms to ensure the successful execution of the Urban Housing Mission. States that have expressed their commitment to implementing these reform measures include Andhra Pradesh, Bihar, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland and Uttarakhand. These States will be required to undertake reforms such as modifications to city master plans for affordable housing, introduction of a single window system for building approvals, time bound clearance mechanisms for layout approvals, amendments to rent laws, permission for additional floor area ratio, and redevelopment of slum areas, among others, to facilitate the construction of affordable housing.

The primary objective of the Government is to make housing policy and programmes for the people of the country simpler, more accessible and easier to implement, and towards this end, our Government is formulating appropriate policies and steadily taking these schemes forward.

At present, the Government’s target is to provide housing for all by the year 2022, and policies are being framed accordingly. In this direction, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is being implemented by the Government. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was approved on 17 June 2015, and under this scheme, the Government has set a target

to extend loan assistance to two crore slum and non slum families by the year 2022. For this purpose, based on proposals received from the States, it is proposed to include the maximum possible number of cities and towns under the scheme.

The Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission was launched by the Government in 2005, with its duration initially envisaged for a period of seven years beginning from 2005–06. However, in order to complete the ongoing projects, our Government has extended the duration of the Mission up to 31 March 2017. This is a commendable step taken by the Government. In the same spirit, some time ago the Government approved an additional period of two years for the completion of projects sanctioned up to March 2012 under the Basic Services to the Urban Poor Sub Mission (BSUP) and the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). As a result of granting this additional time for completion of projects, it is expected that more than three lakh urban poor will be assisted in obtaining permanent housing. After adjustment of the additional funds released, the Union Government will be required to release an amount of Rs. 350 crore to various States. Granting additional time for the completion of projects will help in completing 3.6 lakh housing units which are currently at different stages of completion. This will benefit

not only the urban poor residing in cities but also those living in slum and jhuggi settlements.

The Government has undertaken numerous measures to complete poverty alleviation efforts, to reduce poverty in the country and to improve the standard of living of the people. It has launched several schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, the National Urban Livelihoods Mission, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, and the National Health Mission. Our Government is emphasising the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", which is a symbol of inclusive development.

Comprehensive data on employment and unemployment for the entire country are available at periodic intervals. The organised sector, comprising both the public and private sectors, has shown some growth, and women have made a commendable contribution to this growth. Their participation is steadily increasing day by day.

In the past, while the country did witness economic growth, its benefits remained confined to a limited section of society. There is a direct relationship between a nation's economic development and its human development, and sustaining this relationship depends on the

vision of the political leadership, the efforts of the ruling parties, and the measures undertaken for the welfare of the people.

The incidence of poverty remains a matter of concern for public policy. Our Constitution took a bold step by granting universal adult franchise to a society that was largely poor, culturally diverse and characterised by hierarchical structures. Over time, such decisions have empowered the poor and the marginalised by granting them rights. Our Government remains firmly committed to advancing these sections and ensuring that their rights are strengthened and protected.

[English**]**

***DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** First of all, I thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister for his vision on housing for all by 2022. To achieve this objective, the Government has launched a comprehensive mission named "Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Housing for All (Urban). Under this Yojana, it is proposed to build 2 crore houses for the urban poor including downtrodden, economically weaker sections and lower income groups in urban areas by the year 2022. The Government has already identified 305 cities and towns have been identified in 9 States for beginning construction of houses for urban poor.

It is very shame for us that even after 59 years of Independence, the poor people in urban areas are forced to live in slums in inhumane and unhygienic condition. Taking the chance of housing crisis in urban areas, some builders in Mumbai, Pune, Kolkata, Delhi and other Metros are coming out with various illegal fraudulent housing schemes in very low price just to cheat the common man, poor people and loot money. They are all misusing the mane of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (PMAY) and telling people that their scheme is a Government scheme. Some builders such as Maple Housing Group,

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Pune published photographs of our Hon'ble Prime Minister, Chief Minister and other Minister in their low cost housing scheme "Aple Ghar" Advertisement in the name of PMAY. All these are ponzi companies, they have come just to food the common man and make money in the name of Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Many people have fallen prey to their advertisements and deposited initial booking money in the hope of getting house in low price under PMAY. If it is not checked then it will be a big scam and by the time Government put in action, the builders/companies will fly with the looted money and it will be another news of Big Scam in the name of PMAY. I have already lodged an FIR with Shivaji Nagar Police Station, Pune against Maple Group Housing for their illegal, misleading, non-transparent advertisement. I have also taken up the matter with the various concerned authorities asking them to call clarification from such builders. The Government should take strong legal, criminal action against these builders and collect information about how much money was collected, how many people were cheated by them. The Government should also issue order to the appropriate authority to seize the bank balance and other assets of these builders. I request the Housing Ministry to take all measures to initiate criminal proceedings

against such builders to protect the common man and to see that the money should be refunded to all those who booked such flat.

*__SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH):__ I would like to request your good self to kindly make myself associated in the debate of budget Grants of Urban Development Department through my letter. I would like to bring into the notice of Hon'ble Minister Venkayaji that as per the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra ModiJi to provide houses to all upto 2022, considering the same your department is trying hard to meet the target consulting time to time all the State Government. Poor and middle class people are watching very closely the move of Centre and State Government regarding their long waited low cost housing schemes by the elected Government. I strongly feel that Government and housing sector development should come close to work together, then only this dream will come true. In a city like Mumbai, where housing industry/real estate is not functioning in a right manner due to lack of co-ordination between bureaucracy and developers, due to Central and State Government's various rules, norms and time bound clearance and aviation restriction, etc., many developments works/projects are stalled. After seeking all permission clearance if any RTI activist complaint to any department the official concerned are not taking right decision and clearing the proposal in time. In

* Speech was laid on the Table.

courts also, the matters are prolonged. Considering all these problems, the cost of house are high which is out of the reach of common man. It is noticed by the citizens of Mumbai in last two years under your leadership and Prakash Jawdekavji's effort, many hurdles/obstacles are removed by relaxing various norms, changing rates of CRZ and relaxing environments policies, etc. and also giving direct powers to State Government.

In my State Maharashtra, Chief Minister Devendra Jadavnisji is also doing well and moving fast to fulfill the backlog in housing/real estate sector.

In Mumbai, if S. R. A. projects clearance are given on fast track on demand to the developer thousands will get houses for no cost and also middle class can also get houses at a affordable rate if government officers and developers work together in a healthy positive manner. At present, the entire focus is on the slum dewellers, hutments, who is getting free and more then the existing area, which they use now and some of them only create lot of trouble. The entire government system is handicapped on performance. I don’t want to say that the developer be given any untowards advantage by ignoring slum dwellers rights and allow him to make money. My only plea is that eligible clearance must be done by officers concerned, developer's duty is only to

construct houses approved by the authority as per density area of the plot. If the hutment is not eligible then the Government should take responsibility to take care of him as per the Act/rules. All the lands belonging to the Central and State Government and the local bodies be got developed before the end of 2022, then only the dream of Prime Minister Shri ModiJi will be achieved and the people of our Country will get their dream home.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. I am grateful to you.

Sir, this figure has been placed before the House on several occasions, yet I reiterate it once again so that the gravity of the problem is brought sharply into focus. At the beginning of the Twelfth Plan, it was estimated that there was a requirement of approximately 1 crore 88 lakh houses. Translated into population terms, nearly 11 crore people were without housing. By the year 2022, this number is expected to rise to two crore households. Of this requirement, 56 Percent pertains to economically weaker sections of our total population who are in urgent need of housing. About 40 Percent belong to the LIG category, while 4 Percent fall within the middle income group. Nearly 25 Percent of the total population resides in slums, of which 54 Percent are concentrated in Greater Mumbai alone. In fact, 54 Percent of the total population of Greater Mumbai lives in slum areas.

In my own city of Meerut, the proportion of such people is nearly 40 Percent. There are 46 cities in the country with a population of ten

lakh or more, and taken together, approximately 38 Percent of the population in these cities resides in slums. The problem is undoubtedly extremely serious, and our friends from the previous Government have also understood this reality. They often comment that there is a shortage of resources and that allocations have been reduced. In this context, I would like to make a few observations. There is certainly a limitation of resources. Had the size of our economy been somewhat larger, had economic activities expanded further, and had unemployment been brought under greater control, perhaps more funds would have been available. There are inherent constraints. Even so, I often reflect that during this Session, several senior Members have repeatedly pointed out that due to the fall in petroleum prices, certain financial gains are accruing to the Government. Although a substantial portion of this benefit has already been distributed among various sections in accordance with needs and the Government's policy vision, there is still a grievance expressed as to why the entire amount is not diverted directly to the consumer. Perhaps it is not always appreciated that if the Government does not have resources at its disposal, it cannot make allocations for welfare measures. These are the limitations. It has also been remarked that the new schemes introduced by the Government merely contain old ideas

and offer nothing new. I believe I have addressed this issue with due seriousness. I proceed on the assumption that the UPA Government also made sincere efforts to resolve this problem. However, I would like to briefly refer to the outcomes of those efforts. During the tenure of the UPA II Government, and indeed under the UPA Government as a whole, schemes such as the Rajiv Awas Yojana, the Rajiv Rinn Yojana (RRY), the JNNURM, and some other smaller schemes were dedicated to addressing this issue. If one examines their performance, it emerges that between 2010 and 2014, the average expenditure incurred during the UPA Government's tenure amounted to Rs. 946 crore per year. This was lower than the Budget Estimates and significantly lower than the Revised Estimates. As a consequence, allocations to the Ministry had to be reduced. This experience has been noted and recorded in the report of the Standing Committee.

Under the NDA Government, during the years 2014–15 and 2015–16, the average expenditure increased from Rs. 946.03 crore to Rs. 2,235.65 crore. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the fact that the NDA Government has increased allocations. Although there are fiscal constraints and challenges of performance, the NDA Government has understood the seriousness of the issue and has taken concrete steps to address it. Similarly, if I refer to the Rajiv

Awas Yojana and examine how many projects were proposed, how many were sanctioned, and how many were actually completed, I would like to place this on record. From 2011 to 2015, without going into year wise details due to time constraints, a total of 1,68,207 projects were sanctioned, out of which only 2,501 projects could be completed. I am emphasising this point so that our friends from the UPA also understand that the difficulties involved cannot be eliminated overnight. We have made sincere efforts to ensure that the entire process is transparent, that there are proper checks and balances, and that accountability is enhanced. This is because the housing problem can be resolved only through the combined efforts of the Union Government, State Governments and local bodies. This has been our consistent endeavour. We announced the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in June 2015, under which we have declared a clear target. Certain conditions have been laid down under this scheme, which I will not elaborate upon in detail. The intent of these conditions is to ensure that State Governments and, as I mentioned earlier, local bodies discharge their responsibilities with due diligence. The scheme has four components, or four dimensions, each catering to different categories. These include slum rehabilitation, the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme, affordable housing in partnership, and other such

components. For those poor persons who do not fall under these categories but wish to construct their own houses, there is a provision for assistance of Rs. 1.5 lakh. Thus, there are four such schemes. I am not going into further detail, but our endeavour is clear. Through these measures, we are making a sincere and structured effort to resolve this grave housing problem in a comprehensive manner.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I seek just a little more time. I shall conclude my remarks within two or three minutes.

Sir, I wish to make only one or two additional points. We are deeply concerned about housing for the poor. However, there are one or two aspects which are a matter of serious concern. In this context, HUDCO and the National Housing Bank (NHB) have been designated as nodal agencies. These institutions have also entered into Memoranda of Understanding with 177 primary lending institutions. Nevertheless, it is being observed that lending to persons from poorer sections, who require small houses, has been steadily declining.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your speech now.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Hon. Chairperson Sir, kindly grant me just two minutes.

Sir, for income groups up to Rs. 2 lakh, the share of housing loans has declined from 2 Percent to 1 Percent. For income groups up to Rs. 5 lakh, the share has fallen from 14 Percent to 9 Percent. For income groups up to Rs. 10 lakh, it has declined from 34 Percent to 26 Percent. Banks are reluctant to extend loans in these categories. To them, affordable housing itself appears to be unaffordable. This is also a serious cause of concern. I therefore request that the key performance indicators of banks should include such lending, and that at least 3 Percent of priority sector lending be earmarked for loans of this nature.

Sir, the issue of stamp duty has also been raised. My experience in this regard is deeply concerning, and I wish to share it with the House. I have raised this issue earlier as well. In many places, circle rates are higher than the actual market rates, which leads to an artificial escalation of prices. As a result, there is a risk that housing loans taken by mortgaging property may turn into non performing assets. I request the Ministry to pay due attention to this aspect as well.

At the very outset, one of our friends from the Congress Party who spoke before me stated that the challenges faced in urban areas have arisen due to the deteriorating condition of agriculture, as people are moving away from it. However, this Government approaches the

issue with a sense of overall integration. It is precisely because of this holistic perspective that the Government is striving to address all problems in a comprehensive manner. This Government is concerned not only about the poor but also about farmers. Its approach is truly holistic. I believe that everyone should support and cooperate with this holistic approach.

Sir, there is a renowned poetess from my region. With reference to her words, I would like to conclude my remarks. I dedicate these sentiments to Shri Narendra Bhai Modi and Hon. Shri Venkaiah Ji, who are working with great sensitivity and tireless dedication.

Raah me koi to aisa bhi dikhai dega,

Jo tere pao ke chhalo ka badhai dega,

Karwat leta hai yeh sansar jiske dam se,

Bhid me bhi who akela hi dikhai dega.

[It suggests that a leader who undertakes difficult and demanding work will inevitably suffer hardships, symbolised by the “blisters on the feet”. While such effort may not always be widely applauded, there will always be discerning individuals who recognise and honour this sacrifice.]

Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Alright, your poem was well received.

[English**]**

***SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** The ultimate goal of this policy is to ensure sustainable development of all urban settlements, duly serviced by basic civic amenities for ensuring better quality of life for all urban citizens. The Action Plan at the State/UT level in this regard must be prepared with the active involvement of all stakeholders. As per Entry 5 under the State List, states can make laws on local government. This includes the constitution and powers of municipal corporations, and regulating taxes on land and buildings. However, following the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992, several powers related to urban development such as urban planning, slum improvement, regulation of land-use, etc. , were transferred to the urban local bodies (ULBs). State Legislatures, by law, can entrust power and authority on these ULBs. ULBs may include Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayat. The amendment directed states to devolve 18 specific functions to the ULBs. These include urban planning, regulation of land use, construction of buildings, roads and bridges, improvement and up-gradation of slums, etc.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

'In situ' slum redevelopment: Under this component all slums should be taken up for 'in situ' (in the same place) redevelopment to provide houses to all eligible slum dwellers. Slums so redeveloped should compulsorily be de-notified. The private partner for slum redevelopment would be selected through an open bidding process. The project planning and implementing authorities will have the power to decide the area of slum land which can be given to the private developers to raise funds for cross-subsidizing the project. A slum rehabilitation grant of Rs. One lakh per house, on an average, would be admissible for all houses for eligible slum dwellers. The beneficiary contribution in slum redevelopment project, if any, will be fixed by the State Government. It also provides for consultation with the slum dwellers when preparing the redevelopment plan.

Underutilization of funds: It has been observed that the actual expenditure by the Ministry has consistently been lower than budget estimates. When examining the 2015-16 budget, the Standing Committee had observed that allocations for the Ministry were reduced at the RE stage. As per the Ministry, underutilization of funds was due to delays at the level of states and UT Governments.

The CAG had observed that with regard to housing projects, only 26% of the projects had been completed by March 31, 2011. 16

of the completed dwelling units, 53% had been occupied. The CAG had observed that funds under JNNURM were getting diverted to other projects. Further, there were also delays in release of funds from Centre. The Standing Committee had observed that delays in implementation was leading to cost of escalation of projects, putting an additional burden on the states and cities. It had also observed that projects faced delays due to land acquisition and slow tendering.

Eligibility of affordable housing: Currently, Under PMAY, a beneficiary family that will be eligible for central assistance is one that belong to the EWS or LIG category, and does not own a pucca house. Further, the mission will support construction of houses with carpet area of up to 30 sq mt for EWS and 60 sq mt for LIG with basic civic infrastructure. State Government may alter size, but without any enhanced financial assistance from centre. It may be noted that when considering the eligibility for affordable housing PMAY-U does not consider the household size of the beneficiary family. A household with an income of up to Rupees three lakh may have two, six, or even more number of Members. However, under PMAY-U a two Member household earning Rupees three lakh annually will be eligible for the same amount of subsidy as a six Member household earning the same amount. In terms of the size of the house, the requirements of a six

Member household will be higher than that of a two Member household. However, they both may end up getting a house of the same size.

In the US, the eligibility for affordable housing is determined on the basis of income limits as per household size. For example, in New York City, a one-Member household should have income limits of $50,750 to be eligible. Whereas, a two-Member household should have income limits of $58,000 to be eligible. In Australia, one of the factors determining eligibility for affordable housing is income. Income eligibility limits vary according to household size, with the maximum limit increasing with each additional person in a household.

At the advent of the 21st Century (2001), the housing stock in India stood at 50. 95 million for 55. 8 million urban households. Significant segments of this housing stock was characterized by congestion and obsolescence. Congestion is particularly acute in inner city slums and peripheral slums. According to the Census 2001, 61. 82 million persons or 23. 1% of the urban population resides in slums. The quality of housing stock is extremely poor. An important reason for this is insecurity of tenure. Slums are also severely deficient in basic services such as potable water, sanitation, sewerage, storm water drainage and solid water disposal. Given the degraded habitat in

which slum dwellers live and the frequent episodes of illness characterizing slum families, it is of vital importance that special attention is paid to urban health and hygiene on the one hand and social and preventive medicine on the other hand. In order to improve the quality of life in urban areas, it is of critical significance that the housing stock is improved through urban renewal, slum improvement and development of new housing stock in existing cities as well as new townships. Further, the enhancement of housing stock must be accompanied with high quality provision of basic services. It is a well established fact that safe, hygienic and spacious provisioning of housing duly buttressed with adequate basic services and a congenial habitat promotes significant improvement in productivity of workers.

*SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): At the outset, I'd like to bring to the notice of the Government an alarming fact in relation to the budgetary allocations and revised estimates for the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation: While Rs. 5634. 47 crores were allocated towards the Ministry in the 2015-16 Budget, revised estimates for the year show a drastically reduced figure of Rs. 1961. 12 crores (a fall of 65%, or Rs. 3,673. 35 crores). Very disappointingly, the revised estimates figure for 2015-16 for 'North Eastern Areas', Rs. 96. 2 crores, is far from the budgetary allocation for 2015-16, Rs. 525 crore (lower by nearly 82%). Again, there has been a significant downward revision for 'Grants-in-aid to State Governments' from Rs. 4,032 Crores to Rs. 1572. 53 crores. Clearly, the Ministry needs to examine its limitations in relation to the efficient utilization of finances, as unspent funds for extremely important areas mentioned above do not bode well for the Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation environment in India.

In relation to urban poverty conditions in India, reports suggest that unreleased data from the first urban Socio Economic and Caste Census (SECC), tabulated as per criteria laid down by the erstwhile Planning Commission's expert Hashim Committee, show that roughly

* Speech was laid on the Table.

35% of urban Indian households live below the poverty line (BPL). This amounts to 22 million households of the total 63 million household surveyed in 4,041 statutory cities and towns across the country, and is a matter of grave concern. The data shows that, as per BPL parameters set by the panel headed by former Planning Commission Member, S. R. Hashim, the highest percentage of urban BPL households are in the north-eastern states of Manipur (54. 95 per cent of its total population) and Mizoram (52. 35 percent). Against this backdrop, the fact that the revised estimates figure for 2015-16 for 'North Eastern Areas', Rs. 96. 2 crores, is far from the budgetary allocation for 2015-16, Rs. 525 crores (lower by nearly 82%), is indeed worrying.

The level of urbanisation in India, which was around 31% in 2011, is estimated to increase and reach 40 per cent by 2030 in percentage terms. The predicted level of urbanisation may appear to be modest. However, in absolute numbers, it is very large. The urban population of India is more than the entire populations of United States of America or Brazil. The urban economy has also witnessed significant growth and is contributing to around 60% of GDP. However, to reap the full benefits of urbanisation, it is important that urban development is efficient and sustainable. Does the Government,

for instance, have a time-bound target in relation to reducing the number of urban poor in India?

At the beginning of the 12th Five Year Plan, the housing shortage was estimated to be at 18. 78 million units. This shortage is expected to increase to 20 million by 2022. It was estimated that about 56% of this shortage falls in the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS), 40% in the Lower Income Group (LIG) category, and the rest 4% in the middle and higher income groups. What long-term policy plan has the Government prepared to ensure the supply-demand mismatch is resolved?

Again, it is clearly known that because of their poor governance structures and financial situation, Urban Local Bodies find it difficult to access external financing for its projects. Does the Government intend to encourage innovative financing schemes for Urban Local Bodies?

That sentiment in the domestic real estate industry is turning positive after five slow quarters, according to a report by industry body FICCI and property advisory firm Knight Frank India, is indeed welcome, and I would urge the Government to capitalize on the improved sentiment to ensure an efficient consumer-friendly real estate sector, and a competitive supply-side environment for small

businesses to enter and flourish in the highly concentrated market for housing. Likewise, data analyses are clearly revealing the dire state of India's urban poor, and is extremely important that the Government take urgent note and devises and implements policies that lift the millions of urban poor to a life of opportunities, both economic and social.

SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Demand for Grant of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2016-17.

Sir, as per Entry 5 under the State List, States can make law on local government. This includes the constitution and powers of Municipal Corporation and regulatory tax on lands and buildings. However, following the Constitution (74th Amendment) Act, 1992, several powers related to urban development such as urban planning, slum improvement, regulation of land use etc. were transferred to the Urban Local Bodies. State Legislature, by law, can entrust power and authority to these ULBs. Urban Local Bodies can include Municipal Corporations, Municipal Councils and Nagar Panchayats. The Amendment directed States to devolve 18 specific functions to ULBs. These include urban planning, regulation of land use, construction of buildings, roads and bridges, improvement and upgradation of slums etc.

Sir, currently, about 31 per cent of Indian population lives in urban areas and the rate of urbanization is expected to increase in the next 10 to 15 years. With increased urbanization, the work force in urban areas is increasing. The ratio of population participating in the

work force in urban areas increased from 32 per cent in 2001 to 35 per cent in 2011. Increasing population along with an increase in work force increases the demand for housing and basic services in urban areas. At the beginning of the 12th Five Year Plan, the house shortage was estimated to be at 18. 78 million units. This shortage is expected to increase to 20 million by 2022. It was estimated that about 56 per cent of this shortage falls in the economically weaker sections, 40 per cent in lower income group category and the rest 4 per cent in the middle and higher income group.

Coming to the Budget, the total expenditure of MoHUPA for 2016-17 is Rs. 5,411 crores. Of this, about 94 per cent is allocated for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) Rs. 5,075 crores. This is followed by an allocation towards the other schemes like the National Urban Livelihoods Mission at 325 houses. If you see the Budget Estimates (BE) 2015-16, it was Rs. 5,634 crores. But actually the RE, recurring expenses, if you see, is Rs. 1,961 crore. I do not know why this much of amount was absolutely not used. But now also, there is so much of demand for houses, shortages of houses in the urban areas as the people in the urban areas have increased. People have migrated from the rural areas to the urban areas. As one of my colleagues from the TDP has said there are no rains in the villages and there is no

agriculture. Many agriculturists, landlords are coming into the urban areas and becoming labours. Having all that, there is 28 per cent decrease, that is, in 2015-16 the total expenditure was Rs. 5634 crores but now in 2016-17, it is Rs. 5411 crores.

I do not understand when Narendra Modi *Ji*, coming from a poor family, [Translation] a poor man who is often described as someone who sold tea at a railway station, having witnessed hardship and suffering at every step, became the Prime Minister, every common person believed that the poor would benefit. People believed that the poor would get food to eat, a small house to live in, and work in their hands. However, if we look at the situation today, even in our State of Telangana, which is a newly formed State and where for sixty years our resources were looted, keeping the people of the State in mind, our annual budget for housing alone is Rs. 13,000 crore. From the Centre, we demanded [English] 80,481 houses were demanded from our State. The Centre has very well, very nicely considered this and they have given us 80,481 houses, but at what cost? [Translation] what is the cost today, and what does it actually provide? Under the present scheme, Rs. 1.5 lakh is being given for one house. Within Rs. 1.5 lakh, in a house of 360 square feet, how is a person expected to live? How can one live in a single room house with one's wife and children? How

can one live with one's brothers, or with one's parents? If a relative comes from outside to visit, where will they be accommodated? The houses being provided for Rs. 1.5 lakh are such that no one can live in them with dignity. … (*Interruption*s) In a house of 350 square feet, a person cannot even properly enter. A person like me cannot even step inside such a house. The moment I enter, the room itself will be over. However, today, keeping the welfare of the people in mind, the Government of Telangana, under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao, is providing houses of 560 square feet, two bedroom houses, under a fully subsidised scheme. In urban areas, these houses are being provided at a cost of Rs. 7 lakh per unit, fully subsidised, comprising one kitchen, one bathroom, two bedrooms and one hall, spread over 560 square feet. This year, our target is two lakh houses, and out of these, we have already completed 60,000 houses.

Through you, I wish to ask the Government this question. When a State can allocate Rs. 13,000 crore in its budget for housing, why does the Union Government, despite announcing multiple schemes, provide houses with such limited area under those schemes? ... (*Interruption*s)

I would also like to point out that when a person migrates from a rural area to an urban area, they require not only housing but also some

financial support for work. They need employment. Under previous Governments, only a loan of Rs. 2 lakh was provided, with a subsidy of Rs. 30,000. However, under the leadership of TRS and Chief Minister Shri K. Chandrashekar Rao, a loan of Rs. 10 lakh is being provided, with a 50 Percent subsidy for SCs, STs and BCs. What I wish to convey is this. When there is an acute shortage of housing and widespread unemployment, the Budget of the Ministry of Urban Development and the Ministry of Poverty Alleviation should be increased and utilised effectively. In the year 2015–16, the allocated funds were not fully utilised. Taking Telangana as a landmark example, I request that its housing policy be implemented across all States. Thank you.

[English**]**

***DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR):** I would like to state that it is the responsibility of the Government to formulate Housing policy and programmes, implementation of urban employment, urban development, slum clearance, etc. In this financial year to correspond with this responsibility, the Ministry has allocated Rs. 5411 crores. Out of Rs. 5411 crores, Rs. 5400 crores have been allocated under plan head and Rs. 11 crores under non plan head. In this regard, I would like to state that when we are at the threshold of becoming a developed nation and when we are putting our effort to adopt the process of Urbanisation wholly, the allocation of mere Rs. 5411 crores on this head is not adequate to address the cause. It has been seen over the years that the allocation for the purpose has been reduced year wise. I feel the reduction in allocation is not at all a good sign when the Government is emphasizing upon the one of its ambitious projects 'Housing for All by 2022'. Hence it is necessary to enhance the Budget allocation in this regard.

I would like to state further that over the period of time it has been observed that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation has never been successful to achieve the 100% target

* Speech was laid on the Table.

during last three years and there are many pending projects of Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Rural Mission, National Urban Livelihood Mission, etc. It is a matter of fact that Urbanisation is an inevitable process and cities all over the country would act as resources in future. These would be heaven for investment, would be places of attraction from all point of views. So, it is necessary to ensure creation of new and modern infrastructure in order to cope with increasing trend of population as well as new demands. The Government should take initiative to complete all infrastructure based projects under JNNURM. I would like to attract the attention of the Government to take appropriate action and provide adequate financial assistance under JNNURM scheme of Government for Integrated Development of Small and Medium Towns, for development of the growing towns like Paradip and Jagatsingpur in my Parliamentary Constituency, Jagatsinghpur, Odisha.

It has been observed that the banks are not providing small scale Housing loans to the weaker and marginalized section of the country. The data is also showing that there is a decreasing trend in providing housing loans to weaker section by the banks. So, it would not fulfill the clarion call "Housing for all by 2022" if at all the marginalized groups of our society face discrimination either from Government or

from the Banking sector. Hence, the Government of India should look into the matter and be vigilant in this regard to achieve its target.

One more thing I would like to emphasize upon is that in 12th plan, the Government introduced Deendayal Antodaya Yojana-National Urban Livelihood Mission by the Ministry by replacing the Swarna Jayanti Sahari Rojgar Yojana. It is known to all of us that the provision of employment is one of the important agenda of Government. But allocation in this regard is being reduced from Rs. 1003 crore in 2014-15 to a mere Rs. 510 crore in 2015-16 and it reduced further to Rs. 300 in 2016-17. So, it is matter of concern whether the Government wants to confine itself only to the big words or to transform its work. The Government should come forward to treat the millions of urban unemployed people as resources of our country and they should not be neglected at any cost. It has also been observed that the very objective of the Scheme of Shelter for Urban Homeless is not being met satisfactorily. The shelters supposed to be constructed in the States and the Union Territories amounts to a shortfall of 500. So, it demands a time bound implementation of the scheme by which the urban homeless people could be ensured of having access to shelter.

