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Shravana 20, 1938 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Ninth Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. XIX Contains Nos.11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 11, 2016/Shravana 20, 1938 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of two former Members Shrimati Rajesh Nandini Singh and Shri Jagannath Mallik.

Shrimati Rajesh Nandini Singh was a Member of the 15th Lok Sabha representing the Shahdol Parliamentary Constituency of Madhya Pradesh. She was a Member of the Committee on Coal and Steel and the Committee on Empowerment of Women.

Earlier, Shrimati Singh was a Member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1993 to 1998.

Shrimati Rajesh Nandini Singh passed away on 8th May, 2016 in Shahdol, Madhya Pradesh at the age of 59.

Shri Jagannath Malik was a Member of the 13th Lok Sabha representing the Jajpur Parliamentary Constituency of Odisha.

He was a Member of the Committee on Agriculture.

Earlier, Shri Mallik was a Member of the Odisha Legislative Assembly from 1971 to 1994 for five terms.

He also served as Cabinet Minister in the Government of Odisha.

An educationist, writer and publisher, Shri Mallik has to his credit several books in Odia language.

Shri Jagannath Mallik passed away on 7th August, 2016 in Bhubaneshwar, Odisha at the age of 79.

We deeply mourn the loss of our former colleagues and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

This House shall observe a moment of silence in honour of the departed souls.

11.02 hours

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

[Translation]

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADYUN): Madam, the Union Government is not concerned about all the schemes of Uttar Pradesh.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Not now. You may speak during Zero Hour.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 361 - Shri Arvind Sawant ji.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Madam, thank you very much.... *(Interruptions)* For the first time in two or two and a quarter year, a Starred Question of mine has been listed, and that too at number one. Hence, I am very pleased today.

HON. SPEAKER: Your question is listed at number one; make the most of it.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Madam, it is like I have won a lottery.... *(Interruptions)* Dharmendra Yadav ji, kindly allow me to ask my question. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Not now. Please take your seat. Shri Arvind

Sawant, please state your Question Number first.

11.03 hours

*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 361 – Shri Arvind Sawant ji.

[English]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Madam Speaker, at the first instance I heartily congratulate the Hon. Minister for withdrawing the decision to corporatize major ports. There was a strong resentment among the employees. Some Committees were constituted to modernize the institutional structure of major ports. Earlier also some Committees were appointed. One Rani Jadhav Committee was also constituted. Of late, we heard that an Expert Committee was appointed and that the Committee's Report was accepted by the Ministry and to be submitted to the Cabinet for its approval.

Right now, I have learnt that the Ministry has appointed some private legal firm to decide about amendment in the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963, which is about 50 to 60 years old. The Minister is striving had to augment the business over there but at the same time we are

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

not able to cope up with the speed as expected. In Mumbai, Sasoon Docks is being modernized; the Bhaucha Dhakka is being modernized. I welcome this and again congratulate him for that as well. He has already declared around 86 projects. In that also, he has declared one of the major things on which I was insisting for a long time, the deepening of the draft. I do not know whether Mumbai Port is there or not. Right now, the clearance is being delayed at the ports; the berths are old and the mechanism is old. Therefore, I have a question. There are some private ports but in the major ports, there is one at Ennore called Kamarajar Port Limited, which is a corporate port; I do not know how the business is going on there. Therefore, I would like to ask the Minister whether it is true that the Ministry has floated a tender for seeking to hire a legal firm to amend the MPT Act; and if it is so, when is it expected to amend that Act. He has answered that also…. (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now you have to ask for another supplementary also.

[English]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Thank you so much.

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam, in the current situation, it was necessary to bring professional efficiency into the ports, to reduce turnaround time at ports, and to ensure that Indian ports align with the efficiency norms of major ports across the world. Therefore, some amendments in the law were needed. It was necessary to grant powers in a professional, transparent and time-bound manner. In the Budget, the Hon. Finance Minister had stated that we would move towards corporatisation of ports. However, after consultations with several of our Hon. Members and trade union leaders, the Government held discussions with the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Finance Minister, and with their approval, we decided not to proceed with corporatisation of ports. Instead, we resolved to amend the existing Major Port Trust Act and rename the Port Trusts as Authorities. You have raised several issues, but I would like to inform you that the share of private ports has increased only by 61% up to 2015-16, whereas the share of Government ports has increased by 4.31%. This implies that the efficiency of our ports has now surpassed even that of private ports. This has happened after ten years of continuously low growth as compared to private ports. In the current year, 2016-17, during the first four months, cargo growth at major ports is over five percent. I

am pleased to inform the House that after the formation of our Government and under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, we engaged a foreign consultant, who made 104 recommendations. Out of these, we have implemented 38. As a result, the operating margin of our ports has increased from 39.18%. This is the highest growth recorded in the last 25 years. This is a growth of 90.7 percent compared to 2014-15. I would also like to share that the profit from our ports has, for the first time in the country, reached Rs. 4,309 crore, and all ports are in profit. We have now become more efficient than private ports. Sometimes allegations are levelled against us, particularly concerning the Kandla Port in Gujarat. It is alleged that we support private ports. However, the performance of the private ports in Gujarat has declined, while the efficiency and profitability of our ports have increased.

As far as investment is concerned, I am pleased to inform the House that after the formation of our Government, an investment of Rs. 72,787.28 crore has been made in the port sector. This has generated new employment potential. Under the Sagarmala Project, there is a possibility of an investment of approximately Rs. 12 lakh crore, and for this, we seek cooperation from all Hon. Members. Out of this, Rs. 4 lakh crore is earmarked for port-road connectivity and

port-rail connectivity. This will further enhance efficiency. Another important point is that we are developing 27 industrial clusters, which are expected to attract an investment of around Rs. 8 crore.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to inform the House that the Inland Waterways Bill, which was unanimously passed by this House, is seeing a positive beginning starting tomorrow. Two ships will be departing from Varanasi to Kolkata, and we have entered into an agreement with Maruti. Vehicles manufactured by Maruti in Gurugram will be transported to Varanasi, and from there, they will be sent by water route to the North East, Assam, and Bengal. For the first time, 1,400 tonnes of construction material will also be flagged off tomorrow via the Ganga. The development of waterways in the Ganga is progressing rapidly, and where once only 10 lakh tonnes of cargo was transported, we are confident that within two years, 200 lakh tonnes of cargo will be transported via the Ganga. The 40 ports being developed along the Ganga, along with multi-modal terminals, will become growth centres and will attract industrial investment as well. We are not undertaking corporatisation, but rather, reforming the Trust system. Representatives from labour unions have also been included. At one point, people from Kerala came to me regarding the Cochin Shipyard, and I explained to them that we intend to raise it

through private equity, and we clearly stated that we are not corporatising it. I said, "If you do not wish to proceed, I will take Cochin Port to Gujarat." They requested me not to do so.... *(Interruptions)* I am only stating the facts. Later, you also supported the move, and they successfully raised Rs. 2,000 crore from the market. For the first time in the country's history, our JNPT Port secured Rs. 3,000 crore from the bank at an interest rate of 2.75 percent, and due to the low interest cost, the viability of the project is ensured. In this manner, we shall raise funds through loans amounting to 50 billion dollars and proceed in PPP mode. There arises no question whatsoever of corporatisation.

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: Madam Speaker, I wholeheartedly welcome this. It is indeed a commendable step. I have two brief questions. I was present at the inauguration ceremony of the Rail Corporation. I would like to know, out of these 86 projects, how many pertain to the development of Mumbai Port? I am aware of JNPT, its business has grown and certain improvements are still needed there. But with regard to Mumbai Port and the Rail Corporation, what plans can we envisage? Because the rail traffic in Mumbai is of a very high volume. During the day, passengers utilise the railway, and at night, freight services could be run. Is this part of your planning in any way?

Out of the 86 projects, how many are dedicated to the development of Mumbai Port?

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Hon. Speaker Madam, the Hon. Member is aware that the Mumbai Port Trust is now situated within Mumbai. Just as he resides in Mumbai, so do I. Travelling via Demello Road feels like a punishment; all Hon. Members from Mumbai are aware of this. That area falls within the Hon. Member's Parliamentary Constituency. At one point, it was appropriate to develop Mumbai Port as a port, but at present, it creates numerous problems. When truck traffic from the port enters Sion, it results in significant pollution and accidents in Mumbai. Hence, further developing Mumbai Port and Kolkata Port as major ports is not in the interest of the local citizens. I had given you my assurance. You were concerned that 57 percent of cargo at any port is liquid cargo; we shall allow that. We are developing a new marine area there, which will enhance the aesthetic appeal of Mumbai. I have invited tenders for planning at a global level, including from Singapore, to transform the port. My aspiration is that just as Dubai Port set world records in development, Mumbai Port too should emerge as one of the finest ports in the world. According to the rules of the Government of Maharashtra, all issues related to slum dwellers, the poor, and other concerns that you have

raised with me will be addressed legally. No one shall be adversely affected. With everyone's cooperation, we intend to develop Mumbai Port as one of the world's premier port areas.

HON. SPEAKER: Minister ji, please respond briefly. Many Hon. Members still wish to ask questions.

DR. BHARTIBEN D. SHYAL: Hon. Speaker Madam, we are very pleased with the response the Hon. Minister gave regarding Gujarat. We are proud of him. Madam, I would also like to bring to the Hon. Minister's attention matters related to my region and humbly make a request. In Bhavnagar, we have a port. It is one of the few ports in Asia that has a lock gate facility. For many years, large volumes of transportation took place through our port including fertilisers, wheat, limestone and coal. Thousands of people derived their livelihoods from this. However, over the years, a massive amount of mud has accumulated in Bhavnagar Port, and dredging has not been undertaken for several years. As a result, we are unable to fully utilise the lock gate facility, and transportation from our port has declined.

Through you,, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether there are any plans to dredge the mud that has accumulated in Bhavnagar Port, so that we can make full use of the lock gate, reduce

transportation costs, and thereby ensure that thousands of families in Bhavnagar can earn their livelihood?

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Speaker Madam, major ports come under the jurisdiction of the Government of India, whereas minor ports fall under the State Governments. I would respectfully submit to the Hon. Member Madam that Bhavnagar Port is under the jurisdiction of the Government of Gujarat. However, should the Government of Gujarat seek any assistance from the Union Government for the development of this port, we are fully willing to provide all necessary support. The ownership of the port lies with the Government of Gujarat, and the authority to develop it also rests with them. Nonetheless, if any assistance is required, the Government of India is ready to cooperate fully. But the powers in this regard lie with the Government of Gujarat.

[English]

SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE: Madam Speaker, my question is not directly related to ports, but on some related issue.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Don't ask questions if it is not related to it. Ask questions related to the port.

[English]

SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE: As the Hon. Minister has already declared, which I have seen in newspaper, that once the Government makes waterways, a lot of embankments, particularly in the Bengal area, get destroyed. Even yesterday also something has happened there. Has the Minister made any plan to strengthen those embankments?

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam, the question raised by the Hon. Member is not directly related to the main issue. However, I want to assure you that whenever we prepare any Detailed Project Reports (D.P.R.), the consultants for preparing these D.P.R.s are not even available within India. Out of the 48 D.P.R.s currently in process and 8 that have been completed, these are being carried out by consultants from the United States, the United Kingdom, and the Netherlands. It is through them that the work is progressing. This entire process will be conducted scientifically. After studying all technical norms concerning the environment and port construction, we will proceed accordingly.

[English]

SHRI CHOUDHURY MOHAN JATUA: Madam Speaker, actually we are very happy to hear from the Hon. Minister that he is taking a lot of care to develop sea ports. I actually come from the sea area as my constituency is on the coast of the Bay of Bengal. The former Prime Minister of the UPA Government declared that there would be a sea port at Ganga Sagar. The present Government also declared earlier that there would be a sea port at Ganga Sagar. Just now, the Hon. Minister has stated that he is getting a lot of money from different sources for the Ganga Sagar Port. Of course, I am not clear whether this entire money which he stated just now is meant for the sea port at Ganga Sagar or some other port. During the last four years, a lot of assurances have been given, but nothing is visible there. So, I would like to know from the Minister as to when the actual construction of this port will start.

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam, the discussion about Sagar Port has been ongoing for quite some time, that is true. I had a meeting with the Hon. Chief Minister of West Bengal, Sushri Mamata Banerjee, in Kolkata. Her Government has assured us of her cooperation and willingness to take equity in the project, and a

Memorandum of Understanding (M.O.U.) has been signed between us.

Work is underway to construct a bridge for rail-road connectivity at this port. The design will be such that the railway bridge and the road will be on the same structure. Consultants have been engaged for the design, and I believe the report may have been received. We have decided to issue the tender soon. I have sent a note to the Prime Minister requesting him to give a date for the inauguration and the foundation-laying ceremony. Once we have dates from both Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and the Prime Minister, the foundation stone will be laid in their presence.

Regarding your question on funding, I would like to say that no expenditure can be made directly from the budget for this port because the balance sheet of the Kolkata Port in Bengal is not in a good state. It has to pay pensions amounting to Rs. 450 crore. We can only invest where there are profits. However, what we are doing is that profitable ports are purchasing equity in Sagar Port, so ports in profit will contribute Rs. 100 crore each in equity, strengthening their financial position, which will enable loans to be raised for Sagar Port. Basically, Sagar Port is not very attractive or financially viable at this stage.

I must inform you that the West Bengal government is also considering opening another new port. If that happens, it will be economically non-viable. Bengal also has ownership in Sagar Port and is cooperating with us. First, let us ensure the proper functioning of this port, and only then consider the other one. We intend to commence work by laying the foundation stone within three months. A feasibility report for the road and rail connectivity bridge has been prepared. We will require assistance from the State Government regarding land acquisition for this purpose. Work on this has already started. I believe the entire work on Sagar Port will commence before December this year.

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Madam Speaker, the Azhikkal Port is a non-major Port in my Constituency in Kerala. Now, the Government of India has proposed to develop the Azhikkal Port under the Sagarmala Project in the Ministry of Shipping.

In reply to one of my questions, the Hon. Minister had stated that a Technical Committee has been constituted by the Government of India for development of the Azhikkal Port. The Kerala Government has already allotted Rs. 500crore in its Budget.

So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government of India is likely to take any step to develop the Azhikkal Port.

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam, this port does not come under the jurisdiction of the Union Government. The Azhikal Port is classified as a minor port. We do have Koilachal and Vizhinjam under our purview, and we have granted approval for those. ... (Interruptions) That too is being developed by the Kerala Government under the Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model. As a viability gap funding, we are providing, to the best of my knowledge, around Rs. 900 crore. This particular port lies entirely with the State Government. If they require any assistance from us, we will certainly provide it, but ultimately, the complete authority rests with them.

HON. SPEAKER: Pralhad Joshi ji, please keep it a short question. It's getting late, and many questions have already been asked.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Shri Gadkariji, there is a revolution change in this entire sector. In the

entire country, Nitin Gadkari has become Nitin *Roadkari*. He has become Nitin Roadkari. He is giving so many roads to everyone, that from Gadkari, he has become *Roadkari*.

In Karnataka, the ports other than Mangalore Port, also need to be developed.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now Gadkari will also become Portkari.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: There is a natural harbour called Belekeri. It opens a Gateway of Development for Northern part of Karnataka.

HON. SPEAKER: Please put a specific question.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Yes, Madam. It will connect hinterland to the coastal land. Then, Hubli-Ankola Line Project has also been cleared by the National Green Tribunal.

So, my specific question to the Hon. Minister is this. Is he considering to develop the Belekeri Port? Is there any proposal, which he has received from the State of Karnataka?

[Translation]

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: Madam, what the Hon. Member is saying is indeed very important for the development of North Karnataka. This is a port located above Goa, and we have already prepared a plan for it. We are ready to spend Rs. 6,000 crore to develop it as a major port. There were forest and environmental issues related to this project, but I have heard that the State Government has cleared those. I would like to request the former Chief Minister of Karnataka, Shri Yediyurappa, and Members from all parties that this project must be undertaken. Therefore, the Karnataka Government, along with you, should submit a proposal. Once that proposal is received, this port can become the engine of industrial growth in North Karnataka worth Rs. 6,000 crore. The Union Government is fully prepared to take up this project. We are only waiting for the proposal from the Government of Karnataka. Once that is received, we will move forward with it.

(Q. 362)

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Madam, it is the responsibility of the Government to ensure the availability of drinking water. In response to my question, the Hon. Minister stated that there are 1,838 ongoing schemes in Jammu & Kashmir to provide drinking water to the people, out of which 801 schemes are in Jammu.

Madam, Jammu & Kashmir is a State with remote and hilly areas. These regions require more funds. I would like to know how much funding was allocated to Jammu & Kashmir under the NRDWP during 2015–16 and 2016–17 to ensure that there is no shortage of drinking water?

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has rightly expressed concern regarding the availability of potable water. I would like to assure him that the Union Government is fully committed to ensuring the supply of clean drinking water to the general public.

As far as the State of Jammu & Kashmir is concerned, it is undoubtedly a very important region for the country. I am pleased to inform the House that in terms of water supply, Jammu & Kashmir ranks quite high, both in terms of percentage coverage and water

quality. Regarding budget allocation, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that in 2015–16, the unspent balance with the State of Jammu & Kashmir was Rs. 75.49 crore. The allocation for that year was Rs. 199.46 crore, out of which Rs. 192.12 crore was released, and Rs. 222.16 crore was utilised.

In 2016–17, as of 09.08.2016, the unspent balance with the State was Rs. 45.44 crore. For the current year, the allocation is Rs. 227.51 crore, out of which Rs. 113.73 crore has already been released. Although utilisation details are not yet available, Rs. 159.17 crore is currently available with the Government of Jammu & Kashmir.

I would also like to inform the Hon. Member that in Jammu & Kashmir, piped water supply covers 94.07 percent of the population, compared to the national average of 52.44 percent. The percentage of household connections in the State is 27.70 percent, compared to the national average of 14.95 percent. I assure the Hon. Member that more than Rs. 150 crore is already available with the State Government. Whenever required, no project of the Jammu & Kashmir Government will be delayed by the Union Government. The Union Government is fully committed to ensuring adequate drinking water availability in Jammu & Kashmir.

SHRI JUGAL KISHORE: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency comprises the Jammu-Poonch border region, which is entirely hilly terrain. Due to insufficient rainfall, water sources often dry up, and alternative means have to be used to provide water. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister how much funding is being allocated for the Jammu-Poonch Lok Sabha Constituency in the year 2016–2017 so that the ongoing schemes can be completed on time, without any shortage of funds, and the people of Jammu and Poonch may get adequate drinking water?

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has sought information regarding his Parliamentary Constituency. While I have data pertaining to the State as a whole, I do not have specific information about the allocation made to his Lok Sabha Constituency, which includes Jammu, Poonch, Rajouri, and Samba districts. The funds released by the Union Government are provided to the State Government, which in turn allocates them according to its own planning and priorities. Nevertheless, the Hon. Member's Constituency is indeed fortunate in terms of water coverage. In Jammu, 99.39 percent of the area is covered by piped water supply. In Poonch, 100 percent of the population is receiving

piped water. Rajouri has 51.11 percent coverage, and Samba stands at 97.88 percent. I would like to assure the Hon. Member that we will duly inform the State Government to ensure that all the ongoing schemes in his region are completed expeditiously so that the people continue to receive adequate drinking water without any delay or shortage.

[English]

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA: Madam, providing drinking water is the responsibility of both the State Government and the Central Government. If you look at the allocation of funds for drinking water schemes especially the National Rural Drinking Water Project, the allocation has been reducing consistently. Especially for the State of Karnataka, the allocation during the year 2013-2014 is Rs. 897 crore; during 2014-15 it is Rs. 536 crore; during the year 2015-16 it is Rs. 278 crore. During 2016-17, as of now, Rs. 137 crore is released. This shows consistent reduction in the allocation for the Drinking Water Project.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to why the allocation has been reduced and also the measures that Government will take to complete the ongoing projects.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has raised a point regarding allocation. When the report of the Fourteenth Finance Commission was released, it recommended that instead of 32 percent, 42 percent of funds should be allocated to the States. In order to strengthen the federal structure and to enable the States to formulate and implement schemes effectively as per their specific needs, exercising discretion in the interest of their respective States, the Union Government accepted the recommendations of the Finance Commission in toto. As a result, instead of 32 percent, 42 percent of funds are now being transferred to the States. A Committee was formed under the Chairmanship of Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Ji, with the participation of Chief Ministers from all States, to discuss how this transition should be taken forward. The committee recommended that expenditure be shared in a 60:40 ratio between the Union and the States. In case of hilly regions such as Jammu and Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and the North-Eastern States, the sharing ratio was recommended to be 90:10. Naturally, due to this revised sharing arrangement, the allocation that was previously in place has reduced to a 60:40 ratio. However, this change is the result of the recommendations made by the NITI Aayog.

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY: Hon. Speaker Madam, drought is a recurring issue in the western districts of Rajasthan. Recently, there have been heavy rains in Barmer and Jaisalmer over the past three to four days, but until just a short while ago, water had to be supplied there through tankers. A demand of Rs. 28,000 crore had been made in this regard. I had raised Starred Question No. 72, to which the reply given was ambiguous. The people of that region are indeed fortunate as they are situated between the Indira Gandhi Canal on one side and the Narmada Canal on the other. Several schemes worth Rs. 5,000 crore have been formulated for Barmer and Jaisalmer, but the State Government does not have sufficient resources to fund them. Water is brought from distances of 10 kilometres or more. Earlier, under the NRDWP scheme, you used to provide more funds. Now, although the devolution has increased from 32 to 42 percent, previously Rs. 35,000 crore used to be received, but only Rs. 300 crore has been given to Rajasthan. These are drought-affected districts where famine has occurred nearly 50 times in the past 60 years. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether a special package will be granted in this regard?

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Madam Speaker, it is indeed true that there is a shortage of drinking water in Rajasthan, and it is

natural for the Hon. Member to be concerned about this. As a general principle, drinking water is a State subject. The Union Government provides assistance, technical support, and strives to allocate funds to the extent possible. Even this year, if one looks at the figures, Rs. 882 crore has been allocated to Rajasthan, which is the highest in the country, and this allocation has been made in accordance with the needs of the State.

(Q. 363)

SHRI CHINTAMAN NAVASHA WANGA: Hon. Speaker Madam, this is a very important question regarding coal. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister and the Union Government, as under the MMDR Act, 1957, same-day delivery has commenced. However, twelve proposals from 2015 and nine proposals for bridge linkages are still pending. Besides these, there are several other pending proposals as well. Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister: by when will these pending proposals be resolved?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Speaker Madam, certain proposals are indeed pending, particularly for private sector power plants from which electricity is procured. A new policy regarding this will soon be presented before the Cabinet, and once it is finalised, coal linkages will be provided to those plants as well through a transparent process—those which have not received linkages yet.

Madam, I would like to inform the House that, generally, there is no shortage of coal at any power plant across the country. Even if someone does not have a linkage, we provide coal to power plants through a special e-auction linkage.

Madam, the Hon. Member of Parliamnet would be pleased to know that last year, nearly 12–13 million tonnes of coal were supplied through the e-auction window over the course of the year. However, this year, in just the first four months, we have already supplied around 13 million tonnes via e-auction.

SHRI CHINTAMAN NAVASHA WANGA: Speaker Madam, there is a Monitoring Committee for coal supply, comprising Members from the Ministry of Coal, Ministry of Power, and Ministry of Railways. However, it does not include any Member from the Ministry of Road Transport, nor from the Ministry of Shipping. Therefore, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government intends to include these two Ministries in the said Monitoring Committee?

Madam, through you, I would like to bring to the Hon. Minister's attention that nearly Rs. 40 thousand crore is spent on coal transportation. However, due to a lack of communication and coordination between the railways and other modes of transport, there are considerable difficulties. Therefore, I wish to ask the Hon. Minister that what is the Ministry's planning to ensure effective communication and coordination?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, Hon. Member has indeed given a very good suggestion. At present, most of the coal transportation is done through the railways. However, Hon. Shri Nitin Gadkari has added a new dimension, he has proposed that we transport coal via inland waterways using barges to the main ports, from where it would be moved via large ships to power plants located on the western and southern coasts of India. This would enable power plants, which are currently dependent on imported coal, to start using some quantity of domestic coal. It would also facilitate the use of domestic coal in new power plants being established in these regions. We are in continuous discussion with the Ministry of Shipping on this matter. Hon. Shri Gadkari has drawn up a very comprehensive and detailed plan. Through this method, more than 100 million tonnes of coal can be transported via waterways in the future.

Madam, for the Hon. Member's information, I would also like to inform you that officers from the Ministry of Shipping are part of the Infrastructure Sub-Group, and we can formally include them in this initiative. As for the second question regarding coal infrastructure, I would like to assure him that the Government is constantly working towards improving coal-related infrastructure and ensuring better availability of coal.

SHRI SHANKAR PRASAD DATTA: Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to bring to the Hon. Minister's attention that when I requested a report from the coal headquarters in Ranchi, I was informed that at present, coal production in the country is so high that a large quantity of coal has accumulated. Since it is currently the monsoon season, there is no immediate risk, but once the rains cease, there is a possibility that the coal may catch fire. Through you, Madam, I wish to ask the Hon. Minister that what steps will he take to sell this stock of coal and prevent such a situation?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Speaker Madam, two years ago, the nation was reeling under a severe shortage of coal. Today, it is a matter of great satisfaction that coal production in the country has increased to the extent that there is now more coal available than required.

Madam, two years ago, there was a constant concern about imminent power cuts, as many power plants were operating under critical stock levels. There were plants where a coal wagon would arrive in the morning, and only by the afternoon could electricity generation begin.

Madam, first of all, I would like to thank the honourable member for showing such concern on this matter. There is a plentiful supply

of coal in the country. I believe that having an excess of coal is a good thing for the country. It is also beneficial for the energy security of the nation. The honourable Member of Parliament is right in pointing out that excessive stockpiling can pose a fire risk, but I assure you that no mine creates excess stock. They monitor their production and sales carefully, keeping only as much stock as their capacity allows and what they can manage.

Madam, the honourable member also asked what steps are being taken to increase coal sales. I want to inform him that we have started the coal linkage process in a very transparent manner. I am happy to share that for the non-regulated sector such as iron and captive power plants, we have conducted coal auctions transparently, where no one is favoured and no one is harmed. Through long-term linkages, we have auctioned around 25-30 million tons of coal so far. Going forward, we are working on a transparent system for thermal power plants as well.

Additionally, we continuously provide coal through special e-auctions, forward e-auctions, exclusive e-auctions, and auctions for different regions. Today, the country is facing a unique situation where power plants themselves say, Do not send us more coal.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, Honourable Chairperson Madam, as far as the question of providing government bridge linkages is concerned, there is no crisis at all. Regarding Barauni, based on the immediate information I have received, their request came on June 15, 2016, and it is currently in process. We do not face any difficulty in granting permission for it.

(Q. 364)

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA: Hon. Speaker Madam, thank you very much. The honourable minister has already given a very detailed reply to my question, so I thank him for that as well.

Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the honourable minister that we all know our country is a country of villages, where each geographical area and sub-region has its own distinct style and tradition. Since ancient times, our country has been producing handicraft items, which have provided livelihood opportunities to millions of people living in rural areas. The wide range of handicrafts reflects the diversity and artistry of our country. Our indigenous handicrafts are a nurtured aspect of our lives. Handicrafts have been the main industry for the ancient life of our society, but today, due to the artisans not being economically empowered and educationally backward, they are unable to deliver their handicraft products to those in need, even though there is demand for them globally. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask question.

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA: Madam, I am just asking a question. Handicrafts exports face many difficulties related to

customs. Does the government have any schemes proposed regarding the digital marketplace for rural handicraft producers of our country, and for awakening and educating artisans working in small and medium handicraft industries? Also, what welfare schemes does the government have for artisans so that they can bring their handicraft products onto the digital marketplace while securing the social security of their families?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Hon. Speaker Madam, the Hon. Member of Parliamnet has rightly expressed concern that the educational challenges faced by the families of artisans are serious, and the Government of India is committed to addressing those challenges. I would like to inform that on August 7, we celebrated National Handloom Day, and in collaboration with NIOS and IGNOU, special educational arrangements have been made specifically for weaver families. The Ministry also wishes to provide such facilities for our artisan brothers and sisters.

As for providing digital market access to artisan brothers and sisters, the honourable member has expressed concern about this. The reply mentions that digital marketing is already being done through Cottage Emporium, Handloom and Handicrafts Export Corporation.

As far as providing digital market facility to the artisan brothers and sisters is concerned, the Hon. Member has expressed concern about it, in the reply it is written that digital marketing is done through Cottage Emporium, Handloom and Handicrafts Export Corporation. With this, it will now be our endeavour to provide any facility to individual craftsmen so that they can directly connect themselves with online market services.

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA: Hon. Speaker, many efforts are being made by the Government to expand the field of work to increase the production of handicraft items in our country. Through you, I have a direct question for the honourable minister regarding this: What efforts is the government making at the district level to set up support centers where artisans can get complete information about e-marketplaces and create e-market portals at concessional rates? Many handicraft products, which are made solely by handcrafting and cannot be made by machines, factories, or industries, what programs is the government planning to make such handicrafts self-reliant?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Hon. Speaker, Hon. Member has specifically discussed the district wise arrangement. I would like to tell the honourable member that currently 52 centers have already been established in the country from the perspective of marketing

handicrafts. Through these centers, our advanced thinking and efforts are aimed at connecting artisans with online services. Along with this, an integrated program runs with state governments and their agencies- the Integrated Development and Promotion of Handicraft Project. Under this program, we specially request the state governments to connect individual artisans with online marketing services.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Manoj Tiwari - Not present

Shri Baijayant Jay Panda

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA: Thank you, Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister has given a detailed response. I compliment her for the information she has given in reply to part (a) of the Question about the various initiatives being taken to promote handicrafts in the country. But, as regards part (b) and part (c), I have a question to ask.

Madam, there is one area, ‘the linkage to marketing’, which at least can provide maximum benefits to the handicraft sector. The answer says that there are deficiencies in the proposal and it has to be done again. I would like to point out to the Hon. Minister that it is not necessary for the Government to replicate everything which already exists.

As the Hon. Minister is aware, e-commerce and digital market place in the country have had explosive growth over the last few years. Last year I had an opportunity when some handicrafts people contacted me to get themselves listed on e-commerce sites like Snapdeal. Through my intervention, they got listed and today, they have immense growth in their sales.

Similarly, there are others like Flipkart, Amazon, and in Bhubaneswar there is a new start up called *dhumri.com*, which is providing this linkage to handicrafts from across India, particularly from Odisha. I ask the Hon. Minster that instead of spending time, energy and effort from the Government and having a large budget, it is much simpler, much cheaper and much faster if her Ministry can provide the facilities to existing handicraft workers to simply get listed on the existing e-commerce platforms. Will she commit to doing that?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Madam Speaker, the point presented by the Hon. Member is well taken and, I think, very progressive. This is an attempt that I have made in the handloom sector on the 7th of August. We have directly linked our weavers individually to various e-commerce sites. We have had immense amount of support from institutions like Amazon and Flipkart, but

other than that, the small start-ups, as the Hon. Member rightly pointed out, in fact, have been more productive in their engagement with weavers because they have gone from one cluster or one set of weavers to another and individually engaged with them.

A similar exercise, I totally agree, can be undertaken for the handicraft sector as well. I, possibly for the first time, assure the Hon. Member of the same.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI: Today, the handloom sector is facing closure due to the problem of poor marketing of their produce. This sector is also not able to realise the profit on their produce because of low demand from the public. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government has any plan to extend a helping hand to the handloom sector to market their produce as well as to provide any support to it.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: With regard to the Hon. Member's question and the challenges that are there before me in the handicraft sector, I will not say that the sector is devoid of challenges. There are certain challenges that have come forth in my observation in the Ministry. Many a times, we have the handicraft sector which is clustered and then the individual handicraft artisan is not getting

benefit, whether it is from a design perspective, a technology intervention perspective, marketing perspective or, as the Hon. Member had earlier said, with regard to even online marketing services perspective.

I have observed, Madam Speaker, in my tenure in this Ministry that from the 2005 onwards to 2015, over 24 lakh artisans in our country have been given individual ID cards and the ID cards expire on December 30, 2016. Our endeavour now, through the Government, is to ensure that the individual artisans are not only identified on the basis of the craft that they undertake but also with regard to providing them individual economic benefit, individual educational benefit, marketing benefit and design benefit. It is my endeavour to do this not only at the Central Government level but also in conjunction with the State Governments because the State Governments are extremely keen to ensure that handicraft artisans and weavers across the country get the long due justice that they truly deserve.

My endeavour is that in that process, even if the Members of Parliament want to come forth with their advice or suggestion, I will be more than happy to include them in those conversations, those initiatives and those efforts.

(Q. 365)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI NILAM SONKAR: Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister, because he responded very well to my original question. I would like to ask him about the quality of inspections of mines. What deficiencies have been found in mine inspections over the past three to four years and what actions have been taken to rectify them?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to thank both the Hon. Member and Yadav ji, because they have asked their questions in such detail that it has considerably enhanced my knowledge in the mining sector.

The inspections are ongoing continuously with regard to the question asked by the Hon. Member. Institutions of the Union Government also carry out inspections. Our Directorate General of Mines Safety inspects from the perspective of labour, including safety, welfare, and health aspects related to mining, along with ensuring compliance with the provisions of the Mines Act. The Indian Bureau of Mines, another central agency, oversees whether mining activities are being conducted scientifically in accordance with the

Mineral Conservation and Development Rules. They also ensure proper mine closures are carried out and that mining is not conducted in a hazardous manner which could compromise safety in the future. The Coal Controller Organisation is responsible for monitoring compliance with the Colliery Control Rules, 2004, and the Coal Mines (Conservation and Development) Amendment Rules, 2011, ensuring quality maintenance in the coal sector. The Coal Controller inspects aspects such as coal safety, mine closures, payment of royalties, cess, or excise duty. At the state level, the Director General of Mines Safety monitors routine state matters to ensure mining operations adhere to mining plans and that taxes are duly paid. It has been found in most places that while there are some areas facing difficulties, generally coal mining and mineral extraction are carried out properly. Special attention is being given to those areas to prevent irregular practices.

SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKAR: The Hon. Minister has responded very well, but I wish to know whether any action has so far been taken regarding the incidents that were occurring affecting the safety of mines? If a person working in the mines suffers an accident and becomes physically disabled, has any scheme or provision been made for them to sustain their livelihood?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Speaker Madam ji, safety, in my view, is the most important aspect of the mining sector. We continuously strive to make safety standards stricter and to bring international standards into India. Generally, the safety record is improving and mining output is increasing, but the number of accidents and unfortunate injuries is decreasing. However, the Government's belief is that we must move towards zero tolerance. We must establish safety standards such that no individual's life or body part is harmed. If anyone suffers any injury, there are established set rules, provisions, and laws for compensation. Companies also have their own rules, and they ensure full compliance with these.

SHRI LAKSHMI NARAYAN YADAV: Hon. Speaker Sir, the Minister has given a very detailed and good reply. I had a doubt that perhaps private and captive mines were not being inspected, but it seems that all are being inspected. For this, I congratulate the Hon. Minister. I would also like to ask why, despite having such expensive agencies inspecting the mines, accidents still occur at many places?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, I believe that earlier in our country, skill development was not given sufficient attention. Many people come from villages and work in these mines, but they

were not given adequate training. This was a cause of many accidents. Additionally, some equipment being used was old and outdated, which also led to accidents. There can also be sudden accidental causes beyond control. We are making efforts to modernise equipment. In collaboration with the Ministry of Skill Development, skill development and certification programmes have been initiated for approximately one hundred and twenty-five thousand coal sector employees, contract workers, and their children — together around one hundred and twenty-five thousand persons. Similarly, in the mining sector, we will focus more on skill development and improving equipment.

[English]

SHRI C.K. SANGMA: Madam Speaker, I think our Hon. Minister is aware that the coal mining in Meghalaya has been stopped in the past two years because of the NGT bank and that is primarily because of the safety measures, especially to do with rat-hole mining. Meghalaya loses almost about Rs. 700 crore in terms of Government revenue, and about Rs. 5,000 crore in terms of money coming into the economy of the State. So, it is a huge economic loss to us. The NGT ban is there mainly because of the rat-hole mining that is taking place.

My specific point to the Hon. Minister is that other technology might not be possible in our region.Is there any way that the Government of India along with the NGT planning to find a solution where we can ensure that the mining continues and the State does not lose revenue and at the same time, ensure the safety of the people working there? It is a very important issue. I will be very thankful to the Hon. Minister if he can give some direction in that line.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Yes, Madam, I fully appreciate the concerns of the young new Member from Meghalaya. He has actually been very much concerned about this subject for nearly two and a quarter year. Ever since I became a Minister, we have had a number of interactions with the Hon. Member. I must acknowledge that the way rat mining was being carried out in Meghalaya was truly a matter of concern.

The National Green Tribunal has very rightly put a stop to that. It has tried to have the State Government address those issues. The Ministry of Coal was asked to examine any proposal that the Government of Meghalaya puts up to us to improve the quality of mining there, set in safety standards and ensure the health, safety and well-being of the people employed in the mining activity in

Meghalaya.

The Ministry of Coal has very recently received a proposal on 28th of July, barely ten days ago, from the Government of Meghalaya. While the time that the NGT had given has already expired, however, we have approached the NGT for some more additional time while our coal companies will study the proposal of the Government of Meghalaya. We are sure that we will be able to improve the mining standard.

I would only urge the Hon. Member to help us ensure that the Government of Meghalaya also, because that is the implementing agency at the local level, ensures that the mining is carried out with the highest levels of safety particularly when all Members are concerned about the safety standards.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of adjournment motions from Shri Dharmendra Yadav, Shailesh Kumar, K. Suresh, P. Karunakaran, Anto Antony, and Prem Singh Chandumajra on various issues.

Although these matters are important, it is not necessary to disrupt the proceedings on their account. These matters can be raised on other occasions.

Therefore, I have not permitted any of the notices for adjournment motions.

*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 366 to 380

Unstarred Question Nos. 4141 to 4370

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

12.02 hours

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid. Shri Piyush Goyal.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table: -

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

i. Memorandum of Understanding between the Solar Energy Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5147/16/16]

ii. Memorandum of Understanding between the NTPC Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5147A/16/16]

2. A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 179 of the Electricity Act, 2003:

i. The Central Electricity Regulatory Commission (Open Access in inter-State Transmission) (Fourth Amendment) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. L-7/105(121)/2007-CERC in Gazette of India dated 5th July, 2016.

ii. Notification No. L-1/44/2010-CERC published in Gazette of India dated 5th July, 2016, continuing the operation of the principal regulations as amended from time to time for a further period of five years for the purpose of sharing inter-state transmission charges and losses, unless reviewed earlier or extended by the Commission.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5148/16/16]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5149/16/16]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5150/16/16]

3. A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Cochin Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5151/16/16]

4. A copy of the Inland Vessels (Prevention and Control of Pollution and Protection of Inland Water) Rules, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.687(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th July, 2016 under sub-section (3) of Section 74 of the Inland Vessels Act, 1917.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5152/16/16]

5. A copy of Notification No. IMU/HQ/ADM/Notification/2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 20th July, 2016, regarding ordinances governing administrative and academic matters of Indian Maritime University under sub-

section (2) of Section 47 of the Indian Maritime University Act, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5153/16/16]

6. A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 124 of the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963:-

I. G.S.R.641(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2016, approving the Chennai Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

II. G.S.R.642(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2016, approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

III. G.S.R.643(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2016, approving the Paradip Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

IV. G.S.R.644(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2016, approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

V. G.S.R.645(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2016, approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

VI. G.S.R.647(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2016, approving the Kolkata Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

VII. G.S.R.648(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2016, approving the Mumbai Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

VIII. G.S.R.649(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2016, approving the Cochin Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

IX. G.S.R.650(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2016, approving the Mormugao Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

X. G.S.R.651(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2016, approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

XI. G.S.R.652(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2016, approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

XII. G.S.R.653(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2016, approving the Paradip Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

XIII. G.S.R.654(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2016, approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

XIV. G.S.R.655(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2016, approving the New Mangalore Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

XV. G.S.R.661(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th July, 2016, approving the Tuticorin Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

XVI. G.S.R.662(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th July, 2016, approving the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

XVII. G.S.R.663(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th July, 2016, approving the Visakhapatnam Port Trust Employees' (Recruitment, Seniority and Promotion) Amendment Regulations, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5154/16/16]

(7). A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 50 of the Control of Nati nonal Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002: -

i. The Highway Administration (Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. S.O.634(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th June, 2016.

ii. S.O.1691(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th May, 2016, appointing the Officer, mentioned therein, of the National Highways Authority of India to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on it under Sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 43 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 within the limits and jurisdiction, mentioned therein, in respect of National Highways specified in the Notification.

iii. S.O.1692(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th May, 2016, appointing the Officer, mentioned therein, of the National Highways Authority of India to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on it under Sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 43 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 within the limits and jurisdiction, mentioned therein, in respect of National Highways specified in the Notification.

iv. S.O.1912(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th May, 2016,

regarding establishment of National Highway Administration, mentioned therein.

v. S.O.2188(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd June, 2016, appointing the officers of the National Highways Authority of India and the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on it under Sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 43 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 within the limits and jurisdiction, mentioned therein, in respect of National Highways specified in the Notification.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5155/16/16]

(8) A copy each of the following notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 212 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988:-

i. The Central Motor Vehicles (Eleventh Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R.546(E) published in Gazette of India dated 8th July, 2015.

ii. The Central Motor Vehicles (Twelfth Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R.555(E) published

in Gazette of India dated 14th July, 2015.

iii. The Central Motor Vehicles (Thirteenth Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R.643(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th August, 2015.

iv. The Central Motor Vehicles (Fourteenth Amendment) Rules, 2015 published in Notification No. G.S.R.677(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th September, 2015.

v. The Central Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.133(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2016.

vi. S.O.41(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th January, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.728(E) dated 18th October, 1996.

vii. The Central Motor Vehicles (Second Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 188(E) in Gazette of India dated 22nd February, 2016.

viii. The Central Motor Vehicles (Third Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 310(E) in Gazette of India dated 16th March, 2016.

ix. S.O.1328(E) published in Gazette of India dated 6th April, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.728(E) dated 18th October, 1996.

x. The Central Motor Vehicles (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.412(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th April, 2016.

xi. S.O.1434(E) published in Gazette of India dated 18th April, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.728(E) dated 18th October, 1996.

xii. The Central Motor Vehicles (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.473(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd May, 2016.

xiii. The Central Motor Vehicles (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.594(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2016.

xiv. The Central Motor Vehicles (Seventh Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.629(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th June, 2016.

xv. The Central Motor Vehicles (Eight Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.682(E) in Gazette

of India dated 12th July, 2016.

(9) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item No. (i) to (v) of (8) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5155A/16/16]

(10). A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 10 of the National Highways Act, 1956:-

i. S.O.1640(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th May, 2016 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.2921(E) dated 17th December, 2012.

ii. [Translation] S.O.1682(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 9th May, 2016 regarding levy/collection of user fee in respect of Visakhapatnam to Ankapalli Section on National Highway No. 55 in the State of Andhra Pradesh.

iii. S.O.1980(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd June, 2016 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.465(E) dated 26th February, 2013.

iv. S.O.2180(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2016 authorising M/s Oriental Pathways (Indore)

Private Limited) to collect and retain the fee for the development, operation and maintenance of the existing two lane road into four lane road (Indore-Khalghat Section) on National Highway No. 3 in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

v. S.O.2181(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd June, 2016 authorising M/s Kashipur-Sitarganj Highways Private Limited to collect and retain the fee for the development, operation and maintenance of the existing two lane road into four lane road (Kashipur Sitarganj Section) on National Highway No. 74.

vi. S.O.1178(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 22nd March, 2016 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.689(E) dated 4th April, 2011.

vii. S.O.2099(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 14th June, 2016 declaring highways, mentioned therein, as new National Highways.

viii. S.O.1304(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2016 declaring highways, mentioned therein, as new National Highways.

ix. S.O.1305(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th April, 2016 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O.420(E) dated 9th February, 2016.

x. S.O.1306(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th April, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.

xi. S.O.2368(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th July, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.

xii. S.O.2298(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 4th July, 2016 containing corrigendum to the Notification No. S.O.1840(E) dated 19th May, 2016.

xiii. S.O.1930(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st June, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.

xiv. S.O.1931(E) published in Gazette of India dated 1st June, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.

xv. S.O.2379(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th July, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No.

S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.

xvi. S.O.1176(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd March, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.

xvii. S.O.1177(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd March, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.

xviii. S.O.1303(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th April, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 418(E) dated 9th February, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5156/16/16]

(11) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 11 of the National Highways Act, 1988:-

(i) S.O.1621(E) published in Gazette of India dated the 3rd May, 2016 making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O.465(E) dated 26th April, 2002.

(ii) S.O.1622(E) published in Gazette of India dated 3rd May, 2016, making certain amendments in the

Notification No. S.O. 1096(E) dated 4th August, 2005.

(iii) S.O.2378(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th July, 2016, entrusting Highway No. 50 (Hospet-Chitradurga Section) in the State of Karnataka to National Highways Authority of India.

(iv) S.O.1175(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd March, 2016, entrusting Highway No. 24 (Delhi-Ghaziabad Section) in the UT of Delhi and in the State of Uttar Pradesh to National Highways Authority of India.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5157/16/16]

(12) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.3157(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th November, 2015, regarding exemption of construction equipment vehicles from the provisions of sub-rule (3) of rule 47 and sub-rule (2) of rule 49 and rule 126-C of the Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989 upto 31st March, 2016 issued under sub-section (3) of Section 110 of the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5158/16/16]

(14) A copy of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Amendment Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 585(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th June, 2016 under sub-section (3) of Section 9 of the National Highways Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5159/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table: --

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management, Tezpur, for the years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the North Eastern Regional Institute of Water and Land Management, Tezpur, for the years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5160/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table: --

(1) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Airports Authority of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5161/16/16]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 14A of the Aircraft Act, 1934: -

i. The Aircraft (First Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in

Notification No. G.S.R.399(E) in Gazette of India dated 5th April, 2016, together with an explanatory note.

ii. The Aircraft (Second Amendment) Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 494(E) in Gazette of India dated 10th May, 2016, together with an explanatory note.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5162/16/16]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) A copy of Notification No. S.O.2224(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 28th June, 2016, making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O. 126(E) dated 14th January, 2016 under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

(2) A copy of Notification No. S.O.2225(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 28th June, 2016, constituting the Standing Advisory Committee, mentioned therein under sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

Placed in Library, See No. LT 5163/16/16]

12.03 ½ hours

COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES

16th to 19th Reports

[Translation]

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (KANPUR): Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Estimates Committee (2016-17):-

(1) 16th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 2nd Report on "Evaluation of Rural Drinking Water Programme" pertaining to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

(2) 17th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 8th Report on "Review of Sanitation Programme in Rural Areas" relating to the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.

(3) 18th Report on Panchayati Raj pertaining to the

Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

(4) 19th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 1st Report on 'Presence of High Arsenic in Ground Water' relating to Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

12.04 hours

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Fourth and Fifth sittings of the Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House held on 24 February, 2016 and 2 August, 2016 respectively.

12.04 ½ hours

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

36th to 40th Reports

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR): Madam Speaker, with your permission, I lay to beg on the Table the following Reports of the Committee on Government Assurances (Hindi and English versions): -

(1) 36th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Earth Sciences.

(2) 37th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(3) 38th Report regarding review of pending Assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals).

(4) 39th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to).

(5) 40th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Not acceded to).