I am also of the opinion that the GoI in 2013 launched a programme on 'Developing an Approach and Options for establishment of Municipal Cadre in India' under Capacity Building for Urban Development. The objectives of better urban governance, faster project implementation and delivery of efficient municipal service is attributed to a dedicated Municipal Cadre of any State. In view of this point, the JNNURM's administrative and structural reforms strongly professed for creation of municipal cadre besides developing cadre management systems like recruitment, promotions, transfer, career paths, training and performance management, etc. accordingly, implementation of Municipal Cadre was mandatory State level reform under structural reforms of JNNURM-I. However, financial burden for grounding the municipal cadre is very high for my State, Odisha. So, in this regard, the Ministry of Urban Development is requested to provide advance grants towards transitional cost of my State's initiative to put the municipal cadre. I would like to mention here that the constitution of Municipal Cadre in my State is in the final stage. The financial support from the Centre would immensely help in improving the urban areas in the country. So in order to have an efficient Municipal Cadre, my State, Odisha requires Rs. 128 crore additional funds annually, which needs to be funded by the

Government of India for five years of transitional periods. In this regard, I urge upon the Government to provide the above said amount for an efficient Municipal Cadre.

I would like to state further that Bhubaneswar, the capital of my State, Odisha has been chosen to be made as a smart city. The capital city is growing in a faster pace. In order to make it a smart city, it is necessary to clear the slums developed in different parts of the city and initiative should be taken to rehabilitate the slum dwellers with all the facilities. In this regard, adequate financial assistance is required for the purpose.

*__SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL):__ Housing has always been an indicator of standard of living. Poverty and housing has a strong co-relation. Acquiring a house is a dream of every citizen of this country mainly because it is beyond the scope and means of a large number of population. Successive Governments have come forward with various schemes like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, NULM, RAY etc to assist the people in making their dreams into reality by having their own house. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is a right step in this direction. Shortage of 20 million housing units is to be addressed through this program.

Rehabilitation of slum dwellers is a major challenge in urban areas. In spite of the best efforts of the Government the coverage till now against the target is not very encouraging. The urban housing and urban poverty are the major growing concerns of the Government. We are unable to combat the problem mainly because the number of people below poverty line in urban areas is growing day by day because of natural increase in population and migration of rural labour into urban areas. Because of migration, the poverty is also transferred from rural areas to urban areas. This is a major concern for all of us. This tendency is to be arrested by providing alternate avenues in the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

rural areas so that there is no incentive for the rural labour to migrate to urban areas. Increase in urban poverty has many negative effects like proliferation of slums and bustees, increasing casual labour, increasing pressure on civic services and health contingencies.

Poverty reduction should be considered as an important national task. Local Bodies, State Governments and Union Government have to join together and coordinate their efforts in this war against urban poverty. Literacy also plays a major role in the incidence of poverty and steps shall be taken to spread literacy in the slums. The key to poverty reduction is productive employment and improving the skill levels of the poor. State Governments shall be directed to co-ordinate with non-Governmental Agencies (NGOs) for providing skill based training and to liason with the employers especially in the Hotel, Retail trade and transport where there is scope for absorption of large number of skilled labour. Simultaneously steps must be initiated to improve the working conditions as well as the quality of labour by providing skill development trainings.

The urban poverty alleviation programmes shall aim at not only generating self-employment and wage employment opportunities, but also to improve and quality of life of the slum dwellers and provide housing. The Government must first put in place mechanisms to

provide minimum basic amenities such as electricity, water supply, toilet facilities, sewage connection, and proper garbage disposal in the slum areas.

I take this opportunity to commend the initiative of the Hon. Prime Minister in launching the ambitious scheme of 'Housing for All'. In this connection, I request the Government to provide subsidised housing preferably free housing, community shelters etc. , so that the people living on the pavements in cities can be brought under proper shelter. In this connection, we must appreciate the steps taken by the Telangana Government in our neighbouring state in providing two bed room flats for the poor and needy. This initiative can be studied in detail and adopted across the country.

The Government shall direct all the authorities to avoid formation of new slums at any cost preferably by providing low cost houses to accommodate new entrants into the city life. The urban poverty has got serious implications for safety and security of the people of this country as the people suffering with poverty are more easily drawn into illegal activities, particularly, when there is a higher concentration of the poor in geographical clusters. Therefore, the slums are fertile ground of recruitment of people into illegal activities that have a bearing on the safety and security of this country.

Accessing urban land for housing the poor in a high-value real estate market will continue to be a serious challenge. There will be an urgent need to create land banks through appropriate land-use zoning. Substantial financial allocations from the Central, State, and local Governments will also be required.

To meet the challenges of urban poverty a number of policy approaches are needed and there is no exclusive solution. These policies shall cover the areas of providing income earning opportunities; provision of basic utilities and services; and the creation of a policy framework which is favourable to the activities to the urban poor.

I request this Government to scale up the livelihood promotion programmes in time bound manner and create institutional platforms to support the poor in building up their own human, social, financial and other assets. In this regard, proper skill development programs and credit facilities will provide self-employment opportunities to the poor.

Lastly, I request this Government to provide assistance to the Rayalaseema region which is a backward region in Andhra Pradesh on par with what is provided for North-Eastern Region and special category States.

[Translation]

*__DR. YASHWANT SINGH (NAGINA):__ I thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my views on the Budget of the Ministry of Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation. Sir, urban development in our country is, in many respects, an extremely complex process. Many of our older cities were established without long term planning. Most old habitations were developed through very narrow lanes, at a time when no one could have imagined that in a developing India, every household would own a car, or that the population would increase so rapidly

Today, due to the lack of employment opportunities in rural areas and villages, a large number of people migrate daily to nearby cities. These are people who come merely to earn their livelihood. For this reason, they do not hesitate to live even in the most unhygienic and degraded environments. The conditions in which these people are forced to live can hardly be described as anything less than a life of misery. They have neither electricity nor water, neither sewerage nor proper roads. It is the responsibility of the Government to take care of all these basic necessities.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister for his assurance to provide housing for all by the year 2022. I firmly believe that sound thinking is nurtured in a healthy environment. Providing housing to every citizen must be a foremost priority of the Government. For poor people, the dream of owning a house often remains unfulfilled throughout their lifetime. On the other hand, there exists a very large urban section of society where only two individuals reside in houses spanning thousands of square metres, and many of them own multiple houses. In this context, I wish to submit that before permitting any individual to construct a second house, the necessity of that additional house should be properly justified. Further, the size of a house should be determined on the basis of the number of family Members. While a poor person's house may be modest in size, it must nevertheless be equipped with all essential amenities. I am of the view that new industrial complexes should be developed, and housing for the poor should be constructed in close proximity to such complexes, so that issues relating to employment, housing and education can be addressed simultaneously. This approach would not only promote development but would also prevent cities from becoming overburdened.

It has often been observed that under all the schemes introduced so far, poor beneficiaries are not in a position to contribute even 10 to 15 Percent of the required amount. I therefore request that this mandatory contribution be done away with. Along with this, it is equally essential that those who are provided with housing are also given employment. Despite the various poverty alleviation schemes implemented so far, the income of the poor has not seen a meaningful increase. I submit that poverty alleviation schemes must be made genuinely people centric and utility oriented, and banks should be made more accessible to the poor. With these submissions, I thank you.

[English**]**

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I rise to speak on the Demands for Grants under the Control of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

In this year's Budget it shows that 176 per cent amount has been increased. But what was the reality? We have seen that in 2014-15 the actual expenditure was Rs. 2,728 crore. But in the Revised Estimates of 2015-16, it has been decreased to Rs. 1,961 crore. There is a decrease of 28 per cent from 2014-15 to 2015-16. It may show that the Budget Estimate is a good one as there is an increase of 176 per cent but in real terms, in the case of revised estimates or actual expenditure, the money has been decreased. I am not giving any certificate to the UPA Government. We have some reservations with the policies of the UPA Government. What we have seen here is that from 2009-10 to 2015-16, the actual utilization of UPA Government was more than the actual utilization of the NDA Government.

At the time of the UPA Government, all were not good. In spite of that the expenditure in the year 2009-10, it was 68 per cent. In the year 2010-11, it was 96 per cent. In the year 2011-12, it was 86 per cent. I am not going into the figures of all the years. But in the year 2014-15, the expenditure of the Ministry had decreased to 45 per cent.

In the State Plan outlay, it was shown that in the year 2014-15, the actual utilization was 49 per cent. In the year 2015-16 again, the decrease was continuing. The actual utilization was only 36 per cent.

Under the Central Assistance to Rajiv Awas yojana, it has been shown that in the case of the North Eastern Region and also for the Special Category State, it is only 80 per cent of the project cost. My demand to the hon. Minister is that in the case of the North Eastern Region and also for the earlier Special Category States, this ratio should be 90:10.

Under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana (Urban), again it has been shown that the allocation for 2016-17 is Rs. 5,075 crore and it has been shown that there has been an increase of 236 per cent. But what is the actual position? In 2015-16, of these, only a sum of Rs. 4,390 crore has been released to the States under the Prime Minister Awas Yojana.

In the case of the National Urban Livelihood Mission, for the year 2015-16 the allocation towards NULM decreased by 45 per cent. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA: Sir, I am concluding now. I am from a small State. Nobody is looking after the small States. Sir, you are from a big State. So, I would like to place some points about my State through you, Sir, to the hon. Minister.

In our State, funds have been allocated for several projects. But what we are seeing is that all the funds which are required for fulfilment and finishing of the work of these projects are not being released to the State. So, I demand, through you, Sir, the Urban Development Ministry is required to release funds for housing projects under RAY for Kumarghat, Khowai, Sabroom and Amarpur of the State of Tripura. There is a need to provide funds for slum housing at Dharmanagar, Tripura under 10 per cent lump sum. There is also a need to provide funds for a Town Hall at Belonia, Tripura under 10 per cent lump sum. Also there is a need to provide funds for Town Hall at Sonamura and Kailasaher, Tripura under 10 per cent lump sum.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri P. V. Mithun Reddy.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA: Sir, just a minute. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly cooperate with me.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA: Also there is a need to confirm the funding pattern for Smart City Mission as declared by the Finance Ministry Circular as 90:10 for North East States in general and for Tripura in particular. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have already called Shri Reddy. The remainder of your remarks will not go on record.

… (*Interruptions*). . . *

* Not recorded.

[English**]**

***DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR):** I support the Budget 2016-2017 for Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation.

There is a provision for providing interest subsidy on housing loans to economically weaker sections and lower income groups category under Credit Linked Subsidy (CLSS). Also, the budget makes a provision for providing grants to Building Material and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) for promoting innovative technologies/demonstration houses.

Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna – State Plan: The provision is for release of Central Assistance to States towards housing projects under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna. (Urban). The decision taken by the Ministry of Housing & Urban Povery Alleviation has approved an investment of Rs. 9,005 crores for construction of 73,205 more houses for economically weaker section under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojna in the State of Maharashtra, J&K and Punjab. This is a welcome step of the Government of India.

I come from the State of Maharashtra. My State Maharashtra has been sanctioned a total of 71,701 houses in 10 cities at a total project

* Speech was laid on the Table.

cost of Rs. 8,932 crores with Central assistance of Rs. 1,064 crores. Housing sanctioned include 61,946 under affordable Housing in Partnership (AHP), 7399 for Beneficiary Led Construction (BLC) and 2356 for *in situ* slum redevelopment. We have been hearing from aegs about providing housing for all the poor, but till date this target has not been achieved by the previous Governments on enquiring as to what are the reasons for delay in the projects of housing, one reason which is always highlighted is the issue of land acquisition.

I fail to understand why we can not get the land for housing for the poor and economically weaker sections, since it is at the dispense of the Government. If we can not get land for housing for poor then it is very unfortunate on the part of the Government. I request the Government to make a permanent policy for land acquisition for housing projects. The person should not be given a choice to reject/refuse giving his land for housing projects

It has also been noticed that the houses given by Government to the slum dwellers are still not possessed by the owners but they are either rented out or sold out after they are given the houses. In my own State of Maharashtra, in the city of Mumbai, this problem has been noted. These people who are the owners of the houses continue living

in the slums. Sir, if this trend continues, I am afraid we will never be able to reach our target and provide housing for all.

I request the Hon. Minister to look into such cases and form some stringent rules and regulations for the people who are the owners of houses provided by Government.

I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister and Hon. Prime Minister for setting up PMAY and setting up target for housing for all by 2022. This is a very ambitious project and I am confident that by 2022 everyone in the country will have houses and no one will be homeless.

I come from Nandurbar Constituency which is a tribal area, so the city of Nandurbar should also be included amongst the housing scheme for which the funds have been allocated to the State of Maharashtra recently. Since the tribal people are migrating to the city of Nandurbar in search of jobs, such cities tht are adjoining the tribal areas should be given priority under this PMAY.

With these words, I support the Budget, 2016-2017, Demands for Grants of Housing & Urban Poverty Alleviation. I hope the Hon. Minister will consider the Nandurbar city in the ‘Housing for All’, PMAY scheme.

*__SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR):__ The total amount allocated in Budget 2016-17 is Rs. 5411 crores, with Plan Rs. 5400 crore and Non-Plan: Rs. 11 crores. There is a decline in expenditure compared to previous years, in BE 2015-16 it was Rs. 5634. 47 crores while in RE 2015-16 it was Rs. 1961 crore. A reduction by almost Rs. 3673 crores. The same pattern was in previous years. In BE 2014-15, the allocation was Rs. 6008 crores while in RE 2014-15 it was Rs. 3413 crores, a reduction by Rs. 2595 crores.

The Smart Cities Mission is flawed. The distribution formula uses two criteria: (1) Urban population based on 2011 census (2) statutory towns. Statutory town is arbitrary, as it can be declared by states based on their whims and fancies. Tamil Nadu has 721 STs with even villages with population of 2000. This shows the scope of arbitrariness in this criteria. It should be replaced with Census towns.

The existing allocation is also arbitrary. The rounding off of the score which each State received inconsistent. Some states like Rajasthan and Chhattisgarh were rounded off to a lesser number while others were rounded off a higher number. Telangana State, if seen

* Speech was laid on the Table.

fairly, should get at least 4 Smart Cities and the Minister should increase the allocation.

There should be a separate category of "Smart Metros" under the Smart Cities Mission for the metropolitan cities of New Delhi, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad and they should have increased allocation of at least INR 1000 crore per Smart Metro per annum.

Very few Slum Free Plan of Action (SFPOAs) are being submitted by the State Governments. Only 107 as on April 2015. Poor implementation of slum rehabilitation projects. The Standing Committee recommended that the Centre provide state assistance in preparing SFPOAs. This should be taken up.

The Centre should introduce a public housing upgradation scheme modelled on Singapore's Selective En Bloc Redevelopment Scheme(SERS). As per this, occupants of public housing projects can select where to relocate, have option of moving with their neighbours and get adequate compensation to purchase new flat. It allows for efficient redevelopment.

Need to allot houses in slum redevelopment projects jointly in the name of husband and wife or solely in the name of the wife so that

the male Members cannot dispose it off and harass the family Members.

There is a case for providing 'Infrastructure Status' to Affordable Housing Sector. Government can initiate a debate on this.

The Employment through Skill Training and Placement (EST&P) guidelines must be amended to enhance the tracking period beyond current six months and to track all the successful candidates. Currently 6 months is too less, it should be at least one year. This is necessary to ensure that labour is absorbed into market and doesn't lapse back into unemployment.

There should be special emphasis on skill development and employment enhancement in construction sector (including housing sector) under Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana -NULM given huge employment generation potential of the sector.

Government should also collate and compile detailed information in various trades including construction sector in which training under EST&P can be provided by State Urban Livelihood Mission (SULM). This will help SULMs to implement project more efficiently.

The Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council must get adequate funding. This is meant to showcase latest technologies and create models for adoption. Presently it has a Rs. 5 crore grant which is too less and it should be at least Rs. 15 crores.

Out of 55 night shelters sanctioned in 16 states, construction work for 25 yet to begin. There is a need to properly monitor construction of night shelters by HUDCO so project execution is on time.

SHRI P. V. MIDHUN REDDY (RAJAMPET): Thank you, Sir. As my earlier speaker has mentioned, the current year's Budget Estimate for this Department is Rs. 5,411 crore is impressive. *Prima facie* this amounts to 260 per cent increase over the Revised Estimate of Rs. 1,961 crore. In the last year, against the budget of Rs. 5,634 crore, only a sum of Rs. 1,961 crore was spent. And in the year previous to that, against the budget of Rs. 6,008 crore, only a sum of Rs. 2,758 crore was spent. So, the moot point is this. What will be the expenditure of this Department for this year?

17. 00 hours

There is a huge spurt in urban population in India. Right now, it is 32 per cent and it is going to reach the level of 50 per cent very soon. But this growth of urbanisation needs to be complimented and accompanied by growth in urban infrastructure and delivery capabilities. As a result, cities are facing a lot of problems including water, waste management, energy, mobility, healthcare, safety and education. As a consequence, poor in the urban areas are the most affected persons.

In India, the rural poverty is reducing at a faster rate than the poverty in the urban areas. So, thanks to MNREGA and other poverty alleviation programmes in the rural areas.

Sir, I would request the hon. Minister to consider MNREGA in smaller municipalities with proximity to the rural areas and villages. An estimated 65 million people are housed in 13. 6 million houses in the urban slums. According to the 2011 Census, an estimated 1. 8 million people are homeless.

Sir, 'Housing for All by 2022' project of the Union Government is an ambitious project aiming to build 20 million dwellings with toilets, power and electricity by 2022. We appreciate this initiative. However, experts feel that a combination of both improving the existing dwellings and building new dwellings will make this a reality. This ambitious project, though noble in concept and design, is yet to take off because it needs greater coordination from the States and also support from the bankers. So, the overall effort is required for this.

Sir, in our State of Andhra Pradesh, a dwelling unit costs around Rs. 4. 8 lakhs out of which Rs. 2 lakh is the loan component, Rs. 1. 5 lakh is the Centre's component, and Rs. 80,000 is being given by the State. But a loan of Rs. 2 lakh is a huge deterrent because most of the people are living between two to three dollar per day range and there is a lot of drought, there is not much of income in my area. So, I would request the Government to increase the subsidy component. Also, there should be a choice also for the size of the dwelling. It should not

be only 400 square feet. The people who want dwelling of the size of 50 square feet as they are unable to afford the bank loans etc. , should be given the same. The Government should seriously contemplate increasing the subsidy otherwise this dream of building housing for everybody by 2022 will not be a reality.

Similarly, Sir, selection of beneficiaries is also a very critical issue. In our State, the Janmabhoomi Committees are finalising as to which persons are to be benefited. The Members of these Janmabhoomi Committee are handpicked by the Ruling party. But these Members bypass the Government machinery and the elected representatives. There are complaints that only one particular party people getting benefited out of the Government schemes. So, I would request the hon. Minister to adopt a uniform methodology so that everybody in the country is entitled for a fair deal.

Sir, I would also request the hon. Minister to give a larger say for the MPs to participate in the selection process and for execution of this project.

With these few words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (HOSHANGABAD): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. I shall endeavour to place my views within five to seven minutes. At the outset, I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and to the senior most Minister, Shri Venkaiah Ji, for having worked over the past two years to bring a system that had gone astray back onto the right track. Some of the earlier speakers have stated that two years have passed and that the promises of good days and of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas are not clearly visible. This Ministry was originally constituted on 13 May 1952. Its name was changed five times, and ultimately, on 27 May 2004, it was established as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. Since 2004, this Ministry has continued in its present form, and no further changes have been made thereafter.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, another significant and forward looking policy decision relating to this Ministry has been taken in our country, namely, the abolition of the Planning Commission in keeping with the demands of the times, and the establishment of the NITI Aayog in its place. Due

to the structural limitations in the functioning of the Planning Commission, plans and policies often failed to achieve effective outreach. After the creation of the NITI Aayog, there has been greater ease in implementation, and the time taken for schemes formulated at the national level to reach the grassroots has been considerably reduced.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, on 2 June 2014, a joint programme was organised by the National Housing Bank, the Indian Banks' Association and FICCI. On that occasion, the Hon. Minister made an announcement of immense significance for this country, namely, that by the year 2022, every poor person would be provided with a permanent roof over his or her head. I wish to thank the Hon. Minister for this announcement. It is a major assurance and a strong support for the people of this country, an assurance that the people placed their faith in while forming the NDA Government under the leadership of Hon. Shri Narendra Modi Ji.

Sir, I would like to submit with great humility that the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation in our country has undertaken substantial work in the field of skill development. At the same time, this is also the responsibility of the States, as ours is a federal structure. In my State of Madhya Pradesh, through this

Department, work has been carried out to train 5.6 lakh people. Maharashtra stands second, where 4.8 lakh people have been trained.

Sir, if the State Governments work in better harmony and coordination with the Government of India, I firmly believe that the implementation of Union Government policies will improve further and their outcomes will be more meaningful and effective.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I do not wish to speak at length by citing too many figures. However, I would like to submit that under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, this Government is delivering some of its finest work, and the decisions taken by this Government are carried through to their logical conclusion.

Sir, one of the earlier speakers referred to the slogan of Garibi Hatao raised in 1971 and how it was presented during elections, yet poverty was never truly eradicated. Our Hon. Prime Minister has taken a firm resolve that whenever a task is undertaken, it must be completed and demonstrated in action. When he took up the task of opening bank accounts for the poor under the Jan Dhan Yojana, he ensured its successful completion. … (*Interruption*s)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please conclude your remarks now.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Hon. Chairperson Sir, only three minutes have elapsed. A speaker from the ruling party should at least be given five to seven minutes. There are three speakers from the ruling party, and I am the last speaker. ... (*Interruption*s)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is a constraint of time. Therefore, please conclude your remarks now.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Hon. Chairperson Sir, I shall conclude shortly. Under the Jan Dhan Yojana, bank accounts have been opened across the country. Under the Ujjwala Gas Programme, our Government is providing cooking gas connections. Under this scheme, poor and BPL women across the country are being provided gas connections directly, in one instalment. When the Government of India introduced an insurance scheme at Rs. 12, it was implemented extensively across the entire country. If our Hon. Minister for Urban Development and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu, has undertaken the task of providing housing, it will be ensured across the country by the year 2022. If there is one most significant effort towards eliminating corruption, it is the resolve to build a corruption free India simultaneously across the country, and this resolve has also been taken forward by our Government. ... (*Interruption*s)…

Hon. Chairperson Sir, finally, I wish to request the Hon. Minister that due to the policies of the previous Government, our country stood at the 130th position among 188 countries of the world. That position has now improved significantly. Today, our situation is such that we stand at the 10th position in terms of GDP, but on the Human Development Index, we are still placed at the 130th position among 150 countries. … (*Interruption*s)…

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please conclude now. Your time is over. Please take your seat.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that for the eradication of urban poverty. ... (*Interruption*s)…

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav. Please begin your speech. . .

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Hon. Chairperson Sir, while thanking you, I conclude my remarks here. … (*Interruption*s)…

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Ji, I would like to make one request to you. At present, four speakers are yet to speak on this subject. Thereafter, the Hon. Minister will begin his reply. I

request all four Hon. Members to please conclude their speeches within two minutes each.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I request that at least four minutes be granted to each speaker. That is my only request. I assure you that I shall conclude my remarks within four minutes.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Urban Development and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2016–17 have been placed before the House for approval. I rise to speak on the Cut Motion moved by me in respect of these Demands. Through this Cut Motion, I have urged that housing facilities be provided to the poor in all zonal city headquarters of Bihar, including Bhagalpur and Munger.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, today the House is deliberating upon housing schemes and poverty alleviation. Therefore, there are high expectations from the Hon. Minister. I respectfully urge the Hon. Minister to extend special care and attention towards those who are poor, who are distressed, neglected, helpless and vulnerable, who reside in urban areas and who are living in slums, so that their basic comforts and facilities may be adequately ensured.

Hon.Chairperson Sir, today we speak of poverty alleviation. This is a question of wiping the tears of those whose eyes have been filled with sorrow for thousands of years. It is a question of extending

support to those who are compelled to walk with the help of crutches. During the elections, the Bharatiya Janata Party raised the slogan, “Roti, Kapda aur Makaan, maang raha Hindustan.” Today, the poor survive only on the mercy of God. In present times, those who hold power and wealth enjoy prosperity like a full moon night, but for those living in slums and urban poverty, life resembles a dark new moon night. Therefore, we must place strong emphasis on employment, livelihoods and means of earning. If one wishes to see the contrast between the ruler and the destitute, one need only look at the city on one side and the slum on the other. This is a struggle between luxury and deprivation.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, today the Census should clearly reflect who is a rickshaw puller, who is a street vendor, who does not own even a single bigha of land, who is a beggar, who works as a daily wage labourer, and who earns his livelihood by sweating it out. Some die while eating in excess, while others die weeping in hunger. This is our Hindustan. … (*Interruption*s)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Ji, please conclude your remarks now.

... (*Interruption*s)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Hon. Chairperson Sir, I shall conclude my remarks within one minute, as we are aware that extended time will not be available. Whenever we rise to speak, we feel that at least a few essential points must be placed on record. Today, much is being said about Smart Cities. But alongside these Smart Cities exist slums. People sleep there, eat there, and open drains flow there itself. There is no proper system, no drinking water facility. Today, we speak of Swachh Bharat and poverty alleviation. … (*Interruption*s) A Smart City can truly be built only when we provide basic amenities to the poor living in villages and those residing in slums. We do not merely need Smart Cities; we need Smart Villages. Only then will India truly prosper, and only then will India truly become clean.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, with these words, I conclude my remarks.

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation as presented before the House. Our Government has resolved to provide a permanent house to every family by the year 2022. On the directions of the Hon. Prime Minister, this objective has been accorded the highest priority. Under the Credit Risk Guarantee Fund, the Government has proposed to provide guarantees to lending institutions for loans up to Rs. 8 lakh, without any third party guarantee, for Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Groups. While our Government has succeeded in placing the country among the world's leading economies in terms of GDP, it has also expressed concern over our relatively low standing in human development. Keeping this in view, concrete schemes have been formulated in this Budget to address economic inequality. Large scale training is being imparted to the urban poor and street vendors, among others, under the Skill Development Programme, so that they may secure sustainable livelihoods and improve their quality of life.

Our Government has undertaken extensive measures for the construction of toilets in poor settlements and for ensuring the supply of safe drinking water. In order to provide relief to poor and middle income families residing in unauthorised colonies in large cities and

in the National Capital Region, including Delhi, a decision has been taken to regularise their housing. In these settlements, a large number of health centres and schools for education are being established. Special schemes have been launched for women, Scheduled Castes and sanitation workers, among others. Under the current Five Year Plan, the Government has decided to allocate separate funds of at least Rs. 11 crore for town areas and Rs. 21 crore for municipal councils towards sanitation, drinking water and other basic amenities. Similarly, for municipal corporations and related urban bodies, special grants have been provided over the past two years, and plans have been formulated to make additional financial provisions in the coming years. With these words, I conclude my remarks while extending my support to the Demands for Grants of the Ministry.

***SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST):** I wholeheartedly welcome the announcement made by the Union Government on 9 June 2014 to provide a permanent house to every citizen of the country by the year 2022. The number of homeless citizens in urban areas is considerably high. While providing housing to the homeless, it is equally essential to improve the living conditions of people residing in slums and hutments. For their rehabilitation, it is necessary for the Union Government to formulate a scheme on the lines of the Slum Rehabilitation Scheme of the Maharashtra Government.

The population of Mumbai city has today reached nearly two crore, of which 54 Percent reside in slums, hutments and chawls. Of those living in slums, nearly 30 Percent have encroached upon 150.58 hectares of land belonging to the Government of India in Mumbai, such as land under the Railways, Mumbai Port Trust, Airports Authority of India, the Postal Department and Mazgaon Dock, by constructing 75,290 slum dwellings.

In Maharashtra, slum rehabilitation is being undertaken on land belonging to the State Government and local self governing bodies. The State Government is also willing to undertake rehabilitation of

* Speech was laid on the Table.

slums situated on land belonging to the Union Government. However, the required permission is not being granted by the Union Government. I therefore demand that the Union Government grant immediate permission to the State Government to carry out rehabilitation of slum dwellers on Union Government land.

Under the Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and the Urban Infrastructure and Governance (UIG) scheme, the Union Government does have plans for the construction of houses. However, the requisite funds are not being made available. As a result, the pace of work has not been able to accelerate.

For the year 2011–12, an amount of Rs. 38 crore 29 lakh 56 thousand was sanctioned for Maharashtra, but out of this, only Rs. 9 crore 57 lakh 38 thousand was actually released. Similarly, in the year 2013–14, out of Rs. 547 crore that was sanctioned, only a meagre amount of Rs. 13 crore was disbursed.

The population of Maharashtra stands at 11 crore 24 lakh. The number of permanent houses is 2 crore 37 lakh, while the number of slum dwellings is as high as 1 crore 18 lakh.

Under the JNNURM and the Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana, an estimated amount of Rs. 40,608 crore 23 lakh was earmarked for a

total of 1,695 projects across the country. Out of this, the Union Government's share was Rs. 21,118 crore 88 lakh, under which 13 lakh 92 thousand 589 houses were to be constructed. However, till date, only 10 lakh 17 thousand 423 houses have been constructed, and out of these, possession has been handed over for only 7 lakh 97 thousand 501 houses. This clearly establishes that there has been an acute shortage of funds, a slow pace of implementation, and a significant shortfall in the required number of houses.

For the year 2015–16, a provision of Rs. 4,000 crore was announced for the Housing for All scheme. However, in the Revised Estimates, only Rs. 1,231 crore 23 lakh was reflected. Out of this, the Union Government released Rs. 1,218 crore 81 lakh to the States. For the year 2016–17, an amount of Rs. 4,400 crore has been approved. I demand from the Union Government that the entire sanctioned amount be released to the States without any cuts whatsoever, so that slum improvement and rehabilitation work can be carried out expeditiously.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on Housing and Poverty Alleviation. I come from a State where, over the past ten years, urbanisation has increased by 33 Percent, particularly in cities such as Gurugram. Today, when we speak of poverty alleviation, I urge the Government, through you, to approach this issue with the utmost seriousness. According to the data compiled and published by the Government, 25,073 flats have been constructed in Haryana under the JNNURM over the last three years. However, even today, in Faridabad, many of the flats constructed under JNNURM have not been occupied by the beneficiaries. People continue to prefer living in jhuggis and slums instead of shifting into these flats.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, as per the data provided by the Government, during the current year, 280 dwellings have been allotted under the Rajiv Awas Yojana and 409 dwellings under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Considering the pace of urbanisation and the Hon. Prime Minister’s vision of ensuring that every individual and every family has a roof over their head by the year 2022, I believe that the Government will have to make substantially higher investments in this sector.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, in view of the constraint of time, I shall conclude by saying that when we construct dwellings today, our basic approach should not be limited merely to creating infrastructure. Along with housing, we must also ensure the provision of essential amenities such as schools for children, community centres, parks and hospitals. Over the past ten years, the pace of urbanisation in Haryana has been such that even land earmarked for parks has been sold for the construction of schools.

Sir, through you, I would urge the Hon. Minister that this matter be inquired into as well. The kind of misdeeds that occurred in past urban planning exercises should not be allowed to recur in the future, particularly in the context of the Hon. Prime Minister’s vision.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, owing to the limitation of time, I express my gratitude to you. Thank you very much.

[English**]**

***DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH):** I may kindly be allowed to lay the following few lines on the under the control of the Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation for 2016-17.

Food, clothing and Housing are the basic fundamental necessities of human being. Governments after Governments since independence are promising housing for all in rural and urban areas. But unfortunately, India is yet to achieve this target after 69 years of independence. We expect many more things from our Hon'ble Prime Minister who has seen rural and urban poverty in his childhood, for the development of both urban and rural India.

The most alarming matter today is that large scale migration of rural people to urban areas. Government has to create employment, jobs and business in rural areas, specially in Agricultural sectors and cottage industries. Government has to develop villages with modern amenities like hospitals, good schools etc. so that the people in rural India will get jobs and enjoy the facilities like town.

My Parliamentary Constituency consists of two districts viz. Bargarh and Jharsungda, largely a agrarian economy. Bargarh is the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

rice bowl of Odisha, while Jharsungda District is the Industrial Capital of Odisha. Inspite of this, these two districts take development in urban sectors. Basic amenities are yet to be addressed like drinking water, drainage etc. Even today, people are not getting clean water to drink in many places.

I will urge upon the Hon'ble Minister to declare Bangarh and Jharsungda town as "Smart Cities" for overall development of these two towns. I do hope my demand for my Parliamentary Constituency will be addressed by the Hon'ble Minister, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity. The whole nation is concerned on the issue of housing and poverty alleviation. The subject is very relevant in Indian situations because urban housing shortage in India is estimated to be 18. 78 million during the 12th Plan.

Our dream is not poverty alleviation but poverty elimination as is recently pointed out by the hon. Prime Minister. Economic development and urbanization is closely interlinked because Indian cities contribute about 60 per cent of our GDP. It is high time to review the existing schemes, their bottlenecks and inadequacies. We are having about 12 schemes pertaining to the housing and urban poverty alleviation. Considering the time frame, I do not want to narrate all the schemes.

Sir, how the level of poverty is measured and where exactly the demarcation line is to be drawn is a problem. The Tendulkar Committee formula is there; the Rangarajan Committee formula is also there. In fact, on an average, it is estimated that 35 per cent of urban population is under the grip of acute poverty. Our dream of slum free India remains a dream without much progress. So, what happened to our '*roti, kapda aur makan'* slogans? We have to think over it. We

need not have disappointment. Things are progressing even though it is in a dead slow manner.

Let us examine our goal setting. Housing for all – that too cost effective and technology linked – is our primary goal. Formulation of Our National Urban Rental Housing Policy – it is in the formulation stage. Model policy on affordable housing – we are happy to note that the Government is on the preparation of it. Then, plan of action suggested by the National Resource Centre on urban poverty is also before us.

Now, let us see how we can translate our ideas into action. It should be a joint effort of Centre, State and local self-Government bodies. There should be a close coordination among various Ministries such as Environment, Health, Education, Social Justice, Women and Child Development etc. With these words, I conclude. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. I come from Bihar, which has historically remained a backward State. The Hon. Prime Minister himself comes from a poor family and has risen to occupy the highest office of the country. Therefore, all the poor and deprived sections of society are looking towards him with hope. Two years have passed since he said that he would provide a permanent house to every poor person. He had made that promise. … (*Interruption*s) Through you, Sir, I wish to convey that today the people of the country are looking towards him, wondering when housing will actually be provided.

Sir, I was recently visiting a colony in Delhi where many people from my region reside. The conditions there are extremely distressing. There are no proper pathways, no drainage system, and housing is far from adequate. In a single room, as many as ten people are compelled to sleep together. There is no proper water supply, and people are forced to go outside to fetch water. People migrate from rural areas to Delhi, and then it is said that the burden on the city has increased.

Cities are witnessing the construction of houses and large apartment complexes. I urge that these developments must also take the poor into account. If, in every apartment complex, even one floor is reserved for the poor, I believe that the process of providing permanent housing to every poor person in cities will begin in a meaningful way.

Sir, I come from Bihar. Please look at the problem of unemployment in urban areas. There is also an urgent need to address the issue of child labour. Without controlling child labour, it is not possible to improve the economic condition of poor families. I request that greater funds be allocated under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission for Bihar Sharif in my Parliamentary Constituency of Nalanda. Thank you.

[English]

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): Sir, time is very short. So, I shall keep myself brief.

Today, while I was coming to Parliament, I saw a piece of news that hon. Prime Minister of India is very unhappy with the Communication Cell of his party because there is not enough propaganda in the public domain about his work. I would like to bring to the kind attention of the hon. Urban Development Minister that the propaganda of Prime Minister Modi's work is often counter productive to him. Why I am saying this is very important. When this Government said ‘Housing for All by 2022’, the BJP cadre went to the field and said Modi Ji will give houses to everyone.

If you look at the 40-page guidelines of Prime Mantri Awas Yojana, there are four verticals and each one of them is talking about components which are largely going to depend on one thing. The first thing is the availability of land. The second is going to be the involvement of the private sector. The third thing is going to be the capacity of the person to take a loan and then repay that loan. I admit that the interest is only 6. 5 per cent and the EMIs are going to be easily done, but the question is that whether we will be able to give housing to so many people whereby by 2050, the urban population is

going to go up to 81 crores and there are already 49,000 slums which exist in urban areas.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sushmitaji, kindly conclude.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: I am going to speak the last line.

I want to emphasise to the hon. Minister that if you really want the Prime Minister Modi's slogans to turn into a reality, please work towards your policy to actually make the housing affordable because where it is depending on a resource like land, which is a costly resource, it is not going to be affordable housing.

In the end, I have a few suggestions which have come in the KPMG report and I think that they are doable. Please look at some reforms *vis-à-vis* taxes and fees which apply to housing and building companies.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: The second thing I would like to say is that please prepare for giving single-window clearances to housing projects.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: Lastly, I want to give a small example. In regard to AHP, Affordable Housing in Partnership, I would like to ask the hon. Minister one thing.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please cooperate, Sushmitaji.

Nothing will go on record now.

… (*Interruptions*). . . *

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

***SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):** I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister for Urban Development for the fact that, for nearly 65 years after Independence, a grave issue such as housing did not receive due attention, but our Government has now set a target of constructing six crore houses across the country. This will ensure that in the times to come, no poor person remains deprived of housing. With regard to this serious challenge of housing, I have no doubt that the strategy adopted by the Hon. Minister for Urban Development will be successful. The construction of such a large number of houses will undoubtedly generate substantial employment opportunities for the poorer sections of society, which will play a very significant role in poverty alleviation. While the previous UPA Government spent Rs. 1,000 crore over a period of five years, our Government has increased this allocation to Rs. 2,200 crore, more than doubling the financial provision for providing housing to the poor. Despite economic constraints, the seriousness of the NDA Government is evident from the fact that we are prepared to face every challenge in order to

* Speech was laid on the Table.

provide housing to the poor. It is for this reason that our Government announced the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana.

To strengthen and facilitate urban transport, a provision of Rs. 10,000 crore (ten thousand crore) has been made to initiate and complete Metro projects across the country. For this, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister for Urban Development. Our Government is fully aware that urban development cannot be achieved without strengthening public transport systems. Therefore, the Government's entire emphasis is on the principle that the stronger the public transport system, the stronger the city will become. In the same spirit, the approval of Rs. 3,000 crore for the Smart Cities programme will certainly enable us to move one step further towards improving both the direction and condition of our cities.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon. Chairperson, Delhi is inhabited in three distinct ways: within unauthorised colonies, in jhuggi-jhopri clusters, and in villages. Delhi comprises nearly 360 villages. Those who speak of good days arriving remind me of a saying: even buttermilk speaks, and even the sieve speaks, despite having a hundred holes. They ruled for sixty years, appropriated Delhi's land in the name of the DDA, and did not give even an inch of land for the development of villages. As a result, those villages never developed. Delhi is home to around 2,000 unauthorised colonies. The same party remained in power in Delhi for fifteen years and at the Centre for ten years, yet did nothing to develop these colonies. I appeal to the Hon. Minister that since Delhi is an NCT and the National Capital, even if land in the NCT falls under the Delhi Government, the Government must frame a proper plan. The Chief Minister has announced that all unauthorised colonies will be regularised, but in reality, no attention is being paid to these colonies.

With regard to jhuggi-jhopri dwellers, the Hon. Prime Minister has said that housing will be provided by the year 2022. During the Congress rule, before the Commonwealth Games, a promise was made when nearly one lakh people were living in jhuggis. The Government must put in place a system to determine how many

jhuggis in Delhi will be removed each year and how those residents will be resettled. Under the name of the Rajiv Awas Yojana, theatrics were carried out and it was claimed that fifteen thousand flats would be built, but those flats have not been allotted to this day.

17. 24 hours (Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

I would like to make a request to the Hon. Minister for Urban Development that Sections 81 and 133, which the Congress had kept in place and which became a source of corruption, should be abolished. Under these provisions, people were not allowed to undertake any development even on their own land. Sections 81 and 133 should therefore be repealed. The State Government ought to send a proposal to the Hon. Minister for Urban Development in this regard, but the State Government will not do so.

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAUR): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of this Department, which is a very important Department. As of today, around 1.87 crore people in urban areas across the country do not have houses. Similarly, six crore people are not having houses in the country, in rural as well as urban areas. I thank you for placing before the House the Demands relating to urban areas. The Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji, the Minister in charge of this Department, have given a commitment that by the year 2022, every family in India will have a permanent roof over its head. This does not mean, as was just pointed out by Smita ji, that the entire expenditure will be borne by the Government. The commitment is that the Government will assist in providing housing. At present, assistance of Rs. 1 lakh is being provided for Economically Weaker Section housing, Rs. 1.5 lakh for the Lower Income Group, and loans at low interest rates are being extended for affordable housing. These aspects primarily fall within the domain of the State Governments. The Union Government is only a monitoring and coordinating agency. Despite this, the Hon. Prime Minister has assured the nation that housing will be provided to all. This, in my view, is a most commendable commitment.

At this stage, I would like to place two submissions before Hon. Shri Naidu ji. On 21 March, in one decisive step, more than 900 projects covering over 10 lakh houses were sanctioned for 15 States. It is the duty of the States to submit their proposals to the Union Government. There are a few suggestions of mine and I would request the hon. Minister to kindly look into them. Firstly, more budget is required for all this. Although a budget of more than Rs. 8,000 crore has already been provided for the sanctioned projects, these projects will take two to three years to be completed. Even so, I would urge that a higher allocation be made at the Revised Estimates stage. The Ministry should check about reduction in allocation also. The States are at fault. Urban Local Bodies must ensure that housing projects are completed on time. When they fail to do so, the entire blame falls on the Centre on the ground that funds have not been utilised. Often, even the utilisation certificates are not submitted in time. Because I was the Director of the local bodies. The local bodies are also responsible for this.

Lastly, I would request the hon. Minister should pay maximum attention towards our state because Rajasthan is also a backward state. Maximum amount should be given for housing.

I had specifically requested you to include the city of Makrana in my parliamentary constituency under the beautiful schemes like "AMRUT" and "Smart City." It is famous all over the world for its power. Make a cut to include this too in the "Amrit" city.

Thank you very much for giving me the time to speak.

[English]

***SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI):** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation is the apex authority of Government of India at the national level to formulate policies, sponsor and support programmes, coordinate the activities of various Central Ministries, State Governments and other nodal authorities and monitor the programmes concerning all the issues of urban employment, poverty and housing in the country.

Housing, a basic need for humans, could play an important role in accommodating high urban growth in India. However, several structural issues such as high gestation period of housing projects, limited and expensive capital, spiralling land and construction cost, high fees and taxes, unfavorable development norms and low affordability by Economical Weaker Section (EWS) and Lower Income Group (LIG) households are bottlenecks restricting desired growth in housing stock in India with respect to housing demand.

First, I would like to talk about the current housing scenario of the country. A demographic trend suggests that India is on the verge of large scale urbanization over the next few decades. With more than

* Speech was laid on the Table.

one crore population getting added to urban areas, India's urban population is expected to reach about 81 crore by 2050. As per studies conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, it is estimated that almost a quarter of Indian households lack adequate housing facility. As per the report of the Technical Group on Urban Housing Shortage, EWS/LIG houses constitute more than 95 per cent of the housing shortage in 2012.

The revised estimate for the year 2015-16 was reported as 236. 4 crore rupees which is significantly lesser than the budgeted estimate for housing for the same year i. e. 563. 43 crore rupees. Also, for the funds earmarked for the north-eastern region, the revised estimate for the year 2015-16 at 96. 2 crore rupees was way behind the budgeted estimate of 525 crore rupees for the year ending 31st March, 2016. Also, the budgeted estimate for the year 2016-17 for the north eastern states has been considerably reduced to 102 crores. I would like to ask the Government the reason for the decline in the allocated budget. Also, I would urge the Government to look into the reasons for the significantly lower revised estimates as compared to the budget estimates for the year 2015-16.

The Standing Committee on demands for grants 2015-16 was distressed to note that in many States the important schemes of the Ministry like JNNURM, Urban mobility and Urban Development in North Eastern States are not successful because of lack of capacity building of the ULBs. Projects remained incomplete even after spending of thousands of crores. The Committee were of the view that the need of the hour is to strengthen the ULBs by (i) enhancing the budgetary allocation of the Ministry of Urban Development at RE stage (ii) providing 100% grants to the financially weaker ULBs for their capacity development, (iii) imparting training to the personnel working in the ULBs (iv) sharing the success stories of strong ULBs like Mumbai and Hyderabad (v) monetizing land assets and (vi) proper implementation of Urban Reforms. I would like to ask the Ministry if steps have been taken or measures are in the pipelines towards enhancing the capabilities of the urban local bodies for better implementation of projects and schemes.

The Committee was anguished with the status of Solid Waste Management in most of Urban Cities and Metropolitan cities. The Committee came to know that Ministry of Urban Development has a target of 4041 statutory towns in which there are ambitious plans of Solid Waste Management. As of now most of the Solid Waste are

going into land fill sites without any treatment. I would request the Ministry of Urban Development to take special interest in case of Solid Waste Management which is the need of the hour.

[Translation]

*__SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT (VADODARA):__ I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. After the Planning Commission, the establishment of the NITI Aayog has ensured that schemes reach the people more quickly. The Hon. Prime Minister has taken a firm decision that whatever schemes are formulated will be effectively implemented. Our Government has also undertaken the initiative of developing Smart Cities. Likewise, the Government of Gujarat has launched the programme of developing Smart Villages. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has also been introduced. Through this Budget, every poor family will receive its own house. Our Government has ensured not only housing but also livelihood opportunities. Through the Mudra Yojana, poor families across the country are being enabled to utilise their skills and start small businesses or enterprises. I also place a demand for the villages of my State, Gujarat that the benefits of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana should be extended to municipal areas in rural regions as well, so that villages may also avail of this scheme. I congratulate the Hon. Minister for these initiatives.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

[English**]**

***SHRI D. K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL):** Urban poverty in India is over 25 percent; some 81 million people live in urban areas on incomes that are below the poverty line. At the national level, rural poverty remains higher than urban poverty, but the gap is closing. By 2030, urbanisation in India is projected to reach 50 percent. It is the need of the hour to expedite the steps to reduce the poverty level in the country by 2030.

The urban poverty poses major challenges for housing, water, sanitation, health, education, social security, livelihoods and the special needs of vulnerable groups such as women, children and the aging.

Around 1. 37 crore households, or 17. 4% of urban Indian households lived in a slum in 2011, as per the data released by the registrar general and census commissioner's office.

Most slum dwellers do not have access to clean water, sanitation and health care facilities. They face a constant threat of eviction, removal, confiscation of goods and have virtually no social security

* Speech was laid on the Table.

cover. Some 54 percent of urban slums do not have toilets; public facilities are unusable due to a lack of maintenance.

The pace of urbanisation in India is set to increase, and with it, urban poverty and urban slums, despite 65 percent of GDP now being generated in towns and cities,". There is an urgent need to focus on the systemic changes that are needed to address those problems to help the poor lead a comfortable living.

Our UPA government has made huge funding under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM), which was the Indian government's massive fast-track city modernisation initiative taken up by the congress-led government.

As far Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana is concerned, the government has been making tall promise to provide Housing for all by the year 2022. But there are no attempts to allocate required funds and other necessary steps to achieve this goal. It appears that government is simply gaining publicity by making such tall promises. Otherwise the government should take concrete steps to create necessary legislative frame work for providing housing to all needy people in the country.

As far as Real Estate Regulation act is concerned it was the dream of our UPA Government to bring into force such legislation to

help the house owners to make their dream realised. However, I congratulate the government for enacting a law for the real estate sector. I would like to suggest the government to ensure that the provisions of the said Act are implemented effectively to achieve the objectives of the Act.

As per the 2011 Census, urban population in Karnataka is 2. 36 crores and in Bangalore city, it is 85 lakhs. There is a total of 2804 slums in the state of Karnataka and among those 597 slums are in Bangalore city only. 25. 36 lakh people live in slum areas throughout the state and 15. 19% of the total urban population. And they are from 7. 46 lakh families. In Bangalore, 13. 86 lakh people are from slum area and is from 3. 21 lakh families and that comes 16. 30% of the total population in the city.

For economically weaker section and low income groups, there is demand of 10. 2 lakh houses in urban areas only. There were a total of 111853 houses constructed under HUDCO, VAMBAY, SCP, BSUP and IHSDP projects and total 630 slums covered in this throughout the state. Among the 111853 houses constructed so far, 30224 were in Bangalore and was from 88 slums.

During UPA term in 2012-13. There are a total of 22133 DUs approved in the state of Karnataka with a central assistance of 577. 43

crores while during NDA term in 2015-16 the total number of DUs sanctioned under PMAY and HFA are just 16522 with central assistance of 247. 83 crores.

During the UPA Government under RAY, there were enough funds for the infrastructure development alongwith the construction of houses. Now under PMAY, there are only simple building construction and there is no infrastructure development for development of the society. There by slums will be converted into concrete slums. For urban development also, the same problem remains. The Government is talking more about AMRUT and smart cities but not providing adequate fund for the infrastructure development. Without developing infrastructure, how you can develop cities.

During UPA the fund allocation per individual houses were sufficient enough to construct the units but under the PMAY the central allocation for building houses reduced to 1. 5 lakhs from 2. 5 lakhs.

The budgetary allocation made for the Housing and urban poverty alleviation Ministry for the year 2016-17 is 5411. 0 crores. Out of this, the allocation made for the flagship programme the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban) is 4340 crores only. In order to

achieve the goal providing houses to all by year 2022, it is very inadequate. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to earmark sufficient fund to make the scheme successfully implemented in the country.

*__DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY):__ Demand for housing is increasing exponentially. Poverty level, particularly in the urban areas are increasing manifold due to migration to cities due to unemployment, drought, shortage of water, etc. Under such a scenario, the discussion on the demands for grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation gains importance.

It is heartening to note that in the Budget Estimates Rs. 4,000 crores were earmarked for 2015-16 for the projects under Housing for all scheme. But it was reduced to Rs. 1,231 crores at the revised estimates stage. At this rate, how long would it take to ensure Housing for All, under which 2. 95 crore houses will be built? The target of the Ministry is to build 1. 55 crore dwelling units in three years.

The Minister, Chaudhary Birender Singh had said that in this year's budget, Rs. 15,000 crores were allocated for Indira Awas Yojana which we welcome. He has made a tall claim that by 2022, no person should be without roof on his head. This is where my apprehension is, with so much of reduction of grants at the Revised Estimates stage, year after year, this is well going to be a pipedream.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

I have no doubt about it. Nevertheless, I wish the Minister a grand success in his aim and his dream. May his dream come true!

Having said that, now I would like to deal with the issues concerning housing. We have different industries. Beedi and mine workers are large in number. They face housing problem acutely. Their income is very low. They find it difficult to meet both ends. They fail to get not even one square meal a day. Under such circumstances, there is a need to extend subsidy for beedi and mine workers to construct their own houses. Would the hon. Minister highlight as to what he is thinking of doing in extending subsidy for beedi and mine workers for housing.

Economically weaker sections are a huge chunk in our country. Likewise, other disadvantaged sections of society like the Scheduled Castes. What provisions were made in the Ministry to address to the problems of housing for the economically weaker sections?

It is an established fact that though the Government has announced a grand plan of Housing for All, it is easier said than done. I personally feel that this grand plan becomes a reality. As an alternative, why not Government encourage and facilitate credit for affordable housing?

It is stated that West Bengal is topping the list where 27,830 houses in 38 cities will be constructed under the PM's Awas Yojana. With a sum of Rs. 7,519 crore sanctioned for construction of 5. 07 lakh houses for economically weaker sections in 13 States, I have my own doubts. Let us wait and watch as to how Government is going to fulfill its promise and complete the sanctioned construction of 5. 07 lakh houses.

We have many schemes in the Ministry. But the focus should be to ensure providing basic civic amenities to urban poor. Slum dwellers too should be provided with basic amenities. Slums should also be converted into pucca houses. Would the Minister like to say on this remark to mine?

About the Ministry of Urban Alleviation, the Ministry has restructed the schemes of UPA-II. What the people are concerned is how to reduce poverty. Vulnerability of the poor and downtrodden and disadvantaged people is increased year after year. We have people living in abject poverty under the fly-overs on the road-side and in the bus stands and railway stations by the side of the Railway line and wherever they find space in the urban areas, particularly in the metros like Delhi and Mumbai. This should be the real test for the Minister.

He should formulate an innovative scheme to address the problems of housing of dwelling units to these people who live on the streets literally or in the open spaces of the cities or under the sky. Would the hon. Minister respond to this?

There is a need to give utmost emphasis on construction of houses for slum dwellers. Their living is pitiable and is despicable condition. I hope the hon. Minister gives priority to erasing the slums from the cityscape and in its place, comes up with dwelling units. Slum dwellers should be taken care of with love and affection because they are the service provider to the cities and people living in cities with all the luxuries.

We and the people have seen governments after governments at the Centre coming out with new schemes every now and then to remove poverty from the earth, and to providing housing for all. This has been the recurring feature of the Governments at the Centre. We have seen 'garibi hatao' decades back. What is the reality? Have we removed poverty? Earlier governments too promised housing for all. Where do we stand now?

This NDA Government which claims to be different should fulfill its promises for housing for all and fulfill all the promises to see that poverty is removed from the country to a great extend. Shelter for

homeless and support for small traders and street vendors who live hand to mouth with families should be given priority. The schemes of the Government should address their concerns and to ensure their housing needs and to remove poverty from their lives. I hope and pray that this Government would take all these schemes and promises seriously and fulfils each one of them before they demit office.

[*]**SHRI B. N. CHANDRAPPA (CHITRADURGA):** I would like to say that this Government has launched a new scheme called the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana (PMAY) with the aim of providing Housing for All by 2022. It looks to be a novel idea. But what have they done? This Government has just discontinued the two schemes called the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and the Rajiv Gandhi Awas Yojana and combined it into one scheme called the PMAY. I fail to understand as to how the mission of Housing for All by 2022 could be achieved by just changing the name.

Today, the greatest problem that the country is facing is about the influx of people from rural areas to urban areas. People have been migrating from rural areas in search of job and livelihood. They do not find enough opportunities in the rural areas. Even the basic necessities of life *roti kapda aur makan* are not getting fulfilled. Therefore, the first and the foremost issue that needs to be tackled is to restrict the migration of people from rural areas to urban areas. If we are able to provide enough opportunities in the rural areas and the hinterland, then only we can think of containing this influx of people.

Another important issue is that today urban areas are getting congested day by day. People do not have clean air to breathe in. They

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

do not have houses to live in. People migrate to urban areas with the hope that they would be having some shelter to stay on. But the standard of living in urban areas is so high that they are not able to live in urban areas. They are forced to live in slums and unhygienic areas. In the urban areas, in the name of houses, so many builders are cheating and looting the people of their hard earned money. This has to be stopped forthwith if we really want to provide Housing for All by 2022. On the one hand, it is said that there are lots of houses lying vacant and on the other, prices are rising every day. It has become beyond reach of any common man to have his own dwelling unit in the cities.

Government is now talking of smart cities and smart villages. It has identified 305 smart cities in the country. When we look at those smart cities, we would find that these cities have been considered the best ones even earlier also. The Government is saying as though they have made these cities as smart cities.

The need of the hour is to ensure basic infrastructure facilities in each and every city of the country. If we are able to provide roads, housing, electricity, water and other facilities to the people at affordable prices, the country would definitely develop. I do not find

a sincere effort being made in this regard. The Government has been making tall promises.

Even in my constituency Chitradurga, I have been finding this problem of migration of people to Bengaluru. What I have observed is that the youth have become restless for want of job opportunities and other developmental needs. They are running to capital cities in search of jobs. I would suggest that the Government should set up at least one major industry in each district of the country. If this is done, the migration of people could be stopped and people would also get employment in such industries.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

*__PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED):__ Poverty alleviation could be achieved by providing appropriate skill development programmes. More jobs can be generated through self-employment schemes.

In our country, most of the jobs sector look forward to Government jobs rather than self-employment schemes. Hence a change in mindset of the youth is required regarding choosing a job. If people still depend on Government jobs, it would take many more years to eradicate poverty. Now, Mudra Bank loan is provided to help the job seekers to start their own business ventures, small or big. But takers are from impoverished localities. Orientation/training has to be imparted to different strata of society, especially in the lower range of the society to familarise them with numerous possibilities for self-employment.

Unless and until we address the issues of poverty at the grass root level, the country would not be able to bring progress and development to all. Even after 67 years of independence, why are we lagging behind in the upliftment of the poor. The reason is corruption.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Modijis government is a corruption free government. Hence, we expect quantum jump in poverty alleviation schemes.

[Translation]

*__SHRI A. T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON):__ First of all, I wish to thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister for Urban Development for implementing two important schemes aimed at bringing about a fundamental transformation in urban infrastructure across the cities of the country. These schemes are the Smart City Project and the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, namely AMRUT. Under these initiatives, an allocation of Rs. 70,000 crore has been made for the development of 100 Smart Cities, and Rs. 50,000 crore has been earmarked for the AMRUT scheme. Undoubtedly, these programmes will bring about a comprehensive change in the infrastructure of various cities in our country and significantly improve the quality of urban life.

Migration of population from villages to cities in search of employment is a reality and continues unabated. Excessive migration places an increasing burden on urban infrastructure and simultaneously leads to the expansion of slum settlements. From this perspective, the above-mentioned initiatives of the Government are commendable.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

According to official data, there are presently 5,828 slum settlements in my Jalgaon region, with a population of approximately 30,000. Most of these slum settlements are located on land adjacent to railway lines. These residents do not have access to basic civic amenities such as drinking water and toilets, and they are compelled to live under inhuman conditions.

I request the Government to coordinate with the Government of Maharashtra and undertake a housing project in Jalgaon city under the AMRUT scheme, and to initiate the necessary measures for the rehabilitation of people living in these slum settlements, so that their standard of living may be improved.

*SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL (JALORE): Repeated failures of the monsoon, the adverse impact on agriculture, and the lack of employment have already worsened conditions in rural areas, but the situation of the urban poor is even more distressing. The reality is that nearly 10 Percent of poor families in cities possess assets averaging only Rs. 291. Their condition is worse than that of the rural poor. Not only this, the gap between the assets of poor and wealthy urban families is more than 50,000 times. Today, India faces severe challenges on the front of urban poverty. However, it is not impossible to overcome them, and there is hope that the steps being taken will lead to the creation of a slum-free India. Over the next 40 years, India may witness the highest growth in urban population in the world. What is worrying, however, is that our urban infrastructure is struggling to keep pace. Systemic deficiencies, the proliferation of slums, and homelessness present serious challenges before policymakers. Around 9.3 crore people in the country live in slums, and there is a shortage of nearly 1.8 crore urban housing units. The Government has taken concrete steps to make India slum-free. The Hon. Prime Minister's vision is to provide housing for all by 2022,

* Speech was laid on the Table.

and in this direction, the Government has taken several positive initiatives.