12.05 hours

RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE

4th and 5th Reports

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee: -

1. Fourth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Role of IRFC and use of SPV methodology in financing development needs of Indian Railways'.
2. Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Share of Railway traffic vis-à-vis road and air transport - An evaluation'.

12.05 ½ hours

JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFITS

9th Report

[Translation]

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Madam, I present the 9th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

12.06 hours

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

7th and 8th Reports

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table -

(1) Seventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on 'Reservation and Planning for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Central Board of Excise and Service Charges' pertaining to the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

(2) Eighth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on 'Reservation and Representation of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Bhakra Vyas Management Board', pertaining to the Ministry of Power.

12.06 ¼ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

(i) 27th to 30th Reports

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (BHADOHI): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) -

(1) 27th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 16th Report of the Committee on 'Mega Food Parks' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

(2) 28th Report on 'Strengthening Rural Storage Infrastructure through Rural Godown Scheme' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).

(3) 29th Report on the subject 'Impact of Chemical Fertilizers and Pesticides in Agriculture and Allied Sectors in the Country' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

(4) 30th Report on the action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 26th Report on 'Demands for Grants (2016-7)' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

(ii) Statement

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (BHADOHI): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing further Action Taken by the Government on the 17th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture (2014-15) on action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in their 4th Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2014-15)' of the Ministry of Food Processing Industries.

12.07 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

27th to 29th Reports

[English]

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-seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Ninth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Revival of Indian Telephone Industries (ITI) Limited' relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Telecommunications).

(2) Twenty-eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Tenth Report

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'IT Induction and Modernization in the Department of Posts' relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).

(3) Twenty-ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eleventh Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Business Development and Marketing Strategy in the Department of Posts' relating to the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology (Department of Posts).

12.07 ¼ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR

19th Report

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the 19th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour on 'Deployment of

Contractual/Remunerative/Cleaning Workers for Permanent Nature Works in MTNL'.

12.07 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

(i)14th Report

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the 14th Report (Hindi and English versions) on the subject 'Production of Coal Bed Methane (CBM)' of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(ii) Statement

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the Statement (Hindi and English Version) showing action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of the 11th Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2015-16) on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 7th Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on the subject „Ethanol Blended Petrol and Bio-Diesel Policy' of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

12.08 ¼ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS

Action Taken Reports

[English]

SHRI KOTHA PRABHAKAR REDDY (MEDAK): I beg to present the following Action Taken Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers: -

(1) Twenty-fifth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventeenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Petroleum, Chemicals and Petrochemicals Investment Regions (PCPIRS)' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals).

(2) Twenty-sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-first Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

12.08 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

Statements

[Translation]

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel –

(1) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of the 12th Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on action taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in 2nd Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2014-15)' relating to the Ministry of Mines.

(2) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of the 16th Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in 8th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' relating to the Ministry of Mines.

(3) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of the 11th Report (16th

Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in 1st Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2014-15)' relating to the Ministry of Coal.

(4) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of the 10th Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in 49th Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Coal Pricing and Issues relating to Coal Royalty' relating to the Ministry of Coal.

(5) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of the 42nd Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in 31st Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Review of Allotment, Development and Performance of Coal/Lignite Blocks' relating to the Ministry of Coal.

(6) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of the 13th Report (16th

Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in 3rd Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands For Grants (2014-15)' relating to the Ministry of

Steel.

(7) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of the 17th Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in 9th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands For Grants (2015-16)' relating to the Ministry of Steel.

(8) Statement showing Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapters I and V of the 53rd Report (15th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in 38th Report (15th Lok Sabha) on 'Review of Export of Iron Ore Policy' relating to the Ministry of Steel.

12.09 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT

(i) 31st Report

SHRI RAMESH BAIS (RAIPUR): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the 31st Report (Hindi and English versions) on the subject 'Review of the functioning of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)' of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2015-16).

(ii) Statements

SHRI RAMESH BAIS: Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment -

(1) Statement showing final Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in Twenty-first Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment –2015-16 (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the observations/ recommendations contained in Twelfth Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

(2) Statement showing final Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in Twenty-second Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment – 2015-16 (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the observations/ recommendations contained in Thirteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(3) Statement showing final Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in Twenty-third Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment – 2015-16 (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the observations/ recommendations contained in Fourteenth Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

(4) Statement showing final Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in Twenty-fourth Action Taken Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment – 2015-16 (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the observations/ recommendations contained in Eleventh Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

12.09 ½ hours

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i)Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 17th and 21st Reports of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment *

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table: -

* Laid on the Table and also Placed in Libary, See No. LT 5164/16/16 and 5165/16/16, respectively.

(1) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 17th Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on

Action Taken by the Government on observations/recommendations contained in the 2nd Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2014-15), pertaining to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(2) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 21st Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Action Taken by the Government on observations/recommendations contained in the 12th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

12.10 hours

(ii)Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 117th and 120th Reports of the Standing Committee on Commerce*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): I beg to lay the following statements regarding the: -

1) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 117th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on Demands for Grants (2015-16) (Demand No.12), pertaining to the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

2) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 120th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on Action Taken by the Government on observations/ recommendations contained in 117th Report

* Laid on the Table and also Placed in Libary, See No. LT 5166/16/16 and 5167/16/16, respectively.

of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) (Demand No.12), pertaining to the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

12.11 hours

(iii)Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 225th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Civil Aviation*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 225th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

* Laid on the Table and also Placed in Libary, See No. LT 5168/16/16.

12.13 hours

CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Speaker Madam, a Bill has been listed today about citizenship that is the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill 2016. No doubt it is a very important Bill, though last year we had passed a citizenship Bill. This is a new Bill. It needs proper scrutinization in detail. It concerns a large section of our population and it also concerns the very feeling of every Indian because India from time immemorial has been accepting people, who are persecuted because of their religious belief, with open arms. We have accepted people from all quarters of this world. Here is a case where specific instances have been listed in this Bill. Therefore, my request to the Government is to send it to a Joint Committee because it needs proper and focused attempt to be made in a time-bound manner. I would prefer that it should go to a Standing Committee. But as the nature of this Bill is very important, my suggestion would be to form a Joint Committee so that in a time-bound manner this Bill can come to this House for consideration and approval.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Hon. Speaker

Madam, on the same issue we would like to put our point across as well. [Translation] Madam Speaker, the Congress Party also supports this Bill. As Mahtab Sahab just mentioned, India has always embraced those individuals against whom wrongful actions have been committed by other countries. However, the rules that have been framed, the amendments made in September 2015, have revealed several inconsistencies. For instance, the individual concerned is required to declare since when they have been residing in India for a continuous period of six years. They are also required to provide information regarding their eligibility for nationality in another country. In addition, the issue of the Assam Accord is also relevant here. Therefore, we urge that the House engage in a thorough discussion on this matter and that the Bill be referred to a Standing Committee or a Joint Parliamentary Committee, so that all of us may express our views, and only thereafter should this Bill be presented before the House. I also request that we have our first Preference Standing Committee or this Bill be sent to the Joint Committee so that every party can vote. Let us present in this House the nectar that emerges from that churning.

I also request that our first preference is to send this Bill to a Standing Committee or a Joint Committee so that every party may

present its views. Let the nectar that emerges from that deliberation be presented in this House.

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): Madam, I would like to thank Mahtab Ji for this. I shall not go into the content, but one aspect is that people are being persecuted in neighbouring countries for religious reasons, and on that basis, we are proposing to grant them citizenship. However, the issue of citizenship is extremely sensitive, and we are aware of the longstanding agitation in Assam. There are many individuals in our country who remain stateless, and the issue of illegal migrants also persists. Whatever the intent of the Government may be behind introducing this Bill, the opposition is willing to cooperate. However, I urge that it be referred to a Joint Committee. You may set a time frame for this process. Let every aspect of the Bill be examined there, and only then should it be brought before this House. There is no need to rush this Bill, as the law concerning citizenship is a sensitive matter.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Hon. Speaker Madam, I think there is no confusion. Most of the Opposition parties have jointly raised their voices. So, I also agree with the

proposal of Shri Bhartruhari Mehtab which is also supported by Shri Scindia that this Bill should go to a Joint Select Committee through which the discussion can take place in a better way. Please make it a time-bound programme as to when it will start, when it will finish, when it will be tabled and when it will be taken up for further discussion.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Madam Speaker, the esteemed Members of this House, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Shri Jyotiraditya Madhavrao Scindia, Shri Mohammed Salim and Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay have offered suggestions regarding the Amendment Bill to the Citizenship Act. If the House is in full agreement, I have no objection to referring it to a Joint Committee. If the House agrees and with your permission, I am prepared to move the motion in this regard today itself.

HON. SPEAKER: It would be good if you do so.

12.16 hours

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Situation arising due to spread of Encephalitis in the Country Especially Eastern Uttar Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in this regard

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Calling Attention – Yogi Adityanath.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR): Speaker Madam, I would like to draw the attention of Hon. Health and Family Welfare Minister to the following matter of urgent public importance and request him to make a statement on the subject:

"Situation arising out of encephalitis in the country especially in eastern Uttar Pradesh and steps taken by the Government in this regard."

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA): Hon. Members will recall that on 29th July, 2016 while replying to Parliament Question on vector-borne diseases in the Lok Sabha, I have apprised the House regarding the situation … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You can lay the statement.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: I lay my statement on the Table of the House.

(1) *Hon'ble Members will recall that on 29th July, 2016 while replying to Parliament Question on vector borne diseases in the Lok Sabha, I have apprised the House regarding the situation arising out of spread of vector borne diseases including Japanese Encephalitis (JE) in Uttar Pradesh and other parts of the country and steps being taken by the Government for the same. I am thankful to Hon'ble Members Shri Yogi Aditya Nath Ji and Shri Jagdambika Pal Ji to raise the issue of Encephalitis in Easter UP.

(2) I would like to apprise the House that I have reviewed with

* Laid on the Table

the Health Minsiters and senior officers of 11 States including Uttar Pradesh on 12th July, 2016. Secretary (HFW) has taken Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee Meeting on 27th May, 2016 and situation is reviewed at various other levels as well including DGHS, from time to time. Central Teams have recently visited different States, including UP, to assist in the prevention and control of encephalitis. 10 advisories on vector borne disease have also been issued since January, 2016.

(3) Encephalitis, also known as brain fever, is inflammation of the brain which can be caused due to various pathogens including virus, bacteria and protozoa. Japanese Encephalitis is a Vector Borne Disease transmitted through Culex vishnui group of mosquitos which breed in paddy fields and marshy land. Encephalitis can also be caused by enteroviruses which are water borne. Encephalitis which usually affects children below 15 years of age is also affecting adults in Assam, in the districts of North Bengal of West Bengal and in some parts of Uttar Pradesh.

(4) During current year, a total of 757 encephalitis cases have been reported from Uttar Pradesh so far. The main affected districts are Kushinagar, Deoria, Maharajganj, Gorakhpur, Basti,

Sant Kabir Nagar and Sidharth Nagar.

(5) In Uttar Pradesh, Government of India provided support: to establish a field unit of National Institute of Virology at Gorakhpur, a sub-unit of Regional Office of Health & Family Welfare, a Vector Borne Disease Surveillance Unit and upgradation of JE/AES ward at BRD Medical College Gorakhpur. I am happy to inform the House that Hon'ble Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone for AIIMS, Gorakhpur on 22nd July, 2016 which will help in improving the situation.

(6) The Ministry has supported the State of UP for establishment of Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) in 20 districts for providing critical care support to affected children, physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Unit in 3 Medical colleges for rehabilitation of disabled persons due to AES and supporting the strengthening of public health measures including Information Education and communication/Behaviour Change Communication for prevention and control of JE/AES.

(7) Public health is a State subject and as such, State shall shoulder the primary responsibility of providing health care to their population. Despite support from Government of India, out

of 20 PICU, only 10 PICU have been established in UP. There are a large number of vacancies of Medical Officers, Nurses and supporting staff, affecting the implementation of the programme. Time and again, my Ministry has been pursuing with the State to address the problem rigorously and effectively. As on 1st April, 2016, though there is unspent balance of Rs. 33.47 crores, an amount of Rs. 17.50 crores has been allocated to the State in the current year for vector borne disease control. The capacity of utilization of funds needs improvement in effective disease control.

(8) I would also like to mention about other vector borne disease i.e. lymphatic filariasis for which Govt. of India has a programme for its elimination, which is lagging behind because of poor performance and coverage of mass drug administration (MDA) in UP. Transmission assessment surveys have also failed for the same despite several rounds of MDA

(9) I would also like to share with the Hon'ble Members that JE Vaccination has been completed in 197 endemic districts in the country including all the 39 JE endemic districts in UP. JE vaccination is covered under Mission Indradhanush. Adult JE

Vaccination has also been done in 7 identified districts of the State.

(10) Besides these health interventions Government of India, has also supported the State with a multi-pronged strategy through Inter-ministerial coordination for focused attention.

(11) Sentinel sites have been established to report number of AES cases and also confirm JE by testing of samples (Serum/Cerebro spinal Fluid) by ELISA kits provided by NIV Pune through NVBDCP. Number of such Sentinel sites have been increased from 51 in 2005 to 123 including 23 in UP. JE test kit (MAC ELISA) supplied free of cost to the endemic states. A total of 406 JE kits (1 kit=96 tests) including 102 for UP were supplied to sentinel sites in 2015 and 249 JE Kits including 55 for UP have been supplied till date in 2016. As such there is no shortage of JE testing kits.

(12) In addition, ICMR is conducting research-cum-intervention projects. Recently ICMR has organized a workshop to deliberate on the issue of JE/AES on 1st July, 2016 in which senior Officers of Government of UP participated and were briefed about action to be taken in the ensuing transmission period.

(13) Govt. of India has empowered Hon’ble Members of Parliament as the Chairman of District Level Vigilance and Monitoring committee (DVMC) to review the implementation of the health programmes under National Health Mission. I appeal to all the Hon. Members to take personal interest to monitor the progress of its implementation in your respective constituencies.

[Translation]

YOGI ADITYANATH: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Health Minister has given a detailed account to the House regarding the situation arising in the country due to encephalitis. I thank him for that, and I would first like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister for the fight we have been waging against encephalitis. On 22 July, he laid the foundation stone for the establishment of AIIMS in Gorakhpur. However, the recent resurgence of deaths there has once again drawn my attention, and through you, I wish to draw the attention of this House and the Ministry to the matter. In fact, encephalitis is of two types, one is a vector-borne disease, and the other is a water-borne disease. In this context, I would like to draw the Ministry's attention to prevention, treatment, and eradication, and earnestly request them to focus on all three aspects. Since 1998, I have consistently brought this matter to the attention of the Government in this House. This disease was first observed in the country in the state of Tamil Nadu in 1956. Subsequently, it was seen in West Bengal, and by 1978, the disease was reported in Gorakhpur and Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Madam Speaker, the present situation is that Uttar Pradesh, Bihar,

West Bengal, and Assam are heavily affected by this disease. In Uttar Pradesh, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar, Siddharth Nagar, Maharajganj, Deoria, Basti, and Sant Kabir Nagar are the worst affected districts, with approximately 35 to 36 districts affected to varying degrees. In Bihar, Muzaffarpur, East Champaran, Vaishali, and Sitamarhi are affected. In West Bengal, Malda, Jalpaiguri, Cooch Behar, Darjeeling, and North and South Dinajpur are affected. In Assam, Barpeta, Baksa, Darrang, Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Kamrup Rural, Kamrup Metro, Nalbari, Sivasagar, and Sonitpur are districts severely affected by encephalitis in some form or other, resulting in the tragic loss of innocent children's lives.

If I speak with reference to Eastern Uttar Pradesh, deaths due to this disease have been occurring continuously in this region of the State for the past 38 years. It is surprising to me that the death toll continues to rise. However, when I observe the position of the State Governments, it appears as if they are utterly bewildered. Secondly, to date, we have not been able to declare a concrete national programme for the eradication of encephalitis. As a result, the number of deaths keeps increasing.

In Uttar Pradesh, where I mentioned 35 to 36 districts, the disease

is presently engulfing the future of the country in nearly 170 to 171 districts across 19 States. Hon. Speaker Madam, this is the situation when numerous promises and declarations are made in the name of Dalits, minorities, farmers, and the poor. It is a painful truth that among the children dying of this disease, approximately 95 to 99 percent belong to Dalit and minority communities. Despite all this, there has been a failure to declare any substantial programme for the eradication of encephalitis to date.

Madam Speaker, I am surprised that if I present the statistics before you regarding this disease, I possess figures solely from BRD Medical College dating from 1978 to the present. The Hon. Minister has also acknowledged that, to date, 757 cases of encephalitis have been reported within Uttar Pradesh. Across the entire country, as far as encephalitis cases are concerned, BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur alone, which is a government institution, has recorded more than 460 cases of encephalitis so far. Of these, 125 children have died. There are no statistics available for those receiving treatment or dying at Primary Health Centres, Community Health Centres, other district hospitals, or private hospitals because of a lack of surveillance and no established system for collecting such information. If you examine the data, you will observe that from 1978 to 2004, the number

of cases was relatively low. Prior to 2004, only 876 patients were recorded, of whom 215 died. Madam Speaker, after 2004, the numbers suddenly crossed the thousand mark, with 3,532 patients admitted in 2005, and 937 deaths recorded. In 2014, 2,190 patients were admitted to BRD Medical College alone, of whom 604 died. As for the most recent figures I have brought to your attention, 125 children have died so far at BRD Medical College alone.

The most tragic aspect of this situation is that under the National Health Mission, the Union Government provides crores of rupees to the State Governments. Yet, the children dying from encephalitis perish due to the lack of medicines and proper treatment. No facilities are available to them. There is no arrangement for treatment at any Primary Health Centre, Community Health Centre, or district hospital. The Union Government had allocated funds for the construction of Intensive Care Units (ICUs) for young children in 20 district hospitals in Uttar Pradesh. However, not a single district hospital admits encephalitis patients. In 2007, the Allahabad High Court issued an order directing the Uttar Pradesh Government to establish a Centre of Excellence in Gorakhpur for the eradication of encephalitis. This centre was intended to facilitate research on encephalitis and other vector-borne and water-borne diseases, as well as their treatment and

eradication. Regrettably, as an act of vindictiveness, the centre was not opened in Gorakhpur but in Lucknow. Even there, the centre is not functioning properly. The situation of the State Government has been such that it is as if people are dying of thirst, and when deaths begin, the Government goes to dig a well; yet, it does not dig the well where people are dying of thirst but digs it elsewhere. This is the state of affairs we have observed in this matter.

Madam Speaker, in 2007, a unit of the National Institute of Virology (NIV), Pune, was established in Gorakhpur. Its purpose was to address all viral diseases prevalent there, including both water-borne and vector-borne diseases such as encephalitis, malaria, filariasis, dengue, kala-azar, and chikungunya. These diseases are widely found in the region comprising Eastern Uttar Pradesh, Western Bihar, and the Terai area of Nepal. Hence, the decision was made to set up a unit of NIV Pune there. The Union Government did establish the unit in 2007, but unfortunately, the unit has not been able to perform any significant work. The unit in Gorakhpur is functioning merely as a high-pathology laboratory. This is the present situation there. Following repeated discussions on this issue in this House during 2011–12, the Union Government constituted a group comprising five Ministries: the Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare, the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, the Ministry of Women and Child Development, the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation. These five Ministries were tasked with preparing a comprehensive plan for the treatment of this disease.

Madam Speaker, it is surprising that teams from the National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme, the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) in Atlanta, and the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) have all visited Gorakhpur. Yet, I am astonished that from 1978 until now, no team has been able to find a cure for encephalitis. The innocent children there appear as if they are guinea pigs, subjected to experiments in a laboratory. Teams visit, conduct inspections, and leave, but no results have ever emerged from these visits.

Madam Speaker, this country has recently completed a successful programme for the eradication of polio, and it eradicated smallpox in 1977. I wish to know why there is no national programme for the eradication of encephalitis. Why has the Government been unable to announce a concrete action plan for the elimination of encephalitis at the national level? Swine flu and bird flu spread within

the country, and advertisements about them are aired on television and published prominently in newspapers. However, despite the mortality rate for swine flu and bird flu being only around two percent, and the mortality rate for encephalitis ranging from 25 to 35 percent, there are no advertisements, no surveillance programme, and no awareness campaign whatsoever concerning encephalitis.

Madam Speaker, some commendable efforts have been made at the Union Government level, such as the attempt to eradicate Japanese Encephalitis (J.E.), a virus transmitted by mosquitoes. Vaccination began in 2006, and as a result, the incidence of J.E. has reduced from 36 percent to 4 percent. Complete eradication has not yet been achieved, but the disease is largely under control. However, there is no vaccine or treatment available for other enteroviruses, which are currently causing the majority of deaths. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister why this situation persists. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment had announced the establishment of a Composite Rehabilitation Centre in Gorakhpur, but it has not yet been established due to the State Government's failure to provide land. This centre is crucial for the rehabilitation of children who become physically and mentally handicapped after encephalitis. So far, this important work has not been accomplished. Adequate treatment facilities are lacking,

and spraying, vaccination, drinking water, and sanitation are also inadequate.

Madam Speaker, a trauma centre was opened at BRD Medical College at the Union Government's initiative. It was established on the condition that the Union Government would bear the cost of maintenance and staff for three years. The Union Government’s three-year tenure has now ended, and the Uttar Pradesh Government has dismissed all staff and closed the trauma centre. This reflects the Government’s insensitivity towards public health in the region and shows how health concerns of the people are being neglected. Therefore, through you, I would like to enquire from the Hon. Minister about the upgradation of the Viral Research Centre in Gorakhpur. It is essential to gain knowledge of the viruses causing diseases such as encephalitis, malaria, filariasis, dengue, kala-azar, and chikungunya, so that proper treatment can be administered. The Viral Research Centre in Gorakhpur, which has been reduced to the status of a pathology laboratory, must be upgraded. A Regional Viral Research Centre should be established in Gorakhpur, modelled on the National Institute of Virology, Pune. The Ministry has also taken steps in this direction. I urge the Hon. Minister to sanction this proposal and expedite the process.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister that just as filariasis, kala-azar, and malaria have been declared notifiable diseases, enabling the Union Government to work on their treatment, prevention, and eradication, will encephalitis also be declared a notifiable disease by the Union Government? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You have made many points; please ask your question.

YOGI ADITYANATH: Madam, I am coming to the question only.

Madam Speaker, the Paediatrics Department in Gorakhpur, where children are treated, had six seats for M.D. and D.C.H. courses. BRD Medical College fulfils all the required standards. However, the Medical Council of India (MCI) has withdrawn recognition for five of these seats and retained only one seat, despite BRD Medical College meeting all the criteria. Should MCI be allowed such arbitrary authority, and will the Government take steps in this regard? The Physical Medicine Rehabilitation (PMR) unit in Gorakhpur has employees on a contractual basis. These contractual employees are unable to perform properly as they sometimes do not receive their remuneration for up to a year. I urge the Hon. Minister that, along with the upgradation of this unit, arrangements should be made for the

regularisation of these employees.

In the encephalitis ward, the State Government has appointed 62 employees on a contractual basis. Under the National Health Mission, the Union Government has appointed 164 contractual employees there. The remuneration paid to these contractual employees is below the standard. Fourth-class employees are expected to work eight hours for Rs. 1,500. Is this feasible? This is substandard. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what the Government's view is on regularising these contractual employees and ensuring that they receive regular remuneration.

In conclusion, I would like to ask whether the Union Government will take steps at its level to ensure not only surveillance but also treatment of encephalitis in every district at the primary, community, and district hospital levels. Along with treatment, what measures will be taken to provide pure drinking water? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please, it is mentioned his name. After that, I will allow you to ask one or two questions.

Jagadambika Pal, please keep your questions brief. You always raise the matter, but now ask your question.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, ask one question at a time. Please take a seat

for now.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Madam Speaker, I am extremely grateful to you for accepting such an important and serious question under Calling Attention. The issue concerns almost 590 million people across our country, including us, and you have kindly taken note of it.