Alongside the growth in the country's population, the urban population is also increasing continuously. Due to the lack of sustainable livelihoods in rural areas, shortage of rural employment, rising prices of essential food commodities, lack of skills, inadequate planning, and unemployment, coupled with the neglect of rural development by previous governments, there has been an unchecked increase in urban population since Independence. Continuous unplanned urbanisation has led to a rise in the number of people living below the poverty line in cities. This is a matter of serious concern.

Today, our Government has launched the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana and the National Urban Livelihoods Mission for the urban poor. Under this Mission, new approaches have been adopted to promote skill development and training, individual and collective micro-enterprises, formation of self-help groups, construction of shelters for the homeless, and creation of basic infrastructure. It also seeks to support street vendors, persons with disabilities, and waste pickers. Through these measures, the Mission will explore avenues for employment generation and enhancement of income for the poor living in urban areas.

Under the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission, employment loans of up to Rs. 2 lakh are provided. Through skill training and placement-linked employment, an expenditure of Rs. 15,000 per urban poor beneficiary is allocated for training. In the North Eastern States and Jammu and Kashmir, each urban poor beneficiary receives Rs. 18,000 for this purpose. Under the revised norms, the amount provided for training has now been increased by 5 Percent. Under the component relating to social mobilisation and institutional development, self-help groups formed are provided an initial assistance of Rs. 10,000 for training their Members. For registered area-level federations of such groups, financial assistance of Rs. 50,000 is provided. To enable urban poor persons to establish small private enterprises, an interest subsidy of 5 to 7 Percent is extended. Under this provision, loans of up to Rs. 2 lakh are given for individual enterprises and up to Rs. 10 lakh for group enterprises.

For so many years since Independence, successive governments viewed citizens' housing needs in two distinct segments. On the one hand, well-equipped residential colonies were developed in prime central urban locations for the affluent, reflecting luxury and high living standards. On the other hand, the poor were gradually pushed

to the outskirts, beyond the city limits, where neither basic civic amenities nor adequate employment opportunities were available. This unequal distribution of facilities and services has resulted in a situation where some enjoy abundant water for gardens and fountains, while others struggle to find even drinking water. When we examine housing conditions and the social outlook of the rich and the poor, a stark and rather harsh divide becomes evident. Yet, the reality is that both sections of society are complementary to each other, and their livelihoods are deeply interlinked. Urban life cannot function even for a single day without the labour of the urban poor. Recognising this reality, the Hon. Prime Minister has resolved to provide housing for all by 2022. Under the National Urban Housing Mission, there are four components. Under the first component, redevelopment of slum settlements with the participation of private developers, using land as a resource, will be undertaken. For this, central assistance of approximately Rs. 1 lakh per beneficiary will be provided. States and Union Territories will have the flexibility to utilise this grant for making such redevelopment projects viable in any slum area. Under the second component, the Credit Linked Subsidy Scheme, beneficiaries belonging to the Economically Weaker Sections and the Lower Income Groups will be provided an interest subsidy of 6.50

Percent on each housing loan. Under the third component, affordable housing in partnership with the private and public sectors will be promoted. For this purpose, central assistance of Rs. 1.5 lakh per beneficiary will be provided, thereby encouraging the participation of both private and public sectors in creating housing for the urban poor. However, a condition under this component is that at least 35 Percent of the housing units in such projects will be reserved for the Economically Weaker Sections. Under the fourth component, central assistance of up to Rs. 1.5 lakh per eligible urban poor beneficiary is being provided for individual house construction or for the improvement of existing houses.

Today, our Government is implementing the Swachh Bharat Mission for urban areas. The objective of this Mission is to target 1.04 crore families by providing 2.5 lakh community toilets, 2.6 lakh public toilets, and a solid waste management facility in every city. Under this programme, community toilets will be constructed in residential areas where it is difficult to build individual household toilets. Public toilets will also be constructed at major locations such as tourist destinations, markets, bus stations and railway stations. This programme will be implemented over a period of five years in 4,401 cities. Out of the total estimated expenditure of Rs. 62,009 crore on

this programme, the Union Government will provide Rs. 14,623 crore. Of this central assistance of Rs. 14,623 crore, Rs. 7,366 crore will be spent on solid waste management, Rs. 4,165 crore on individual household toilets, Rs. 1,828 crore on public awareness, and Rs. 655 crore on the construction of community toilets. The programme also includes the elimination of open defecation, conversion of insanitary toilets into flush toilets, eradication of the practice of manual scavenging, strengthening municipal solid waste management, and bringing about behavioural change among people with regard to hygiene and sanitation-related practices.

Today, our Government is sensitive to the needs of all the poor in the country and remains fully committed to the development of every citizen of India.

[English]

***SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM (JAMNAGAR):** A saying that we have learnt since our childhood days is that ‘food, clothing and shelter are the basic needs of a human being. Today, as we stand here to discuss matters under Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, I am sure we all realize the importance of the statement.

I think that there is a core truth in the statement that makes us value the concept of home. Building upon the dreams and aspirations of the millions, the Government has launched the Pardhan Mantri Awas Yojna with a vision to provide ‘Housing for All by 2022. ’ The Government has already embarked on a journey to build 2 crore houses by 2022, which amounts to 30 lakh houses to be built every year. I must compliment the Hon. Minister of Urban Development, Housing and Urban Poverty Alleveation, Venkaiah Naidu Ji for facilitating this and our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for envisioning this. This has been one of the most ambitious schemes ever implemented by the GOI.

Under this scheme, interest subvention has been increased to 6. 50 per cent on housing loans to beneficiaries belonging to economic

* Speech was laid on the Table.

weaker section (EWS) including slum dwellers and low income groups (LIGs). This testifies the fact that besides infrastructure development priorities the Government is also committed to inclusive growth and development.

Also the credit-linked subsidy to 6. 5 percent, EMI comes down to Rs. 4050 per month, benefiting the urban poor by Rs. 2,582 per month. On the whole, central assistance in the range of Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2. 30 lakhs per beneficiary would be provided under different components of the National Urban Housing Mission in urban areas to build 2 crore new houses to meet the housing shortage over the next 7 years. The number of low and poor income communities is so large that even a small increase in their productivity will impact the GDP of the country.

Alongside, the Government is also running Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) aimed at addressing the challenges of urbanization. The mission looked at improving urban governance and infrastructure in cities by requiring them to undertake certain mandatory and optional reforms. One of the mandatory reforms under JNNURM was the provision of basic services to the urban poor such as security of tenure at affordable prices, improved housing, water supply, and sanitation. And as I refer to urban

capacities, I have to mention that the Swacch Bharat Mission has become a priority goal in the urban development sector.

One of the optional reforms under JNNURM is including earmarking at least 20-25% of developed land in all housing projects (both public and private) for the EWS and LIG categories. Protecting the interest of the minorities and economically backward segment, the Government also runs the National Urban Housing and Habitat Policy, 2007. The policy primarily aims at providing affordable housing for all with special emphasis on the vulnerable sections of the society such as SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities, and the urban poor. The policy undertakes to create adequate housing stock (rental and ownership), particularly for the EWS.

Both the housing and urban sector is very critical to our economic performance; rather we can say that it is the backbone of any every country. The state of housing and poverty not only determines the economic indicator the country but also reflects the health of the nation. For 2016-2017, there has been an overall shift in the expenditure of the Ministry. The total allocations towards the Ministry have increased by 176% from the revised estimates of 2015-2016. The total expenditure for MoHUPA for 2016-17 is Rs 5,411 crore. Of this, about 94% is allocated for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban

(Rs 5,075 crore). This is followed by allocation towards the other scheme, the National Urban Livelihoods Mission at Rs 325 crore.

With these statistics, I would like to refer to urbanization, which is a very important matter concerning the urban and housing sector in India. Currently, about 31% of India's population live in urban areas, and the rate of urbanization is only expected to increase in the next 10 to 15years. With increasing urbanization, the workforce in urban areas is also increasing. Increasing population along with an increase in workforce increases the demand for housing and basic services in urban areas. As the pressure on urban pockets increase, the housing shortages also become acute. At the beginning of the 12th Five Year plan, the housing shortage was estimated to be at 18. 78 million units. This shortage is expected to increase to 20 million by 2022.

Stating the problem, now I would like to say little bit on the emphasis given by the Government on the housing sector. The Government has adopted the concept of inclusive growth and inclusive development realizing that cities are more about people than about mere spaces. Hence, apart from building homes, the Government is striving hard to change the perception of the sector. With this intent, the Government and the Ministry brought in The Real Estate (Regulations and Development) Bill, 2016, in the last session

of the Parliament, which has already become an Act now. The whole intention of the Bill was to regulate the Real Estate business in the housing sector and also bring in more transparency on the part of the developer and the buyer as they execute transactions.

To alleviate poverty in the urban sector, the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) is being continued. It aims to reduce poverty and vulnerability of urban poor households by enabling them to access gainful self-employment and skilled employment opportunities.

However, I would like to share a few concerns to be considered. First is underutilization of funds; it has been observed that the actual expenditure by the Ministry has consistently been lower than budget estimates. When examining the 2015-16 budget, the Standing Committee had observed that allocations for the Ministry were reduced at the RE stage.

Second is the lack of capacity, the HPEC had observed that the ULBs in India are among the weakest in the world both in terms of technical (unskilled manpower, shortage of qualified staff), and financial capacity (inability to raise resources). This affects the implementation of projects.

I am thankful to the Government for including 2 cities form my State making it to the list of Smart Cities Mission. Building ‘smart cities’ in an urban region will facilitate advanced and overall infrastructure development, sustainable real estate, communications and market viability. It is going to be a city where information technology is the principal infrastructure and the basis for providing essential services to residents. There are many technological platforms involved, including but not limited to automated sensor networks and data centers.

And as I conclude, I would like to suggest a few things to the Ministry. There is need to strengthen urban local bodies and enable them as the real third tier of governance to meet the needs and aspirations of people residing in the area. Secondly, there should be some kind of a regulatory body in States in coordination with the Centre, regarding implementation of projects.

*SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY (MALKAJGIRI): At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for allocating Rs. 5075 crore for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojna- Urban for addressing the housing shortage in the country.

In recent research that assessed the ward-wise environment quality in the 150 GHMC wards, more than half of Hyderabad lives in "bad" environmental conditions. Out of 150 wards, only 12 wards were classified as either "good" or "very good" in terms of overall environmental quality. As many as 85 wards were classified as "bad". These wards with 30. 5 people have 56 per cent of the city's population and cover nearly 192 sq. km.

Around 70,000 households in Greater Hyderabad limits, mostly in peripheral areas, do not have individual toilets. As per a study by the National Institute of Mental Health, the cities of Bengaluru, Hyderabad and New Delhi are on par, not in economic development or standard of living, but in open defecation. A similar proportion of slum dwellers in the two cities, 75-79 per cent, are still defecating in the open.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

In a joint study by the Children India, New Delhi, an international NGO, Rainbow Homes, a NGO in Kolkata, and UK Aid –as many as 37% of street children counted were girls, and about 5% were orphans who fended for themselves. Half of all children living on the street or from homeless families' work for a living-at construction sites or hotels-and do not study. As per Census 2011, Hyderabad has 17,903 homeless people and 25,560 street children. Specific measures like creation of urban shelters, school drives and skilling programs should be conducted for this category of people.

Also under PMAY-U, if a family does not own a *pucca* house and does not belong to LIG/EWS category, it is eligible for central assistance under the scheme. This ignores family income and household size. The Ministry should consider a better eligibility structure.

*__SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH):__ I support the Demand for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Housing and Poverty Alleviation for the year 2016-17. The various schemes under the Ministry like Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Deen Dayal Upadhyay Antyoudaya Yojana, National Urban Livelihood Mission, Rajiv Awas Yojana, JNNURM etc. aim at providing housing facilities to the urban poor. So as to make a slum free India. It also aims to make provisions for basic civic infrastructure. The Ministry deserves accolades for taking up so many initiatives for eradicting the problem of housing and to create a slum free India.

I belong to Assam where problem of urban housing is increasing day by day. The ever increasing population in the cities in Assam calls for urgent attention of the Ministry. Thousands of poor people are facing the problems of acute shortage of dwelling units. I, therefore, take the opportunity to appeal to the Ministry of Housing and Urban poverty alleviation to provide housing facilities to the poor and the needy. Since, a poor state like Assam cannot afford to make provisions of housing to all its urban poor, I would like to request the Union Government to make necessary budgetary provisions to provide pucca houses to all our poor people.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

***SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR):** It is sad to see that such an important Ministry, which plays a major role in reducing poverty and providing security to people in urban areas, has constantly shown a trend of under-utilization of funds in its actual expenditure as there is no 100 per cent financial targets achieved by them in the last two Years.

There has been a marked reduction in the plan allocation to the Ministry from 2014-15, when under the UPA government, to 2016-17. In 2014-15, HUPA was allocated Rs. 6,000 crore, which was then reduced by Rs. 375 crore to Rs. 5,625 crore in 2015-16. The allocation was further decreased by Rs. 225 crore to Rs. 5400 crore under plan head in 2016-17. I request the Ministry of Finance to provide an enhanced budget at the Revised Budget stage, in addition to the earlier allocation (BE) of Rs. 5400 crore so that the vital schemes/ programmers under HUPA may not suffer for want of required funds.

Rs. 5,075 crore provided for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Housing for all (Urban) is not adequate at all with Rs. 2,000 crore committed liability for already sanctioned/accepted projects and thus remaining Rs. 3075 crore left for utilization during 2016-17. The Parliamentary Committee for HUPA actually estimated that the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

schemes require Rs. 8,815 crore as an enhanced budget so it can deliver its promises. In 2024-15 the actual expenditure was Rs. 703. 12 crore under the National Livelihood Mission (Urban). The Budget Estimates for the same in 2015-16 was Rs. 510 crore and in the current budget it stands at Rs. 325 crore. The Grants to States and UTs under the scheme has also been reduced from Rs. 500 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 293 crore in 2016-17 as State and UT plans.

As per the Poverty Estimates 2011-12 released by erstwhile Planning Commission, the number of persons living below poverty line in urban areas in 2011-12 was 531. 25 lakhs. For poverty alleviation schemes like Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana (Urban) and Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojna, the beneficiaries are identified by the State Urban Livelihoods Mission and Urban Local Bodies. Given that there is a major cut in the funding to States and Union Territories under the National Livelihood mission, as I mentioned earlier, these poverty alleviation schemes are also going to be affected. The Technical Committee constituted under HUPA had estimated 5. 30 lakh homeless households in urban areas in 2012. The Hon’ble Supreme Court directed the Ministry to look into schemes to provide shelters for the homeless. Such schemes are being implemented under the head of National Urban Livelihood Mission (Urban) by the State

and UT governments. It is high time that the Union Government launch and exclusive scheme for the homeless so they can lead a more dignified and secure life.

There is an issue with proper utilization of funds. There are over 2. 45 lakh houses lying vacant across India. The low-cost houses have been constructed under different urban housing schemes sanctioned under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) and Rajiv Awas Yojana (RAY). The government needs to look into this matter and focus on proper allocation of houses to the beneficiaries. I also urge the government to increase the funds for various schemes and allocations to States and Union Territories so we can improve the standard of living of those who are poor and homeless.

***SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** The Union Government has announced a Scheme ‘Housing for all’ –A scheme for low income housing. Experts say that the scheme would have been successful if the promised funds could be far more effectively organized.

The project is estimated to be Rs 2 lakh crores. Though the Scheme says Housing for All, currently 305 cities and towns have been identified in 9 states, leaving the other States. The expenditure would be shared between Centre and the respective States.

The Union Government has almost completed 2 years in Office still their announcements during elections are yet to commence and benefit the people.

The Scheme 'Housing for All – Bengal under the leadership of hon’ble Chief Minister, Mamata Banerjee showed the way to all. In her regime, Mamta Ji has achieved quite a lot in terms of building houses for economically weaker sections (EWS): Low-Income Group (LIG) and Middle-Income Group (MIG).

* Speech was laid on the Table.

In the EWS scheme, there are two categories ‘Gitanjali’ and Thikana’ by which construction of rural housing has been much better benefiting the Rural poor.

- 40 beded Hostel for working women named Ananya’ has been constructed in Durgapur and 44 beded Hostel named ‘Swayamsiddha’ in Salt Lake, Kolkata
- In New town Rajarhat, more than 48 flats are built.

Our Hon’ble Chief Minister always believes in development of federal structure as she has commented, it is like a parent-child relation. She has stated that politics has a different destination and business and governance have different destinations and she will continue to support federalism.

In this context, I request the Union Government to implement the Welfare Schemes announced, equally without partiality for the betterment of the Nation.

[Translation]

*__SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE' (AKBARPUR):__ Although I am a Member of Parliament from Kanpur Dehat, I have a direct association with cities and urban development because four Assembly segments of Kanpur Nagar fall within my Akbarpur Parliamentary Constituency. For this reason, I have the opportunity to closely observe the pace of urban development as well as the difficulties faced by cities.

The NDA Government, committed to transforming the destiny of India, has taken revolutionary steps across various sectors in accordance with the visionary ideas of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. However, perhaps for the first time in the history of independent India, the concept of urban development has been conceived, understood, and pursued in such a comprehensive and holistic perspective.

It is well known that due to various geographical, social, and economic factors, migration from villages is steadily breaking the backbone of the urban framework. Our cities have become so burdened by population pressure that essential services of everyday

* Speech was laid on the Table.

civic life, such as sanitation, healthcare, education, transportation, and mobility, appear to be on the verge of collapse. In such circumstances, it was imperative, on the one hand, to curb indiscriminate migration from rural areas and, on the other hand, to strengthen existing urban infrastructure while simultaneously developing new capacities to meet future needs.

When the world is eager to take a long leap into the 21st century, India's cities too must be modernised and placed on higher benchmarks of development. The vision of developing Smart Cities under the Ministry of Urban Development has ignited new dreams among future generations. However, I would humbly submit to the Hon. Minister that despite fulfilling all the prescribed criteria, the exclusion of Kanpur from this list is deeply distressing.

Owing to its industrial legacy, this city was once known as the Manchester of the East. However, due to persistent neglect by previous governments, it has gradually lost its stature. Today, industries have largely moved away from Kanpur, and in the absence of adequate infrastructure, even trade and commerce appear to be gasping for survival. Situated on the banks of the Ganga, this city was once a beacon of prosperity in central Uttar Pradesh, enriched by its

cultural, historical, and mythological heritage, but that glory is no longer visible today.

Unfortunately, successive governments in Uttar Pradesh have also failed to do justice to this city. The most recent evidence of this neglect is the misappropriation of crores of rupees provided under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission implemented by the Government of India.

I would like to place on record that under the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission implemented by the Union Government, works relating to the laying of sewer lines and drinking water pipelines are being carried out in cities. In Kanpur Nagar as well, projects worth several hundred crores of rupees were being executed through this Scheme by the Government of India. However, financial corruption in these works was carried out to such an extent that at several locations the soil was excavated and then refilled without laying any pipelines at all. Numerous such instances can be found in areas such as Nawabganj, Barra, Yashodanagar, and several other parts of the city. Even where pipelines were laid, neither gravel was used for the base nor was proper sand filling done. Due to works being left incomplete, there are leakage problems at more than 90 locations across the city. As a result, on the one hand there is an acute

drinking water crisis, and on the other hand, due to pipeline leakages, roads constructed at a cost of crores of rupees are being damaged and waterlogging has occurred at several places, despite the fact that full payment for these works has already been made by the Department. The funds provided by the Union Government under this Scheme are being siphoned off and grossly misused. The situation has deteriorated to such an extent that several crores of rupees have again been spent by the Department merely to plug these leakages. Due to the absence of proper inspection of the works carried out under this Scheme, inferior quality pipes have been used through collusion between the concerned departmental officials and contractors. In Kanpur district, in the deep sewer line and drinking water projects, all rules and regulations have been flagrantly violated. The pipelines laid barely a year ago are leaking and breaking due to non-adherence to standards, lack of quality, and failure to make them fully underground. Therefore, it is absolutely essential that a thorough investigation be conducted into all works executed under this Scheme.

I would urge the Hon. Minister to develop, at the very least, a robust monitoring mechanism with the participation of public representatives to ensure the proper and effective utilisation of funds released by the Union Government for urban development, so that

basic civic amenities may be made available to city residents in accordance with the intent of the Union Government.

Once again, I would request the Hon. Minister to include the city of Kanpur in the list of Smart Cities. This would enable information and communication technology companies to consider expanding their operations to this city. In addition to IIT and BTI in Kanpur, a strong ecosystem of technical education has developed in the surrounding regions. This will not only open new avenues of employment for the youth emerging from these institutions, but will also give momentum to ambitious initiatives such as the Prime Minister’s Start-up and Stand-up programmes.

[English**]**

[*]**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER):** Kindly allow lay in the following on the Demand for HUPA Ministry-

1. M. P. should be given charge for monitoring of the Scheme "Houses for All" in his/her Parliamentary Constituency.
2. A Nodal Officer of the level of ADM or CEO Zila Parishad should be nominated in each District.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

[Translation]

*__DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):__ I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister for Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Shri Venkaiah Naidu Ji, for undertaking progressive and exemplary work through various schemes aimed at the welfare of nearly 40 crore citizens of the country who reside in urban areas.

Under the leadership of the dynamic Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, it has been announced that housing will be provided to all by the year 2022. While 100 Smart Cities are to be developed across the country, 500 cities have been included under the Urban Rejuvenation programme. It is a matter of great satisfaction that 14 leading countries of the world have expressed interest in participating in the development of Smart Cities. From 2015 to 2020, the AMRUT Mission, with an outlay of Rs. 50,000 crore, will play a crucial role in strengthening urban infrastructure in cities. In order to develop 12 historic and traditional cities along with their rich heritage, the HRIDAY scheme has been launched, for which a provision of Rs. 500 crore has been made. In Delhi alone, more than 25,000 housing units have been provided under the Delhi Development Authority. Across

* Speech was laid on the Table.

the country, housing is being made available for the poor. It is also a matter of satisfaction that a high-level Group of Ministers has been constituted to reduce congestion in Delhi.

Haridwar, apart from being the gateway to Devbhoomi Uttarakhand, is the spiritual capital of the world. Rishikesh and Haridwar are centres of faith and also the venues for the Kumbh, the world's largest religious and spiritual congregation. In addition, Haridwar serves as the gateway to the Rajaji National Park, is a hub of Ayurvedic medicines, and represents the very heart of the social and economic transformation of the entire State of Uttarakhand. Every day, nearly 25 to 30 lakh devotees from across the country and abroad visit this sacred city. On various religious occasions, crores of people come to Haridwar to take a holy dip in the life-giving and sanctifying River Ganga. As the entry point for the Char Dham Yatra, lakhs of pilgrims commence their sacred journey from Haridwar itself. The Ganga Aarti has become a unique and awe-inspiring spiritual experience for the world.

Due to inadequate transport infrastructure in the Haridwar region, traffic congestion persists for hours at a stretch. Because of frequent traffic jams, it often takes several hours to travel from Rishikesh to Haridwar. During festivals and the Kumbh, the situation becomes even

more severe, causing immense inconvenience to tourists as well as local residents. In such circumstances, the introduction of a Metro or Monorail service between Haridwar and Rishikesh would not only strengthen the regional transport system but would also help establish the area as a premier tourism destination on the world map. I would also request that Roorkee and Haridwar be developed as Smart Cities.

Once again, I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon. Minister for his ambitious and development-oriented initiatives, and I express my hope that the dream of a prosperous and exemplary India will be realised.

*__SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR):__ I rise to speak in support of the Demands for Grants under the control of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation for the year 2016–17. In the Budget presented this year, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has also been initiated for the urban poor, so that BPL poor families residing in cities may be provided with housing. My Government is firmly committed to implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in a time-bound manner for all, and particularly to addressing the housing needs of the poor. In order to facilitate this, a 100 Percent deduction has been provided on the profits of enterprises undertaking housing construction projects for flats measuring up to 30 square metres in metropolitan cities and up to 60 square metres in other cities, so that affordable housing may be ensured for the poor.

I would like to place a specific demand before the Hon. Minister regarding my Parliamentary Constituency, Jamshedpur, which is an industrial city centred around Tata enterprises. The city houses numerous small and large industrial units, factories and companies. In addition, thousands of people from surrounding villages travel to the city every day in search of livelihood. Tata Steel is located right in the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

heart of the city, resulting in the constant movement of thousands of heavy and light vehicles through densely populated areas. As a consequence, on average, nearly 400 road accidents occur every year, leading to the tragic loss of around 300 lives. Owing to the high population density, traffic congestion has become a routine problem across the city. The situation is further aggravated by the fact that not a single flyover has been constructed in the entire Tata township, which has had a serious adverse impact on traffic management and has caused immense hardship to the general public. This demand of the local residents has remained pending for several years. At the same time, keeping in view the rapidly increasing traffic problems in Ranchi, the capital of Jharkhand, I strongly urge that a Metro project be initiated in Ranchi. Being the State capital, the city regularly witnesses traffic jams lasting for hours.

*SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): I rise to support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2016–17. At a time when India is touching new heights on the parameters of progress, the launch of the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana in urban areas will provide a clear and purposeful direction to planned development. Today, the most serious problem faced by the urban poor and labourers is housing. In the present situation, the poor living in cities are compelled to live under the open sky. In the extreme heat, when temperatures have reached 45 degrees Celsius, people without a roof over their heads are forced to remain exposed to the elements. Similarly, during the rainy season and in winter, the poor have had no shelter whatsoever. It is to address this grave problem that the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has decided to launch the Pradhan Mantri Urban Housing Scheme. Even after 68 years of Independence, people in cities do not have access to adequate and well-equipped housing. Even today, crores of people live in cities without any housing. Our Government is committed to ensuring that, in the coming times, India competes with the world by rapidly planning and developing its cities and providing housing to its people. The Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has resolved that the houses provided to the urban poor by our

Government will be equipped with water, electricity, and toilet facilities, so that all basic amenities are available within their homes and the poor may lead a better life. At present, nearly 18 million people in the country do not have houses in urban areas. About 65 million people live in slums in cities. Even today, residents of slums are forced to live a miserable and inhuman life without toilets, water, or electricity in urban areas.

Our Government has resolved that by the year 2022, when the country will be celebrating the 75th year of Independence, all poor persons living in urban areas will be provided with housing equipped with basic amenities. On 25 June, the Hon. Prime Minister launched the Pradhan Mantri Urban Housing Scheme, under which a target has been set to provide two crore houses to economically weaker sections across the country, and work in this direction has already begun. In recent years, efforts were made to provide housing in cities through the JNNURM, but there were several shortcomings in that programme. Therefore, our Government has resolved that by the year 2022, two crore houses will be provided to the poor living in urban slums, so that they may be able to live with dignity and security.

Our Government has resolved that the construction cost of such houses will range from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 2.30 lakh per unit. On 18

November, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, approval was accorded for the construction of 6,83,724 houses. This figure is equivalent to nearly half of the total number of houses approved by previous governments over a span of ten years. For the construction of these houses, the Union Government has sanctioned an amount of Rs. 10,050 crore. Today, we are also discussing the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2016–17. Our Government has decided to extend substantial concessions for such housing. Construction projects up to an area of 60 square metres will be exempted from service tax. Similarly, from June 2016 to March 2018, projects involving construction within an area of 30 square metres completed within three years will be granted a 100 Percent exemption on profits. Our Government has also decided that the houses provided to the urban poor will be registered in the name of the woman of the family. In addition, to support the urban poor, our Government has launched the Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM) for those residing in urban areas. These initiatives will cover 25 Percent of the urban residential area across 789 cities and 4,041 towns. Over the past two years, under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, our Government has launched schemes aimed at making

the poor self-reliant. During this period, under skill development initiatives, our Government has trained 4,00,541 urban poor persons. Similarly, 1,00,431 self-help groups have been formed, of which 89,752 groups have been extended bank credit, enabling them to become self-reliant and rise above poverty. In the same manner, our Government has constructed 770 shelters under the DAY-NULM scheme to provide night shelter facilities to the needy. For this purpose, an amount of Rs. 725 crore has been sanctioned and released to the States. After the formation of our Government at the Centre, the Hon. Prime Minister has accorded priority to the provision of time-bound housing for the urban poor, and in this direction the Government is moving forward rapidly to achieve the target of providing 2 crore houses with basic amenities by the year 2022. Alongside this, a large-scale drive is being carried out under the Skill Development Programme to uplift the urban poor through extensive training.

With these words, I strongly support the Budget for the year 2016–17 presented by the Hon. Minister for Urban Development and Housing.

*__SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR):__ At the outset, I wish to place on record my appreciation and express my gratitude for the tireless efforts of the Hon. Minister for Urban Poverty Alleviation, Shri Venkaiah Naidu Ji, under the able leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, and for the unique initiatives being undertaken in the direction of urban poverty eradication.

In accordance with the announcement made by the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the successful efforts of the Ministry and the Government, particularly towards providing a roof over the heads of all urban poor by the year 2022 and advancing the cause of poverty alleviation, are indeed commendable.

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation primarily works in the following two major areas: (1). Urban employment and poverty alleviation, and (2) Housing and Human Settlements. The responsibilities allocated to the Ministry are as follows:

(i) Formulation of housing policy and programmes, excluding rural housing which falls under the Ministry of Rural Development;

* Speech was laid on the Table.

review of the implementation of plan schemes; collection and dissemination of data relating to housing, construction materials and building technologies; promotion of building materials and construction technologies; adoption of general measures to reduce construction costs; and discharge of the Union Government's responsibilities relating to the National Housing Policy.

(ii) Human settlements, including matters relating to the United Nations Commission for Human Settlements (UNCHS), as well as international cooperation and technical assistance in the field of housing and human settlements.

(iii) Urban development, including slum improvement schemes and programmes for the removal of slums and jhuggi jhopri clusters, along with international cooperation and technical assistance in this sector.

(iv) Implementation of specific programmes for urban employment and urban poverty alleviation, as well as the implementation of other programmes formulated from time to time.

(v) All matters relating to the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited (HUDCO), other than those directly connected with urban infrastructure.

The Ministry carries out the aforesaid assigned functions by formulating appropriate policies, implementing specific housing programme schemes, and supporting autonomous bodies for the generation of employment in urban areas, as well as for operating related programmes and schemes. The Ministry also supervises and oversees the functioning of the public sector undertaking, the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDCO). In addition, the Ministry has an attached office known as the National Buildings Organisation (N.B.O.).

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation supports the following Centrally Sponsored Schemes and Central Sector Schemes: -

(a) Centrally Sponsored Schemes -

(i) National Urban Livelihoods Mission (N.U.L.M.);

(ii) Housing for all by 2022;

Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (J.N.N.U.R.M.), including the Basic Services for the Urban Poor (B.S.U.P.) and the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (I.H.S.D.P.).

(b) Central Sector Schemes.

(i) Urban Statistics for HR and Assessment (U.S.H.A.) and the National Buildings Organisation (N.B.O.);

(ii) Rajiv Rinn Yojana (R. R. Y.);

(iii) Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (B.M.T.P.C.)

(iv) Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust (C. R. G. F. T.).

The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, with the objective of addressing issues of urban poverty in a mission mode, launched the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM) on 24 September 2013 during the Twelfth Five Year Plan, in place of the existing Swarna Jayanti Shahari Rozgar Yojana (SJSRY). The NULM is focused on organising the urban poor into self-help groups, creating skill development opportunities to generate market-based employment, and supporting the establishment of self-employment enterprises by ensuring easy access to credit. The Mission also aims, in a phased manner, to provide shelters with essential services to the urban homeless. In addition, the Mission seeks to address the livelihood-related issues of urban street vendors.

One of the principal objectives of the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (N. U. L. M.) is to strengthen the role of the

Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and the State agencies responsible for urban poverty alleviation by providing high-quality technical support in the areas of urban livelihood promotion and urban poverty reduction.

Under N.U.L.M. a National Mission Management Unit (N.M.M.U.) comprising 10 experts will be established. At the State level, State Mission Management Units (S.M.M.U.s) will be set up with 6 experts in large States and 4 experts in small States and Union Territories. At the city level, City Mission Management Units (C.M.M.U.s) will be established in all N.U.L.M. cities, with 2 experts in cities having a population of less than 3 lakh, 3 experts in cities with a population between 3 and 5 lakh, and 4 experts in cities with a population of more than 5 lakh. The N.U.L.M. will provide support at the N.M.M.U., S.M.M.U. and C.M.M.U. levels for a period of five years. Each City Mission Management Unit will have one Community Organiser for every 3,000 urban poor households. Under N.U.L.M., an amount of Rs. 7,500 per trainee will be provided for the training of officers and experts of the Mission Management Units at the national, State and city levels.

Under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), the objective of the Employment through Skill Training and Placement (EST&P) component is to impart skills to unskilled urban poor persons as well as to upgrade their existing skills. Under this programme, urban poor beneficiaries will be provided skill training to enable them either to establish self-employment enterprises or to secure wage employment. The intent of this programme is to bridge the gap between local demand and supply of skills by offering market-driven skill training programmes. The programme will include training by training institutions, mobilisation of trainees, selection, counselling, training materials, trainers' fees, certification, toolkits, other incidental expenses, as well as costs related to micro-enterprise development or placement. The maximum permissible cost per beneficiary shall not exceed Rs. 15,000. In the case of North-Eastern States and Special Category States, namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand, the maximum cost per beneficiary shall not exceed Rs. 18,000.

The Self-Employment Programme (SEP) will focus on providing financial assistance to individuals or groups among the urban poor for setting up viable self-employment ventures or micro-enterprises.

The objective of providing assistance to urban street vendors is to extend skill training to street vendors, along with options for social security, particularly for marginalised sections such as women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities. This component also aims to promote micro-enterprise development, enhance credit enablement, and integrate street vendors into urban planning in a vendor-friendly manner. Under the National Urban Livelihoods Mission (NULM), 5 Percent of the total budget shall be allocated for expenditure on this component.

The Scheme for Shelter for Urban Homeless (SUH) aims to provide permanent shelters for the urban homeless, along with all other essential basic amenities. Under the component of Innovation and Special Projects (I&SP), emphasis will be laid on promoting new and innovative initiatives in the form of innovation-based projects.

A comprehensive and robust information technology–enabled implementation, monitoring and evaluation system shall be established, which will enable online tracking of the Mission’s implementation up to the beneficiary level. The monitoring framework will also include third-party evaluations, impact assessment studies and social audits, among other measures, to ensure transparency, accountability and effective outcomes.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, in relation to Housing for All (Urban) by the year 2022, has approved the continuation of the implementation of the erstwhile Rajiv Awas Yojana (RRY) in Mission Mode during the period 2013–2022 as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme (CSS), to be known as the Sardar Patel Urban Housing Scheme. The objective of the Mission is to provide a permanent (pucca) house to every family by the year 2022. Under this Mission, an appropriate strategy will be formulated to address the problems of various categories of the urban poor, including slum dwellers, the homeless, destitute persons and migrants. All cities and towns will be covered under the Mission. However, prioritisation will be undertaken by the States based on their respective capacities for resource mobilisation.

The Government launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3 December 2005 with the objective of assisting State Governments in providing housing and basic civic amenities to the urban poor and slum dwellers. This was implemented through the Sub-Mission on Basic Services to the Urban Poor (BSUP) in 65 selected cities, and through the Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP) in other cities and towns. The Mission period originally commenced in 2005–06 and was envisaged

for a duration of seven years. Subsequently, in order to facilitate the completion of projects approved up to March 2012, the tenure of JNNURM was extended until March 2015.

The National Buildings Organisation (NBO) was established in 1954 as an attached office under the then Ministry of Works and Housing, with the Government of India, inter alia, assigning it the responsibility of addressing these objectives. Subsequently, through a revised Government Order, the NBO was reconstituted in August 1992 with an expanded mandate that included, in addition to the collection of housing-related data, the study of the socio-economic aspects of housing through surveys and research. At present, the NBO functions as an attached office under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation (HUPA). An officer of the Indian Economic Service, holding the rank of Director or Deputy Secretary, shall function as the head of the Organisation and shall exercise all the statutory and financial powers of a Head of Department.

The Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC), registered as a society in the year 1990, is a fully supported organisation of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, Government of India. Its objective is to bridge the gap between laboratory development and large scale field application in a

cost effective manner, including disaster resilient construction practices, sustainable building materials, and housing technologies.

Under the multi pronged strategy for the prevention and control of Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES), prepared by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, this Ministry has approved a single dedicated scheme for the provision of drinking water supply in 66 municipalities affected by Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES) across 43 districts in five States.

The Union Government Employees Welfare Housing Organisation (CGEWHO) is administered by a General Body, and its Governing Council functions under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. Within the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, the Executive Committee of CGEWHO, chaired by the Joint Secretary (Housing), oversees the day to day affairs of the organisation. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) is the head of the organisation and is appointed with the approval of the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet. The Chief Executive Officer is responsible for the day to day management of all matters relating to the planning, organisation, and execution of projects. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty

Alleviation initially provided Rs. 19 crore as seed capital. The Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs will also provide an annual grant of Rs. 10 lakh.

The Government of India has approved the establishment of a Credit Risk Guarantee Fund Trust (CRGFT) with an initial corpus of Rs. 1,000 crore. Under this scheme, it is proposed to provide a guarantee to lending institutions for loans of up to Rs. 8 lakh extended to Economically Weaker Sections and Low Income Groups without any third party guarantee or collateral security. The National Housing Bank has been designated as the implementing agency for the operation of the CRGFT.

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements, established through a resolution of the United Nations General Assembly to guide human settlement activities, is an intergovernmental body. India has been a Member of this organisation since its inception. An annual contribution of USD 100,000, payable in Indian currency, has been made by India since 1996. However, from the year 2002–03, this contribution was reduced to USD 80,000, which continues in the current financial year. The scheme is now known as the Contribution to International Cooperation United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT).

The National Cooperative Housing Federation of India (NCHF) was constituted in the year 1969 as a national level cooperative federation of State level apex cooperative housing federations (ACHFs). It is registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and is governed by the provisions thereof. It is a non profit, self help cooperative organisation and its management includes an elected Board of Directors.

The National Cooperative Housing Federation of India (NCHF) was constituted in the year 1969 as a national level cooperative federation of State level apex cooperative housing federations (ACHFs). It is registered under the Multi State Cooperative Societies Act, 2002 and is governed by the provisions thereof. It is a non profit, self help cooperative organisation and its management includes an elected Board of Directors.

***SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** The Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation plays an important role by working on crucial issues such as housing, which is one of the country's most serious challenges, and the alleviation of poverty. Our Government is working at a rapid pace through the implementation of specific poverty alleviation programmes to reduce poverty in the country and to improve the living standards of the people. For this purpose, schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the National Rural Livelihoods Mission, the National Urban Livelihoods Mission, the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation, and Housing for All are being implemented with full monitoring and oversight.

I would like to state that the Government of Rajasthan, through the Bhamashah Scheme, is indirectly providing support to all these programmes. According to the World Bank, poverty in India has declined on a large scale.

I respectfully request the Hon. Minister that although the increased use of technology in housing construction has accelerated the pace of construction, the allotment process remains slow, due to

* Speech was laid on the Table.

which completed houses are not being allotted. I urge that effective steps be taken to expedite the allotment system.

I support the Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2016–17.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam Speaker, nearly 18 Members have given their suggestions with reference to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, and some Members have also expressed criticism. In a democracy, it is natural for Members sitting in the Opposition to offer criticism.

Shri S. P. Muddahanume Gowda, Shri Suresh Angadi, Srimati Sanghamita Mamtaz, Shri Baijayant Panda, Dr. Shrikant Shinde, Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao, Shri Rajendra Agrawal, Shri A. P. Jithender Reddy, Shri Shankar Prasad Datta, Shri Midhun Reddy, Shri Uday Pratap Singh, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan, Shri Dushyant Chautala, Shri Basheer, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, Sushmita Dev, Shri Ramesh Bidhuri and Shri C. R. Chaudhary have placed their views on this subject before this House.

I would like to tell you one thing [English] when there is a change of Government, naturally the new Government takes stock of the situation besides its priorities and also announces its programmes. So, in that transitory period, some time naturally is consumed and once the programmes are announced and schemes are approved, the

implementation starts. Hence, the point that some of our Members were making was that last year the expenditure was not up to the mark. This was the remark made by many people. But I would only like to tell my friends from the other side, who were saying that the actual expenditure has come down, is not correct. It is because if you look at 2010 to 2014, the average expenditure per year was Rs. 945. 99 crores, but if you look at these two years -- some people are saying that already three years are over. I remember that we have not even completed two years also if my memory is correct -- Rs. 2,235. 65 crores is the average expenditure. I am not happy with this expenditure. I am not satisfied also because we need money. I do agree with the hon. Members that it is a huge task that we have set for ourselves. Housing for All by 2022 is not an easy thing. It requires a huge amount. I am also thankful to some of the Members that they made a request to the Finance Minister also. I myself am pursuing the Finance Minister to make more allocation for the housing sector. But the fact of the matter is that the State has to send the proposal. Earlier, the Centre used to sanction the schemes. Now, the Prime Minister has directed all of us to give flexibility to the States. Let them identify the beneficiaries; let them identify the place; let them send the proposals; you see whether those proposals are within the system or not and then

you sanction it automatically. What I am doing is this. There is a Committee which is under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary and my Secretary here at the national level where the representative of the State Government is also there. The task of the Committee is to find out whether these proposals are in order or not; whether land is available or not; whether beneficiaries have been identified or not; and then we are approving it. I have not made a single change in any of the proposals made by any State. Let me make this very clear.

Unfortunately, some friends also started saying that because I am from so and so State, so I have given more houses to that State and all. Let me put the record once again straight. Whoever has done some home work; whoever has prepared; whoever has sent proposals, we have given approval to them. If Andhra Pradesh has sent proposals in advance and if Telangana followed it and other States also followed it, then you cannot blame the Minister. Some States, for their own reason, have not even signed the Memorandum of Agreement. They have to identify the cities which have to be covered. They have to identify the land. As Kumari Sushmita Ji was saying that it is not an easy task. I must put it on record that if some States are lagging behind, I myself have spoken to the Chief Ministers of those States. I wrote letters also to them reminding them to expedite it and all. Some

of our friends were saying that I am changing frequently the size of the cities and all. Now, it has been decided that this will be covered in all the notified towns across the country. All the notified towns would be covered. Secondly, States have to do their home work. My friend from Karnataka was very uncharitable. I do not want to be uncharitable by blaming the Chief Minister or the Government of the State saying that they have not sent it. My point is this. Why I am mentioning that also is because a wrong message should not go. Secondly, the Prime Minister has declared Housing for All by 2022. As I told you, it is a noble task but at the same time, it is a challenging task to us. Added to that, urbanisation is taking place rapidly. Education, employment, entertainment, academic activities, enhanced medical facilities are all in urban areas. I am not going into the larger issue of as to how to end this urban-rural divide; how to take up rural areas and all. This is dealt with by a separate Ministry. We, in the Cabinet, are trying to address that issue also. A decent house with assured basic amenities like water, power supply, toilet and necessary infrastructure is essential for a decent living. It is, in fact, a Fundamental Right. Having said so, I can only sanction money. The execution has to be done by the State Governments and the related agencies. This has to be understood by all. The land has to be provided

by the State Government. That is why, we came with the Land Acquisition Act. But, unfortunately, that did not find favour with some of our friends from the other side. It is hanging in balance. Without land, you cannot construct a house. You can go vertical. In some case, even to go for that vertical also, you need land at the basic point. That is one problem.

Some of the Members also made this important point saying that without creating infrastructure, without creating connectivity, if you construct houses, people would naturally not go and occupy those houses. If you construct houses away from the city without transport, without drinking water, without school, without sanitation, people will not go. That is why, as rightly said by some of the Members, under the JNNURM, in Gujarat there were 19,000 houses; in Maharashtra 54,000 thousands and in Odisha the number is small. Altogether, in JNNURM, the houses that were constructed were 10,10. 000; houses occupied are 8,14,000 and the houses unoccupied as on today are 2,26,996. That means, practically, 22 per cent of the houses which are constructed with public money are unoccupied. The reason is the lack of infrastructure and lack of proper planning. So, keeping that in mind, having learnt lessons of the JNNURM, we have advised the States to please take care of all these aspects before

proposing a scheme. That is one of the reasons for the States taking some time also. They need to identify the land, they need to plan the infrastructure also, provide those facilities also and then only the housing scheme will be sanctioned.

Secondly with regard to the proposals, Bihar has sent proposals for 30,126 houses. We have accepted those proposals as it is. Chhattisgarh sent 12, 670, we have accepted as it is. Gujarat sent 66,983, we have accepted as it is. Jharkhand sent 20,293, we have accepted as it is. Himachal Pradesh sent 1,000 and odd, we have accepted as it is. Karnataka sent 16,522, we have accepted it as it is. Money also is released in proportion. If the other States got more houses, naturally more money will be released. It is based on instalment. We release the first instalment, once that is spent, the second instalment also is automatically released.

Maharashtra sent only 8,924 proposals. I have taken up the matter with the Maharashtra Chief Minister. The availability of land is also a major issue in that State. Then they started showing more and more interest and now proposals are coming. With regard to Mizoram, they have sent good proposals of 10,286 houses. We have approved whatever Mizoram has suggested. With regard to Odisha, 11,546 houses proposals have come and we have accepted all those proposals.

With regard to the State of Rajasthan, 12,000 proposals have come and we have accepted all those proposals. Tamil Nadu has sent 34,000 worth of proposals and we have accepted them. Telangana has sent 18,481 proposals and we have accepted that as it is. Andhra Pradesh has sent proposals for 1,93,147 and as it is those proposals were accepted. So, there is no question of any discrimination.

I only urge upon the States on the floor of the House to please expedite, come forward. I cannot wait for a State saying that the State is going to come later and so I have to reserve something for them because I have to reach the target. Keeping that in mind, as and when whoever is ready, whoever is coming forward, we are doing it.

I can share with my Karnataka friends that Karnataka proposals came late, one day before the meeting. In spite of that because some of the hon. Members spoke to me, the Karnataka Assembly Speaker also spoke to me, I have instructed my Secretary to sit extra time, consult the State if necessary, have clarifications and approve them in the same meeting. That was done. One has to be really fair in accepting the fact. With regard to West Bengal also, a good number of 74,880 houses were proposed and we have agreed.

I can assure all the Members that there is no question of showing any discrimination. Country is incomplete without all the States. That

is the situation. With regard to JNNURM also I have spoken. With regard to the houses, total houses sanctioned in the last ten years of the earlier regime was 13,00,000, houses completed were 8,03,820. Within the short period of this NDA Government of not even two years, the total number of houses we have sanctioned is 7,03,186. This is a record. I am not totally satisfied. I would be happy if I can sanction more houses provided the proposals come. If the proposals have not come, I cannot think of a particular village or a particular town and decide the names of who all should be given the house at which place, Tumkur or Anantapur. It is the duty of the State Government. Once they send it, we will do it.

Construction completed as of now, as per the information including the earlier RAY houses which were pending also, is 2,28,321, in these 18 or 19 months. So, please try to understand and appreciate the progress made. The money released so far is Rs. 3,492. 76 lakh. So, the average houses sanctioned per year in the first two years is 3. 15 lakh. This is the situation. I only request the hon. Members to appreciate the efforts that are being made by the Government. How are we different from the earlier Government? In terms of intent, in terms of intensity, in terms of investment, the Government is moving forward.

An expert group has estimated that the shortage will be around 18 million dwelling units. This shortfall is there because a lot of people are living in *kachcha* houses also. In urban area, poor people are living in slums. There is this problem also. We are motivating the people to move to a transit accommodation for the time being and construct multi-storeyed building there. About multi-storeyed buildings also, one hon. Member rightly pointed out that if we construct a six or seven-storeyed building without a lift, people cannot climb to that level. So, these things also have been taken care of.

Our ultimate idea is that by the time of celebration of 75 years of Independence that is by 2022, we would like to provide housing for all. Both the Urban Development Ministry and the Rural Development Ministry are working together. The Prime Minister is also taking personal interest. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was launched on 25th June, 2015. We have not named it after any individual. We have named it after Pradhan Mantri, not Narendra Modi. It shows our intentions as Pradhan Mantri is the Head of the country. It is an institution. Pradhan Mantri is Pradhan Mantri and it is a central scheme.

As I told you, there were several shortcomings in earlier schemes. We learnt by experience also. Earlier, housing projects were

sanctioned irrespective of availability of land. Project was sanctioned and subsequently land acquisition started. If land acquisition got stuck, the project also got stuck. Now, what we have suggested to the States is that they should identify the land, identify the beneficiaries and then send the proposal. We will approve it. The moment we approve it, they can start construction. That is the new system that has been put in place.

As I told you, it has been a challenge for all of us that 2. 50 lakh houses which are built for the poor people are unoccupied and people are shelterless. These two things cannot go together. This is not the case in faraway places. Even in Delhi, there are more than 22,000 houses which are constructed and yet to be occupied. That is the situation. We have taken up the matter with the States and we are persuading them to provide at least infrastructure facilities to those areas because a huge amount of money has been invested. If you don’t create infrastructure and if those buildings are lying vacant, people will take away windows and doors. It happens sometimes with regard to rural railway stations also. That being the case, we are sensitizing the States and also requesting them to be proactive with regard to these issues.

With regard to slum dwellers, initiative development is the method we have taken. They will be rehabilitated in the same place in an improved habitat atmosphere. Rupees one lakh for each slum house will be given to the States and the States have to put in some matching grant and they have to take loan also at an affordable rate of interest. Some people were raising question whether this is sufficient. I say it is not sufficient. But at the same time, we must also understand that as much flour as bread, we will be able to give money according to the amount of money we have. Then, we have also given flexibility to the States for using such central assistance of slum development projects. We did not tie them to a particular place in the State. We are giving this much money and they can use it anywhere in the State.

We have also enhanced central assistance. Earlier, the central assistance was Rs 75,000. People were complaining about lack of adequate amount of money. They should remember that it was Rs 75,000 earlier and now it has been raised to Rs 1,50,000.

With regard to increase in the interest subsidy to an attractive 6. 50 per cent, to my knowledge anywhere in the country for any scheme, 6. 5 per cent interest rebate is given first time by Narendra Modi Government keeping in view the need to encourage housing sector.

With regard to registration of houses in PMAY in the name of female Members, the houses that are constructed will be registered in the name of female Members because female Members will keep it for longer term. Male Members sometimes tend to go somewhere in the evening. … (*Interruptions*)

With regard to Rajiv Awas Yojana and Rajiv Rinn Yojana, as I told you, the amount committed by the Centre was less but the commitment from the Centre today is more. I am not trying to score political points. But if somebody points out, I have to put the record straight. That is why I am bringing it up here.

With regard to the performance during the last ten years, our target is to construct 1. 8 crores by 20222022; in a short span of five months, we have approved construction of 6,83,724 houses. It took nearly a year to revise the scheme, modulate the new scheme, interact with States and also discuss with other agencies. I admit one year has gone into that. We are gaining momentum and moving forward at a rapid pace. The sooner the States submit their proposals, the sooner we will examine them here, accord approval, and move them forward.

The Standing Committee has also made certain observations. They were not happy with the amount of money that was allocated. I do agree. I am not happy but what can I do? The Finance Minister also

has limited options. How much money do they have, how much demand is there, money has to be paid for all the departments? Keeping that in mind, he has given priority to the housing sector. Compared to the earlier allocation, Rs. 5,400 crore have been allocated. I hope, our States would be able to spend the money and I would be able to demand more money from the Finance Minsiter. If I am not able to spend the money which is allocated to me but I go to the Finance Minister, he will ask me, 'You have not been able to spend the money which was given to you. How can I sanction you an additional amount of money?' There is always re-appropriation in the month of December. I would ask all the States to please try to expedite on the basis of whatever sanctions have been given.

I would like to share with the House the incentives that we have given. Housing cannot be done by the Union Government or the State Government alone; the private sector also has to get into this in a big way. Keeping that in mind, service tax exemption on affordable houses up to 60 square metre has been given. In a major concession to attract people to the housing sector, a hundred per cent deduction on profits for housing project approved from June 2016 to March 2018 has been allowed up to three years up to a limit of 30 square metres in major cities and up to 60 square metres in other cities. A tax deduction

of Rs. 50,000 for first time buyers of houses costing less than Rs. 50 lakh with a loan component of less than Rs. 25 lakh is also allowed. Excise duty exemption on ready-mix concrete plants was also announced by the Finance Minister. That is also helping me. Enhancing house rent allowance exemption from Rs. 24,000 to Rs. 60,000 has also encouraged people to invest in housing. A dividend distribution tax exemption of 17 per cent on incomes of real estate investment trusts is a major initiative taken by this Government. Minimum area and capital investment norms have been liberalized with a total exemption for affordable housing. This is another attraction because you need investment. If investment is not forthcoming, we have allowed foreign direct investment also.

I am happy to say that there is so much encouragement. So, I appeal to the private sector also to join the housing programme in a big way. There are lots of opportunities. Fortunately, the Reserve Bank of India also has reduced the general interest rates by 0. 25 per cent over two or three times. Naturally, banks will also reduce the interest rates. With my interest subvention of 6. 5 per cent, the loan will be much cheaper. Keeping that in mind, I hope the private sector will also enter this in a big way; and they are already showing interest.

With regard to the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill, I am happy to share with the House that the Bill which the House had passed and the Rajya Sabha had approved has been notified on the 1st May. It is notified now. I can assure the House through you that after the Real Estate Bill was passed thousands of messages are coming through email, SMS and the social media saying, 'So and so has done like that. This has happened in Gurugram, this has happened in Noida; it has happened in a particular area, and a particular individual has done this. A certain cricketer was its brand ambassador; kindly advise them.' Some sort of awareness has been created. We can understand how people were taken for a ride earlier by fly-by-night operators. That is why the Real Estate Bill is really a big boon to the housing sector. It is not strangulation; it is only a regulation. I am happy to share with the House that a majority of the renowned builders across the country are very happy. They said that it would avoid fly-by-night operators who put out front-page multi-coloured advertisements but do not live up to the expectations and deceive the people. That situation can be avoided but it will take some time. My Department, under the Chairmanship of my Secretary, is working about the model rules. Once the model rules are finalised within two months, they will be sent to all the States. States have also to finalise

the rules and then they have to appoint the Regulatory Authority. Once the Regulatory Authority comes into operation, action can be taken against these erring defaulters. I would like to warn all those people, who are flouting rules, who are going back on the promises that strictest possible action will be taken against such people. They should not take the consumers for a ride. They should live up to the expectations and the promises they have made because it has become a big issue in different parts of the country. That is why I have to make a Statement in the House on the occasion of our discussion.

A Committee has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Secretary to draft rules. Two meetings have already been held. It is expected to be completed by July. Specific Sections of the Act have been notified in the Gazette of India on 27th April for commencement with effect from 1st May. Appropriate Governments have to notify rules by 31st October. Appropriate Governments mean State Governments and other Authorities also. The appropriate Government has to establish the Regulatory Authority and Appellate Tribunal by 30th April. So, I would urge upon all the State Governments to please expedite this process because hopes have been raised with the passage of the Bill. We must live up to the expectations of the people by

making the needed arrangements for the regulators in different parts of the country. This is about the housing.

I assure the hon. Members, there is a concern expressed by many of the Members that Members of Parliament are not taken into confidence, we are working out a mechanism where the Member of Parliament of the area also should be taken into confidence. There are complaints saying that only one Party people are being selected and other Party people are being neglected. That is not the purpose of the Scheme. Fortunately, there are different governments in different States. They should all understand that we are working in a federal system. They have to identify the beneficiaries on the basis of merit. I hope the States will understand the spirit. We are working out with a system wherein the MPs also will have some say with regard to identification and also with regard to monitoring of the scheme. This has already been discussed earlier.

Madam, with regard to Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana, National Urban Livelihood Mission (NULM), it is extended from 789 cities to all the towns across the country. Shri Baijayant Panda was telling that it was confined to only some cities earlier. Today, the Government has taken a decision whereby 441 statutory cities and towns are going to be covered under this Scheme.

With regard to operational flexibility also, we have given broad guidelines and we have left to the States for issuance of operational guidelines. In the last two years 4,05,014 urban poor were given skill training under the Scheme; 1,04,031 Self Help Groups were formed and 89,752 of them were extended loans also; 85,502 urban poor were assisted with subsidised loans to set up individual and group enterprises. Over 6 lakh street vendors were identified and 770 shelters were sanctioned under Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana and NULM.

Here, I would urge upon the States that the Street Vendors Act was passed during the earlier UPA regime. It is a very progressive piece of legislation but unfortunately in the Act it is said that the rules will be made by the States. So far its performance is not satisfactory. I do not want to name any State but I would request all the States, it is a very important matter. Earlier, a Public Interest Litigation was also filed in the hon. court and the court also made certain observations. I only hope that the States will take immediate steps. I have been writing to the States. This is the second letter I have written to the States reminding them about the need to make these rules at the earliest. About Rs. 725 crore of fund sanctioned is currently available with the States in this regard for the homeless and shelters also.

Ease of construction, single window clearance is another important thing. I have taken an initiative and had a meeting with six of my colleagues around six or seven times; Defence Minister, Consumer Affairs Minister, Environment and Forest Minister, Urban Development Ministry, culture Minister, Civil Supplies Minister, we all sat together to take steps for a single window approval mechanism for housing project. This was a grievance expressed by many of the people. I am very happy that all the Union Government agencies have agreed to create certain bench marks and also the Ministry of Civil Aviation has come out with their help. I would like to thank my colleague, Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju and his team for having come forward to have colour coding maps so that every municipal corporation would be able to understand what is permitted. They need not come to Delhi. They need not come to Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju or even Shri Prakash Javadekar which used to be a big problem earlier with regard to environment clearance.

Now up to a certain level, the city corporations are given powers. But they have been given guidelines which one has to follow. I am happy that these things have been done in a record time. Colour-coded zonal maps for Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata, Navi Mumbai, Guwahati, Hyderabad, Delhi, Amritsar, Lucknow, Chennai,

Bengaluru, Jaipur and Nagpur have been completed. Nine more airports would be taken up by June. These are Kochi, Patna, Thiruvananthapuram, Aurangabad, Bhubaneswar, Ranchi, Puducherry, Surat and Vijayawada and by December 2016, all active airports will have colour-coded maps. This is the assurance given by the Minister.

With regard to Defence, 28 airports with civilian enclaves would also be given colour-coded zonal maps. They are also under preparation and they will be shortly notified. With regard to environmental safeguards for incorporation of by-laws, the Ministry of Environment has issued a notification with pre-defined objectives of monitorable environmental safeguards and conditions for buildings of different sizes. Heritage by-laws have also been prepared and shared with the Ministry of Urban Development. They have identified 281 monuments and where these are situated. We have an MoU with ISRO and mobile apps have also been developed through which the applicant could determine the geo-coordinates of his property and apply for on-line permission to repair, renovate and construct buildings also. There is on line web portal development by the Ministry of Culture.