The Hon. Minister, in response to the Calling Attention, has acknowledged the matter and on 29th July 2016, in the Lok Sabha, informed about the steps taken by the Government regarding vector-borne and water-borne diseases. After that, he admitted that on 12th July 2016, a meeting of Ministers and Secretaries of 11 states including Uttar Pradesh was held. On 27th May, an Inter-Ministerial Coordination Committee meeting was held with the DGHS, and they have issued 10 advisories related to encephalitis. Through you, I want to tell the Hon. Minister that although these measures and efforts have been made, the Minister himself has admitted that Japanese Acute Encephalitis Syndrome has spread in 197 districts across the country. As Honorable Yogi Ji mentioned, this disease has spread in 39 districts of Uttar Pradesh alone. Despite these measures, if I draw your attention to the BRD Medical College in Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh,

under one medical college's roof, the number of deaths from January till now has reached 121 and 483 patients are admitted.

I want to state that the immunization and vaccination you are doing are not a treatment for JE or AES; they are only preventive. Despite preventive immunization, the continuous increase in patients indicates the gravity of the situation. Children become disabled, mentally retarded. Out of 96% of these children, 80% come from poor families whose income is not even between one thousand to two thousand rupees. Poverty itself is a curse.

Hon. Speaker: Please ask only your question; otherwise, I will call the next name. Not everyone will give a speech.

…(Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Madam, I am concluding my point.

Madam, I will make only two demands. So, as Yogi ji said that in the year 2009 a field unit of National Institute of Virology of Pune was also opened. The magnitude of this is increasing so much that 27,000 people have been recruited so why not open an Independent Research Centre there?

Madam, the reasons behind why J.E. and A.E.S. diseases occur have not been discovered to this day. Even if the cause of J.E. is

known, 85 percent of the people affected by A.E.S., who are dying or becoming disabled, the reasons for that are still unknown.

If a Regional Medical Research Centre (R.M.R.C.) is established, then at least the causes of this disease may be identified. This research needs to be undertaken by the Research Institute of Medical Sciences. This has now spread to 197 districts across twenty states of the country. When we visit the villages of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, we see those disabled children who are a burden on their parents.

Madam, this is not a speech, it is our pain.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Hon. Madam Speaker, the issue that has been raised is a serious one. When our government was in power, I personally visited the location concerning this issue. Taking into account the views of the local public, the officers there, the MLAs and all the Members of Parliament, we took action. So many children were dying. This is not a new subject, it has been an issue for the past twenty to twenty-five years. When we went there, we accepted all the demands made by the local people and everyone who raised concerns. We provided substantial compensation to the families of the children who were on the verge of dying.

HON. SPEAKER: The matter is not about compensation.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We provided full compensation because when children have died, then at the very least, some support and solace should be provided. Everyone was given money. Why do these people not talk about the fact that we did do something in the end? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The issue is not about compensation, the issue is about treatment.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: The Government there is also serious.

.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. SPEAKER: Please do not make allegations and counter-allegations.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Speaker Madam, this disease is extremely dangerous.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, that is the point being made.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Children are dying because of

it, and they have been dying for the past 27 years. I know well that it has been happening for the last twenty years.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, no one is denying that.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Until the Union Government intervenes and until the Union Government spends funds, this disease will not be eradicated. We had made arrangements for them in medical colleges as well as at several other places. The public welcomed that initiative, and the number of deaths had decreased. Even now, the government is fully alert and working on it. However, unless the Union Government extends assistance by sending a team of doctors from here to help—no solution will be found. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Adhir Ranjan ji.

Adhir Ranjan ji, you just have to ask questions. It's not your name. I am allowing you.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Madam, this is not just about Gorakhpur.

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Madam, from

Gorakhpur to my Parliamentary Constituency Baharampur, encephalitis has spread across the entire Uttar Pradesh and the entire North-Eastern region of India. [English] Out of 157 endemic districts, eight districts belong to the State of West Bengal. The Hon. Minister is absolutely right in saying that public health is a State subject. But the State of West Bengal does not have the requisite capacity to deal with this kind of situation. Around eight districts of West Bengal have fallen prey to the Japanese Encephalitis. Earlier also I had raised this issue that northern districts of West Bengal have been severely affected. Scores of deaths have taken place. Now, I would draw the attention of the Hon. Health Minister to the fact that dengue has assumed an alarming proportion in West Bengal. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Do not argue among yourselves.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Do not argue over the disease.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

… (*Interruptions*) ... *

HON. SPEAKER: What is this happening in the House?

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone, please be seated.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Children are dying, and yet the states are engaged in mutual blame. I request you all to please be seated.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam Speaker, I am aware of the issue raised by Yogi Adityanath because I was once the Health Minister of this country. At that time, he came and met me. I was really surprised to see the gravity of the situation. It was horrible. So, the Government of India should rise to the occasion. Whether it is Chikungunya or dengue in West Bengal, [Translation] These people saw everything, yet in the last elections,

* Not recorded.

they gave the Trinamool Congress victory on 211 seats. What did these people do for them? ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, the less they say, the better. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not politicise the issue.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Our government will ensure everything is set right there.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister please. I do not want any politics on this. You should understand something. I am not allowing any thing.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am really sorry.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mohammad Salim, if you have any question, please ask.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): I Am Thankful that the Ministry has reported that this time they are working proactively and have been trying since May. Every year, this disease spreads after the monsoon due to mosquitoes, and it continues to worsen. Our region is North Bengal. You mentioned that vaccination had already been initiated and that reports have come in from the State, but even after vaccination, the disease is still occurring. This implies that the report is not accurate. Full vaccination has not been completed. There are plans to establish medical colleges on a priority basis in every backward district. From Eastern Uttar Pradesh to Western Assam, North Bengal and North Bihar—this is the most impoverished region. Even the Prime Minister has acknowledged it as a backward area. The State Government alone cannot manage all of this. Public health is its responsibility, yes, but if the Union Government sets up a medical college in every district, at the very least, one would be able to verify whether doctors are available and whether proper arrangements are being made. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. No one else will speak now.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker Madam, through

you, I rise to respond to the Calling Attention Motion moved by Adityanath Ji and Jagdambika Pal Ji.

We can approach this issue in two ways. I respect the sentiments of all Members. Regardless of which State the children belong to, it is our moral responsibility to ensure they are given a healthy life, and we are committed to that. While discussing responsibilities, I would like to clearly state the role of the Union Government. We provide financial support, technical support, surveillance, and coordination, and we assist the State Governments accordingly.

As far as Japanese Encephalitis is concerned, a field unit of the National Virology Centre has been initiated there. Alongside this, the J.E. and A.E.S. wards at B.R.D. Medical College, Gorakhpur, have been upgraded. In addition, financial provision has been made for Paediatric Intensive Care Units in 20 districts. Simultaneously, Sentinel Surveillance Centres have been established wherever necessary, including in West Bengal, Assam, the Gorakhpur region of Uttar Pradesh, and in Bihar. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Hon. Prime Minister has laid the foundation stone of a new All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Gorakhpur, Purvanchal, with an investment exceeding Rs. 1,000 crore. This will bring a

transformative change in the healthcare landscape of Purvanchal. Health is not a one-day issue. Hon. Mulayam Singh Ji mentioned that he has been witnessing this for the last 20–25 years. The impact of the establishment of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences in Purvanchal, and its significance in terms of healthcare, is known to us all.

We must keep in mind that the responsibility for implementation lies with the States. As far as Uttar Pradesh is concerned, as of 1 April 2016, approximately Rs. 33.47 crore from the Union Government for vector-borne diseases is available in the State's opening account. This year, we have provided an additional Rs. 17 crore. The Government of India has allocated nearly Rs. 50 crore to Uttar Pradesh for the control of vector-borne diseases, which still remains unspent. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not talk amongst yourselves.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Do not listen to anyone else.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: We pay the salaries of doctors and paramedical staff. However, the responsibility of appointing

doctors lies with the State Government. We have repeatedly discussed this matter with them, as there is a shortage of human resources. We coordinate, support, and also provide financial assistance but the execution is their responsibility. Since January, we have issued ten advisories. I have personally conducted video conferencing with the Health Minister of that State. We have identified eleven such States where this problem is more prevalent. I have conducted video conferencing with them and held inter-ministerial discussions as well. We have urged them to strengthen their systems there. The Government of India will provide as much support as required, and we wish to assure you that we are fully committed to this.

In order to implement the strategy at the grassroots level, because this is such a subject—as we initiated Japanese Encephalitis immunisation, increasing immunisation coverage also depends on local factors. Till now, there has been no reported case where someone who received the J.E. vaccination later contracted the disease. This requires inter-sectoral coordination and a focused approach by the State. We have included Uttar Pradesh in a special programme under immunisation. After including certain districts under the immunisation programme, when the results of immunisation were not up to the mark, those districts were taken up again. We are making

every possible effort to ensure the effectiveness of immunisation and to strengthen it further.

He has raised two or three points. One of the suggestions was whether we can declare it a notifiable disease. It is a good suggestion, and I accept it. We will make it a notifiable disease. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Please also speak about Muzaffarpur. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: As far as the issue of Muzaffarpur is concerned, we have conducted research at the highest level. I am not stating its cause at this moment because still scientists have to come to a conclusion. If I speak here, it will not be correct. But we are very much concerned about it. We are also working to determine its exact cause.

I wish to state that from the Union Government's side, no State Government... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not respond, kindly present only your statement.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Do not answer such things. It will not go on record.*...(Interruptions) ...*[*]

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This is a very bad habit.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: A centre of the National Centre for Disease Control is also being set up in Bengal. We have agreed upon it. Not only that, around 70 lakh long-lasting nets have been distributed in the North-Eastern States, and around 30 lakh have been distributed for regions like West Bengal, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and others. Specifically, for West Bengal, keeping in mind the Hon. Prime Minister's concern that the eastern region is underdeveloped, new All India Institutes of Medical Sciences are being set up in Raipur (Chhattisgarh), Bhopal (Madhya Pradesh), Assam, and West Bengal. AIIMS has already been established in Raipur and Chhattisgarh, and AIIMS are being opened in Assam and West Bengal because of this

[*] Not recorded.

very reason. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, do not listen to him. You complete your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Adhir Babu, please do not be so impatient. ... *(Interruptions)* I would just like to say that the questions you are asking us, please raise them there as well, because the work is to be done at that level. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: There is no need to respond to that.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker Madam, all these matters are to be handled by the State.

HON. SPEAKER: He is giving a reply, not making any allegations. No one should interfere.

SHRI JAGAT PRAKASH NADDA: Hon. Speaker Madam, Hon. Adityanath Ji and Jagdambika Pal Ji raised the issue of whether the Virology Centre could be established as a Regional Centre. This matter is in the pipeline. I assure you that it will become a Regional

Centre. We will make it a full-fledged centre. That is what I would like to say. The State Government is working in its own capacity. We have empowered all the Members. You have all been made Chairpersons of the District Vigilance Monitoring Committees. ... *(Interruptions)* If you submit your suggestions to me in writing, I will take action and the States will be communicated accordingly. The Union Government is alert on this matter. We had received two suggestions, and we have accepted both. The Union Government is actively working on this, but the State Government especially Uttar Pradesh, must respond accordingly.

12.52 hours

MOTION RE: 35TH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Madam, I beg to move the following: -

> "That this House do agree with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 10th August, 2016."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That this House do agree with the Thirty-fifth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 10th August, 2016."

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: Now we take up ‘Zero Hour’.

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Madam Speaker, in the morning I requested you for special permission to speak during ‘Zero Hour’.

HON. SPEAKER: Let me complete the list first.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI BHAVANA PUNDALIKRAO GAWALI (YAVATMAL-WASHIM): Madam Speaker, I wish to raise a very important issue concerning the tribal community. Yesterday, we passed the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Bill, and earlier, the Right to Education Bill had also been passed. However, it has been decided to discontinue certain schemes being run through the Ministry of Tribal Affairs. We make laws or the Government undertakes efforts to ensure equal rights and opportunities for all sections of society, and we move forward with that goal. The aim is to educate children from the tribal community and bring them to a level of equality. In Maharashtra, there are schools being run through the Ministry of Tribal Affairs that were receiving grants. These schools have now

been shut down. These are run by non-governmental organisations that possess the necessary infrastructure, educate the children, and take complete care of them. The Government has discontinued their grants. My demand is that these children, who have the potential to become responsible citizens of this country, must be supported. Even in government jobs, we have provided reservation for tribal brothers and sisters. However, when advertisements are released to fill those positions, suitable candidates are often not found. The effort to educate these children and bring them into the national mainstream is falling short.

Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I urge the Hon. Minister that the schools being run in Maharashtra, whose grants are being discontinued by the Government, should not be shut down. Instead, their grants should continue to be provided by the Union Government, so that our tribal children can be educated and integrated into the mainstream of the nation. Thank you.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Dr. Heena Gavit, Shri Manshukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava, Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Shri Rajeev Satav, Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Kunear Pushpendra Singh Chandel,

Shri Arvind Savant, Shri Rajan Vichare, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena, Shri Dilip Gandhi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Bhavana Pundalikrao Gawali.

[Tanslation]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): Hon. Speaker Madam, I am extremely thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Madam, I raise this matter with great sorrow. Among the Ministries performing best under this Government is the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. However, I do not understand why, in my Parliamentary Constituency, the condition is different. The only road that connects Kathmandu to Delhi and Kolkata to Delhi passes through my Parliamentary Constituency for about 80 kilometres. Since the time I was born, NH 28A which was earlier a local road—was never in a broken condition. This road was scheduled to be completed in April 2014.Another road, NH 28B, which connects Raxaul to the East-West Corridor, was also supposed to be completed by April 2014. But in the last two years, the progress on this road has been merely 8 percent. At this pace, it will take another 12 years to complete the work.

Madam, if a scrap dealer is ever in need of scrap, he need not go anywhere else. If he simply travels on this road, he will find plenty. One will find numerous broken-down trucks on this road... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Madam, please allow me to complete my submission. The entire road has only undergone earthwork, and the bitumen surface is yet to be laid. Therefore, through you, I urge that the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways pay due attention to this matter and ensure the prompt completion of this road.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Madam Speaker, I am raising a very important matter regarding release of special assistance for the development of Backward Districts. The erstwhile Planning Commission had identified 150 Backward Districts in the country. Nine out of 10 District in this list are from Telangana. For this reason, all the districts were eligible for the Backward Regions Grant Fund earlier.

Madam, as you are well aware, now, this Fund has no provision

in the Budget. So, recognizing this, the NITI Aayog had recommended a grant of Rs. 700 crore to be given for the State of Telangana for the year 2015-16. Out of this amount, only Rs. 450 crore had been disbursed by the Ministry of Finance in the year 2015-16; and Rs. 250 crore is yet to be released.

Therefore, I would request the Hon. Finance Minister to release a total of Rs. 700 crore for the year 2016-17 for our State, at the earliest.

Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri B. Vinod Kumar.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Hon. Speaker Madam, I rise to speak on a matter of significant public importance. In Madhya Pradesh, as well as across the country, community radio stations currently have a range of only 15 kilometres. Through you, I urge the Government to increase this range to 50 kilometres. The reason is that whether it be folk songs, folk music, folk art, local tourism, or traditional agricultural practices, community radio is the most effective medium to promote these. At present, the transmission

range across the country is only 15 kilometres. In Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh, it has reached up to 20 kilometres, which proves that it is technically possible to extend it further. Therefore, whether it pertains to enhancing the transmitter's capacity or increasing the coverage range, I wish to draw the Government's attention to the fact that this would be a highly effective measure. Following the Hon. Prime Minister’s "Mann Ki Baat" programme, the relevance and reach of community radio have further increased across the nation. Hence, through you, I strongly urge the Union Government to extend its range to 50 kilometres. Ready for the next segment whenever you are. Let me know if you’d like to start compiling everything into a single document.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

[English]

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Hon. Madam Speaker, if there is one item, which we consume right from the time we take birth till we die, that is milk. The best part in India is that in the last 10 years, the milk production has gone up by about 60 per

cent. Today, we claim to be the world's largest producer of milk.

While the quantity of milk is not a problem for us, there is a serious question mark as regards the quality of milk. According to a study conducted by Food Safety and Standards Authority of India, 68 per cent of the milk available in the country is spurious and adulterated. The situation is more critical in the State of Gujarat where 89 per cent of the milk has been found adulterated. Similarly, in Jammu and Kashmir, 83 per cent and in Punjab, 81 per cent of the milk has been found adulterated. The consequence is very huge. Recently, after consuming adulterated milk, in some Anganwandi Centres of Chhattisgarh, two children have died and several admitted to hospital. Similar is the situation in Uttar Pradesh.

Madam, this act is nothing less than a serious crime, which is killing we, Indians day in and day out. This act is much more serious than the act of terrorism.

So, I would urge upon the Government to bring about a strong legislation to stop adulteration of milk and take stern action against those who are involved in this act of adulteration of milk so that people do not die day in and day out. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to

associate with the issue raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.

13.00 hours

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (BHARUCH): Hon. Speaker Madam, in my Parliamentary Constituency Bharuch, the Ankleshwar and Panoli industrial areas have been incorrectly declared as critical zones on the basis of pollution. As a result, new industries cannot be established in these areas, nor can existing industries be expanded. For the past five years, I have been consistently demanding the removal of the industrial critical zone status from Ankleshwar and Panoli, but the issue remains unresolved. In the industrial areas of Ankleshwar and Panoli in Bharuch, Gujarat, the critical zone designation is unjustified. Through you, I urge the Government to withdraw this classification.

Through you, I request the government to remove the critical zone that has been imposed in the industrial areas of Ankleshwar and Panauli in Bharuch, Gujarat.

[English]

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

Manshukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (SINGHBHUM): Hon. Speaker Madam, in the Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency of Jharkhand, Shrimati Priyanka, wife of Shri Priyaranjan, a resident of Adityapur, was admitted for delivery on 6 June, 2016 at Steel City Research and Diagnostic Centre Hospital in Jamshedpur. At the time of admission, the woman was in a completely normal condition. However, due to extreme negligence and improper delivery procedure by Dr. Nisha Tiwari, a caesarean operation kit was left inside the patient. As a result, a cut wound was found on the body of the newborn child. Additionally, the woman suffered continuous bleeding and her condition kept deteriorating. Matters worsened when the hospital administration itself hastily shifted the critically ill woman to the CCU of another hospital-TMH, also in Jamshedpur where Shrimati Priyanka, while battling between life and death, passed away on 15 June.

HON. SPEAKER: From where will this be investigated?

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA: Through you, I demand from the

Government that such hospital administrations and doctors like Dr. Nisha Tiwari, who turn normal cases into critical ones.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: That is not how it works. This is a State matter, pertaining to a local hospital. What purpose does it serve to name individual doctors here?

[English]

Dr. P. Venugopal – not present. Shri P.R. Sundaram.

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Thank you Speaker Madam. There is a demand for setting up of a Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy in my Namakkal Parliamentary Constituency. I have raised already this demand under Rule 377. The Hon. Minister for AYUSH, in his written reply, has informed me that the matter to establish more Central Research Institutes on Yoga and Naturopathy was discussed in the 18th Meeting of the Governing Body and the Governing body accorded its in-principle approval to set up three additional Institutes.

It is understood that the setting up of a Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy would be considered, if there is land of more than 20 acres available. In Annaipalayam Village of Rasipuram

Panchayat Union of Namakkal District, 23.61 acres land is lying vacant which can be earmarked for the establishment of Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy.

Madam, the idea of declaring 21st June as an 'International Day of Yoga' was first proposed by our Hon. Prime Minister at the United Nations General Assembly on September 27, 2014. Under the guidance of Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, the first International Yoga Day was observed throughout Tamil Nadu.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to take necessary steps for the establishment of a Central Research Institute of Yoga and Naturopathy at Annaipalayam in my Namakkal Constituency at the earliest.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Sharad Tripathi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P.R. Sundaram.

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Respected Speaker Madam, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue.

The demand for agricultural machineries and equipments has

been increased manifold in my State, Odisha. The farm power input in my State is 1.55 kilowatt hectare compared to 2 kilowatt at the national level. So, to minimize this disparity, around 92 per cent of small and marginal farmers of my State are provided with farm machinery and equipments at subsidized rate. In this regard, the State Government has provided Rs. 250 crore, whereas the assistance of the Central Government is only Rs. 12 crore under the Central sector scheme on Agriculture Mechanisation Mission, which is not adequate to meet the target.

Hence, I urge upon the Government of India to consider enhancement of allocation of funds from meagre Rs. 12 crore to at least Rs. 100 crore under the said scheme.

Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kulmani Samal.

[Translation]

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR): Hon. Speaker Madam, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to raise a very important matter that you have drawn my attention to. On 2 December 1985, the Union Government published a gazette notification listing all tribal villages in the State of Maharashtra as Scheduled Areas. Today, however, nearly 85 percent of villages where tribals reside are not included in that list. There are several reasons for this. When the original list was prepared, the population of those villages was not very high. However, the population has since increased significantly. One Gram Panchayat has now become two or three Gram Panchayats, and as a result, one village has effectively become two or three villages.

Hon. Speaker Madam, today the PESA Act is being implemented in all Scheduled Areas of Maharashtra. However, only those villages included in the Scheduled Area list are covered under the implementation of the PESA Act. Under PESA, jobs, particularly those in Class III and Class IV are reserved for boys and girls from villages included in the Scheduled Areas. Not only this, but all schemes of the Maharashtra Government and the Union Government

are applicable only to those villages which are included under PESA.

Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I would like to urge the Union Government to conduct a fresh survey of all Scheduled Areas in Maharashtra and include all the villages that were left out from the current list.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr Manoj Rajoria, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Rahul Shewale, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Heena Vijaykumar Gavit.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Hon. Speaker Madam, we are all protectors of cows, and we all serve the cow. Today, the issue of the cow has become a major national topic. However, through you, I wish to raise in this House the plight of the farmer from Punjab. As you all know, farmers in Punjab have already been struggling due to low agricultural yield and small land holdings. As a result, they have become dependent on allied occupations such as dairy farming and poultry farming. Whether in Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat, or Andhra Pradesh, around three lakh high-quality breed cows-crossbred Jersey cows developed by us in the 1990s are being sold each year. When

compared to cows in the United States or European countries, our cows actually produce more milk. These cows can yield anywhere between 40 litres to 65 litres of milk. Our farmers were able to sustain themselves because they sold these cows to other States and received a good price. They would typically earn between Rs. 65,000 and Rs. 1 lakh per cow.

Hon. Speaker Madam, transportation is the second major occupation of Punjabis. I wish to state that today both of these livelihoods are under serious threat. There is an organised crime network which approaches transporters daily, demanding Rs. 2 lakh per truck per month. At present, there are lakhs of dairy farmers involved in this sector. Nearly 6,500 large-scale farmers and countless small-scale farmers are engaged in this work. Currently, there is an order for 10,000 cows from Bangladesh and Nepal.

Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I urge the Government that agriculture has already failed the farmers. People in the region are trapped in the clutches of drug addiction. If we wish to save these dairy farmers, these Punjabis, from the grip of so-called cow protectors, then the Ministry of Agriculture or the Ministry of Home Affairs must take steps to protect them. This is organised crime, it is

akin to terrorism, and hence, protection must be ensured. I seek your assistance in this regard.

DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHYAL (BHAVNAGAR): Hon. Speaker Madam, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Railway Minister, as they fulfilled our long-standing demand by starting a weekly train last year from Palitana, an important pilgrimage site for the Jain community to Mumbai (Bandra). However, once this train arrives at Palitana, due to lack of yard facilities there, it is sent to Bhavnagar, where it remains idle and unused for five days. As we see, even in our scriptures, Haridwar holds immense significance. Yet, not a single train from Saurashtra runs directly to Haridwar. From Bhavnagar, Botad, Amreli, and surrounding areas, thousands of people travel to Haridwar throughout the year. Ahmedabad is almost like our capital, and thousands travel between these two cities regularly. Yet, there is not a single intercity train from Bhavnagar to Ahmedabad.