Madam, as I have no time, lastly I would only say that recently we have issued instructions for Delhi and had a workshop also. In Delhi, the applications for housing plans would be on-line only. By the end of the month, there is no need to go for person to person contact. As you know, person to person and hand to hand contact means that something happens in between. That is going to be avoided.

As regards Mumbai, I am having a meeting with the Chief Minister on 6th of this month where we are going to issue guidelines for Mumbai also. Once Delhi and Mumbai show a roadmap for others, I hope and urge upon all the Members of Parliament to impress upon their municipal bodies as also State Governments to see that permission is given within the stipulated period. The Chief Ministers of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have assured in this regard. They have set up a time limit also. I hope that every State would set up a time limit of 30 days to 60 days maximum. Once an application is filed, permission would be deemed to have been given if it is not given. That is the system on which we are working.

Madam, there are a lot of other issues but I am sorry that because of paucity of time, I would not be able to touch them. I am thankful to the hon. Members for the suggestions which they have given. I have

taken note of them. My officers are also sitting here. They have also taken note of it. Our endeavour is to live up to the expectations of the people. I seek the cooperation of the States and urban local bodies in this endeavour.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put cut motion No. 1 moved by Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav to the vote of the House.

The cut motion was put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put cut motion No. 6 moved by Shri Sankar Prasad Datta to the vote of the House.

The cut motion was put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put cut motion Nos. 7 to 9 moved by Shri Baijayant Jay Panda to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put cut motion No. 10 moved by Shri Kaushalendra Kumar to the vote of the House.

The cut motion was put and negatived.

18. 00 hours

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put cut motions No. 11 to 21 moved by Shri B. Vinod Kumar to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demand for Grant relating to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2017, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the Second column thereof against Demand No. 50 relating to the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. "

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended till the Business of the House is over.

18. 02 hours

SUBMISSION OF OUTSTANDING DEMANDS TO VOTE OF THE HOUSE (GUILLOTINE)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, before I put Outstanding Demands for Grants (General), 2016-17 to the vote of the House, I have to inform that many hon. Members have tabled Cut Motions to the Outstanding Demands. The lists of admitted cut motions have already been circulated to the Members. As there is no time for moving the Cut Motions, I am treating all the cut motions to the Outstanding Demands, which have been circulated, as moved.

CUT MOTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put all the Cut Motions, which have been circulated and treated as moved, together to the vote of the House.

The cut motions were put and negatived.

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Outstanding Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries/Departments to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the fourth column of the Order Paper be granted to the President, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to complete the sums necessary to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2017, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof, against: -

(1) Demand Nos. 1 to 3 relating to Ministry of Agriculture;

(2) Demand No. 4 relating to Department of Atomic Energy;

(3) Demand No. 5 relating to Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homoeopathy (AYUSH);

(4) Demand No. 6 to 8 relating to Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers;

(5) Demand No. 10 relating to Ministry of Coal;

(6) Demand Nos. 11 and 12 relating to Ministry of Commerce and Industry;

(7) Demand Nos. 13 to 15 relating to Ministry of Communications and Information Technology;

(8) Demand Nos. 16 and 17 relating to Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

(9) Demand No. 18 relating to Ministry of Corporate Affairs;

(10) Demand No. 19 relating to Ministry of Culture;

(11) Demand Nos. 20 to 23 relating to Ministry of Defence;

(12) Demand No. 25 relating to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation;

(13) Demand No. 26 relating to Ministry of Earth Sciences;

(14) Demand No. 27 relating to Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change;

(15) Demand No. 28 relating to Ministry of External Affairs;

(16) Demand Nos. 29, 30, 32 and 34 to 40 relating to Ministry of Finance;

(17) Demand No. 41 relating to Ministry of Food Processing Industries;

(18) Demand Nos. 42 and 43 relating to Ministry of Health and Family Welfare;

(19) Demand Nos. 44 and 45 relating to Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises;

(20) Demand Nos. 46 to 49 and 90 to 94 relating to Ministry of Home Affairs:

(21) Demand Nos. 51 and 52 relating to Ministry of Human Resource Development;

(22) Demand No. 53 relating to Ministry of Information and Broadcasting;

(23) Demand No. 54 relating to Ministry of Labour and Employment;

(24) Demand Nos. 55 and 56 relating to Ministry of Law and Justice;

(25) Demand No. 58 relating to Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises;

(26) Demand No. 59 relating to Ministry of Mines;

(27) Demand No. 60 relating to Ministry of Minority Affairs;

(28) Demand No. 61 relating to Ministry of New and Renewable Energy;

(29) Demand No. 62 relating to Ministry of Panchayati Raj;

(30) Demand No. 63 relating to Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs;

(31) Demand No. 64 relating to Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;

(32) Demand No. 66 relating to Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas;

(33) Demand No. 67 relating to Ministry of Planning;

(34) Demand No. 68 relating to Ministry of Power;

(35) Demand No. 70 relating to Lok Sabha;

(36) Demand No. 71 relating to Rajya Sabha;

(37) Demand No. 73 relating to Secretariat of Vice-President;

(38) Demand No. 74 relating to Ministry of Road Transport and Highways;

(39) Demand Nos. 75 and 76 relating to Ministry of Rural Development;

(40) Demand Nos. 77 to 79 relating to Ministry of Science and Technology;

(41) Demand No. 80 relating to Ministry of Shipping;

(42) Demand No. 84 relating to Department of Space;

(43) Demand No. 85 relating to Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation;

(44) Demand No. 86 relating to Ministry of Steel;

(45) Demand No. 87 relating to Ministry of Textiles;

(46) Demand No. 89 relating to Ministry of Tribal Affairs;

(47) Demand No. 95 relating to Ministry of Urban Development;

(48) Demand No. 96 relating to Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation;

(49) Demand No. 97 relating to Ministry of Women and Child Development; and

(50) Demand No. 98 relating to Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. ”

Demands for Grants -Budget (General) for 2016-17 to be submitted to the vote of Lok Sabha

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The Outstanding Demands for Grants relating to the Ministries/Departments are passed.

18. 08 hours

APPROPRIATION (No. 2) BILL, 2016*

HON. SPEAKER: We shall now take up item No. 39 – Appropriation (No. 2) Bill.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorise payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2016-17.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2016-17."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: I introduce** the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: We shall now take up item No. 40.

---

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2, dated 03.05.2016

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2016-17, be taken into consideration."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2016-17, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI JAYANT SINHA: I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

---

18. 10hours

COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION FUND BILL, 2015

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Item no. 41, the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, I want to draw your attention to the fact that the amendments to be moved by the Minister have been circulated just an hour ago. We should be provided enough time, at least a day, to go through them. There are 49 amendments. I am not going into the merit of the Bill. The day it was introduced I had insisted that it should be referred to the Standing Committee. Of course, it was referred to the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee had also gone through it in detail. But to study the amendments that are going to be moved by the Minister, we need time. It is better that we should pass it during this Session itself. I do not know what the opinion of the Congress Party is. We have another six to eight days' time.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, for a meaningful discussion, we should be given adequate time because 49 amendments are there.

HON. SPEAKER: We are not going to pass the Bill without discussion. Discussion will be there.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: These 49 amendments are new.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: We have also extended the time. There has to be a discussion. We are not going to pass it without discussion.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, if the time has been extended, then at least one, two or four hours should be given for proper consideration. You may please do that. The Demands for Grants of a hundred Departments were guillotined. ... (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: If everyone speaks at the same time, I will not be able to understand anything.

. . . (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: First, let him complete. What is happening?

. . . (*Interruption*s)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, I only wish to say this much that the 49 amendments suggested by Shri Javadekar need to be examined. That is why this should be taken up tomorrow. Today, the Grants of a hundred Departments were guillotined without

discussion. They kept applauding, and we kept watching. ... (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing of that sort has happened. It is for everyone, including you.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): This has been happening for the last fifty years. ... (*Interruption*s)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You may be the one speaking. You may keep speaking for fifteen years, even for a hundred years. ... (*Interruption*s)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge, that is the same point you are making, is it not?

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, I have no problem in sitting down. I will be the last person to leave. But at least, please take this up tomorrow. ... (*Interruption*s)

[English]

SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): These CAMPA Funds are due since long. As Members from a new State, we

have been promised many a times that the Bill will be passed soon. It has gone to the Standing Committee also. Now, it is high time that the Bill is passed. If some parties want to study the amendments for two or three hours, let the discussion take place, let it go for a longer time and in-between they can study them. But today you please pass the Bill.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Madam Speaker, before you take a call, let me explain that out of these 49 amendments, 20 amendments are the recommendations of the Standing Committee, which are in public domain and we circulated them to Members over a month back. So, we take it that Members have read these 20 recommendations of the Standing Committee. The other amendments are just consequential, relating to drafting and small corrections. In these there are no substantive changes. So, we can start the discussion.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Shri Mahtab reads the materials thoroughly and always comes prepared. I appreciate the efforts that he makes. The matter was discussed in the BAC also. My problem is there are plenty of Bills to be passed. This Bill is due for passing. After that, we have to pass the Finance Bill. Then, it has to go to Rajya Sabha also. We have Bankruptcy and Insolvency Code also. Then, there is discussion on drought. There is a heavy agenda ahead of us.

Some notices under Calling Attention etc. are there. So, please cooperate. It is a Bill which would help the States to get good funds, which were lying idle for a number of years.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): Madam, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to provide for the establishment of funds under the public accounts of India and the public accounts of each State and crediting thereto the monies received from the user agencies towards compensatory afforestation, additional compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation, net present value and all other amounts recovered from such agencies under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; constitution of an authority at national level and at each of the State and Union territory Administration for administration of the funds and to utilise the monies so collected for undertaking artificial regeneration (plantations), assisted natural regeneration, protection of forests, forest related infrastructure development, Green India Programme, wildlife protection and other related activities and for matters connected

therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.
”

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to provide for the establishment of funds under the public accounts of India and the public accounts of each State and crediting thereto the monies received from the user agencies towards compensatory afforestation, additional compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation, net present value and all other amounts recovered from such agencies under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; constitution of an authority at national level and at each of the State and Union territory Administration for administration of the funds and to utilise the monies so collected for undertaking artificial regeneration (plantations), assisted natural regeneration, protection of forests, forest related infrastructure development, Green India Programme, wildlife protection and other related activities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.
"

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): Madam, Hon. Minister has stated that there is some urgency in passing this Bill. To some extent, I agree with it because the present Bill, which is the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015 has some legislative history. When the UPA was in power, a similar Bill was introduced in Lok Sabha. Due to dissolution of last Lok Sabha, as a consequence of elections being declared, the said Bill lapsed. Thereafter, this Government has brought this Bill again. It was referred to the Standing Committee as Shri Mahtab *Ji* said. I am a Member of that Standing Committee. I only ask for some leeway because even I have not been able to go through all the amendments that have been circulated today. So, I have not actually been able to draw comparison between the Standing Committee recommendations and what has been brought in.

Having said that, I remember that a few days back the Chief Whip of the Treasury Bench, Shri Meghwal *Ji* spoke in the Zero Hour and he had a word of caution for the Judiciary and that the Judiciary should not go beyond its power, beyond its duty in making any commentary. But today as we talk on a historic Bill, we will see that it is the Supreme Court of India which actually showed us the path for this Bill. I believe that this is one Bill where neither the Treasury

Bench nor the Opposition should have any disagreement because in essence what we are doing is, we are implementing the recommendations and the directions that has come from the apex court from time to time.

I would like to say that - as the time is very short and we have to pass this Bill in one hour – the hon. Minister has said that recommendations of the Standing Committee and the text of this Bill have been in the public domain. Some concerns and suggestions have come from different institutions and experts in the field. One primary concern seems to be a key amendment that this Bill is going to bring in the system. Earlier, 90 per cent of this fund was collected from the user agency for compensatory afforestation. Madam, 90 per cent of those funds is to remain with the Government of India, and 10 per cent is to be with States. Now, with this Bill coming in, the situation will reverse. The State Governments would keep 90 per cent of the fund, and 10 per cent of the fund the Government of India will retain.

Some concerns which I hope the hon. Minister will address in his reply are - often it is seen as recorded by the CAG's Report in 2013, the money is with the government. But the Forest Department of the State Governments often does not have that capacity to use this fund and actually achieve the purpose for which this compensation is

given, which is afforestation. This happens due to lack of capacity in the Forest Department at the State level. As a consequence, the entire policy is headed and aimed towards balancing development when the environment fails. The Standing Committee has referred to this point.

Secondly, a major issue is when an user agency diverts forest land, he is required to acquire land which is non-forest land that may have afforestation. But we all know that land is a scarce resource. Even in the debate today on the Urban Development Ministry we discussed the unavailability of land even when it comes to housing. So, when you leave it to the user agency to find alternative land, it never happens. As a consequence of it, the Standing Committee has pointed out that to take an example between 2006 and 2012, the State Environment Departments were to get almost a lakh hectares of land for afforestation. But what actually happened is, the State Governments only got some 28,000 hectares. Out of that, only 7,286 hectares were actually used for afforestation. So, this is a real challenge not just for the Minister but, I think, for a nation that is moving more and more towards sustainable development.

Apart from that, I would request that across party lines in the Standing Committee, there was a recommendation that the Government of India should provide not 10 per cent but 5 percent

funds. The reason for this was that before this order of the Supreme Court, most of the fund is lying with the State Government. Now, which State is in what position to return 10 per cent of that amount? It may be a practical difficulty. Due to lack of resources at the level of the State Government, this recommendation was made.

Another important suggestion that had come from TERI was that native species should be added in the preamble and the reason for it was to maintain the ecology of the forest. I am not aware whether the Government has taken that into consideration. The Minister may address it.

I think my last point would be that NPV, which is 51 per cent of the entire fund that is lying with us, is now going to lie with the State Government. Where 51 per cent of the component is NPV, this Bill has a provision that there will be a high level committee which will devise the method to come up how to calculate NPV. So, it has been left open-ended. This is my understanding. All I would request the hon. Minister to do is that in future whenever you consider it, please look into the suggestions of the Madhu Verma Committee of 2014 which did give his recommendations as to how NPV should be calculated.

Another major point that came up in the Standing Committee from different experts and different environmentalists is that the CAG had pointed out that the quality of forest cover has declined between 1951 and 2014. The reason for it is that the quality of compensatory afforestation is a burning issue amongst environmentalists. So I would request the hon. Minister to look into these aspects that have been raised by the Standing Committee and in the House by our Party. I hope that this Bill will actually achieve a landmark goal, I would say, furthering or taking India closer to sustainable development where we can give the future generations of this nation a better standard of living.

Thank you, Madam.

[Translation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015. I fully support this Bill. I would like to endorse all the points made by Shrimati Sumita Ji, but first I would like to address the credit she attributed to the Supreme Court. In our country, we already had a very sound law in place as early as 1980. Under that law, if forest land was diverted for mining or for any other purpose, the State concerned was entitled to compensation, which it would utilise for afforestation. This process was functioning reasonably well in the States. However, as was mentioned yesterday by Shri Udit Raj in the context of judicial over-activism, the Court intervened in this matter as well. The Court reprimanded the State Governments on the ground that they were able to utilise only 83 Percent of the funds. Due to the failure of the State Governments, Rs. 200 crore could not be utilised. The whip of judicial activism came down, and the consequence was that instead of Rs. 200 crore, a fund of Rs. 40,000 crore has been lying idle. This reminds me of a saying: one set out to become a Choubey and returned as a Dubey. Shrimati Sumita Ji has praised the Court, but an utilisation rate of 83

Percent is not a bad outcome. Today, instead of Rs. 200 crore, Rs. 40,000 crore is lying unutilised.

Madam Speaker, on 23 April 2004, the CAMPA was constituted. Thereafter, the NDA Government went out of office and the UPA Government came to power. It was evident that the entire CAMPA fund ought to have been transferred to the States. It is a matter of record that the UPA Government never showed any real interest in such matters, and it was for this reason that the Court was compelled to constitute an ad hoc committee and transfer the entire fund into its account.

I am extremely grateful to Shri Prakash Javadekar Ji for having brought forward such an excellent piece of legislation. Our forest cover is declining due to various reasons, and the soul of this Bill lies in ensuring that compensatory afforestation is undertaken in return, so that forest land is restored on vacant land. Forest regeneration does not merely mean planting trees; it requires the development of an entire ecosystem.

I would respectfully request the Hon. Minister that while we may never be able to recreate a completely natural forest, this fund should be utilised to achieve afforestation that is as close to natural forestation as possible, rather than focusing only on planting trees.

The Hon. Prime Minister always speaks of Integral Humanism, which encompasses our culture, agriculture, natural resources, youth power, democracy and knowledge. This Bill has the potential that, if these funds are used properly, all of us can make a meaningful contribution towards environmental protection. We have recently witnessed forest fires in Uttarakhand. Today, tribal communities and people living around forests have become alienated from them. If they enter the forest, the police stop them; even picking up dry leaves invites action. As a result, they feel that the forest is no longer theirs. When fires break out, they do not feel involved or responsible. My humble request is that this fund should be utilised with a holistic vision, and not merely for the purpose of planting trees.

Madam Speaker, the most commendable feature of this Bill is that, until now, the work was being carried out through an ad hoc committee, whereas it will now function under the Central and State Governments with complete transparency. We have seen the consequences of such ad hoc arrangements in the CAG reports. In Bihar, under Hon. Nitish Kumar, the funds were used to purchase vehicles and residential buildings; in Delhi, under Shrimati Sheila Dikshit, they were spent on buying Gypsies and laptops; and in Haryana, under Shri Hooda, they were utilised for the maintenance of

forest department buildings. Due to such ad hocism, these funds were misused.

I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for bringing both the State Governments and the Union Government fully within the framework, ensuring that the funds are spent transparently. I also support the creation of the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund and the State Compensatory Afforestation Funds. I further endorse the provision that 90 Percent of the funds should go to the States and 10 Percent to the Centre.

Madam, today forest fires have broken out in Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. There should be a separate fund for such situations, so that it can be utilised effectively and the Union Government can provide additional financial assistance to areas where forest cover has suffered greater damage. The entire amount will be audited by the CAG. My humble request is that the funds should be spent, and spent well. In 2011, we approved NH 28, which runs from Chhapra via Bettiah, passing through the Valmiki Nagar Tiger Reserve to Gorakhpur. All the roads up to Paniyahwan in Gorakhpur were constructed within two years, but an eight kilometre stretch passing through forest land remained entangled before the NGT for three years. Madam Speaker, this was merely an eight

kilometre road and it already existed. It was not a new road; rather, it had existed earlier as a PWD road. Even then, its construction was not permitted. I am deeply grateful to Shri Prakash Javadekar, because he removed this restriction and allowed roads that earlier existed as PWD roads. However, this information is not widely known, which leads to significant difficulties. Therefore, I request that funds be utilised properly, with complete transparency and in an appropriate manner, and that no funds get trapped in red tape. I urge the Hon. Minister to kindly look into this matter.

Madam, I would like to make one more request. The provision contained in Section 6 deserves reconsideration. If Section 6 were drafted in the following manner, it would have been even better.

[English]

"Save as otherwise provided in this Act, the monies available in the State Fund shall be disbursed and utilised exclusively for the purpose for creating natural forest cover as far as possible. On the non forest land made available by the user agency of compensatory afforestation or in its absence. On enrichment of such natural degraded or denuded forest located closer to the forest area diverted to non forestry use and double in its extent with a view to bringing it at par with climax natural vegetation in the area. "

[Translation]

In this manner, forests must be created in lieu of forests. Otherwise, it will be no different from what happens under MGNREGA, where plantations are carried out but no one knows where they are planted or what ultimately happens to them. Therefore, it should not be the case that this amount is also misused. Forest must be replaced strictly by forest. I hope the Hon. Minister will make earnest efforts in this regard. I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Hon. Speaker, I rise to speak on the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015. Broadly I am in agreement with the formulations of this Bill. Nobody can dispute the purposes behind this Bill.

Forests are the greatest natural resources, which this earth has. Trees take carbon dioxide from air and emit oxygen. Forest cover protects our biodiversity including flora, fauna and wild animals. It is essential to maintain the forest cover of the country so that ecological balance is achieved.

In a Century, where we are, due to industrialization, emitting greenhouse gases from our automobiles, from our refrigerators and air conditioners. It is essential to maintain the forest cover. So, any effort to maintain the forest cover should be laudable.

There has been a debate between two aspects – environment and development. Ultimately, we have come to the conclusion that we must have sustainable development. We must have development in a way so that environment is sustained.

We have discussed, only with your permission, Madam, yesterday about the forest fires that are raging in Uttarakhand and

other northern hill districts and also about the tremendous damages done to our forests in those areas.

There are many reports which say that the wood mafia are responsible for forest covers. It is not that the villagers do not try to put out the fires. Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal was saying that they were not interested because they were not allowed into forests. That is not right. There is the Forest Rights Act, which has been enacted. This Act gives the tribals the right to forest produce. Forest dwellers, who are mostly the tribals, have a right to minor forest produce. It is not that they have no right. The Forest Rights Act is there. Well, I have gone to forests and found that there is a separate sort of empire belonging to the forest officials. The laws of civilised society do not apply there; and all sorts of things happen in the forests, much of which is illegal.

We are in a country where every week we hear of poaching by people. Even in Kaziranga National Park, two days back, one rhinoceros had been found dead with its horn cut off. So, we, human beings are really destroying, in our way, the forest cover.

So, any effort by the Minister to keep the forest cover intact is supportable by all and sundry. But in spite of all this need that we feel, the Bill has had a chequered history. The first law was the Forest Conservation Act, 1980. Then, in 2002, the court directed that the

fund be utilised for plantations, protection of forests, wildlife protection and other activities; and all monies collected under the scheme have been placed under the ad-hoc CAMPA funds. But then, the Supreme Court gave several other observations. In its judgment on 26th September, 2005, the Supreme Court said that all the CAMPA funds should be outside public accounts. But the Comptroller and Auditor General said: "No. They should be accountable and they should be placed in public accounts. "

So, accordingly, Madam, a Bill was passed by the 14th Lok Sabha on 23rd December, 2008. But unfortunately, the Rajya Sabha could not take it up. So, that Bill lapsed. I shall thank Mr. Javadekar that he brought forward a fresh Bill in 2015. The Bill, with your advice, was referred to the Standing Committee on Science & Technology, Environment & Forests. The Committee gave its Report in February, 2016. We have put this Bill for consideration as per the Report of the Sanding Committee.

Madam, what does this Bill envisage? There is an ad-hoc CAMPA Fund. The full form of CAMPA is Compulsory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority Fund. In old days, there was *Campa Cola*. But this is CAMPA Fund, which has been introduced. Now, how this will be spent, has been specified in this

Bill. Two Authorities have been specified. One is the National Authority and the other is the State Authority. Two Funds have been specified. They are: the National Fund and the State Fund.

The main point to note is that this CAMPA Fund has been having money. Anybody who cuts forests, to set up any development project, has to deposit a certain amount with the Government. Now, this Fund has been collecting money over the years; and now the total amount is mind-boggling -- Rs. 38,000 crore.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Now, it is Rs. 41,000 crore.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I see.

So, just imagine, that is the Fund, which is available but we are not being able to spend it for ecological purposes, for afforestation, for wildlife protection, for creating biodiversity. Now, when this Bill is being passed, we shall have the freedom. The National Authority will decide how to spend the National Fund and the State Authority will decide how to spend the State Fund.

Mr. Javadekar has big power because he is the Chairman of the National Authority. In the State, the Chief Minister is the Chairman and not the Forest Minister. But at the Centre, Mr. Javadekar has been

given full power. I have full confidence that he will spend it wisely and maintain our diversity.

But, Madam, one matter is not quite clear to me. If Mr. Javadekar has followed the version of the Standing Committee, why has he not implemented one decision of the Standing Committee? Look at this Report. In Clause 3 and 4, the Standing Committee said:

> "Most of the State Governments have stated that crediting 10 per cent of the funds to National Authority is on the higher side and we are of the view that it must be reduced. The Committee feels that the National Authority, as envisaged under the Bill, would not be requiring funds to the tune of Rs. 4,000 crore which is 10 per cent of accumulated funds for its establishment and functioning. Therefore, there is a case for reducing the share of Union Government National Authority from the proposed 10 per cent. The Standing Committee, therefore, recommended that in line two, the words '10 per cent' may be replaced by the word 'five per cent'. "

This is one recommendation of the Standing Committee which the Minister has not gone by. He is looking through his amendments

which came just now. He wants to keep more funds for himself because if he gets 10 per cent, he will have Rs. 4,000 crore to play around or to spend in the manner he wants.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: I will tell the logic.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: He will explain the logic. I think that he should have adopted this recommendation because ultimately, the Centre is a supervising body. It is the State Governments which actually look after the forests. It is the State Governments which have the mechanism to look after it. The Union Government is only a supervising body but Mr. Javadekar is good. He said that he went to Kaziranga, he had gone to other forest areas and he is going to wetland areas. He is trying to understand the problem of forests and environment in a big way. So, I do hope that proper use will be made of this fund.

I would only say that at the Central level, he has got one monitoring authority, which will be composed of experts who will independently study the whole thing whether the funds are being properly utilized or not. I request the Minister, through you, that the best possible persons in this case without any partisan outlook should be employed. The best way to look at forests is through the satellite.

Madam, satellite pictures give an absolutely clear picture of the forest cover. Now, it is very easy to keep track of how much forest we have and how much we can do and there are various other experts who can be utilized because this is not only a case of planting a few trees in place of other trees. It is a matter of maintaining the eco-system and the total biodiversity that is affected.

Lastly, I would like to say that we have included one tribal expert because forests are not all about animals, forests are also about people and they are mostly tribal people who have been traditionally living on forest produce. Their interest of the forest villages as they are called should be looked after and the idea came from the West Bengal, the Arabari model Joint Forest Management Committee and that should be implemented throughout the country.

With that, I said earlier that we have no objection to the Bill. This fund of Rs. 40,000 crore should be unlocked and that should be properly spent. Now, it is in the public accounts. It will be subject to the scrutiny of the C&AG and all other bodies and I think that this will be a good thing for the country if the Bill is passed.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA (PURI): Thank you Madam for giving me an opportunity to speak on this very important Bill which the hon. Minister has brought to this House.

Madam, I rise in support of the Bill. I believe that the Bill cures or at least attempts to cure many of the ills that have beset this entire CAMPA fund system during the UPA regime in the bygone years.

Madam, it is a matter of deep regret that the C&AG Report of 2013 really acts as a savage indictment of all that was wrong during the UPA times. The C&AG Report says that the States did not utilise 39 per cent of the funds released to them from the Centre because their Forest Departments lack the planning and implementation capacity. The Union Government did nothing to augment the States' Forest and Planning Departments in order to ensure that these funds could be spent. Madam, 11 out of 30 States audited were unable to spend more than half of their funds between 2009 and 2012. They were getting only 10 per cent of CAMPA funds, and yet 11 out of 30 States were unable to spend more than half of their funds. This is the sorry state of affairs during the UPA regime.

The happy thing, Madam, may I just say here, coming from Odisha, the same C&AG Report speaks in glowing terms of our State

Government's performance and I must highlight this and I hope the whole House will appreciate this.

> "The afforestation activity in non-forest land was limited to only four States of Assam, Chhattisgarh, Odisha and Tamil Nadu. In fact, 95 per cent of all afforestation done on non-forest land in the country was in one State, Odisha. The total afforestation undertaken in the country on non-forest land in the rest of the States was a mere 329 hectares. Odisha exceeded the target for afforestation on NFL set to it for itself. "

So, Madam, you can see that despite the fact that the Centre was retaining 90 per cent of the funds, releasing only 10 per cent to the States, actually, the State of Odisha has utilized these funds. A State like Odisha has utilized these funds wonderfully well under the Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik's very, very able guidance and his personal stewardship because he is a person who has written books on forests, plants, gardens, etc. So, he is personally extremely committed to the environment, and, therefore, he has personally undertaken to ensure that whatever meagre funds that we received were utilized.

Now I am very heartened to see that this formula of 10 and 90 percent has been flipped around. The Union Government will now

retain 10 per cent. Although as Saugata Babu said and the Standing Committee has said, why do you even need 10 per cent? Halve it to five per cent. I leave that to the wisdom of the hon. Minister. I know he is a wise Minister. When he replies, I am sure he will tell us that there is good logic for this. But now that this formula has been flipped around and the States are now going to be using 90 per cent, there is still a perilous position in the rest of the country. I have no doubt Odisha will utilize these funds in the manner they have done very efficiently and very, very effectively. But the other States need capacity building. Unless the Union Government augments capacity building--hon. Minister, you have to really do a lot of hand-holding for the States—capacity constraint is going to be the biggest worry and all these funds will lie idle and the States, I am afraid, sometimes have the temptation, Madam, as you know, to utilize them for bridging their budget deficits.

Now I also wanted to highlight a couple of issues which appear a little vague in the Bill and I am sure the Minister will be able to tell us why this is so. First, may I draw the attention of the Minister to the definition of net present value at clause 2(f)? Net present value means the quantification of environment services provided for the forest area as may be determined by an Expert Committee appointed by the

Union Government from time to time. This leaves it very vague. The Minister knows 51 per cent of the funds are going to be utilized by this method. So, this Expert Committee really should not be left to the whims and fancies of any new Minister in the coming days and he may then decide to tailor it to his advantage. Therefore, I request that there should be some statutory mechanism that the Government puts in place so that this Expert Committee cannot be tinkered with easily.