Surat is known as the Diamond City. Both Surat and Bhavnagar are diamond hubs and can be considered twin cities. We have been demanding for years that a daily train service be introduced between

Bhavnagar and Surat. I earnestly request the Hon. Minister to kindly initiate these three train services. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Bharatiben D. Shyal.

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I rise to speak on a matter of immense cultural and spiritual significance. Buxar, my parliamentary constituency, is the sacred land of penance of Maharishi Vishwamitra and a revered mythological site. The Union Government has decided to develop Buxar as part of the Ramayana Circuit, turning it into a pilgrimage destination. A Detailed Project Report (DPR) was to be prepared with cooperation from both the Central and State Governments; however, this has not yet materialised. The Panchkoshi Mela held in Buxar, associated with Lord Ram's visit along with Lakshman and Maharishi Vishwamitra to these very places, draws lakhs of pilgrims from within the State and across the country every year. It is imperative in public interest to install a grand statue commemorating this sacred journey, and to develop the Panchkoshi Parikrama area by restoring historical and religious sites, ensuring proper infrastructure such as roads, drinking

water, electricity, afforestation, and construction of ponds and ghats.

Buxar, situated on the holy banks of the River Ganga, deserves to be placed prominently on the national and international pilgrimage map. Therefore, through you, Sir, I urge the Government to expedite the preparation of the DPR and initiate the restoration and development of important sites such as Vaman Bhagwan Avatar Sthal, Saptapauranik Shivkund, and Ahilya Uddhar Sthal, along with the construction of the Parikrama Marg (circumambulatory path). Thank you.

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

SHRI HARISHANDRA CHAVAN (DINDORI): Hon. Speaker, onions make people cry at home, outside, make the producers cry, the consumers cry, and sometimes even make Governments cry. Through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Government to this important issue concerning onions. As you are aware, since 2004, I have consistently raised questions in this House regarding taxes. Due to heavy rains and flooding, agricultural activities in my Dindori Parliamentary Constituency have been completely devastated. There

has been more than 50 percent loss in tax revenue. For the past one month, the procurement of onions has come to a complete halt in my region and across the Nashik district. This has caused immense losses to the farmers. Through you, I urge the Government to withdraw the condition imposed by traders that onions must be brought in full truckloads. This condition should be removed, and farmers should be allowed to bring onions in trolleys as they used to earlier. Further, a subsidy of at least Rs. 2 per kilogram should be provided to the farmers. Additionally, the Government should immediately declare a minimum support price of Rs. 2,000 per quintal for onions. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Harishchandra Chavan.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Hon. Speaker, I would like to begin my submission with a humble request. To the best of my knowledge, this subject is possibly being raised in the Lok Sabha for the first time in its history. Therefore, I kindly request you to allow me to place my views in full. I shall not take much time and will only touch upon some important points.

We have a language called Magahi, which is spoken across large parts of Jharkhand, Bihar and Nepal. Nearly two crore people speak this language. One of its unique features is that it has its own script, known as Kaithi. However, this language has not yet been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I would like to state that the grammarian Kachchayana, while writing on the importance of the Magahi language, described it as the foundation of all languages. Renowned scholars and others have also discussed the usage of this language since the beginning of time. The sacred place of penance of Lord Buddha, the most revered and supreme being, also lies within the region where this language is spoken. ... *(Interruptions)*

The capital of the Magadh Empire, Pataliputra which is present-day Patna, the capital of Bihar was founded by the Shishunaga dynasty. Historical records of the Magadh Empire exist from 684 B.C. to 320 B.C. in India. Therefore, through you, Hon. Speaker Madam, I request that this language be included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. ... *(Interruptions)*

In conclusion, I earnestly appeal to you to kindly consider the inclusion of Magahi language in the Eighth Schedule of the

Constitution, keeping in view the historical background of Magadh and the widespread usage of Magahi across the world. This would be a great act of kindness, and we, the Magahi-speaking people, shall remain ever grateful to you throughout our lives. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sushil Kumar Singh.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN): Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I wish to convey the sentiments of 22 crore people of Uttar Pradesh to the Union Government. The Government of India, including the Prime Minister, the Minister of Home Affairs, and 73 Hon. Members from the ruling party who have been elected from Uttar Pradesh, is in power today. The Hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh is constantly striving for the development of the state. He has done everything possible within the limits of state resources. However, the rightful share of the people of Uttar Pradesh from the Union Government has not been provided. In this regard, the Hon. Chief Minister has written nearly 100 letters to the Hon. Prime Minister as well as to various other Ministers of the Union Government. It is deeply regrettable that neither the Prime Minister nor the other Ministers have deemed it appropriate to even respond. Beyond responses, the rightful dues of Uttar Pradesh remain unaddressed. I would like to request a little more time as this concerns 22 crore people. In the field of basic education, the Hon. Chief Minister has requested Rs. 3,585 crore towards teachers' salaries, which has not been approved yet by the Government. The issue of midday meal cooks has been raised several times in this House. The Hon. Chief Minister has requested that their honorarium be increased

to Rs. 2,000 per month. Likewise, regarding the drinking water crisis, a request has been submitted by the Hon. Chief Minister to the Union Government for support. On the matter of drought in Bundelkhand, which drew nationwide concern, and in Vindhya region as well, the Hon. Chief Minister has sought Rs. 2,360 crore from the Union Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

Similarly, for the Scheduled Caste communities, about whom we shall discuss in detail post 2 p.m., the Hon. Chief Minister has submitted a demand of Rs. 1,425 crore to the Union Government. If we account for allocations related to railways, roads, power, and other schemes, a total of Rs. 60,000 crore is pending from the Union Government towards Uttar Pradesh.

Through you, I would like to make an appeal to the Government. The people of Uttar Pradesh are observing closely. While the Hon. Chief Minister of the state is steadfastly leading Uttar Pradesh on the path of development, the 73 Hon. Members elected from the state are extending no cooperation. ... *(Interruptions)* If you do not extend your support, I state today, with full responsibility, that even Modi Ji will not be able to ensure your victory in the year 2019, however much he may wish to do so. Therefore, I urge you, the representatives at the

Centre and the Union Government, to acknowledge and address the rightful demands and entitlements of the people of Uttar Pradesh. The promises of development made by the Hon. Prime Minister must be translated into reality. The long-stalled development schemes for Uttar Pradesh should be expedited, so that the state may emerge as one of the finest in the country. ... *(Interruptions)* With this demand, I conclude my remarks. Thank you.

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Hon. Madam Speaker, as a symbol of compassion, I seek your support in raising the matter of thousands of orphaned children across the country, who, due to abduction or the death of their parents, are left without known caste, social, economic background or even date of birth, and if born with disabilities such as being mute, deaf or blind, are often abandoned by their impoverished parents, making them vulnerable to criminal exploitation unless provided proper protection, which is currently insufficient as only around 1,137 orphanages. There are large states such as Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, and Uttar Pradesh; however, the number of orphanages in these states is very limited. For instance, Madhya Pradesh, despite being a large state, has only 32 orphanages. Manipur also has 32 orphanages. Tamil Nadu has approximately 221 orphanages. Uttar Pradesh has merely 44

orphanages. West Bengal has only 50, and Delhi has just 22 orphanages. Maharashtra has 70, Himachal Pradesh 25, and Bihar only 21 orphanages.

Madam, I would like to submit that these orphanages, meant to care for and connect displaced children with a sense of belonging, often pay less attention to child welfare and more towards securing grants. Reports of abuse and mistreatment of children in such institutions are frequently heard in our country.

Through you, Madam Speaker, I urge the Government to take necessary steps to improve the functioning of existing orphanages and to take strict action against those showing negligence in their duties. Furthermore, I request that more orphanages be established in accordance with the population of each state, so that these orphaned children may receive the care and protection they deserve.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Ravindra Kumar Jena, Shri Rajendra Agrawal, Shrimati Anju Bala, Shrimati Priyanka Singh Rawat, Dr Manoj Rajoria, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Shri Anoop Mishra and Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh Verma are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Virendra Singh.

SHRI KRIPAL BALAJI TUMANE (RAMTEK): Madam Speaker,

there are numerous power plants established by NTPC across the country that supply electricity to the entire nation, but when land is required for setting up these plants, our farmer brethren provide the land as per the need, and at that time, the Government and NTPC assure the farmers that employment will be provided to them. However, it is observed today that even after production begins, no employment opportunities are made available to the children of those farmers. Similarly, in my Ramtek Parliamentary Constituency, the Mahuad NTPC plant has commenced operations, and farmers there are agitating because jobs have not yet been provided to their children.

This situation causes hardship to the children of our farmer brethren. Through you, I earnestly request the Government that under this plant, a government company named UPL has been formed, and they employ these children on a contractual basis with minimal wages, despite vacancies being available. I urge the Government to provide them permanent employment in UPL and ensure that these farmer families, who have provided their land for the plant, receive benefits that are at least equal to, if not more than, the facilities given to other employees.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Dr. Manoj

Rajoria, and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kripal Balaji Tumane.

[English]

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): Thank you, Madam. The demand is for fixing the price of tobacco at the same time when crop size is fixed by the Tobacco Board.

Madam, 50 per cent production of tobacco in the country comes from Andhra Pradesh, especially from Prakasam district. Every year Tobacco Board fixes crop size for forthcoming crop year and farmers produce tobacco accordingly. This year they are going to hold this meeting on 17th of August.

During the last few years, tobacco farmers are facing a lot of problems because of want of remunerative prices and rapid shrinking of crop size every year. This is because of failure of Tobacco Board, Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh in providing remunerative price. Due to this, there is a huge difference between production cost and remunerative price resulting huge losses to farmers.

The farmers have been demanding for announcing remunerative price at the time of deciding crop size itself. But, their genuine demand

seems Gone with the Wind as nobody is listening to them.

Tobacco Board, by limiting crop size, is pressurizing farmers to stop tobacco cultivation. Farmers are willing but they are only demanding to show them viable alternative crop. But the Tobacco Board, Government of India and the Government of Andhra Pradesh are not coming forward to help them.

The farmers are only asking for announcing remunerative price at the time of deciding crop size itself. Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Y.V. Subba Reddy.

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Respected Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, to the following matter of urgent public importance for taking immediate remedial action.

Indian Maritime University is functioning in Chennai. Though irregularities and illegal actions have come to light, no action seems to have been taken against the person responsible. During the present Vice-Chancellor's tenure, 34 persons have left and resigned from the University and some were forced to go to their parent departments. The Registrar of the University has also resigned within 44 days of

joining.

Irregularities in appointments, pay fixation etc. had taken place and they were exposed by the then Vice-chancellor. The University illegally managed to get Rs. 30 crore from ASFA, Ministry of Shipping without proper Budget sanctions. There were irregularities in the utilisation of government grants in the University. There were instances of blatant misuse of University funds through illegal means. Rampant corruption is taking place in the appointment of employees in the University.

When the then Vice-Chancellor exposed irregularities, instead of taking action against the person responsible, action was taken against the whistleblower. The net result is that the former Vice-Chancellor of IMU was suspended for more than 21 months. But wantonly, neither the charge-sheet was issued nor was his suspension revoked, defying the directions of the DoPT and the orders of the Supreme Court of India. The University authorities have defied the orders and directions of the nodal Ministry, which is the Shipping Ministry, under Section 50 of the IMU Act.

Hence, I request the Hon. Prime Minister to immediately intervene in the matter and take action against the person responsible

in the Indian Maritime University.

Thank you.

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Madam Speaker, I thank you for having given me time to pay my gratitude to the three great giant-leaders of the world - Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu ‘Amma’, Hon. Prime Minister of our country and His Excellency, the President of the Russian Federation - for having jointly dedicated the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plant Unit-I yesterday, through video-conferencing, to the Indo-Russian Friendship and Cooperation. It was a historical and remarkable event.

Madam, this has put Kudankulam in Tamil Nadu on the Nuclear Power Map of the world and took Tamil Nadu to newer heights among the nations of the world.

Madam, as we all know, there were many hurdles in the execution of this Ultra Mega Power Project. There were protests, demonstrations and stiff opposition to this project, but our Amma, with her decades of experience, withstood all the resistance that came in the way and saw to it that the country gets nuclear power from this unit.

Again, I would thank all of them a lot.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shrimati R. Vanaroja and Shrimati V. Sathyabama are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.N. Ramachandran.

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Madam Speaker, I wish to bring to the attention of this House a serious matter. Recently, a team of 121 athletes departed from the country for Rio. Three athletes were found positive in doping tests. During this period, two athletes from Haryana, Shri Dharamveer Singh and Shri Indrajit Singh, tested negative six times, but upon testing positive the seventh time, they were not sent to Rio. However, Shri Narsingh Yadav from the Prime Minister's Lok Sabha Constituency was sent to the Rio Olympics. Through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister to kindly explain to the country why this discrimination was meted out to one athlete, and why athletes from Bhiwani and Rohtak in Haryana, who qualified for the 100-metre race for the first time in 37 years and were supposed to go to Rio for the shot put event, were blocked by NADA, while preference was given to one athlete; the Sports Ministry should clarify this to the nation.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Rahul Shewale,

and Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dushyant Chautala.

[English]

SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE (NASHIK): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to draw the attention of this House and the Government towards the natural calamity caused by heavy rainfall which has taken place in my constituency Nashik, Maharashtra.

Thousands of farmers, residential people and traders have suffered heavy financial losses and need immediate assistance from the Government.

Madam on 2nd and 3rd August 2016, heavy rainfall followed by a devastating flood washed away the crops, farming land, residential houses, commercial jewellery market due to which people were facing shortage of resources for human survival and suffered financial losses as well.

Madam, on 7th of August, 2016, that is, Sunday, I, along with some officials, surveyed the affected area. Quite a depressing situation was found in an area called as "Kazi Gadi" located on the banks of the Godavari River, situated on a hilly area. Heavy floods flattened the houses and dissolved them into the ground. Some of the houses have

lost their foundation support and are in a hanging position. So, people living in such residences should be immediately shifted and alternate accommodation should be provided to them so as to avoid the Malin-type of situation. Also such unsafe residential houses should be included on safety considerations in "Housing for All".

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Hemant Tukaram Godse.

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Madam, I would like to raise before this House a very important and serious issue, and I am confident that every living soul here will rise above party lines and be deeply moved. I request that no time restriction be imposed on me. As you know, and the world knows, the massacre of Sikhs in 1984 led to the formation of many commissions and identification of the guilty. However, a new revelation has come from CBI files. According to the President of the Delhi Committee, the CBI files state that a person named Badal Singh was killed in front of Pul Bangash Gurudwara, with Surendra Singh as the eyewitness. To manage this... *(Interruptions)* In the CBI files, Abhishek Verma has stated that Rs. 50 million was given in Canada, and his son was

sent abroad with fifty thousand dollars... *(Interruptions)* Despite such a grave crime, no punishment has been meted out to the accused... *(Interruptions)*

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

HON. SPEAKER: Your turn has come. Please sit down.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Salim Sahib, you may speak. I have already called your name.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ) : Madam, I would like to make a humble request to you…*(Interruptions)* We often tell the judiciary that "Justice delayed is justice denied." But this is the largest panchayat of our country, and I will speak only five sentences. It has been five months today since the bribery scandal was exposed on NardaNews.com... (Interruptions) In that, the forensic lab confirmed that the CD is genuine, but till date the Ethics Committee has not convened... *(Interruptions)* Look how loudly they are shouting, like a guilty conscience needs no accuser.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh, Smt P.K. Shrimathi Teacher, Shri P. Karunakaran, Dr. A. Sampath, Shri P.K. Biju and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Muhammad Salim.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. Under the UIDSSMT scheme, the Union Government had approved a water supply project worth Rs. 60 crore

for my Parliamentary Constituency in 2008. (Interruptions) Eight years have passed and this project has been significantly delayed, with only sixty percent of the work completed. It took two years just to assign the work to the municipality. Due to the Government's negligence in the cutting of trees as per the Wildlife Protection Board, three years were lost. There is a severe water crisis there; people are suffering in temperatures reaching fifty degrees Celsius. Under this scheme, the project cost has now escalated to Rs. 100 crore with a five-year timeline. The Prime Minister had visited my constituency and assured that the work would be completed within six months.

HON. SPEAKER: You have completed your point and it has reached there.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: But it remained only an election slogan. I would like to request the Ministry of Urban Development to constitute a sub-committee, so that this work can be completed at the earliest.

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (REWA): Hon. Speaker, Madam, after two consecutive years of drought, it has rained for the first time... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions)... *

[Translation]

SHRI JANARDAN MISHRA (REWA): Hon. Speaker Madam, crops are suffering severe damage due to wild animals. In one-third of the area in our district, entire crops are being destroyed by blue bulls. Although the Union Government has amended the Wildlife Protection Act, the State Governments have yet to take adequate notice of it.

I request the Union Government to convene a conference of the State Ministers for Forests to take measures to protect farmers from the losses caused by blue bulls. Thank you.

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

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.35 p.m.

* Not recorded.

13.34 hours

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

14.37 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty-Seven minutes past Fourteen of the Clock.

(Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 *

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them may personally hand over the text of the matter at the Table of the House within 20 minutes. Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which the 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) Need to provide compensation to people distressed due to loss of life and property caused by flood particularly in Balaghat parliamentary constituency, Madhya Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI BODH SINGH BHAGAT (BALAGHAT): Due to excessive monsoon rainfall and flooding currently affecting my Parliamentary Constituency Balaghat-Sivni as well as several other states across the country, the lives, property, agriculture, houses, livestock, and roads of the people have been severely impacted, resulting in heavy losses. The people are facing a grave crisis in earning their livelihood, and many have been rendered homeless. In this time of disaster, the people require support. Although assistance has been provided by the State Governments and the Union Government, it is not sufficient.

I wish to draw the Government's attention to the need to constitute inspection teams here and send them to each affected state to assess the damage and arrange for the immediate payment of compensation to the people.

(ii) Need to set up a world class sports centre in Baghpat parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

DR. SATYPAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Baghpat Parliamentary Constituency has been an important part of the National Capital Region (N.C.R.) for many years. Despite being adjacent to Delhi on one side, this area has remained almost untouched by developmental activities for years. Among all the districts surrounding Delhi, only Baghpat remains the most backward region. Once a prosperous district of Uttar Pradesh, it has fallen miles behind in development. The Hindi proverb "Chirag tale andhera" is a fitting example for Baghpat Parliamentary Constituency. Due to the lack of sports facilities and industries, hundreds of our youth today are falling prey to humiliation and crime. Fortunately, some schemes of the Union Government being implemented in this area have rekindled the hopes of the people here.

Despite the absence of facilities over the past several decades, the young people of Baghpat Parliamentary Constituency have made their mark. They have earned national and international recognition in

sports such as shooting, archery, wrestling, volleyball, basketball, and discus throw. Approximately one-third of the athletes in this year's Olympic team are from Haryana because, over the past several decades, the Haryana Government and the Union Government have developed modern sports facilities on Haryana soil and implemented policies to encourage athletes. The fertile lands of Baghpat, situated east of the Yamuna, possess the seeds of tradition, culture, and dedication from which the country can achieve glory at the international level in the field of sports.

I request the Union Government to establish an international-level sports institute in Baghpat Parliamentary Constituency so that emerging sporting talents may receive a multifaceted opportunity to flourish. Being close to Delhi, these facilities will also be beneficial during national and international sports competitions held in Delhi.

(iii) Regarding trained Act Apprentices of South Western Railway

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Act apprentice trained candidates in South Western Railway (SWR) have not been given any appointment in the group D since 2010. So they have been demanding their appointment as group D employees.

But SWR did not take any steps in this regard stating that there is no such requirement. When this matter was raised by me, the Government issued a circular in June reserving 20% of posts for Act Apprentice trainees in general recruitment in Railways in all Zones and they have to participate in general process. Now these trainees are demanding that they be exempted from facing written and physical test as they have been out of touch to face competition since many of them have crossed the age bar. In this background, I urge the Government to examine their demands sympathetically and take necessary step.

(iv) Need to declare State Highway No. 29 in Uttar Pradesh as a National Highway and convert it into a four lane Highway

[Translation]

SHRI MUKESH RAJPUT (FARRAKHABAD): I request that State Highway No. 29 of Uttar Pradesh, which runs from Bewar-Farrukhabad-Shahjahanpur-Pilibhit to Lipulekh located on the China-Tibet border, be declared a National Highway. Two regiments of strategic importance, the Rajput Regiment and the Sikh Light Infantry Regiment, are stationed at Fatehgarh, Farrukhabad, which lies along this route. Therefore, military assistance can also be efficiently transported to the border via this route.

Hence, there is an urgent need to declare this route as a National Highway and to widen it into a four-lane road. It is pertinent to note that the Government of Uttar Pradesh has also sent a letter No. 0.287/CM-1-2014 dated 8.9.14 to the Honorable Prime Minister of India, requesting an early decision on the declaration of this route as a National Highway.

(v) Need to provide employment to families whose land was acquired for construction of rail-cum-road bridge connecting Munger with Sahebpur Kamal in Bihar

DR. BHOLA SINGH (BEGUSARAI): The inauguration of the Munger-Sahebpur Kamal rail-cum-road bridge under the East Central Railway zone was recently done by the Honorable Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, within this financial year. The foundation stone of this bridge was laid by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee during his tenure as Prime Minister in Munger. The completion of this bridge has created a great atmosphere of joy and enthusiasm among the people. However, hundreds of families were displaced due to the construction of this bridge. At the time of land acquisition, a promise was made to provide employment to these displaced families in the railway services. It was declared that each family would be given a job. This assurance was reiterated even during the inauguration. But, till now, the Ministry of Railways has not fulfilled the commitment to provide jobs to the displaced families. These families are struggling and facing repeated rejections. The credibility of the Ministry of

Railways is being questioned, the situation of the public representatives has worsened, and they are feeling helpless. There is widespread anger among the people.

Therefore, I earnestly request the Hon. Prime Minister to issue directions to the Railway Board to employ the displaced families related to the bridge whose inauguration he performed. I draw the Government’s attention to this matter.

(vi) Regarding storage of food grains under open sky and distressed financial condition of private warehouse owners

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): The country's grain storage system is under the purview of the Food Corporation of India (FCI), yet the planned implementation of grain storage infrastructure has not been carried out seriously. While FCI at the central level, warehousing corporations at the state level, and several private storage facilities have been constructed, there are numerous locations where godowns—constructed through loans—remain vacant. Meanwhile, millions of tonnes of grain are lying under the open sky. This contradiction has led to a grave crisis. States such as Madhya Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana are witnessing such discrepancies. Small investors and farmers, who built storage facilities by taking loans, are now unable to repay their debts due to the failure to fill these godowns. They are on the verge of bankruptcy and even facing circumstances that may drive them towards suicide. I urge the Government to assess the situation in Madhya Pradesh in particular and take immediate action to rectify these anomalies and provide protection and relief to small investors and farmers.

(vii) Need to rename the 'Balrampur Railway Station' in Uttar Pradesh as 'Atal Adarsh Station, Balrampur

SHRI DADDAN MISHRA (SRAVASTI): I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the Hon. Railway Minister on behalf of the people of our region, for connecting Balrampur the first Parliamentary Constituency of Bharat Ratna, the revered Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, with the broad gauge network of Indian Railways, thereby creating a new ray of hope for development in the region.

Balrampur was the workplace and political base of the respected former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. I request the Hon. Railway Minister to kindly rename the Balrampur Railway Station in honour of the revered former Prime Minister as Atal Adarsh Station, Balrampur.

(viii) Need to set up a Passport Office at Muzaffarpur in Bihar

SHRI AJAY NISHAD (MUZAFFRPUR): Our Parliamentary Constituency, Muzaffarpur, regarded as the industrial and commercial hub of North Bihar, along with the neighbouring districts of Sitamarhi, Sheohar, West Champaran and East Champaran situated near the Nepal border faces significant difficulties due to the lack of a nearby passport office. People from these regions are compelled to travel long distances either to Patna or to the recently opened passport office in Darbhanga. Similarly, residents of adjoining districts such as Chhapra, Siwan, and Gopalganj also suffer due to the absence of a passport facility nearby, despite the fact that thousands of people from this region frequently travel to Gulf countries for employment. Although a passport office was inaugurated in Darbhanga last year, the people of Muzaffarpur and the surrounding districts have not been able to derive adequate benefit from it. Muzaffarpur is not only the largest commercial centre in North Bihar but also hosts the Divisional Commissioner's office.

Through you, I urge the Government to establish a passport office in Muzaffarpur. Alternatively, a transit centre, camp office, or branch office may kindly be opened to alleviate the persistent difficulties faced by the people of this region in obtaining passports.

(ix) Need to take remedial measures to regulate the course of Ganga and Sonali rivers causing flood in villages under Bijnor parliamentary constituency, Uttar Pradesh

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH (BIJNOR): In my Parliamentary Constituency, Bijnor, there is severe erosion occurring due to the Ganga and Sonaali rivers. Apart from cultivable land, the erosion has now started affecting village settlements and populated areas, resulting in large-scale displacement of villagers.

The primary cause of this disaster is the construction of an embankment on one bank of the Ganga and Sonaali rivers by the Government of Uttarakhand. The other bank lies in Uttar Pradesh. Unfortunately, despite several letters written to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, no action has been taken thus far.

A flood threat looms over numerous villages across all five Assembly Segments of my Parliamentary Constituency. In Bijnor, 20 villages; in Chandpur, 10 villages; in Muarapur, 8 villages; in Purkaji,

23 villages; and in Hastinapur, 12 villages are under the threat posed by the Ganga and Sonaali rivers. This has resulted in widespread erosion throughout the entire Khadar region.

I urge the Hon. Minister of Water Resources, Government of India, to promptly seek a proposal in this regard from the State Government and initiate immediate action. I request that protection and assistance be extended by the Government to safeguard the lives, homes, livestock, agricultural land, and other property of lakhs of poor farmers in the region.

(x) Need to set up a Regional Cancer Centre at AIIMS, Rishikesh in Uttarakhand

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR): As it is well known, Uttarakhand is extremely important for the entire nation in every respect. Though constituting only one percent of the country's population, this State contributes significantly to the armed forces, security services and paramilitary forces of the country. Today, the region is facing a grave challenge. Cancer has now spread widely across Uttarakhand. Due to increasing water and air pollution on a large scale, as well as a life filled with stress, cancer is emerging as a major epidemic. According to surveys, in a small State like Uttarakhand, more than 7,000 cases of cancer are reported in hospitals every year. Due to the absence of screening and treatment facilities in the hilly and remote areas, the majority of such cases go untreated. Most patients reach hospitals at a terminal stage when the disease becomes incurable, and as a result, the mortality rate has reached an alarming level. No institution in the State currently has comprehensive facilities for the treatment of cancer.

I urge the Government to approve, at the earliest, a Regional Cancer Centre at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) located in Rishikesh. This will not only provide much-needed relief to the local population, but will also benefit people from adjoining regions of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh.

(xi) Need to ensure payment of arrears of salaries of retired employees of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, Jharkhand

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (RANCHI): I would like to inform this House about the condition of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited (H.E.C.L.), located in Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand, which falls under my parliamentary constituency of Ranchi. For several years now, retired employees of H.E.C.L. have not received the arrears related to pay revision for the period from 01.07.1997 to 17.01.2008, nor have they received other applicable allowances. Many of these retired employees are unable to seek proper medical treatment due to financial constraints. A number of them, tragically, have already passed away without receiving necessary medical care owing to lack of funds. Although an agreement was reached between the H.E.C.L. management and the H.E.C.L. Retired Employees' Association regarding the payment of the said arrears, the terms of that agreement have not been honoured.

I have already written several times in this regard to the Hon. Minister of Heavy Industries, yet the matter remains unresolved. This non-payment of legitimate dues has led to widespread resentment and anger among the retired personnel.

Therefore, I urge the Hon. Minister of Heavy Industries to ensure that the salary revision arrears from 01.07.1997 to 17.01.2008 are released at the earliest to the retired employees of H.E.C.L., Dhurwa, Ranchi.

(xii) Need to provide reservation to people belonging to SC/ST category who converted to Buddhism

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH-WEST DELHI): The Ministry of Welfare, Government of India, through its letter dated 20th November, 1990 (No. 12016/33/90-SCD (R. Cell)), had directed all States and Union Territories to issue caste certificates to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes individuals who had converted to Buddhism, while retaining their original caste identity in the certificate, and mentioning "Buddhist" under the religion column. However, most states have failed to comply with this directive. On the contrary, the Secretary of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, via letter No. 933 dated 26th March, 2016, wrote to the Director of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India, seeking clarification on whether the circular issued on 20th November, 1990, is still valid. A large number of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe individuals across the country have embraced Buddhism, and they should continue to receive reservation benefits as before. Yet, when they apply for caste certificates, they are compelled to list their religion as "Hindu" in the religion column, despite being Buddhists. I

urge the Hon'ble Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to issue fresh and clear guidelines to all states so that the original 1990 directive is uniformly implemented, and those who have converted to Buddhism retain access to their rightful entitlements and identity.

(xiii) Regarding urgent budgetary and administrative support for Trivandrum Central Station

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Trivandrum Central (TVC), the largest and busiest station in the State of Kerala, is in need of urgent budgetary and administrative support to complete ongoing development works. The government has been effective and supportive in this effort, now we seek the completion of vital upgrades to ensure that TVC remains for generations to come.

Given the inclusion of TVC in the list of "world-class stations", published by the Ministry coupled with the vital capital requirement, I urge the Minister to consider the inclusion of TVC in the shortlist for the PPP model of development using Foreign Direct Investment (FDI).

In addition, there is a proposal to shift the Coach Care Centre and non-operating lines at Trivandrum Central Railway Station (TVC), to satellite Kochuveli and Nemom Stations and replace them with at least 5 new platforms at TVC. This would require the upgradation of Kochuveli and Nemom stations to enable them to function as extensions of TVC. Further, the stations may be renamed as Thiruvananthapuram South and Thiruvananthapuram North respectively.

I, therefore, urge the Minister to consider the proposals and see

to the completion of the work already in progress.

(xiv) Regarding tackling floods in Assam

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): The recent floods have caused severe damage to Assam. The safety of many towns and villages depends upon the embankment protection projects under the Flood and Management Programme (FMP). Despite the urgency there is tremendous delay in the planning and implementation of FMP projects. The 12th plan has an estimated budget of Rs. I 387 crores. The proposals submitted by Assam Government for the FMP scheme are as follows:

(1) Protection of Kolbari and Lolity area from the erosion of river Brahmaputra;

(2) Assam integrated Flood and River Bank Erosion Risk Management project (Kaziranga sub-project);

(3) Raising and strengthening of Dhansiri Bund from Panjan to Borpathar and Dowel Bund at Old Karmargaon.

I urge the Government to look into the case of the Brahmaputra

dyke from Silghat to Dhing in the district of Nagaon. I request Minister of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to look into the matter and take steps to bring immediate relief to the people.

(xv) Need to set up a Cashew Export Zone at Ariyalur and a Mangrove Research Centre at Pichavaram in Tamil Nadu

SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI (CHIDAMBARAM): I would like to highlight the need for improving the infrastructure for welfare of cashew farmers, promotion of cashew-nut-processing industry and for the conservation and development of mangrove forests in my constituency.

In Tamil Nadu, cashew cultivation is the major agricultural activity in the districts of Ariyalur, Cuddalore and Villupuram. In 2011, the cashew crops in about 31,000 hectares were destroyed by the 'Thane-Cyclone'. The uprooted cashew farmers in the affected areas were rehabilitated by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

The climatic conditions in the area are very conducive for production of high-quality cashew nuts. Setting up of a dedicated Institutional mechanism for cashew at Ariyalur on the lines of DCCD, Kochi (Directorate of Cashew and Cocoa Development) would surely be a motivating factor for the cashew farmers in the area. Other supportive measures such as supply of high-yielding varieties to

farmers, incentives for expansion of cashew-cultivation and for adoption of new techniques of cultivation, etc are also needed. Further improvement in infrastructure is needed for processing and marketing of cashew nuts, cashew fruits and cashew based food-items. Setting up of a Cashew Exporting Zone at Ariyalar would go a long-way in promoting cashew cultivation and its marketing in this area.

The mangrove forests at Pichavaram in my constituency is of unique nature and it attracts a large number of tourists. The benefit from mangrove forest would be very high, if it is properly conserved and promoted so there is a need for setting up of a Mangrove Research Centre at Pichavaram.

I, therefore, request that concerned authorities in the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Commerce and other concerned ministries to create necessary institutional mechanisms and infrastructure facilities including a Cashew Export Zone at Ariyalur for the promotion of cashew cultivation and for processing of cashew nuts and cashew fruits and also to set up a Mangrove Research Centre at Pichavaram.

(xvi) Need to expedite construction of 4th railway line between Thiruvotriyur and Wimco Nagar in Tamil Nadu

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH): Over the years, there has been heavy traffic congestion between Chennai Beach – Gummudipoondi railway section. To ease the traffic congestion, a third line in this corridor has been commissioned between Korukkupet and Attipattu stations (15 kms.). This section is used by several passenger/mail/express trains going towards the northern and eastern parts of the country as well as suburban and freight trains that cater to the heavily industrialized North Chennai.

As far as the construction of the 4th line in this stretch is concerned, it has almost been completed but there are certain bottlenecks between Thiruvotriyur and Wimco Nagar stations which has delayed the project. Presently, every day, the trains on this section face a minimum delay of 15 minutes to half-an-hour because of congestion. The commissioning of this 4th line will result in speeding up of suburban trains in this section and will improve punctuality. The

Southern Railway will also be able to increase the frequency of services on the route if this project is completed.

Further, the quadrupling of this section between Chennai Beach and Attipattu has to be urgently extended upto Gummudipoondi and the now existing double line track has to be declared as Dedicated Corridor for suburban EMU services, given that Ponneri lying in between is to be converted into a Smart City. The devised plan of adding 30 more EMU rakes to the already existing 473 EMU rakes, running in Chennai city alone can be utilized for running more trains on this section where the train services are very poor.

Keeping in view of above, I humbly urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to take necessary steps for early completion of the 4th line between Thiruvotriyur and Wimco Nagar.

(xvii) Regarding problems faced by refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan/ Bangladesh

SHRIMATI MAMATA THAKUR (BANGAON): India has sheltered lakhs of refugees from erstwhile East Pakistan and Bangladesh for the last few decades. These half dead, frightened refugees were compelled to leave their home in fear of getting killed.

As time passed by, these refugees adopted the Indian culture and heritage and gradually assimilated in the mainstream of Indian society. They took part in every event, be it social, cultural or development programme. They assumed that they are very much Indian.

But, our Government think otherwise. It's sorry to say that these people are again in fear of being uprooted and thrown out. A Government decision to ask for certain documents has created fear and the feeling of inhuman humiliation among them.

How can a person whoever runs for life, flees from his or her home in fear of getting killed or raped can carry all related documents. Does it sound logical or human to ask documents from such refugees? Moreover, the refugees who took shelter in various parts of India also

became victims of floods.

May I ask this August house, what’s the rationale behind this inhuman dictate? Those who came to India are mostly from Matua communities. They would be the worst hit by this mandate of the Government.

Hence, I demand immediate repeal of the concerned law.

(xvii) Regarding fixing the eligibility criteria for claiming land rights under the Forest Rights Act, 2006

SHRI BALBHADRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR): As per Forest Rights Act-2006, people of Scheduled Tribe communities have been made eligible to get Jangal Jamin Patta if they have record of occupation of the forest on or before 2005. In case of General, OBC and SC category people etc, they have to have record of such occupation, 75 years prior to 2005.

In reality, it is very unlikely to preserve such records. In villages people live in thatched huts. It is also very unlikely that anybody other than the ST categories would have availed this scheme. Different cut off dates for ST categories and others are creating ill feeling among these communities. There is no logic as to why there should be different cut off dates for different communities in one country. It is against the principle of natural justice.

It is, therefore, requested that the cut off date of 75 years before 2005 be relaxed to make it at par with the ST categories. If for some justifiable reasons, the Government thinks that it should not be same then it should be suitably reduced so that people other than ST

categories can produce the necessary documents.

(xix) Need to provide a suitable government job to Arjun Awardee and Olympian boxer Manoj Kumar

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Arjuna Awardee, Commonwealth Gold Medalist, and Olympic Boxer Shri Manoj Kumar has been representing the Indian boxing team since 2003 and has won a total of 34 medals at national and international levels. Hailing from a modest background in Haryana, Shri Manoj does not even have access to a basic sports stadium in his village. Despite his remarkable achievements, the Haryana Government has appointed 17 other athletes as DSPs (Deputy Superintendents of Police) based on their accomplishments, many of whom have lesser credentials than Shri Manoj. Some have never represented India at the Olympics, nor are they Arjuna Awardees. Several have only won bronze or silver medals at the Commonwealth Games. Even recently, a gold medalist from the 2010 Commonwealth Games was appointed DSP, yet Manoj Kumar, a gold medalist himself and Olympian, continues to be overlooked. Furthermore, Shri Manoj Kumar is not included in any of the government support schemes such as Target Olympic Podium Scheme (TOPS) or the National Sports Development Fund, nor does

he have any sponsorship. He has prepared for the Olympics entirely on his own resources.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to either confer an appropriate position at the national level to honour Shri Manoj Kumar’s contributions or issue a recommendation to the Government of Haryana to appoint him as DSP, in accordance with state sports policy and his well-deserved merit.

(xx) Need to provide financial assistance to co-operative Sugar Factories in Andhra Pradesh

[English]

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Eighty per cent sugarcane cultivators under the Cooperative Sugar Industries are small and marginal farmers. They grow sugarcane in their small holdings and leased lands from big farmers. Due to vagaries of monsoon, payment of higher lease rates, high cost of labour, non-availability of labour, higher cost of harvesting and transportation, growing sugarcane is not remunerative leading to decreased cane area and lower cane availability for crushing to run the sugar industry for a minimum duration of 130 days.

The Cooperative Sugar Factories were established for the betterment of the livelihood of farming community in Andhra Pradesh and to provide employment to rural folk to uplift their standard of living. With this ambition about 16 cooperative sugar factories were established. Out of this only 10 Cooperative Sugar Factories were existing and out of these, only six Cooperative Sugar Factories are working with a lot of financial and technical problems. Out of six sugar factories, four factories come under the jurisdiction of my

Anakapalle Parliamentary Constituency. These are Etikoppaka, Govada, Thandava and Thummapala.

With the launch of MGNREGA Programme, the only major crop affected is sugarcane as there is acute scarcity of labour.

Due to lower realization from the sale of sugar and other byproducts, payments are not being made in full to the tune of FRP and also transport incentives which were promised to the cane suppliers have not been made so far.

Therefore, I demand the Government to provide financial assistance to clear sugarcane price dues as grant; to provide financial assistance and continuation of grant of 40 per cent SDF loans to install co-generation facilities in all the Co-op sugar factories to improve revenue generation, to fix sugar price at a minimum of Rs. 3,500 per quintal of sugar excluding taxes and to link up sugarcane crop with MGNREGA scheme.

(xxi) Need for effective and timely implementation of welfare programmes meant for SC/ST

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): The welfare and development measures meant for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and other marginalized sectors are not being implemented effectively. The utilization of funds provided for such activities is less than 30%. If at all the funds are utilized, there is misuse and corruption. The forest department is impeding the activities of tribal department on flimsy reasons. In Kerala, the forest officials are trying to make the tribes as their slaves by establishing pervasive control over them and make use of tribes for officials' illegal activities. Even the provisions of the forest rights act are also misused by denying the right of way, electricity and other amenities to the tribes especially in Idukki and Ernakulam districts of Kerala. Therefore, the intervention of the Government is urged for effective and timely implementation of the programmes meant for SC/ST.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, the Hon. Minister Shri Ahluwaliaji.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Sir, the discussion under Rule 193 is listed. I think, we can take it up now and complete it.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): There are two discussions listed under Rule 193.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: It is about the discussion on atrocities on Dalits.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do you want to take up Item No. 35 first in place of Item No. 34?

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Yes, Sir.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Is it the pleasure of the House to take up first Item No. 35, that is, 'Atrocities against Dalits in the country'?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

14.39 hours

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Atrocities against Dalits in the country

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, discussion on 'Atrocities against Dalits in the country' has been admitted in the names of Shri P. Karunakaran and Shri Shankar Prasad Datta. Shri Karunakaran has since requested Hon. Speaker to allow Shri P.K. Biju to raise the discussion on his behalf, Hon. Speaker has acceded to his request.

Now Shri P.K. Biju.

SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, from the beginning I am not saying this is a historic day of Indian Parliament. But we are waiting for action from the Government. We have discussed something that may not be a matter of concern for the Government of our country, but that does not mean it will act accordingly.

Sir, this is the centenary year of Sri Narayana Guru, as you know very well. His historic proclamation that "we do not belong to any particular caste or religion" has played a prominent role in defining Kerala over the last 100 years.

I happen to come from the same Taluk as that of the first dalit President of India Dr. K.R. Narayanan. I happen to be a Member representing the same Constituency. And the first dalit CJI in our country Justice K.G. Balakrishnan, belongs to the same village. So, I am very proud to open this discussion under Rule 193 on atrocities against dalits in our country.

The National Human Rights Commission said in its report on prevention of atrocities against Scheduled Castes that every 18 minutes a crime is committed against dalits, every day three dalit women are raped, two dalits are murdered, two dalit houses are burnt,

and 11 dalits are beaten. Every week 13 dalits are murdered, five dalits' homes or possessions are burnt, and six dalits are kidnapped or abducted. This is a shocking report given by the NHRC.

In terms of their social and economic status, 37 per cent of dalits are living below the poverty line, more than 54 per cent of their children are undernourished, 83 per cent of 1000 children born in dalit communities probably die before their first birthday, 45 percentage of dalits do not know how to read and write, dalit women are burdened with double discrimination of gender and caste in India, only 27 percentage of dalit women give institutional deliveries in India. About one third of dalit households do not have basic facilities. Public health workers refuse to visit dalit homes in 33 per cent of villages. Dalits are prevented from entering police stations in 27.6 per cent of villages. Dalit children have to sit separately while eating in 37.8 per cent of government schools in this country.

We have passed the Right to Education Bill in this very House in 2009 wherein it is the right of children in the age group of 6 to 14 years to have compulsory schooling without having to pay any fee. But 37.8 per cent of the dalit students in government schools sit separately. What does this mean?

Dalits do not get mail delivery sources in 48.4 per cent of villages because of practices like segregation and untouchability, half of the Indian children are under nourished, 21 per cent are severely under weight, and 12 per cent of children die before their 5th birthday. Literacy rate of dalit women is 37.8 per cent in rural India. This is all stated in a report given by the Human Rights Commission of our country.

In this backdrop, atrocities against dalits are increasing day by day. As per the National Crimes Records Bureau data, there has been a 44 per cent increase in violence against dalits in the last three years from 32,712 in 2010 to 47,064 crimes in 2014. I can cite any number of such examples in this august House. I have taken only a few examples before the House regarding atrocities against dalits. In Bihar, two *dalit* youths were beaten and urinated upon by some men allegedly for stealing a motor vehicle in Muzafffarpur district of Bihar according to FIR filed by the mother of one of the victims.

I have mentioned number of incidents. One day before the Gandhi Jayanti on 1st October, a seven-year-old Ramesh Meghwal- the name was changed when the report came in the newspaper- picked up a plate coloured green and reserved for the upper caste for his mid-

day meal at the Government school at the Osian tehsil near Jodhpur. He was thrashed till he started vomiting. That *dalit* student said before the media, "I picked a plate reserved for upper caste students mistakenly and started having rice on it. When the teacher saw this, he started hitting me badly on my head. I started vomiting." This is the situation that *dalit* student explained before the media.

We have introduced mid-day meal scheme for helping the poor sections of this country. They come to school with empty stomachs. We have realised this and that is why we have extended this scheme from LP level to UP level to reduce under-nourishment in our country. We are far behind international standards in nutrition. Forty per cent of the under-nourished mothers and children are from India. We always say that we are a growing economy. But we contribute 40 per cent of the under-nourished mothers and children. We have to reduce this per centage. That is why we have introduced mid-day meal in the country. But in some schools, the upper class people are having coloured plates to differentiate between *dalits* and non-*dalits*.

I have so many personal experiences. My mother took me to a private school nearby my village for admission in 1st standard. But they refused to give admission to me. At that time, I had no idea why

my mother was crying. She took me back to a Government school and got me admitted in the 1st standard. Without that Government school, how could I have studied? Now I am doing my Ph.D. in Mahatma Gandhi University. How could I have reached here? This is the case with all *dalit* students and *dalit* children in this country. So, we have to protect the rights of the *Dalits;* we have to protect their right to education. We have to equally treat the children from upper castes and lower castes.

There are so many Constitutional provisions for helping the *dalit* community. Article 16 of the Constitution deals with the equality of opportunity in matters of public employment. Article 16(4) says: 'Nothing in this article shall prevent the State from making any provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favor of any backward class of citizens which, in the opinion of the State, is not adequately represented in the services under the State.' Article 15 says: 'Prohibition of discrimination on grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth.' We have enough provisions to protect the *dalits* in our country. Who will take care of the *dalit* community? I request the Government and I request the Prime Minister – you are the custodian of the Constitution – to protect the rights of the *dalit* community in this country. You have the right to speak for them.

I am very happy that last week our Prime Minister at a public meeting at Hyderabad in Telangana State said, 'If you want to attack, attack me; not the *dalits*. If you want to shoot, shoot me; not the *dalits*.' In what context did he make such a statement in a public meeting? It is because the atrocities on *dalits* are growing across the country.

One incident happened last month in Una, Gujarat. I went there. That *dalit* colony is 15 kilometres away from Una. I went there and met the victims and their family members. It was shocking. They were living in a separate place divided by a big wall. The upper class people were not to be seen with the *dalit* people. For the first time people from the upper classes went and met them. It was very much shocking. 'Gujarat is a prosperous State', the Government always says. Petroleum industry is flourishing in Gujarat but the *dalit* community houses were using cow dung for preparing food in their kitchen. This is the alarming situation in Gujarat. I request the Prime Minister not only to make statement. He has to take strong action.

Who is behind all these atrocities? You (PM) strongly mentioned about *gaurakshak sena*. In our Prime Minister's statement, he said, "These *gauraksha* people are anti-social. They are not doing it for the

sake of the cows but they are doing some anti-social activities." I request the Prime Minister, since he has such understanding and has got such information and feedback from his people, why should he not stop such atrocities. We would like him to take very strong measures so that such incidents would not happen in the future, to put a ban against these *gaurakshak samitis* throughout the country. If you have the will power for that, that will reduce the atrocities in our country.

The founding father of our Constitution, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar said, "Democracy is an instrument of bringing about change peacefully. Democracy does not merely mean rule by majority or government by the representatives of the people. This is a formalistic and limited notion of democracy." It is not about the numbers but we will have to see the welfare of all citizens in this country.

Sir, we have the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. This Act was formulated in 1981 and was updated in 2015. There have been a number of incidents of atrocities but they go unregistered. Sir, 27.6 per cent of *dalits* are not allowed to even enter the police stations. So, how can they meet the police officer and submit their petition? It is shocking that such a

situation is prevalent in our country.

In my State of Kerala a shocking incident took place three months back. A *dalit* law student was brutally raped and killed in her house. The Congress Party was ruling the State at that time. An inquiry was initiated but with no result. We raised this issue during the last state elections and we gave a commitment to the people of Kerala. Within a month of our coming to power, we arrested the person behind this crime and sent him to jail. He was a migrant labour from Assam. Not only we arrested that person, we also took some welfare measures for the victim's family. Sir, a life long pension of Rs. 5,000 per month was fixed to be given to the victim's mother. Her sister was given a job in a Government department. A new house was given to them within 45 days of our coming to power in the State. We have to have a strong political will to stop such atrocities being committed against *dalit* communities of our country.