Then, the hon. Minister may kindly also note that there is a clause in clause 6(b) which says "that the money received towards net present value and penal net present value shall be used—and I cut out the rest—for supply of wood and other forest produce saving devices. " I do not think this reads correctly. This money cannot be used for supply of wood. This must be for something else. So, I think there is some kind of syntax error here and this is a very critical clause. Therefore, I request the hon. Minister to kindly tell us what the hon. Minister feels about this.

Madam Speaker, the other problem, of course, about which the Standing Committee has recommended and I hope the hon. Minister will reply to this because I have not had a chance to see his amendments. The environment body itself appears to be too heavily bureaucratized. Therefore, they have asked for increase from 11 to 15

to make it a little more representative of the environmentalists and the other bodies. So, I hope that the hon. Minister has agreed to that.

As Prof. Saugata Roy has pointed out, and as the CAG Report has pointed out that a very poor quality of afforestation is taking place, the hon. Minister should look into it. The attrition rate, the rate of destruction of newly planted forests is frankly quite scandalous. It is a very, very high rate. I do not know how you are going to employ these hundreds and thousands of crores in afforestation because the land is the biggest problem. Land acquisition is going to be a very major constraint. I do not know how you are going to ensure that the attrition rate of these newly planted forests is actually brought down because at the moment the rates of afforestation are abysmally low.

Along with this, I recommend that the hon. Minister continues with his good work and brings these kinds of legislations to the House, which I have no doubt help the States like Odisha to perform even better than it has in the past when, I would say frankly, as we have seen, our hands were completely tied by the past Government. So, I am glad that this Government is opening our hands somewhat. I am very happy, Madam, that you have allowed me to present my party's point of view on this very seminal legislation.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Madam Speaker, I rise to support the Compensatory Afforestation Bill, 2015.

I congratulate the Hon. Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar. He is discharging his responsibilities in this Department with full commitment and seriousness, undertaking important work. The directions issued by the Hon. Supreme Court in the years 2002 and 2005 are being implemented after a gap of 14 years. I am unable to understand why the previous governments failed to pay due attention to such important directions of the Hon. Supreme Court. Today, protecting forests means protecting the environment, and protecting the environment means safeguarding humankind as well as wildlife. Unfortunately, the manner in which forests are being depleted has led to serious consequences. Global warming is increasing, rainfall is declining, people are not getting drinking water, drought conditions are emerging, and an abnormal situation is being created. Protecting forests is, therefore, inseparable from protecting the environment, and protecting the environment is essential for the survival of both human beings and wildlife. Regrettably, the continuous loss of forests has resulted in rising global warming, inadequate rainfall, and scarcity of

drinking water, recurring droughts, and the creation of an alarming and abnormal situation.

While introducing this Bill, the Hon. Minister, in accordance with the directions of the Hon. Supreme Court, has created an independent head for this Fund so that the Fund itself remains protected and no other authority can lay its hands on it. Unfortunately, the manner in which forest fires have spread today from Dehradun to Himachal Pradesh and up to Kashmir has resulted in extensive damage to forests. You are also aware that the Konkan region of Maharashtra is entirely hilly, forming part of the Sahyadri and the Western Ghats. Through you, Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the Hon. Minister that this time, from Chiplun to Dodamarg, forest fires broke out across the Sahyadri hill region over an area of at least 350 kilometres. There was no effective mechanism to extinguish these fires. Occasionally, villagers whose homes were located in these areas would come forward, but I personally witnessed hills burning day and night. I saw the destruction of land, shrubs and trees on a massive scale. Similarly, when I was travelling through Sangameshwar, at around nine o’clock at night, I passed through a village in the hilly region and saw tigers moving along the road and entering human

settlements. As the forests were burning, these animals had no pathways left to escape.

I, through this Bill, would like to earnestly request the Hon. Minister that this Fund should also be utilised for the protection of existing forests. For instance, in order to prevent damage from forest fires in the Tadoba forests, flat clearings of about 20 feet in width have been created at intervals of several miles, so that if a fire breaks out, it does not spread extensively. Even there, a fire occurred over a limited area of about six hectares. I humbly submit that while you will undoubtedly ensure the proper utilisation of this Fund, equal emphasis must also be placed on adopting effective measures to protect our old forests and existing trees from the menace of forest fires.

Along with this, through this Bill, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the issue of private forest areas in Maharashtra. We often say that Maharashtra extends from Chanda to Banda, that is, from Chandrapur to Banda. I myself come from Banda, while Chandrapur is in Vidarbha. However, among all the private forest lands in Maharashtra to which this has been applied, nearly 42,000 hectares of land have been notified only in Sindhudurg district. At that time, there was a Congress Government in Maharashtra, and the Minister and the Government of that period declared almost the

entire private forest land in Sindhudurg. ... (*Interruption*s) As a result of declaring 42,000 hectares of land as private forest land concentrated in Sindhudurg, even inhabited civic areas were brought under private forest classification. Consequently, no development work can be undertaken there. Roads cannot be built, schools cannot be constructed, and people are unable even to reconstruct their own houses. I humbly submit that the mistake committed earlier by the Government of Maharashtra has now been sought to be rectified. A proposal to this effect has already been sent to the Hon. Minister. I myself met him today and made this request. Earlier, the Hon. Minister had taken steps to relieve the people of the Konkan region, particularly Ratnagiri–Sindhudurg, from the adverse impact of being included in the eco-sensitive zone list, and for that I am grateful to him. However, in Sindhudurg district, out of the 42,000 hectares of private forest land declared, at least 40,000 hectares have been wrongly notified. A proposal from the Government of Maharashtra in this regard has already reached the Central Ministry. While supporting this Bill, I place this demand on behalf of the people of my region that the Hon. Minister should kindly pay attention to this issue as well and make sincere efforts to provide relief to the affected citizens. While

supporting this Bill, I once again congratulate the Hon. Minister for being a capable and just Minister for this Department. Thank you.

[English]

DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM): Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Bill.

On behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, I support this Bill wholeheartedly, but when we see afforestation, we have to understand why this Bill is necessitated. I think, it is because of the human greed that we are felling trees everywhere and destroying the forests. That is why, there is an afforestation effort and an effort to preserve the ecology.

Everyday we see news about global warming. There was much furore about ozone hole about a decade back because of chlorofluorocarbons and reckless use of refrigerants. All these things are happening because of the human greed, reckless felling of trees and reckless use of resources available in the nature. There is a saying that nature can provide for the needs of the human beings; it cannot provide for the greed of the people. Nobody can understand greed.

Afforestation is like treating the symptom of a disease. Disease is the disastrous, reckless or unplanned urban growth or unplanned and reckless felling of trees resulting in denudation of soil. I will give a small example. As my colleague said, tigers are foraying into urban areas. It is very shocking, and also very interesting, to see that, but

this is a symptom of forests being destroyed recklessly, without worrying about flora and fauna.

19. 00 hours

I come from an area, which is called the KG Basin. The KG Basin is the hub of oil and gas exploration. I have personally met the Minister to inform that the dredging and drilling operations have led to land subsidence.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: If the Hon. Members agree, we may extend the time of the House until the passage of this Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Madam Speaker, we agree.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, you can continue.

DR. RAVINDRA BABU: Thank you, Madam. So, in my area, land subsidence and soil erosion is happening because of felling of trees.

As regards dredging operations, there are certain human operations that are taking place for facilitation of trade. Though trade is also welcome, but what is the consequence of such activities? For example, dredging helps in navigation of ships to maintain their draft. When dredging takes place, it results in soil erosion and land

subsidence in the surrounding areas. In my area, every month one metre of land is getting subsided and eroded. I am afraid that at this rate of progression of dredging and reckless drilling, one day the whole East Godavari District will disappear into thin air. This is because of reckless usage of natural resources that we have, which we have to preserve. Instead of attacking the symptoms, let us attack the disease. Let us have a controlled plan for it.

There is one more feeling that I have. Whenever the Supreme Court interferes in any matter, we simply follow their dictum. There may be days ahead when we will have to elect the Supreme Court judges first and then elect the MPs. So, every time as per the directions / observations of the Supreme Court and as per the observations made in such and such judgement we are bringing the Bills. I always get confused whether the Parliament is supreme or Judiciary is supreme. I am not saying that judges are wrong. They may be right, but why did you not think about it before? Why have you not thought about this Fund before? Why should you take directions from the Supreme Court? It gives a poor image of the Indian Parliamentary democratic system.

We are celebrating the 125th Birth Anniversary of Dr. Ambedkar and we are still following the Supreme Court judgement, which gives

a poor impression about the Legislators that we have here. We have legal luminaries here, yet we are not able to foresee the problems that the country may face in the future.

The Afforestation Fund is one of the most wonderful concepts conceived by the present Government, but since afforestation is only a remedial symptom, that is, it is like giving remedy for cough rather than attacking the disease like Tuberculosis. Here, Tuberculosis is nothing but human greed. Let us control greed and there will be no need for any afforestation and no need for providing any fund. All things will be all right, and human welfare will be all right. We are already Third-World country and we are paying heavily because of Western industrialization. Ever since the West has industrialized, we are paying heavily for their faults. They are putting industries and they are asking us to plant trees in India and the South Asian countries. So, this has to be tackled at the international level also. We are being asked to pay compensation and we are being asked to pay this amount for their recklessness; for their reckless felling of trees; and environmental degradation. Let us imagine this. How much the country would have benefited if this Rs. 40,000 crore had been spent on welfare schemes? Therefore, I pray to the Minister that let us also

attack the issues / causes of degradation and destruction of environment that are necessitating us to have this type of Bill passed.

Thank you very much, Madam. On behalf of Telugu Desam, we wholeheartedly support this Bill, but I would like to specially appeal to the Minister to please pay attention to the East Godavari District for land subsidence. Otherwise, the District will disappear. Thank you, Madam.

SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA (NIZAMABAD): Thank you, Madam, for allowing me to speak on such an important legislation.

I, on behalf of TRS Party and my Leader, Shri KCR Garu, wholeheartedly welcome this initiative. Hon. Minister also knows that my Chief Minister is very keen on greening up Telangana and have dedicated committed resources allocated to the greening initiative. In fact, Shri Javadekar had visited the State and has understood the initiatives taken by us. But as a country, we should sincerely introspect into what we do and what have we done so far.

From the time of independence, that is, from 1947 till 1980, reports say that approximately 4-5 million hectares of forest land was given away. but there is no proper quantification. so, we do not know as to what has happened. in 1980 when for the first time, the forest act was formed, the very term called ‘compensatory afforestation’ has come into our system. since then, we have been slowly accumulating the money. again, from 1980 till 2002, for 22 years, we have done nothing with that money. the money was basically lying around with the State Government departments or probably some of the Union Government departments. as my colleague had just mentioned, until the supreme court and directed us to form a separate fund and an

authority to make sure that this money is properly utilised, we did not do anything. in 2002, when the supreme court had directed to form the caf, after that again till four years, there was no action. In 2006, the supreme court again directed to form an *ad hoc* fund. After that there was an issue as how we should use this money. Adhoc means exactly that the funds are released and utilised in an ad hoc manner, and that is precisely what happened. About Rs. 2,000 crores to Rs. 3,000 crores were given away to various States. It is not known as to what the criteria were. It was never used properly. We often proclaim, vriksho rakshite rakshita: yet, regrettably, we fail to practise what we preach. This is a classic example. We have not done that. In 2008, because the Governments were not able to utilize this Fund, they came up with a Bill. The Bill was passed in Lok Sabha as Prof. Saugata Roy has mentioned. It was not passed in the Rajya Sabha. Again, it was the same thing. From 2008 onwards, for seven years, there was zero action. There was zero action. I truly applaud the hon. Minister's effort to bring this Bill back and introduce it now. After 2015, this has gone to the Select Committee. I am giving this much introduction precisely because we must, at least once, pause and understand ourselves. India as a country has been very inactive in environmental issue because we take everything for granted. If there is an abundance of forest cover,

it will not make much difference. We are a little relaxed in these issues. We are not as good as Western countries in terms of environmental activism. So, my sincere question to the hon. Minister is this. Does this Bill really encourage all the States? Does it inspire all the States to come on board and work? This is a mere mechanism of splitting the money that we have accumulated over so many years. Fine, Telangana will also get its money. Shri Naveen Patnaikji is active. Whatever funds had come to us so far. 95 per cent of this Fund has been utilised by Telangana. Apart from that, we have dedicated the money to the greening. So, does this Bill really inspire the States? Sincerely, I do not see anything like that. This is basically to distribute the money that we have. I do believe that the C&AG Report of 2013 and the serious observations made by the C&AG have not been taken into consideration. I will just quote one figure. Out of the total land taken away by these private companies or the Government PSUs of the forests, only seven per cent of the land till date has been affroested. This Bill does not speak about it. This Bill does not give any goal to any of the State because they are keeping ten per cent of the States' money. This Bill does not say that the Centre will play a binding role to the States. A goal-oriented approach is missing. I believe that that should be there. This is a 2013 issue. Approximately seven States

Gujarat, Haryana, Kerala, Maharashtra, Meghalaya and Punjab have done zero per cent afforestation. That is to say, we have no initiative at all. How does the Union Government do that? This is a question. This Bill unfortunately does not talk about any of that. Environmental issues have to come from the heart or at least we have to take people into confidence. If you are any way keeping the ten per cent of the money of the State, I would sincerely ask the hon. Minister if he can do something like the *Swachch Bharat* campaign. We have seen that after the *Swachch Bharat* campaign has come into place, every child knows what Swachh Bharat is, even if it is not being implemented properly, that is a different matter.

Everybody knows. Unless and until we do not utilize this ten per cent of the money that the Union Government is keeping to at least involve the people at large, this will go nowhere. This is what I believe. You have today included 29 amendments. I truly appreciate it because I was going to say that the recommendations that the Parliamentary Standing Committee has made; they have not been taken into consideration.

Hon. The Minister has now at least after these amendments taken two or three into consideration but he has missed a major part. There is no provision in this for sharing these funds with the tribal

communities living in the forests, who have rights over minor forest produce. This was there in the 2008 Bill but somehow that is completely missing in this Bill. I would sincerely like you to throw some light on that. Unless these minor forest produce cooperatives are taken into consideration and we walk along with them, this afforestation is not going to happen.

The fundamental difference here is that this money must be utilised to compensate for the land that has been diverted from forest use. But this Bill also says that it will be used for greening also. Greening is an extra money that should be spent by a country or a State to increase the green cover. The definition of greening is not properly there in the Bill but it somehow makes way into the preamble. So, I would sincerely request you to look into it.

I have a little request to make from our State. We do believe that if the Union Government is keeping 10 per cent it is fine but the 90 per cent of the money should be released to the States in the beginning of the year. We will give you the APOs. We will provide you with the procedure outlining the work that will be carried out throughout the year. But if in one instalment the 90 per cent of the money can be given to the State Governments, then we can plan the whole year and work on it.

I thank the Government for bringing this Bill. We have been waiting for this Bill for quite some time. I really hope that this money will be utilised very well. Thank you.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Madam Speaker, our Party and myself support this Bill in principle because it is very much necessary, it will unlock Rs. 41,000 crore for not only afforestation but also for the development of our ecosystem. But our support comes with some suggestions and also some caution.

According to the provision made in Chapter 2, Section 4 of the Bill, 90 per cent of the total fund will be returned to the States and 10 per cent will remain with the Centre. I suggest that a single criteria should not be followed for all the States. In the North-Eastern region and some other States where the forest cover is more than 50 per cent, 100 per cent funds should be released. The forest cover in my State is 78 per cent. So, following the same yardstick for say Punjab and also for Tripura, Nagaland, Meghalaya is not correct. Those States which have more than 50 per cent forest cover or green cover should be released 100 per cent money.

Secondly, as many colleagues have already mentioned, today in our country around 172 or 173 Districts still have forest cover and ecology. If we see very closely, the people who live in those areas are adivasis, the tribals. Centuries of civilisation endorses that adivasis and tribals are a part of the ecosystem. Their livelihoods is integrated with the course of the nature. Now the forests are being destroyed and

the entire globe is suffering from the ill effects of climate change. This is no longer a subject of only experts, even common people now understand why these droughts and calamities are happening. All these are happening because we have destroyed our nature

These sections of people are managing the forests through their lives and culture. If their livelihood is not taken care of, it will be again at the cost of these Adivasi people who are really managing the forests. Though there is no provision in the Act, my suggestion is that while framing the rules etc. , some provision could be made for enhancement of their livelihood.

I would like to mention another thing. This issue does not come directly under this Bill but indirectly it affects the Forest Right Act 2006 which was a historic enactment. As estimated, about 80 lakh Adivasis and traditional forest dwellers are living in the forests since time immemorial. According to the information available from the Ministry of Tribal Affairs, 47 lakh application were received. Out of that, only 17 lakh have been disposed and 30 lakh application have been rejected. How funny and how pathetic it is! There are around 80 lakh forest dwellers/ families including Adivasis. Only 17 lakh people were provided with this right which is not even 25 per cent. Empowering these people is something that Revenue Department and

Tribal Welfare Department alone cannot do unless the Forest Department, which is very much powerful, supports them. So, this should also be anyway linked to that Act. Otherwise, neither the protection of forests nor preservation of ecology will happen; it will remain a dream.

Thirdly, in Chapter III Section 10(7), in the governing body, neither the nodal officer nor the CEO of CAMPA has been made a Member. Then who will represent the State? I think there should be a mandate that at least the relevant officer should be a Member and he should be allowed to attend the meetings.

In my State of Tripura, we have very little fund of Rs 131 crore. That may be released so that we could make a plan for enhancement of livelihood of the forest dwellers.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL): Hon. Speaker Madam, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important subject.

This Bill which seeks to ensure quick utilization of approximately Rs 41,000 crore will facilitate timely execution of appropriate measures to mitigate impact of diversion of forest land.

This is a welcome step in the right direction. We are extremely worried with the climatic changes around us. It is a matter of serious concern that the temperatures are rising year on year. In spite of so many initiatives taken in line with global warming summit, we have not been able to achieve the desired result. Afforestation is an important tool for environmental protection. We need to retain and create additional forest wealth for the posterity.

I am happy that this Government is coming up with concrete steps in this regard. I understand that this Bill proposes to establish the National Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of India and a State Compensatory Afforestation Fund under the Public Account of each State. These Funds will be primarily spent on afforestation to compensate for loss of forest cover, regeneration of forest ecosystem, wildlife protection and infrastructure development.

It is expected that apart from mitigating the impact of diversion of forest land, utilisation of these amounts will result in creation of productive assets and generation of huge employment opportunities in the backward areas.

I welcome this Bill considering the fact that India is striving to achieve the target of having 33 per cent land under forest cover. According to reports, India's total green cover has reached 24. 16 per cent of the land mass.

As per the records of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, a total of 1,899,358 hectares, which is equivalent to 18,993 square kilometres, of forest land is under encroachment in 36 States and Union Territories.

The Environment Ministry supplements the efforts of the States in protection and management of forests through the Centrally-sponsored 'Intensification of Forest Management' Scheme. Under this Scheme, various measures like setting up of check posts, barriers, use of modern technology, improved mobility to the field staff by providing vehicles for patrolling, survey and demarcation of forest areas and construction of boundary pillars are supported by the Union Environment Ministry.

We have seen how the land sharks and the forest mafias have been ruling the roost in almost all the States in the country. In our own State, for the last several years, red sander trees are being felled on a day to day basis and the successive governments have completely failed to contain this. We have seen the Veerappan saga. We learn with a heavy heart that the present forest fire in Uttarakhand is also due to the handiwork of organised forest mafias.

The problems of forests and tribals are inter-connected. In our State particularly, thanks to the initiatives taken by the late Dr. Y. S. Rajasekhara Reddy, the provisions of the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006 has addressed the long-standing insecurity of the tenure in cultivated lands in forest areas.

Forestry which accounts for 24 per cent of the country's geographical area hardly contributes to two per cent of India's GDP. There is a great potential to increase it, provided the State Governments take the necessary initiatives.

Special focus should be given to convergence between forestry activities and non-forestry land use for the regenerated of degraded fringe forests and upliftment of tribals in the fringe villages. The Joint Forest Management Programme has clearly emerged as an agent of

overall socio-economic development of forest-dependent communities and it requires second generation reforms.

A federation of Joint Forest Management Committees should be created under the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests for better co-ordination and policy inputs. The JFMCs should be maintained as separate entities. The JFMCs need to be adequately empowered to manage the forest resources, their capacity built up, and legal backing given to them in order to be successful.

Two models were praised for their achievements, the Chhattisgarh model as a case in point for replication for overall socio-economic and ecological rejuvenation and the Bundelkhand package as a role model for inclusive development. These should be replicated elsewhere with local modifications.

I sincerely thank you, Madam, for giving me this opportunity to share my thoughts in this august House.

SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE (JANGIPUR): Thank you Madam for giving me this opportunity.

The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2015 is a culmination of different commitments given by the Government and the different notifications issued at different times by different Governments. The purpose of this Bill is to create a Fund which has been collected from the user agencies while using forest land and pay compensation as per rule and to create an Authority at the Centre, States and Union Territories to manage this fund. And to create an Authority at the Centre, State and Union Territories to manage this fund; And thirdly, to provide services, actually give an alternative deforestation as afforestation, like artificial regeneration (plantations), assisted natural regeneration, protection of forests, forest related infrastructure development, wildlife protection etc.

Madam, I wonder why J&K State has been left out of the jurisdiction of this Bill. Is J&K not part of this? Kindly reconsider it.

Different provisions, environmental services have been envisaged in this Bill. They can be categorized in four categories like provision of goods like wood, non-timber forest products, fuel, fodder, water, different services like grazing of animals, tourism, wild life protection. This all is mentioned in the Bill itself. Second category

may include regulating services like climate regulation, disease control, flood moderation, detoxification and most important is carbon sequestration, heal of soil, air and water qualities, etc.

The tangible benefits of this Bill will be non-material benefits like ecosystem, aesthetic, inspirational, environmental etc.

During constitution of this Authority at different levels, like Centre, State, Union Territories, representatives from public, particularly the environmentalists, reputed NGOs working in the field, users industries particularly like steel, mining, aluminium, coal etc. who are using this forest land and destroying some portion of forest also their representatives should also be taken in that statutory body for monitoring at the same time to protect their interest also. It is because we need development and development has to be sustainable as it has been mentioned by many other hon. Members.

It is also found in India particularly that the opinion changes the moment there is a change in the Government. But the Government's policy should be such that whoever comes in power, be it the Head of the Department or the Head of the Government the policy should sustain so that the development is continuous. My humble request to the hon. Minister, through you, as I mentioned earlier the professional personnel should head this Authority and not simply the bureaucrats.

In case of any changes required who should be the competent authority should be well defined in the Bill itself or in the rules and regulations. While making detailed rules and regulations interest of the local inhabitants like forest dwellers, the people who are staying in forest and using forest products, wild life, must be kept in mind in consultation with the users agencies like mining and other organizations that are working in that area.

It is stated in the Bill that no money will be used from the Union Government's fund and that the statutory expenditure or recurring expenditure per annum is to the tune of Rs. 75 crore per annum and recurring expenditure is to the tune of Rs. 6,000 crore. The details are not being given and I would request the Minister to give us the details.

With these words I conclude my speech on the subject. Thank you very much for giving me this chance.

19. 29 hours

BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

30th Report

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Madam, I beg to present the Thirtieth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

---

19. 30 hours

COMPENSATORY AFFORESTATION FUND BILL, 2015 - Contd.

[Translation**]**

SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV (SAGAR): Madam Speaker, I congratulate Hon. Shri Prakash Javadekar for introducing the Bill which will put an end to ad hocism and ensure that all work is carried out under a well planned, transparent framework. In this regard, I would like to offer a few suggestions.

Madam Speaker, as far as afforestation is concerned, it is a reality that unless we secure the cooperation of local people, it will not succeed. This has been our consistent experience. Wherever forests have been developed with public participation, with the involvement of Panchayats and local communities, afforestation efforts have been far more successful. This has been clearly observed on the ground. I would respectfully urge the Hon. Minister to make concerted efforts in this direction.

There should also be a provision to allow people to spend some amount of funds on private forests. We observe that those who own private forests are often more interested in cutting them down,

because they do not see any income accruing from them. Under the earlier rules and regulations, permission to fell trees was rarely granted. I myself own a forest of about 20 acres. The land was uneven, and therefore it was converted into forest land. However, despite repeated efforts over a long period, we did not receive permission to cut the trees. Ultimately, after the Madhya Pradesh Government introduced a Lok Vaniki scheme, we were granted permission. Since that was the only viable use of the land, we harvested the trees and thereafter planted good quality saplings. Today, the forest has been regenerated once again. It would be beneficial if those who establish private forests are provided some compensation, even if that amount is later adjusted or recovered when permission is granted. This will encourage the regeneration and restoration of forests.

Madam, with regard to the decision of the Union Government to retain 10 Percent of the funds, I would like to suggest to the Hon. Minister that after a period of five years, an assessment should be carried out to evaluate performance across States. Those States where good work has been done should be rewarded with additional funds as an incentive.

Hon. Speaker, in villages people often cut wood even for use as firewood. I have personally seen that in my own forest, the new

coppice shoots that emerge are secretly cut by villagers. These have no commercial value as timber and cannot be used as teak, but they are used as firewood. Therefore, alongside the measures already discussed, one possible step could be that out of the 10 Percent savings achieved under the Ujjwala Scheme, a portion may be allocated further to this effort, so that the scheme can be expanded and strengthened. It is a very good scheme. This will help in the conservation of forests and will also prevent unnecessary felling of trees.

Madam, I would like to make one more submission. In afforestation programmes, we should ensure that, along with teak and other forest species, fruit-bearing trees are also planted. If fruit-bearing trees are included, the villagers living in and around forests, and the forest-dwelling communities, will better understand their value. They will feel that this is directly connected with their livelihood, and then they will extend full cooperation in every possible manner.

Madam Speaker, there are extensive forest areas in my district. There are several forests where the people living in the surrounding areas are able to improve their standard of living to some extent. By

selling the produce obtained from these forests, they are able to sustain their livelihoods.

With these words, I conclude my remarks while congratulating the Hon. Minister.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Madam Speaker, I thank you for granting me permission to speak. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2016 has been introduced. This is a very good Bill, and I congratulate the Hon. Minister, Shri Javadekar, for bringing it forward. The entire country has expressed concern on this issue, and the Hon. Supreme Court has also shown serious concern, emphasising the need to protect forests, plant forests, protect trees and plant trees.

Nature has bestowed upon us abundant resources. We have read that kshiti (earth), jal (water), paavak (fire), gagan (sky), and sameera (air) have all been given to us by nature. Nature has taught us how to protect the environment, how to safeguard life, and how to ensure its security and preservation. Nature has allowed us to use its resources, but today we are not using nature responsibly. As human beings, we are not using nature properly; instead, we are misusing it. Nature tells us that it holds immense strength and infinite possibilities, and that it provides everything to us. Earth, water, fire, sky and air, if these elements of nature cease to exist, we too will become lifeless. Nature is the living force; without it, we will turn inert. Today, due to the cutting of forests, serious questions have arisen regarding the environment. Climate patterns are changing, glaciers are melting, and

the situation is steadily worsening. The condition has become extremely grave.

Even today, the forest serves as a rest house for the poor. It is not that the poor go there to settle permanently, but for travellers, when it rains, they take shelter there, and when the heat becomes unbearable, they stand beneath the trees. Even today, in villages, trees are the rest houses of the poor. This does not mean that trees alone are our life or that we do not need houses, electricity or water. We certainly do need all these, but trees remain an essential necessity of our lives. Our tribal brothers who live in the hills, forests, scrublands, coal and mineral belts, and along riverbanks, from Andhra Pradesh to Jharkhand, across the entire belt from where we come, form a continuous corridor. From Banka to Dumka, from Purnea to ... (*Interruption*s) Telangana, from Kaimur to Gaya, including the Rajgir region, this entire area forms one such corridor. ... (*Interruption*s) The forests of Katoria, from where our colleague Shri Nishikant Dubey comes, the forests of Jagger, ... (*Interruption*s) and even Marathwada are included. Forests must be protected. We must also protect wildlife. If forests are destroyed, wildlife cannot be protected. Today, even if the law does not permit it, we build houses along riverbanks, open shops there, and even set up thermal power plants. We have interfered with

nature and committed injustice against it, and as a result, enormous damage has been caused to the environment.

Hon. Speaker, the regions of Banka, Deoghar, Jamui, Munger, Lakhisarai, Purnea and Kaimur are all forested areas from which we, as Members, come. These are our own forest regions and part of our Parliamentary Constituencies. Our simple submission is save the environment and plant trees. Trees are our heritage and the foremost means of protecting our climate. Therefore, planting trees and ensuring their protection is our duty. We extend our full support to the Bill brought forward by the Hon. Minister.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Madam Speaker, at the outset I would like to lodge my objection to the alarming recommendations made by the Standing Committee which says that where land is not available for afforestation specific provisions should be made in the Bill for encouraging densification, revitalization of available forest. When the hon. Minister will reply, he can throw some light on this. I hope that the Government has not accepted this recommendation. It is because this would undermine the very basis of compensatory afforestation.

It is a fact that since the enactment of Forest Conservation Act 1980, the Ministry has granted approval for the diversion of 1. 29 lakh hectares of forest land for the non-forestry purpose in 28,677 cases till August, 2015. In the Bill of 2008 there was a provision for providing meeting afforestation target within one year or two growing seasons after project completion after receipt of money. This Bill is silent on this.

Madam, in my opinion, there are five important lacunae in this Bill. There is no prescription of people’s participation or benefit sharing with communities; no social monitoring or social audit process; no effort to find synergies with forest schemes; no

prescription for periodic revision of net present value rates and lack of eco system approach and scientific monitoring of compensatory afforestation.

I have certain recommendations to make to the hon. Minister and the Government. Firstly, they should share the forest benefits with the people and build people-led forest economy from compensatory afforestation. Then rehabilitate and compensate communities affected by diversions using CAFs. Use CAFs to strengthen weak grass roots democracy by financing CFRMCs and JFMCs. You have to make sure that at the ground level, there is no displacement of communities during land acquisition process for compensatory afforestation.

I make these recommendations because the law says about availability of non-forest and degraded forest lands. Now what is happening is that, only dense forests are available in that area and you are not using the non-forest or degraded forest lands. You are using dense forests. So, the impact of all these on the displacement of tribal people and other people is huge.

Do you have a long term vision of how much forests you can divert without endangering long term national ecological security? How much compensatory afforestion does the country require for offsetting the forest losses? How to ensure that communities will

benefit out of the development rather than being depriving of their lands?

My last recommendation to the hon. Minister is, you have to create and maintain a public information system to track progress of CAFs and ensure survival of planted stocks in compensatory afforestation.

I once again reiterate my earlier points. I hope that the hon. Minister may accept the recommendation which has been made by the Standing Committee.

PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very important issue.

I support this very important Bill moved by the hon. Minister for Environment and Forests who is very keen to protect the environment for which he has launched many a programme. As a conservationist, I am delighted to learn that funds will be spent under this head to save the country from the loss of her bio diversity, so precious to any country.

I reckon the hon. Supreme Court's verdict which has paved way to utilize the funds for conservation of nature as a blessing in disguise.

In our country, deforestation has been taking place at a higher rate as conservation and preservation of forests has been neglected since 1950. Even my State, Kerala, which is known as a green State due to its bio diversity and flora has been facing acute climatic changes and may be the starting of an apparent desertification process.

The Western Ghats is facing an alarming situation. Parts of this green natural belt and the source of many a river has become barren. In a way, it is a warning signal given by nature to man. Successive Governments in Kerala has been responsible for the degradation of environment. Forests have been encroached upon and flora and fauna destroyed all these years.

Forest fires have become a common feature in different parts of the country. Recently, devastating damage has been done in Uttarakhand. We do not know whether it is man made or natural.

The impacts of deforestation is usually felt by the people who stay near the forest areas, namely, land slides, soil erosion, water shed instability, localized flooding and even heat waves. In some locations death and diseases have occurred due to flash floods in the recent years. The impact of deforestation is also felt by the State exchequer as there is severe loss of sustainable logging and extinction of plant and animal species. The loss of diversity is yet another disastrous consequence of deforestation which cannot be restored easily.

Productivity and nutrient losses of the soil can cause farmers financial losses and it is another impact of deforestation.

Moreover, the cumulative effect of ozone depletion, climate change and soil erosion are all resulting in water scarcity and the end result would be food scarcity.

I commend upon the commitment made by the hon. Minister for Environment and Forests for spending the money for a very productive purpose and save this country from further natural disasters.

[Translation]

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI (SIKAR): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this very important Bill. The Compensatory Afforestation Fund Bill, 2016 has been introduced in the House, and learned speakers have placed their views and suggestions on it.

At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister, Shri Prakash Javdekar. There had long been a need for such a Bill, through which a dedicated fund could be utilised in a proper and systematic manner. I would also like to congratulate the Government for another important reason. Generally, Governments tend to retain a larger share of funds at the Centre. However, under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, our Government has consistently given due importance to the States in various initiatives. In this case as well, 90 Percent of the fund will be allocated to the States.

Our country has, by its very nature, upheld the nurturing and protection of nature since ancient times. I come from the State of Rajasthan, which offers a unique and exemplary legacy recognised across the world. In the Jodhpur district of Rajasthan, in the Pipar tehsil, there is a village called Khejarla. During the reign of the

Maharaja of Jodhpur, a campaign was launched to cut down trees. At that time, a woman named Amrita Devi initiated a movement in protest. As many as 363 to 365 people laid down their lives to ensure that the trees were not felled. Even today, in that region, people revere trees as deities and worship them with the same devotion accorded to gods.

I would like to submit that this fund should be utilised to carry out a sustained afforestation drive. Today, we are witnessing the rapid disappearance of many species of animals and birds. One major reason for this is the excessive use of pesticides in modern agriculture. The grain that is sown on the surface often does not get properly embedded in the soil, and birds consume it. As a result, many species of birds have vanished. Another reason is the nature of afforestation currently being undertaken in forest areas. Earlier, trees such as banyan, peepal and fruit-bearing trees provided natural food for birds. Alongside this, large-scale encroachment on forest land is also taking place. Through you, I would like to make a humble request to the Hon. Minister that boundary walls should be constructed for forest areas using this fund. This would have two clear benefits. First, wild animals frequently stray into villages, leading to daily incidents and accidents. A boundary wall would help prevent this. Second, it would

effectively check encroachment. Even today, a significant amount of forest land is under illegal occupation, and such measures would help protect it.

I would also like to make one more suggestion. Ponds should be constructed within forest land. Animals venture out of forests mainly in search of drinking water. If water is available within the forest itself, animals will not need to come out. Moreover, this water can be used by forest dwellers to nurture newly planted saplings. Otherwise, we plant trees during the rainy season, but due to lack of water, they do not survive. As a result, we are compelled to plant trees again the following year. Proper water resources within forests will ensure that afforestation efforts are sustainable and effective.

I would like to make one more humble submission. After Independence, when land was allocated for forests across the country, particularly in Rajasthan and in my Sikar district, there are many villages where Panchayats had allotted land to the Forest Department. In my Sikar district alone, there are around 60 villages that are still settled on forest land. Today, the Forest Department is issuing notices to these villagers. My earnest request is that these people should also be protected. We receive their applications every day. Earlier, saints

and ascetics lived in forests. They would not even allow a single twig to be broken, and as a result, forests remained protected.

I request the Hon. Minister to kindly pay attention to these issues. With these words, I extend my full support to this Bill. Thank you very much.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Madam Speaker, I am extremely pleased that the entire House has welcomed this Bill. I am grateful to all Hon. Members. This is an important Bill because it brings about three major changes. Four key issues have emerged during the debate, and I will briefly address them as well. For the last 12 to 13 years, the funds meant for afforestation had remained locked in banks. We are now unlocking these funds. Earlier, only 10 Percent of the funds were transferred to the States, while 90 Percent remained idle in banks. Now, 90 Percent will go directly to the States, and 10 Percent will remain with the Centre, the benefits of which will also accrue to the States. I will explain how. This money will now be credited to the Public Account. Until now, such a large sum had never been subjected to Parliamentary scrutiny, but henceforth, it will be scrutinised by State Legislatures and by this House. This is a very significant impact of the Bill. The State budget should not be treated merely as a CAMPA budget. [English] States should give their regular budget to the Forest Department and this should be an additional budget. CAMPA Fund is an additionality. For the first time, in the 14th Finance Commission Report, 7. 5 per cent weightage has been given to `forest'. [Translation] This was not the case earlier. Previously, forest cover carried no weightage at all in fund allocation. Now, this has increased

from 32 Percent to 42 Percent. The reason for this change is that the Finance Commission has assigned a 7.5 Percent weightage to forest cover, recognising that all of us are concerned about climate change and afforestation. Our target is to achieve 33 Percent forest cover, whereas at present it stands at only about 21 to 22 Percent. Therefore, we must increase our forest cover.

Many Hon. Members have stated that public participation is essential, and I fully agree with this view. I have worked extensively in tribal areas. Even as a bank officer, I worked on projects involving tribal communities; I was with the Bank of Maharashtra. Forests cannot be protected without the involvement of local people. I visit many forest villages, and where people's livelihoods are directly linked with forests, they themselves prevent illegal grazing, illegal felling and illegal burning. This is very important. When the rules under this Bill are framed, nothing will be effective without people's participation, and that is the very soul of this legislation. It is absolutely necessary to translate the provisions of the Bill into law through well-designed rules. The Parliamentary Standing Committee has given several very useful recommendations. One of these is to increase the number of experts, to enhance the representation of tribal communities, and to consult the States while framing the rules. We

are committed to such consultations. It will not be the case that the States merely submit their plans and the Centre remains passive. Decisions on State proposals will be taken within three months, and the Steering Committee should meet quarterly. As Hon. Member Kavitha ji mentioned, the entire amount should be released at the very beginning. My view is that plans should be approved before December or January, so that funds are made available to the States on 1 April. That is how it should function every year. Then only, it will be really good. Many Hon. Members have also raised concerns regarding the quality of forests, and that is a very valid and important issue. Yadav ji has a private forest spread over 20 acres. Even though the forest has matured, permission is not being granted for felling. If it is a private forest, no activity is allowed; it must remain a forest. Eco-tourism can be undertaken there, but undertaking scientific regeneration anew leads to carbon capture and also contributes to climate change mitigation. Scientific management of forests is extremely necessary; it is only through such management that the quality of forests improves. Many Hon. Members did not strongly object to why 10 Percent of the funds are being retained, or argue that a higher share should be taken. Let me explain the reason. This portion is meant for monitoring. Wherever compensatory afforestation is

being undertaken, we are seeking coordinated plans for those locations. Even today, a meeting of the Forest Appraisal Committee was held. In today's meeting itself, there were 20 proposals. For this purpose, forest appraisal experts and all concerned officers sit together. In my office, a system has now been initiated whereby we monitor these sites through satellite imagery and physically verify the locations. This ensures transparency, accountability and improvement in outcomes.

Madam Speaker, let us assume that some activity is proposed at a particular location, say the establishment of a mine or any other project. Where that work is taking place and the exact area involved are directly monitored by us through satellite imagery, allowing us to see the site with our own eyes in a transparent and verifiable manner.

I would like to explain one more point. Earlier, we were dependent solely on certificates. The land that was shown as compensatory afforestation land used to be certified by our Divisional Forest Officer, stating that the land was suitable for compensatory afforestation. Now, we verify such land through satellite technology. We visit the site virtually, check the coordinates, and examine what the actual status of compensatory afforestation on that land is. When this exercise was undertaken, we found certain locations where dense

forest already existed, yet the same land had been shown as compensatory afforestation land. In other words, forest land that already had trees was being offered as compensatory land. We will take action against such Divisional Forest Officers. … (*Interruption*s)… We will certainly take action. Please understand, there will be strict scrutiny, because our objective is to bring transparency with the help of technology, and we are committed to doing so. However, this technology does involve expenditure. That is a little costly technology but we are using it, and we want to use it for all this.

Madam Speaker, the third issue relates to capacity building. Many Hon. Members have spoken about this, including Shrimati Sumita ji. The question is whether the States have adequate capacity. If capacity building is to be undertaken, then new training centres, continuous courses, continuous motivation and continuous technology-based training will all be required. Therefore, we will focus seriously on capacity building. Across all the States, the total forest force is approximately 2.5 lakh personnel, and in more than half the positions, vacancies still exist. We will ask the States to fill these vacancies as well. These personnel will be utilised for afforestation and related activities. Capacity building is the most crucial element in

this entire exercise. So, we will increase training capacities all over the country.

Madam Speaker, I would now like to speak about awareness. We want awareness to increase among the people, awareness to increase among those associated with forests, and their participation to increase as well.

Madam Speaker, the fourth aspect relates to our nine Forest Research Institutes. Owing to the work carried out by these institutes, eight patents have been secured over the past two years. If we are to improve the quality of our forests and develop forests of global standards, continuous research in this field is essential. Research and innovation also require financial resources. For this purpose, the Union Government will provide funds from its budget, will continue to do so, and will further enhance such support. However, this expenditure will be directed towards specific and focused research.

Madam Speaker, I would now like to speak about certain endangered species. The forest ecosystem functions in a particular manner. We call our country a tiger nation and often speak with pride about the tiger. Why is that so? We have tigers, and we have got 70 per cent tigers. The presence of the tiger signifies that the entire forest ecology is healthy. It is a clear indicator of ecological balance.

However, several other species are facing extinction. To revive these endangered species, we are implementing effective programmes. A portion of these funds will also be utilised for that purpose, and it will be a meaningful use of resources. When the forest ecology strengthens in its entirety, this work too becomes essential.

Madam Speaker, incidents such as forest fires in Uttarakhand and other hilly areas must also be addressed. Every year, during the months of April and May, this crisis emerges. At times, prolonged dry spells occur and moisture levels deplete entirely, resulting in forest fires. Therefore, contingency measures may sometimes need to be invoked, and the Union Government can provide funds for such situations. At that time, it will not be considered whether such expenditure was included in the annual plan or whether sufficient funds were available. Since the crisis is serious, we can and must act. Ultimately, through all these efforts, we have to achieve the target of 33 Percent forest cover in the country.

Madam Speaker, we have accepted five or six major recommendations of the Parliamentary Standing Committee. There is one sentence that I wished to state on this matter, which I could not mention earlier as it was inadvertently left out, and I would like to place it on record now. The Standing Committee has given this matter

very thoughtful consideration. When I was in the Opposition, I too was a Member of the Standing Committee, and therefore I am well aware that very detailed and meaningful deliberations take place in the Standing Committee. … (*Interruption*s) I am only stating the facts. Yes, you were also a Member. I would like to state that the recommendations received from the Standing Committee, such as increasing the number of experts, ensuring the participation of tribal communities, framing the rules in consultation with the States, taking decisions within three months, and holding the Steering Committee meetings on a quarterly basis, have all been accepted and incorporated. One more issue that emerged was that there should be no non-productive barriers or rigid fencing and that point is valid and well taken.

Shri Pinaki Misra Ji, you had raised a question about what exactly is meant by “wood saving”. I would like to clarify this. Wood saving refers to the very point that Shri Yadav Ji also mentioned. The use of LPG directly results in saving wood. Please understand that even today, in rural areas, cooking is largely done by cutting firewood. I myself have grown up in a rural setting, and I know that in our homes the chulha used to burn with firewood and crop residue. If we want to stop the burning of firewood, then people must be provided with LPG,

or with wood saving smokeless chulhas that are now available. There are many such devices, and these too require encouragement and incentives. This aspect has also been specifically provided for in the Bill. You are a well known expert on the law and a permanent advisor to all of us. We will continue to seek your guidance and advice in this matter.

20. 00 hours

What all the Members have said is extremely important. Shrimati Sumita Ji, Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal, Shri Saugata Roy, Shri Pinaki Misra, Shri Vinayak Raut, Shri Ravindra Babu, Shrimati Kavitha Ji, Shri Jitendra Chaudhary, Shri Buta Rumala, Shri Abhijit Mukherjee, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan, Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav, Shri Owaisi, Shri Richard Hay and Shri Sumedhanand have all made very valuable and thoughtful interventions. I have taken note of each of them, and individual replies will also be sent. However, I would like to make one or two specific points here. Shrimati Sushmita Ji raised a question regarding the issue of alternative land. There is also a perception being widely circulated that large scale diversion is taking place and forests are being indiscriminately cut. That is not entirely correct. Since the enactment of the Forest Conservation Act in 1980, the total diversion of forest land up to date amounts to only about 1.5 Percent of the total

forest area. Ultimately, we have to pursue development, protect forests and also increase tree cover outside forest areas. These are twin challenges before us. Tree cover outside forests did not increase earlier for a simple reason. If a farmer undertakes agro forestry but is not permitted to cut the trees later, who will plant trees in the first place? No one would do so. While this aspect is not addressed directly in this Bill, we are bringing separate policy measures to ensure full encouragement and incentives for people to plant trees. We will also undertake forestry through public private partnership on degraded lands. Only if all these measures are adopted together will the overall forest cover in the country truly increase.

Jaiswal ji has spoken about public participation. My submission is that it is precisely because the funds will be properly utilised that a monitoring mechanism has been put in place. Saugata Roy ji has emphasised the importance of monitoring, and I have responded to that point. I have replied to both the points raised by Pinaki Mishra ji. Vinayak Raut ji spoke about old trees. This is extremely important, and I have specifically referred to this aspect. With regard to private forests, we are formulating a new framework, because if there is no interest left in them, if there is no livelihood available, then people will inevitably start cutting private forests gradually. What else will

they do? That is why we will design an incentive-based scheme. What Ravindra Babu ji has stated is a separate issue; it does not pertain to this Bill. Nevertheless, we are very sensitive to that matter. A Member of the Communist Party mentioned that sea level rise is occurring at Manora Island. I immediately sent a team there. Similarly, in your area as well, we will immediately send a team. Kavitha ji has made a very apt observation about people's habits, that people take things for granted, believing that trees will keep getting cut and that there is plenty of forest anyway. This mindset must not be allowed to continue.

I conducted plantation programmes at three locations along with the Chief Minister of Telangana. This was a very massive movement. Often, we plant trees along roadsides, and it is uncertain whether they will survive or not. What impressed me the most was that they mapped the compounds and campuses of all institutions. Many times, I travel by helicopter and observe institutions to see whether they are properly compound-protected and how many trees they have. If the number is inadequate, trees must be planted there, because their protection is assured. I found this approach extremely commendable.

Minor forest produce constitutes their source of income. I can cite numerous examples, but time is limited. In the forest areas of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh, I have personally distributed cheques. Cheques of Rs. five lakh each have been given. People there derive their livelihood from this itself, and therefore they protect the forests.

Chaudhary ji stated that the North Eastern States should receive more funds. There is a problem in this regard, because CAMPA funds accrue to those States where development activities take place. It is true that the North East and the Andaman Islands are a treasure trove of forests. He also mentioned that there should be no interference with the FRA. That is correct. We firmly believe that tribal communities are an integral part of the ecology. Abhijit ji asked why this does not apply to Jammu and Kashmir. All laws apply to the rest of the country, but I have complete confidence that the Jammu and Kashmir Assembly will accept this, and it will be implemented there immediately as well.

Jai Prakash Narayan ji has offered valuable suggestions. Lakshminarayan Yadav ji has spoken about fruit bearing trees. All trees are important, because forests must have a diversity of trees so that wildlife can survive. In the 1970s, when large scale tree felling

took place, exotic species were planted because they grow very quickly. However, it is not that exotic species will not be planted at all now, but plantations will not be dominated by exotics, and our primary emphasis will be on native species. All this is already being done. Owaisi ji has raised five or six issues, and the answer to all of them is yes. People's participation, yes; social audit, yes; synergy, yes; revision, yes; eco-system, yes; and no displacement, yes. All these will be incorporated in the Rules. Owaisi ji and many others meet in the morning at the Constitution Club, and we share a separate, friendly relationship. I believe all of you have extended cooperation in this matter. By passing this Bill, we are creating a new history. Under the agreement reached in Paris, the INDC states that India will create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 billion tonnes, and this Bill will prove to be extremely important in achieving that objective.

In conclusion, I would like to mention that Swami ji has just recalled Amrita Devi ji. This is entirely appropriate, because if forests are alive today, it is because of the people and because of their sacrifices. Amrita Devi ji, along with 363 others, did not allow trees to be cut; they allowed their own heads to be severed instead. In her memory, in the coming days, or perhaps on 5 June itself, we are establishing the Amrita Devi Karya Parisar and installing a new

plaque to pay tribute to her martyrdom. With these words, I urge the House to pass this Bill.

[English**]**

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam Hon. Speaker, as a Parliamentary Affairs Minister and also as a public personality, I am immensely happy today about the way the Members, without exception, have participated in the debate in their own way and made excellent points. They have made positive and constructive points. We had a very good meaningful debate today.

Of course, I am already aware – Madam, you are also aware – that the Minister is capable and has the knowledge, capacity and calibre. But at the same time, the Members, cutting across Party lines, spoke and expressed concerns about this issue, which are praiseworthy. I could not control myself. I thought that I should put this on record also.

Not only as a Parliamentary Affairs Minister but also as a person who is hailing from a village, I used to see have forest around my village but today there is no forest at all.

Hon. Speaker, I have a grouse. I have no grouse with the Opposition. I have a grouse with my media friends, who have all deserted. They are not interested in such a constructive and an important debate. You will see in tomorrow's newspapers that nothing will be published about the constructive discussion that took place this evening, which is indeed unfortunate for the country.

Shri Owaisi also made constructive points. Coming from a city constituency, he had also made good and positive suggestions, which the hon. Minister, Shri Prakash Javadekar has accepted.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You have said this correctly, and I too have been seated here today and listened carefully. Indeed, everyone has given very good suggestions. All the Members have offered suggestions in keeping with the needs of the present time. There are some newspapers that publish positive news on one day of the week. I believe that this matter will, in some way or the other, reach the media. Even if it does not, our work and this Bill will convey the message to the people. Even at this moment, our message is reaching the people of the country that positive and constructive discussions in the national interest do take place in Parliament. The discussion on this Bill is an example of that.

[English]

The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of funds under the public accounts of India and the public accounts of each State and crediting thereto the monies received from the user agencies towards compensatory afforestation, additional compensatory afforestation, penal compensatory afforestation, net present value and all other amounts recovered from such agencies under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980; constitution of an authority at national level and at each of the State and Union territory Administration for administration of the funds and to utilise the monies so collected for undertaking artificial regeneration (plantations), assisted natural regeneration, protection of forests, forest related infrastructure development, Green India Programme, wildlife protection and other related activities and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 Definitions

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Amendments made:

‘Page 3, *for* lines 13 to 15, *substitute*—

‘(b) “Chairperson, National Authority” means the Chairperson of the governing body of the National Authority;

(c) “Chairperson, State Authority” means the Chairperson the Chairperson of the governing body of the State Authority;’.

(3)

Page 3, line 18, *for* “means” *substitute* “includes”.

(4)

Page 3, lines 22 and 23, *for* “climate regulation, disease control, Flood moderation, detoxification”, *substitute* “flood moderation”.

(5)

Page 3, *omit* lines 25 and 26.

(6)

Page 3, line 28, *after* “Primary production”, *insert* “including Pollination and seed dispersal”.

(7)

Page 3, line43, *for* “specified compensatory afforestation specified”, *substitute* “compensatory afforestation specified”.

(8)

Page 4, line 1, *after* “the Union Government”, *insert* “in consultation with the State Governments”.

(9)

Page 4, after line 6, *insert*—

“(na) “State Government” includes Union territory Administration’. ’

(10)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 2, as amended, stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause. 4 Establishment of State Fund

Amendments made:

‘Page 4, after line 40, *insert*—

“Provided that in case of a Union territory having no legislature, such fund shall be established under the public account of Union of India with effect from such date as the Union territory Administration may, by notification in the Official Gazette, appoint in this behalf”.

(11)

Page 4, line 44, *omit* “established under public accounts”.

(12)

Page 5, line 4, *for* “receipt of all monies”, *substitute* “all monies Realized”.

(13)

Page 5, lines 14 and 15, *omit* “constituted in such State”.

(14)

Page 5, lines 16 and 17, *omit* “constituted in such State”.

(15)

Page 5, lines 18, *omit* “constituted in such State”.

(16)

Page 5, line 21, *omit* “of such State”.’

(17)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 4, as amended, stand part of the Bill. ”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clause 6 Disbursement and utilization of State Fund

Amendments made:

'Page 6, line 4, *for* "money", *substitute* "monies"

(18)

Page 6, line 6, *for* "infrastructure", *substitute* "forest and wildlife related infrastructure".

(19)

Page 6, line 10, *omit* "and Union territory Administrations".

(20)

Page 6, line 19, *for* "the States and Union territory Administrations", *substitute* "the State including facilitating voluntary relocation from such protected areas".

(21)

Page 6, line 29, *omit* "or Union territory".'

(22)

(Shri Prakash Javedkar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 6, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 6, as amended, was added to the Bill

Clause 7 was added to the Bill.

Clause 8 Constitution of National Authority

Amendments made:

‘Page 7, for lines 5 to 9, *substitute*—

“(ii)Secretaries of Ministries dealing with Environment, Forest, Climate Change, Finance (Expenditure), Rural Development, Land Resources, Agriculture, Panchayati Raj, Tribal Development, Science, Technology, Space and Earth Sciences and Chief Executive Officer, National Institution for Transforming India Ayog, Government of India – Members, ex officio;”.

(23)

Page 7, *for* line 26, *substitute*—

“(x) five experts, one each from environmentalists, conservationists, Scientists, economists, and”.’

(24)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 8, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 9 Executive Committee and monitoring group of National Authority

Amendment made:

'"Page 8, *for* line 9, *substitute*—

"(ix) three experts, one each in the fields of forestry, tribal development, forest economy". '

(25)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 9, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 9, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 10 Constitution of State Authority

Amendments made:

‘Page 8, line 32, *omit* “and Union Territory”.

(26)

Page 8, line 34, *omit* “and Union Territories”.

(27)

Page 8, line 36, *omit* “established under public account”.

(28)

Page 8, line 41, *after* “Chief Minister”, *insert* “of the State and in case of a Union Territory having no legislature, the Lieutenant Governor or the Administrator, as the case may be”.

(29)

Page 8, line 44, *for* “Departments of”, *substitute* “of the Departments dealing with”.

(30)

Page 9, for lines 2 and 3, *substitute*—

"(6) Principal Secretary in-charge of the Forest Department in a State shall be Member Secretary of the State Authority in such State".

(31)

Page 9, line 4, *omit* "or Union Territory Administration".'

(32)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 10, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 10, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 11 Steering Committee and Executive Committee of State Authority

Amendments made:

‘‘Page 9, line 12, *for* “Departments of”, *substitute* “of the Departments dealing with”.

(33)

Page 9, after line 21, *insert*—

“(viia) an expert on tribal matters or a representative of tribal communities to be appointed by the State Government-Members;”.

(34)

Page 9, *for* line 28, *substitute*—

“(iii) an officer not below the rank of a Chief Conservator of Forests dealing with forest and wildlife related Schemes-Member, *ex officio*;".

(35)

Page 9, *for* lines 29 and 30, *substitute*—

"(iv) an officer not below the rank of a Chief Conservator of Forests dealing with forestry research—Member, *ex officio*;".

(36)

Page 9, line 32, *for* "Departments of", *substitute* "Departments dealing with".

(37)

Page 9, after line 40, *insert*—

"(ixa) an expert on tribal matters or a representative of tribal community to be appointed by the State Government-Members;".'

(38)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 11, as amended, stand part of the Bill. "

The motion was adopted.

Clause 11, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 12 to 14 were added to the Bill.

Clause 15 Powers and funtions of Executive Committee of National Authority

Amendment made:

Page 11, *for* line 6, *substitute*—

"(i) approve, within three months from the date of receipt, annual plan of operations of State Authorities, with such amendments as it deems fit and proper;"

(39)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 15, as amended, stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 16 Functions of monitoring group

Amendment made:

Page 11, line 37, after “institutional experts”, *insert* “including remote sensing agencies”.

(40)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 16, as amended, stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 17 was added to the Bill.

Clause 18 Powers and functions of Steering Committee of State Authority

Amendments made:

Page 12, line 6, *for* “18”. *substitute* 18. (1).

(41)

Page 12, line 7, after “and approve”, *insert* “with such amendments as it may deem fit and proper”.

(42)

Page 12, after line 17, *insert* -

“(2) The steering committee of a State Authority shall meet at least once in every three months. ”.

(43)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 18, as amended, stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted.

Clause 18, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 19 Functions and powers of Executive Committee of State Authority

Amendments made:

Page 12, for lines 19 to 21, *substitute*-

"(i) formulate and submit annual plan of operations to the steering committee of the State Authority for its concurrence;"

(44)

Page 12, line 24, *Omit* "under public accounts".

(45)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 19, as amended, stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted.

Clause 19, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 20 to 25 were added to the Bill.

Clause 26 Investment of funds by State Authority

Amendment made:

"Page 14, lines 8 and 9, *for* "State Fund under public accounts of such State", *substitute* "State Fund of such State"."

(46)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 26, as amended, stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted.

Clause 26, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 27 and 28 were added to the Bill.

Clause 29 Annual report and audit report of State Authority to be laid before State Legislature

Amendment made:

Page 15, after line 3, *insert*-

"Provided that in case of Union territory having no legislature, the Union Government shall cause the annual report and the audit report together with a memorandum of action taken on the recommendations contained therein to be laid as soon as may be after the reports are received before each House of the Parliament.".

(47)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 29, as amended, stand part of the Bill"

The motion was adopted.

Clause 29, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 30 Power to make rules

Amendment made:

Page 15, line 6, *after* “the Union Government”, *insert* “in consultation with the State Governments”.

(48)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 30, as amended, stand part of the Bill "

The motion was adopted.

Clause 30, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clauses 31 and 32 were added to the Bill.

Clause 33 Power of Union Government to issue directions

Amendment made:

"Page 17, *for* lines 32 to 38, *substitute*—

"33. (l) The Union Government may, if it finds necessary or expedient in the public interest, issue such policy directives to the National Authority or any State Authority, in writing and such policy directives shall be binding upon the National Authority or the State Authority, as the case may be."." (49)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 33, as amended, stand part of the Bill. "

The motion was adopted.

Clause 33, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 Short title, extent and commencement

Amendment made:

"Page 3, line 4, *for* "2015", *substitute* "2016"" (2)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 1, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Enacting Formula

Amendment made:

"Page 3, line 1, *for* "Sixty-sixth', *substitute* "Sixty-seventh'."

(1)

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.

The Preamble and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, the 4th May, 2016 at 11 a. m.

20. 22 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, May 4, 2016/Vaisakha 14, 1938 (Saka)

INTERNET

The Original version, English version and Hindi Version of Lok Sabha proceedings are available on Parliament of India Website at the following address:

https://sansad.in/ls

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are telecast live on Sansad TV Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. every day the Lok Sabha sits till the adjournment of the House.

©2016 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Sixteenth Edition)