Sir, one judge came and met me last week. He was a district judge from Andhra Pradesh and he belongs to *dalit* community. I do not wish to mention his name as also the name of the High Court judge. He recorded a dying declaration of Shri Ramanajulu. This was a part and parcel of his duty but in that dying declaration there

appeared a name of one person who happens to be the brother of one sitting judge in the High Court. He called the District Judge and asked him to delete that name. He refused, how can a name be deleted from the dying declaration of a person? He was brutally attacked, harassed and sent to some other area of jurisdiction. That harassment is still going on.

15.00 hours

He was suspended also. He approached the Registrar of the High Court and the Supreme Court but nothing positive came out of it.

CJI has already mentioned about the vacancies meant for Dalits not being filled. Not only in the Supreme Court but in each and every service including the Central Universities, NITs and IITs. There has been 50 per cent shortage of Dalit staff in these faculties.

The majority of vacant faculty were reserve posts. So, I would like to tell the Government that you have to take strong measures. You should make the Dalit community of our country feel that the Constitution will protect them and the Government will protect them. Otherwise, they would have a feeling that the Indian democracy and the Constitution are not giving them a safe place to live as citizens of

this country.

The majority of Dalits are living in pathetic conditions. The homeless people of our country are more than 11.1 million and 50 per cent of them are from Dalit community. Of the total landless people of this country, 50 per cent are from Dalit community. Of the total illiterate persons of this country more than 50 per cent are from Dalit community. We have taken so many measures but their benefits have not reached the SCs, STs, adivasis and marginalised sections in a proper manner.

We had constituted Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and Scheduled Tribe Sub-Plan in the Fifth and Sixth Plan periods. Now the Government has scrapped the Five Year Plan system and also the Planning Commission. Year by year, they are reducing the amount of allotment for SCs/STs which were mandatory allotments.

Sir, we have Rs. 19 lakh crore budget, out of which, 16.6 per cent has to be mandatorily given for SCs and 8.6 per cent for STs. But in the last two budgets, they have withdrawn heavily from these Heads. Last year, Rs. 54,000 crore were reduced from the budget of Scheduled Castes and Rs. 12,000 crore from the budget of Scheduled Tribes. This year also, they reduced the amount in the same manner.

Now the Government is thinking of scrapping the plan and non-plan system in our country. Who will be affected? The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and adivasis will be affected. Their dreams for a house will not be fulfilled. Their dreams for education will not be fulfilled. Their health and other welfare measures will not be taken care of. Without considering the Dalit community in our country, how we can say that our country is growing and democracy is functioning.

We are not considering these people. They are not allowed to do their traditional jobs. That is what has happened in Gujarat. Skinning is the traditional job of that community. They were called for that. I was going to Una from Rajkot. On the way, I saw hundreds of cows on both sides of the road. I told the driver to take care of cows. If something happens to cows, they would die. Our Prime Minister was saying that they eat plastic and that is the reason for their death. If cow dies, people call these Dalit persons for skinning and also for burial of those dead cows. They said, "that day they called us and requested us to go there with our people. We went there and started that work. Hundreds of people at that time came on four-wheelers and attacked them, beat them for two hours." I am not going into the details of that incident.

Sir, consider the situation of the Dalits. We have to change the conditions of the people belonging to the Dalit Community and bring them to the mainstream of our democratic life. They are the part and parcel of this nation.

I would like to refer to a very beautiful and important speech delivered by the late Martin Luther King (Junior) on 28th August 1963 at Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC. In his mesmerising speech he told and I quote:

> "I have a dream -- one day right there in Alabama little black boys and black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls as sisters and brothers."

Sir, here it is not `I' alone who have a dream; it is `we' have a dream. All people belonging to the Dalit community are engaged in different professions for earning their daily livelihood. We have created this situation. Every citizen of this country without consideration of any creed, without any consideration of caste; without any consideration of caste, have come together. In schools, in public places we have come together. We have a long tradition.

Sir, I come from the Vaikom *Taluka*. We all know very well

about the Vaikom *Satyagraha*. EVR himself and attended this *Satyagraha*. Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Nation, also came to associate with that temple entry agitation. We have created such a situation. The Government of the time finally opened the temple for all and opened the public roads in front of the temple for all. We have that tradition in our country. We told the brothers and sisters of the Dalit community in Una not to commit suicide and that their lives were precious. We told them to fight against these atrocities. They have to fight for a common cause. That is why, thousands of people belonging to the Dalit community came on to the streets to protect their constitutional rights. If the Government is not ready to hear the voice of the people belonging to the Dalit community, then this will be a phenomenon in every State of the country.

So, I request the Government not to give some statistical data and blame others. You are the custodian of the Constitution. You have to take appropriate measures for the welfare of dalit community and stop these atrocities against them throughout the country. Only then they will realize that they are a part of the Indian Constitution and a part of this great democratic nation.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the debate on atrocities on dalits.

I think this is a black day for the people of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes of this country. After this Government came into power, atrocities on dalits have increased to such an extent as has never happened from the days of our Independence. Gandhiji fought not only for the freedom of the country but also fought for the freedom of SCs and STs, depressed classes and minorities. These are the people who fought for our freedom. Lakhs of people have given their life for our freedom including Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Parsis, Sikhs and Jains. It is not that India is meant for a single community or a religion. It is meant for the people belonging to all the religions existing before Independence in this country.

At the same time, Baba Saheb Ambedkar also fought for equality of the depressed classes including the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. He fought with the British for want of a separate electoral system for the SCs and STs and to bring equality in this nation. But at last, under the able guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, at the Round Table Conference, they agreed that we have to have a multiple

electoral system with reservations. Then Baba Saheb Ambedkar agreed with it.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of India, after getting the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi, appointed Baba Saheb Ambedkar as the Chairman of the Draft Committee of the Constitution of India. This is clearly said under article 14, 15 and 16 on Fundamental Rights. It is said that the citizens of India, whether a Hindu, a Muslim or a Sikh or a Christian, should have equal rights to live and enjoy all opportunities of India. The dream of Mahatma Gandhi was that the last citizen should have equal opportunity socially, educationally and economically and abolish caste system.

Today, dalits in India are in the grip of deep sense of fear and insecurity. Dalits were confident that the Government led by the Indian National Congress was always on their side fighting to defend their rights. Dalits have no longer the same confidence in the BJP Government who does not believe that the dalits should be afforded the dignity as human beings. Unfortunately, some of the weaker sections and dalits who voted for the BJP due to the magic of Modi Ji are now realizing as to what has happened to them. They are suppressed and they believe that they are not taken care of by the BJP

Government.

Unfortunately, the Minister in the Union Government, Gen. V.K. Singh compared them to dogs. What is this? As per the Constitution, can he continue as Minister in this Government? Do you still keep him as a Minister? Do you believe in democracy? Do you believe in the Constitution of India? This is the way this Government is functioning. It is very unfortunate.

Some issues relating to Dalits came up in our country. Last year, Rohith Vemula, a young Dalit scholar, was driven to commit suicide. Recently, in Andhra Pradesh, three Dalits were tied to trees and thrashed for skinning a cow. A Dalit man accused of stealing a wrist watch was stripped and beaten to death by a mob at Kheri in Uttar Pradesh.

I now mention the incidents that have happened in the State of Gujarat. On 11th July, the Una incident took place. It is reported that it took the 11th July Una incident and the national outrage it caused for the police to arrest six similar vigilantes who had attacked nine Dalits in Rajula town in Amreli district in May. Going back to the rule of Gujarat when Modi ji was the Chief Minister from 2001 to date, the total number of crimes registered in Gujarat is 14,500, which is the

attack on Dalits. The annual average is 1,000 cases with at least three cases daily in Gujarat, which has never happened in the history of our country. The Dalit rights activists say that the sense of impunity spawns from the fact that the conviction rate is as low as three to five per cent. On the afternoon of May 22, a contingent of cow vigilantes swooped down on a colony of Dalits in Rajula in SUVs and two-wheelers. Like in Una, they carried staffs and knives. A couple of them had swords. The vigilantes broke the hands and legs of the Dalits, pushed and kicked them around, says Rameshbhai Babariya, a Dalit rights activist in the area. Premabhai Rathod was also hit on the head.

These are the issues which have to be taken note of. I think the Government has to particularly take note of the fact that atrocities on Dalits in only one State of the country is three per day. Since Modi ji has become the Prime Minister of this country, I think, the people who are behind these incidents are emboldened and are trying to encourage these kinds of atrocities in the whole of the country. This is the way the Government is functioning. These incidents show that there is no protection for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

All the newspapers, whether it is the *Times of India*, the

Hindustan Times, the *Hindu*, have in detail established in the front page itself that these kinds of atrocities never happened in this country after Independence. So much of atrocities on Dalits never took place in any regime. Only in the last two years these kinds of incidents are taking place. This is happening in this regime, which is in power for the last two years. Even when Shri Vajpayee ji was there these things never happened. There were not much of atrocities on Dalits, like rape and killing of Dalits in this country. Now, I do not want to speak more on Gujarat. But the fact has been clearly established that there are three cases of atrocities on Dalits per day in Gujarat. This is the situation in this country.

How is the Government protecting the people of this country? Population of SCs and STs is 25 per cent. One-fourth of the population of this country is SCs and STs. They are the backbone of this country. They are giving sweat and blood for the development of this country. They are the people who are really working hard for the development of this country. Is it not the duty of the Government to take care of these people? Where is democracy? Where is Constitution? What is the meaning of democracy and Constitution if you are not protecting these weaker sections of this country?

Going back to the issue of Odisha, I myself had also visited with a team. Shrimati Sonia Gandhi *ji*, had sent a team of delegates headed by Shri Kishore Chandra Deo, Shri Jairam Ramesh, myself, Shri Vincent Pala and Shri Arun Oran. We visited the spot; we have seen practically what has happened on that day. We met the people who were injured; we also met a lady who lost her 13 month old child. It is a very sad situation in the village Gumudumaha. They came in auto-rickshaw; people had gone to collect MGNREGS wages; they came back on the same day from Baliguda to Gumudhumaha. They comprised five women, six men and a one and a half years old child. The auto-rickshaw had stopped at around 8 pm as road was damaged due to heavy rains near a culvert from where the village was just 200 meters away. Eleven men and women got down from the auto-rickshaw. When four women had started walking down to their village, others were pushing the vehicle to cross the culvert, heavy firing started from the right side of the auto-rickshaw. The firing was deadly. Five persons including former Naib Sarpanch of Parampanga Gram Panchayat and child were killed and six others injured were all lying on the spot. People from the village reached the spot hearing the gunshots. But the Special Operation Group (SOG) personnel did not allow them to reach the spot. The SOG personnel surrounded the spot

from 8 pm on July 8 to 9 am on July 9 and did not allow the injured persons to go for treatment. The injured kept writhing in pain at the spot for 12 to 14 hours. The Government should understand as to what was the attitude of the police personnel.

On 9.7.2016, the president of Pradesh Congress Committee, Shri Prasad Harichandan visited the spot; discussed with them. He has extended some help to them. Thereafter, Congress organized a Bandh at Khandhamal. The Chairman of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes visited on 13.7.2016. On 14th July, 2016, the Chairman, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, Shri P.L. Punia toured Khandhamal. On 17th July, 2016, a six-member Special Investigating Team of Human Rights Protection Cell visited Kandhamal. On 19th July, 2016, a PCC delegation led by Shri Prasad Harichandan toured Kandhamal. I was also part of that delegation. … (*Interruptions*) I am not yielding. Let him speak after sometime whatever he wants. I know that the Government has utterly failed. I do not want to speak of the Odisha Government. But now, I thought of speaking on the Odisha Government. What is this Government doing when the police personnel had killed the people? … (*Interruptions*) There was no cross firing and no naxalites were there. … (*Interruptions*) Sir, I am not yielding. I have visited the place and

I have seen what happened there with my own eyes. … (*Interruptions*) They were not treated as human beings in Odisha. I have personally seen the place of this incident. … (*Interruptions*) Sir, I am not yielding. … (*Interruptions*) I have seen the injuries. I have seen the affected people. The tribal people in Odisha are not treated as human beings. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): You are talking about the version of the Chairman of the SC Commission. But the Chairman of the ST Commission also went there. What is his version? You please tell that. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am not yielding. Mr. Mahtab can speak afterwards. … (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I was very much hurt on seeing the affected people there. The State Government has not taken action against any officials who were responsible for this. It is not naxalites who have killed these people. … (*Interruptions*) The officers have said that there was no cross firing. I think the Home Minister can understand this. The Government must make a proper inquiry on this issue. Whatever the State Government is saying, there is no truth in it. This is very clear. … (*Interruptions*) Sir, I am not yielding to him. … (*Interruptions*)

Sir, this is not only happening in Odisha, but such incidents are happening in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and other places also. These kinds of incidents are on the rise. … (*Interruptions*) We have to find a remedy for this problem. This problem cannot be solved by just attacking the State Governments. The Government of India has to find a remedy for this problem. If you are not giving quality education to these people, if you do not run residential schools like Navodaya Schools, how can you expect these people to come to the mainstream? So, I would like to urge upon the Government to take this matter seriously and provide quality education to these people.

Here, I would like to cite the example of Karnataka model of budgetary allocation which is based on the population of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes. Karnataka is the first State in the country where they have allotted Rs. 16,000 crore in 2014-15 and now they have allotted Rs. 19,000 crore for 4. per cent population of the Scheduled Castes. This allocation is made entirely on the basis of the population of the Scheduled Castes for their welfare and development. So, I urge upon the Government of India to follow the Karnataka model of budgetary allocation at the Central Government level also. How much has this Government allocated for

them. The Government of India has given only three per cent of budgetary allocation for the welfare of these people. The Government earns a lot of revenue out of the blood and sweat of these people. So, if the Government allocates enough money and spend it properly on their welfare and development, then only these people will be able to come to the mainstream. If these people have to come to the mainstream, the Government has to provide quality education to these people. In the name of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, we have started Navodaya Schools when Narasimha Raoji was the HRD Minister. Indiraji was there and Rajiv Gandhiji started Navodaya Schools in this country. Therefore, if you start residential schools for the children belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes on the same pattern of Navodaya Schools, I think most of their problems can be solved within 10 years.

The Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh is there. He is a very senior leader. I appeal to him to apply his mind on this issue. This problem cannot be solved only with the protection provided to these people by police. The solution lies in providing good quality education to them. Through this only you can bring them to the mainstream. We have to concentrate on the economic development of these people. That was the dream of Mahatma Gandhi and Baba Saheb

Ambedkar.

Finally, Sir, I place on record what I said to the then Hon. Prime Minister in this very House in 2004. The BJP led NDA Government was there; and during the last days, Shri Vajpayeeji was sitting that side. I told him categorically: “You are not protecting the interests of the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe people. So many incidents have taken place against these communities. But the Communists and other secular parties are there this side. After the 2004 Elections, we will form the Government. This will come true. You people have acted as Kauravas and we are Pandavas.” I had told this to Shri Vajpayeeji. The same thing came true. We returned back to power in 2004 and we ran the Government till 2009 and then again till 2014.

Now, again, the same pattern is emerging. Now, again there are atrocities being committed on Dalits. You believe in Lord Krishna. Lord Krishna is seeing everything. What the BJP is doing, what the RSS is doing, what the Government is doing, Lord Krishna is watching everything. The days are not far away when you would be losing again. You think that we are only 44 people. But the entire team is with us. Those parities who believe in secularism, they are all with

us. So, by 2019, we will again form the Government; and we will protect all Indians – Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, and others.

The secular India has to be protected, and it can be protected by the Congress Party only.

Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH-WEST DELHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, we do not wish to delve into statistical arguments. This matter concerns Dalit oppression – BJP versus Congress and Congress versus BJP. If we attempt to entangle ourselves in this, the oppression of Dalits will never come to an end. Statistics alone will not reduce the number of incidents. The country will continue to suffer losses because of it. We look at this issue in two parts: first, the incident itself and its source of oppression; and second, the ideology that fuels such oppression. While we do often discuss the incidents of oppression, our learned colleague Shri Muniyappa Ji, and others before him, have spoken on the events but rarely does anyone discuss the source from which such oppression arises. Without addressing the root cause, such

incidents cannot be stopped.

Until we hold an honest and unbiased discussion on both aspects, the oppression of Dalits cannot be eliminated whether it is our Government, your Government, Shrimati Mayawati Ji's Government, or any other Government. Sometimes the statistics may fluctuate, that is all the difference there is, because this is not merely a matter of law and order, it is a question of social mindset. Regardless of who holds power, this mindset persists. Unless we confront and dismantle that very social mindset, incidents will continue to rise and fall – but they will never be eradicated.

Today, when we see that China has advanced so far, Korea and other countries have developed greatly in that context, we must realise that atrocities against Dalits are happening either because they are attempting to progress or because they are striving to uphold their self-respect. It is primarily for these reasons that conflict arises, disputes occur, and atrocities are committed.

At present, there is much discussion regarding cow protection, which many have started using as a shield. Article 48 of the Constitution of India clearly says about improving the breeds, and prohibiting the slaughter, of cows and calves and other milch and

draught cattle. For this, the Constitution has provisions for the protection of cows and other animals, and no one can deny that. Both on our behalf and on behalf of the Government, it has already been clarified that we do not stand with those who, under the guise of cow protection, engage in ... *(Interruptions)* extortion and other such activities. Yet, there are still some individuals who wish to keep the matter confused. In our society, there are both economic and cultural values attached to this issue. Some people consider these animals to be sacred and worship them – that is their cultural value. In addition to that, there is an economic aspect. Agriculture is not yet fully mechanised. If one visits Uttar Pradesh or Bihar, one can still observe the need for bullocks, the requirement for milk. It is an economic unit as well. There is a clear relevance to this, but unfortunately, some people have made it into a business. We have attempted to deal with such elements categorically, and certainly, their exposure is inevitable.

Sir, I wish to speak on the matter of atrocities. Atrocities have occurred more in Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, and Bihar. If we delve deep into these issues, many would find themselves in great difficulty. There was a time when Dalits were mercilessly gunned down or locked inside homes and burnt alive. These are not

isolated incidents. There is the incident of Kilvenmani, Nagapattinam, from the year 1968, where 44 Dalits were killed. Following that, in Andhra Pradesh, in Guntur district, there was the Tsundur incident in 1991, where eight Dalits were murdered. I am citing these events not to suggest that Dalits were killed in higher numbers or more brutally under non-BJP Governments. These are being cited because such incidents have not stopped. In the Tsundur and Guntur cases, eight Dalits were killed, and the matter was ultimately dismissed at the High Court level. The High Court observed that the so-called upper-caste gentlemen could not have committed the killings themselves but may have orchestrated them through others. This was the judicial observation in the case of Tsundur and Guntur. Notably, there was no BJP Government in place at that time. In Bhotani Tola, Bihar, an incident occurred on 11 July 1996, in which 21 Dalits were killed. In this case, imprisonment and punishment were awarded by the High Court. However, the matter is still pending before the Hon. Supreme Court. ... *(Interruptions)* Now, it is lying in the Supreme Court also. The Lakshmanpur Bathe incident in Bihar occurred on 01 December 1997, in which 48 Dalits were killed. Both cases—Bhotani Tola and Lakshmanpur Bathe—are currently pending before the Hon. Supreme Court. In such circumstances, what deterrence is there for committing

such crimes? Everybody is encouraged and emboldened to attack *dalits*. If it takes 15, 20 or even 30 years for a final verdict to be delivered, then it becomes inconsequential. A person may be killed, money may be spent, the matter will travel from Sessions Court to High Court, and thereafter to the Hon. Supreme Court—by then old age may set in, or natural death may occur. For this, none of us here is personally responsible. It is the system that is responsible. In the year 2002, when I was not affiliated with any political party nor had I formed any. In Dulina, a place in Jhajjar, in the year 2002, five Dalits were brutally killed owing to a rumour that they had slaughtered a cow. In reality, they had not killed a cow; rather, they were transporting its hide. For this reason alone, five Dalits were put to death. The Bharatiya Janata Party was not in power there at the time. What became of that case? The culprits were acquitted, and the sentence is still under appeal. Such is the prevailing situation.

Last year, the Government made efforts to make the judiciary accountable, but the judiciary did not demonstrate the intent to accept such accountability, and the National Judicial Appointments Commission was struck down. I do not hold any political party responsible for this. Our judicial system has become entirely independent and is not accountable to anyone. This is why

perpetrators manage to escape punishment, and as a result, there is no fear among those who commit atrocities.

Sir, at present, under the Prevention of Atrocities Act, the conviction rate ranges from two to eight percent. It varies from state to state. Some time ago, in the years 2012-13, we tried to find out what the conviction rate under the Atrocities Act was. In some states, it was found to be as low as two percent, and in others up to eight percent. Such a low conviction rate under the Prevention of Atrocities Act is the reason these kinds of incidents are increasing. The cases initiated under the Prevention of Atrocities Act are finally adjudicated under the Indian Penal Code. Since the adjudication takes place under the Indian Penal Code, the sentences are light, which also leads to an increase in atrocities and emboldens the perpetrators. Through you, I would like to request that the Government take some concrete action in this regard; only then can atrocities be effectively prevented.

Sir, Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar said that political democracy can only succeed when we establish social democracy. In the realm of politics, we are far more democratic. We may not be perfect democrats, but in society, we have still not established social democracy. For this reason, the benefits of democracy are not

reaching the country and its people. This is also a very significant cause.

Sir, who shattered the dreams of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar? When Baba Saheb Ambedkar introduced the Hindu Code Bill, Pandit Nehru was the Prime Minister. The Bill was brought with his consent and a promise of support was given. However, the Bill faced severe criticism. Some fundamentalists were present in the House at that time, who questioned how men and women could be given equal rights. Before that Bill, women did not have the right to divorce, whereas men had the right to practice polygamy. When the Government withdrew its support for that Bill, Baba Saheb Ambedkar resigned. There were many such social reforms, but who stopped them? Who defeated Baba Saheb in the elections? He was defeated so that Dr. Ambedkar could not be re-elected. There is no need to mention his name here.

We have a Dalit leader here *... If someone becomes a contractor while working for the welfare of Dalits, then we have no objection and no one should have any objection. But during their tenure, the rights of Dalits were violated even more, and if someone becomes a contractor at that time, it becomes a cause of concern.

When the governments of Deve Gowda Ji and Gujral Ji were in power, five anti-reservation orders were issued. In 1997, when these five orders were issued, I was serving as Deputy Commissioner of Income Tax. Following this, there was widespread uproar among employees and officers across the country. At that time, a Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe federation was formed under my leadership. In 1998, when Vajpayee Ji became Prime Minister, I met him and he jokingly said, "Let others do the work, let others bear the cost." He meant that the previous government had issued anti-reservation orders, and we had approached them demanding rectification. Although protests continued through 1997, 1998, 1999, and 2000, it was under the Bharatiya Janata Party government that the 81st, 82nd, and 85th Constitutional Amendments were enacted, which restored the benefits related to reservation. After that, some engineers from Karnataka challenged this in the High Court. Since this matter involved a Constitutional Amendment, the case reached the Supreme Court. In 2006, a five-judge constitutional bench heard the case. At that time, the government was led by Muniyappa Ji. We requested them to ensure the survival of the Constitutional Amendment. They inquired about our intentions and what we wanted. We said that a private advocate should be engaged. Subsequently, a private lawyer

was hired, and Rs. 40 lakh was arranged for the lawyer's fees. I personally sat in the Supreme Court for 11-12 days, and only then was the 85th Constitutional Amendment saved. This amendment related to reservations in promotions and seniority.

After that, when she became the Chief Minister of *Uttar Pradesh, that benefit was taken away. How is it that the case regarding reservation in promotions was heard in the Uttar Pradesh High Court, Lucknow? The right that was granted by the Vajpayee Ji government was not defended by anyone in that case, and on 4 January 2011, we lost the case on reservation in promotions. Because of this, thousands and lakhs of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe employees and officers in Uttar Pradesh were deprived of their promotions. This happened due to ... *

*When she became Chief Minister in 2007, she issued a circular stating that the Prevention of Atrocities Act, also known as the Dalit Act, would only be applicable in cases of murder and homicide, and in all other cases, the Prevention of Atrocities Act would not be applied. At that time, there were 22 types of offences, but this Act could only be applied in two offences. I myself filed a Public Interest

* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair

Litigation in the Allahabad High Court... (Interruptions) The Allahabad High Court then ruled that this is a Central Government rule, and no modification can be made to it. These two examples happened during the tenure of Shrimati Mayawati Ji. I believe that the greatest harm was caused then.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House through you that our government has taken certain steps. In December 2015, we passed the Prevention of Atrocities Act, under which 123 offences have been added; earlier, there were only 22 types of offences, but now there are 123 kinds of offences. If the improvements brought about are implemented effectively, then the atrocities committed against Dalits can be substantially prevented. This Act provides for exclusive special courts. If a case of atrocities against a Dalit arises, it must be disposed of within sixty days. Within sixty days, the charge sheet must be filed and the case adjudicated by the exclusive special court. Our government passed this in December 2015. It included 123 types of offences whereas previously there were only 22 types of offences. The Act also enshrines the rights of victims, whereby the person against whom atrocities have been committed can obtain information, receive police protection, be provided with all relevant documents, and be compensated. These are the provisions of

the Act we passed in December 2015.

There is another important provision in this Act regarding the State Vigilance Monitoring Committee. Every six months, in January and July, under the leadership of the Chief Minister, the State Vigilance Monitoring Committee is to monitor how many cases have been registered under the Prevention of Atrocities Act and why their adjudication is not progressing. I reside in Delhi, and to date, the Delhi Government has not constituted the State Vigilance Monitoring Committee as per the orders of the Chairperson. I am unaware whether such committees have been formed in other states or not. Members of Parliament and Members of Legislative Assemblies are also part of this committee. As a Member of Parliament, I have not been called, which leads us to conclude that the Delhi Government has no concern regarding this Act or its implementation.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up. Many Members want to speak on this discussion.

[Translation]

DR. UDIT RAJ: The second initiative taken by the Government is through the MUDRA Bank. Today, the aim is to transform those who

seek employment into those who generate employment. Special preference has been given to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under this scheme. The Hon. Prime Minister is particularly attentive to ensuring that through the MUDRA Bank, loans are extended to them so that they may become entrepreneurs.

Sir, I now come to the question of what the solution can be. When the foundation itself has been laid incorrectly, we are bound to bear its consequences. We have imported democracy, and the European model of democracy and the character of the State there is that of a welfare state. However, there is a difference between their social structure and ours. In our case, the State has either never intervened or has intervened the least. China had its Cultural Revolution, Europe had its Renaissance, Reformation and even bloody civil revolutions. However, in our country, there has not been any significant social movement of that magnitude. As a result, the orthodox, regressive and caste-based mindsets have not been eradicated. We have failed in this regard. Just as we gained Swaraj, we had the opportunity to run the country as we wished, but somewhere, mistakes were made. Our vision of the welfare state remained limited to food, clothing, shelter, policing and national defence. We adopted the model of governance based on the European model of democracy, believing it to be

appropriate. However, the Government's role should also have extended to social reform. That did not happen, and that is a matter of great regret.

I would like to make one more point that we, as politicians, have taken the entire responsibility upon ourselves. All the blame now rests squarely on the shoulders of politicians, whether they belong to the Congress, TDP or BJP. We have such an expansive education system. Why has it failed to fight against discrimination? Last year, I visited the United States and, while addressing the Indian diaspora there, I met a doctor. His wife was quite disturbed by a particular issue- they had moved from India, and she was upset that their children were being shaped in schools in a way that made them unconcerned about their status. Sometimes, their friends identified as transgender, at other times, as Black. I observed that the education system there is so powerful that even when parents want to raise their children with a sense of superiority or racial consciousness, the schools break those mindsets. Why has such a thing not been possible in our country? Today, it is imperative for the Government to take a firm stance. We have such a vast educational infrastructure, lakhs of schools, thousands of colleges and hundreds of universities and yet, somewhere, our education system has failed. The responsibility that

has now been placed upon our heads, upon the heads of politicians, actually ought to rest with the education system as well.

The second point I would like to raise is that unless the economic condition of Dalits and Adivasis is strengthened, I do not believe that atrocities against them can truly be prevented. Even in the private sector, I am not saying this should be done forcefully but wherever possible, they must be given due representation. Religious leaders also have a role to play. I would appeal to them that they, too, must join the fight against discrimination. This problem cannot be solved by the Government alone. Inter-caste marriages must be promoted. Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar himself led by example. Had such initiatives taken place at the outset, I believe these issues might have been resolved by now.

Sir, even today, Dalits and Adivasis do not have true access to reservation. Doors remain closed to them. The doors of this Lok Sabha, too, would remain closed to us without reservation. The same applies to the Legislative Assemblies, to the media, to the capital markets, to export-import sectors, to art and culture, to higher education in every domain where privatisation has occurred, one can see that the participation of Dalits and Adivasis is negligible. We are

not responsible for this. The Government is responsible. Those who have laid the foundations of governance and administration over the past 70 years, they must be held accountable. When Shri K. R. Narayanan was President, he constituted a committee of Governors. That committee reported that the Government possesses enough land to distribute to landless Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Blaming only certain States, saying that more such incidents happen in Gujarat, for instance, is incorrect. I have cited examples: in Kanpur, a Dalit was beaten; in Muzaffarnagar, a Dalit was forced to drink urine; in Chikmagalur, look at what happened with Dalits; and in Patna, lathis were rained down upon them. In conclusion, I would like to appeal to the entire House why is it that no Abraham Lincoln is born in this country? I have written in the Indian Express recently, why is it that in this country, the struggle for Dalit rights is always fought by Dalits themselves? This is a painful truth. In the United States, if anyone played a pivotal role in the liberation of Black Americans, it was the White population. In Europe too, Wilberforce led the charge. Why do we not see examples like Abraham Lincoln, Frederick Douglass, or John Brown in our country? He is the greatest President of America because he let down his life for liberating the blacks.

16.00 hours

The white rulers were not pleased with him, and he was ultimately shot dead. There has been no such reformer in this country, but there must be one and there can be one. Only then can caste be truly dismantled. And unless caste is broken, this country cannot be taken far ahead. In our country, caste and gender separation are the two major problems. These issues must be resolved. Otherwise, all our efforts will be rendered futile. Today, more than 50 percent of the cases in our courts are based on caste. Is it not the wastage of resources? More than half of our energy is being consumed in managing these wastages and conflicts. Had our foundation been laid correctly, the present state of the nation would have been different. All the efforts being made whether by the Union Government or by non-governmental bodies are not proving fruitful because we are internally divided. We are unable to build a strong nation because we are fighting among ourselves. Our country remained in slavery for thousands of years not because we were weak or our intelligence was inferior but because we were divided along caste lines. A small nation like Israel manages to influence and control several other nations.

I would like to urge everyone, let us come together to eradicate

casteism and fight against caste-based oppression. Blame games will only harm the nation—not just the Dalits and Adivasis, but the entire country. Thank you.

[English]

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for the opportunity given to me to speak on ‘Atrocities against Dalits in the country’.

I extend my regards and respect to my beloved leader, Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for having sent me here. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, had said "Untouchability is sin and my fight against untouchability is a fight against impure in humanity".

The central feature of caste discrimination is the concept of untouchability based on the notion that certain caste groups are considered impure and polluting to other caste groups, leading to social ostracism, economic exploitation and denial of human dignity.

Article 17 of the Constitution outlaws the practice of untouchability. However, despite the legal and constitutional provisions as well as affirmative actions and schemes, SCs and STs continue to face many forms of untouchability and also, social,

economic and institutional deprivations.

The Constitution of India *vide* Article 15 lays down that no citizen shall be subjected to any disability or restriction on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. It also guarantees that every citizen shall have equality of status and opportunity.

In Tamil Nadu, to put an end to the caste system that was prevailing in olden days, the Dravidian Movement was started. Thanthai Periyar, as a social reformer, played a crucial role in eradication of caste system in India and fought against discrimination of all sorts among the people. He founded the Self-Respect Movement in Tamil Nadu. He advocated that all human-beings are equal and that there shall be no difference based on caste and all through his life, he fought for the upliftment of the people of deprived, down-trodden, and backward classes.

Earlier, the Dalits were not allowed entry into temples in villages. They were not allowed to enter common tanks and ponds. Common crematoriums too were out of bounds for them. But after the movement of Thanthai Periyar, every Dalit was allowed entry into the temples, tanks and other places. In fact, Thanthai Periyar himself entered the Vaikkom Temple and so, he was called Vaikkom Thanthai

Periyar initially.

He fought not only for equality of Dalits, but also fought for emancipation of women in society. In the same way, Perarignar Anna continued this fight and developed this movement further through many platforms. He propagated the principles of rationalism, self-respect, women's rights and eradication of caste. He opposed the practices of exploitation and marginalisation in society.

The late lamented leader, former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. MGR also fought for elimination of caste-distinction. Even in one of his Films called *Madurai Veeran*, he acted as a person belonging to Dalit family and fought for their rights. In his real life also, he followed the same principles and ensured that Dalits are not discriminated against.

The present Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Amma also is following his footsteps very closely in eradicating this evil from society. During Amma's rule, everyone is being treated equally. I would even say that if the whole of Tamil Nadu is peaceful, it is because of her earnest and untiring efforts.

She initiated and implemented a lot of schemes for the welfare of dalits. It is due to her non-partisan and unbiased view that many

persons belonging to dalits occupy top positions under the AIADMK's rule. Even if some small incident takes place in any part of the State, immediately the Chief Minister swings into action, and immediately such incidents are controlled. So, the situation is not allowed to go out of hand and there is no problem in Tamil Nadu. I want to point out one more system that we follow in Tamil Nadu. Throughout Tamil Nadu, no one is having the 'caste-name' along with his name, unlike the position in many other States. It is because of the revolution that the Dravidian Movement had started. This makes it pretty clear that there is absolute equality among all.

Coming to Dr. Ambedkar, he dreamt of a caste-less society; and he, in his own way, fought for equality among all the people. Dr. Ambedkar's ideas on equality, brotherhood, democracy, independence, international economics and politics are valid even in present times and his work continues to be effective. One of the major contributions of Dr. Ambedkar is the upliftment of dalits. Ambedkar believed that without economic and social justice, political independence would not bring about social solidarity or national integration. He advocated the abolition of privileges on the basis of caste or status and vigorously fought for the liberty and dignity of the individual. Ambedkar continues to be a beacon of hope to their

upliftment.

But what are we seeing today? People belonging to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes face persistent discrimination. Serious crimes are committed against them ranging from abuse on caste name, murders, rapes, arson, social and economic boycotts, naked parading of SC women, forced to drink urine and eat human excreta.

As per the Crime Statistics of India, every 18 minutes a crime is committed against SCs; every day 27 atrocities are committed against them, (3 rapes, 11 assaults and 13 murders); every week, five of their homes or possessions are burnt and six persons are kidnapped or abducted.

In the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, a group of dalits have been flogged in public who were allegedly skinning a dead cow in Mota Samadhiyala Village near Una town. It is learnt from Media reports that four of them were brutally beaten with steel pipes and iron rods, stripped, tied to an SUV and paraded in the main market near the police station in Una by members of the local so-called 'cow protection committee'. The flogging was filmed and posted on social media, which went viral within hours. This has led to public outburst

and wide condemnation of such incidents.

The cases of discrimination against known public figures in the past illustrate the gravity of the problem. In November 2011, a Judge of a High Court stated that he had been humiliated by his fellow Judges due to his caste since, 2001. In June 2011, the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes, himself a dalit, was denied entry into a Hindu Temple. In July 2011, a dalit Member of a Legislative Assembly was allegedly not allowed to eat food along with his colleagues at an official meeting. The Standing Committee of Parliament had also recommended that the following acts may be made punishable offences: (i) registration of false cases under the Act, (ii) acquiring false Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe certificates and claiming reservation benefits in jobs, admissions, etc., and (iii) entering into an inter-caste marriage to procure the Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe status so as to acquire land or fight elections.

By and large, unwillingness to file a First Information Report (FIR) under the Act comes from caste-bias. Upper caste policemen are reluctant to file cases against fellow caste-members because of the severity of the penalties imposed by the Act. Most offenses are non-bailable and carry minimum punishments of five years imprisonment.

In districts with fewer cases, a Special Court may be established to try such offences. Justice delayed is justice denied. There should be less pendency of cases in Courts. Adequate number of courts must be established to ensure that cases are disposed of within two months. Appeals of these courts shall lie with the High Courts, and must be disposed of within three months. A Public Prosecutor and an Exclusive Public Prosecutor shall be appointed for every Special Court and Exclusive Special Court respectively.

I would like to draw the attention of the House to a recent incident on the banks of Ganga at Haridwar about installation of a statue of renowned Tamil poet and philosopher, Thiruvalluvar, which was opposed by the *Ganga Sabha* and *Akhil Bharatiya Teerth Purohit Mahasabha*, on the presumption that the poet belonged to an untouchable community. This clearly shows that the social system, which is prevailing even now, is not inclusive, as yet.

Secondly, the Central Government managed institutions and university campuses have become a doom for dalit students, as we read from paper reports. Enrolment of SC and ST students in higher education is very less; and there is no representation of teaching faculty members and policy makers belonging to this community in

higher educational institutions.

There is a need to put an end to any sort of discrimination against people belonging to Scheduled Castes. The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population together constitute nearly 20.04 per cent of the population of Tamil Nadu. Scheduled Caste population accounts for 19 per cent and the Scheduled Tribe population accounts for one per cent. Around 70 per cent of the Scheduled Castes and 85 per cent of the Scheduled Tribes are living in rural areas of Tamil Nadu. The socially disadvantaged groups of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes need a constant special focus for their socio-economic advancement and Hon. Amma's Government is committed to continue its efforts for their welfare and upliftment.

Empowering women is like empowering the nation. All women police stations in Tamil Nadu - first of its kind in the world - are the brain child of Hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. All these woman police stations provide assistance and redress the grievances of all women, especially SCs and STs. All other States of the country can emulate this method to provide protection to women.

[English] Tamil Nadu Government has taken several steps by framing appropriate policies needed to design and implement various

welfare programmes for achieving the objectives of creating favourable environment to ensure speedy socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Tribes. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Gopal, please wait for a minute.

16.14 hours

OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

Setting up of a Joint Committee on Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members would recall that today morning Shri B. Mahtab and some other Members suggested that the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2016, which is included in today's List of Business for consideration and passing, may be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses for thorough examination. Hon. Minister of Home Affairs agreed to the suggestion and desired to move a Motion for referring the Bill to a Joint Committee today itself, which was permitted by the Hon. Speaker.

Now, Hon. Minister to move the Motion.

16.15 hours

MOTION RE: REFERENCE OF CITIZENSHIP (AMENDMENT) BILL TO JOINT COMMITTEE

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): I beg to move:

"That the Bill to further amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of the following 20 Members from this House: -

1. Dr. Satya Pal Singh (Baghpat)
2. Shri Ramen Deka
3. Shri Pralhad Joshi
4. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa
5. Shri Gopal Shetty
6. Dr. Virendra Kumar

7. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey

8. Dr. Kirit P. Solanki

9. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh

10. Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi

11. Shri Rajendra Agrawal

12. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury

13. Kumari Sushmita Dev

14. Dr. P. Venugopal

15. Prof. Saugata Roy

16. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab

17. Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu

18. Shri Anandrao Adsul

19. Shri B. Vinod Kumar

20. Shri Mohammad Salim

and 10 Members from the Rajya Sabha;

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

That the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, 2016;

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and That this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of the Members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to further amend the Citizenship Act, 1955 be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of the following 20 Members from this House:-

1. Dr. Satya Pal Singh (Baghpat)
2. Shri Ramen Deka
3. Shri Pralhad Joshi

4. Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa
5. Shri Gopal Shetty
6. Dr. Virendra Kumar
7. Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey
8. Dr. Kirit P. Solanki
9. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh
10. Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi
11. Shri Rajendra Agrawal
12. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury
13. Kumari Sushmita Dev
14. Dr. P. Venugopal
15. Prof. Saugata Roy
16. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
17. Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu
18. Shri Anandrao Adsul
19. Shri B. Vinod Kumar
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and 10 Members from the Rajya Sabha;

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

That the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the Winter Session, 2016;

That in other respects, the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and That this House recommends to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of the Members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee."

The motion was adopted.

16.17 hours

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193...Contd.

Atrocities against the Dalits in the country

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. K. Gopal to continue.

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Major ameliorative activities for these communities are grouped under educational development, economic development, Special Component Plan for people belonging to Scheduled Castes and the Tribal Sub Plan for Tribals. Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) implements the economic development programmes in addition to the regular economic development programmes implemented by various departments for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with specific target coverage for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department of Tamil Nadu implements all the programmes and schemes effectively for the economic and educational advancement of these people.

As demanded by Hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma I request the Hon. Union Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment to treat Scheduled Caste Christians on par with Hindus, Sikhs or Budhists and include them in the SC list. The Tamil Nadu Government led by Hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is committed for the cause of protection of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Tamil Nadu Government has been implementing several welfare programmes meant for Scheduled Castes and Tribes, particularly women.

Though most crimes against them go often unreported, even the cases registered under these laws also end in acquittal. The increasing number of atrocities on the dalits and tribals lead to gross violation of their Human Rights in a larger context. The law enforcement agency, the police and the judiciary should be free from caste prejudice to address this perennial social problem. We should be united and committed to protect the basic human rights and the principles of justice, equality, liberty and fraternity. Thank you.

[Translation]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, it is a very sad incident that after 69 years of independence, we have to discuss atrocities on Dalits here.

16.18 hours (Shri Anandrao Adsul *in the Chair*)

84 years ago from today, Gandhiji went on a fast against separate electorate for the Scheduled Castes. At that time, the historic Gandhi-Ambedkar Pact was signed. The Poona Pact, the Gandhi-Ambedkar Pact was signed. Gandhiji spent his entire life for the upliftment of Dalits, for the removal of untouchability, and in cow service. After that, in fifty years, when our Constitution was made, Dr. Ambedkar was the Chairperson of it. In the Constitution, untouchability, which was in Article 17, we eliminated it. There in Article 46, promotion of educational and economic interest of Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and other weaker sections was provided. After this, in the year 1989, Rajiv Gandhi was the Prime Minister.

The Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes Prevention of Atrocities Act was passed here. ... *(Interruptions)* In 2015, very good amendments were made to it. Today, there is no shortage of laws to prevent atrocities against Dalits. In our Prevention of Atrocities Against SC, ST Act, provisions for taking very strict steps are included. It contains the provision to set up an exclusive special court against the crime. But till now, exclusive special court has not been

set up anywhere. I would like to draw your attention to this.

Sir, it is not necessary to present too many statistics, yet I would like to present a few figures. In the year 2014, there were approximately 47,000 incidents of atrocities against Dalits in Hindustan. Among these, the highest number was in Uttar Pradesh with 8,075 incidents. After that, 8,028 occurred in Rajasthan, 7,893 in Bihar, 4,114 in Andhra Pradesh, 4,151 in Madhya Pradesh, 2,206 in Odisha, 2,138 in Karnataka, and only 159 incidents occurred in West Bengal. This means that West Bengal recorded 500 percent fewer incidents compared to other states. Atrocities against Dalits do not take place in our state. Shri Rajnath Singh should take note of why the number of atrocities against Dalits is so low under the Sushri Mamata Banerjee government in West Bengal. The reason is not only our government, but also the cultural tradition of West Bengal. From Raja Ram Mohan Roy to Swami Vivekananda, the message of equality that was spread, its impact is still visible in our society. That is why, in our state, no atrocities occur against Dalits, Muslims, or Adivasis.

I do not wish to turn this into a political debate or a blame game because among the states where the incidents of atrocities against Dalits have been higher, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Gujarat are

three BJP-ruled states. But Bihar has a JDU government, Andhra Pradesh has Chandrababu Naidu's government, and Uttar Pradesh has a Samajwadi Party government. I wish to state that which party is in power is not the main issue—what truly matters is the sentiment of the society towards Dalits. That is the most essential thing. Today, it is unfortunate that we no longer have leaders like Gandhiji or Vinoba Bhave among us. There is a severe lack of such leaders who can unite society. At present, vote bank politics prevails. People divide people. Hindu polarisation is carried out, and it is for this reason that these incidents are on the rise.

Shri Rajnath Singh is seated here. I wish to draw his attention towards the Una incident. On 11 July, four Dalit youths were tied to a tree and beaten with belts and sticks. People did not even get to know, but those who committed the assault themselves posted it on the internet. We all saw it. But what happened after that? On 20 July, a bandh was observed across the whole of Saurashtra. Dalits carried out large rallies. But see how the government functions. When this matter was raised in the Lok Sabha, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that the government acted promptly. Where was the prompt action? It took Shrimati Anandiben Patel nine days to travel from Gandhinagar to Una. The incident occurred on 11 July, and Shrimati Anandiben Patel

reached there on 20 July. Why does such a time lag occur? I would like to ask you one question: Why was this not monitored earlier? In Gujarat, every year one thousand cases of atrocities occur, 50 Dalit women are raped, 20 Dalits are murdered. If this is the Gujarat model, then I have nothing to say. The situation in Jharkhand and Bihar is also very poor—perhaps this too is the Gujarat model: intolerance, inability to tolerate Dalits, inability to tolerate Muslims—this has been spread across the nation. We debated the atmosphere of intolerance. No state provides Dalits with protection the way West Bengal does. Muslims too have not remained untouched. We discuss atrocities on Dalits. We still remember what happened in Dadri, near Delhi—Ikhlaq was murdered, and it was said that there was beef in his house.

This issue was raised by Kharge ji in Mandsaur, Madhya Pradesh, two Muslim women were subjected to atrocities because it was alleged that they were carrying beef. They said that they had buffalo meat and had a receipt for it, yet they were beaten. An atmosphere of intolerance is developing in the country. I wonder why such an atmosphere is developing in our country? On 7 August in Hyderabad, the Prime Minister made a statement. He said, "Narendra Modi issued a call to stop attacking *dalits* saying, ‘Shoot me if you

want; not the *dalits*.' and asked people to beware of fake *gaurakshaks* who have problems with the country's unity and want to destroy society." I welcome this statement. But why did it take so long for the Prime Minister to issue such a statement? The Una incident occurred on 15 July, and it took 26 days for this statement to be made. The statement was appropriate, but why did the Prime Minister not say, "Shoot me, but do not harm Dalits and Muslims"? It is a good thing that the Prime Minister himself is willing to take the bullet. Perhaps what he means is: "Sarfaroshi ki tamanna ab hamare dil mein hai, Dekhna hai zor kitna baazu-e-qatil mein hai (The desire for martyrdom now stirs in our hearts, Let us see how much strength the arm of the oppressor truly has.)." One day after the Prime Minister's statement, the RSS's...* gave a statement supporting the Prime Minister. Even after 26 days of the Una incident, and the statement being made, such incidents have not stopped. "He left out the word 'Muslim'; he said only the word '*dalit*.' A deeply disturbing incident has come to light from Amalapuram in Andhra Pradesh, where a "*Dalit* stripped, thrashed, and tied to a tree for skinning a dead cow." It must be understood that removing the hide of a dead cow is a traditional profession for many Dalit communities. But today, even for pursuing their rightful profession, they are being subjected to

brutal violence. Rajnath Ji, there was a leader Arun Shourie Ji who is currently out of favour. He had once made a very pertinent statement.

[English]

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI): This was not the profession of those people. It was imposed on them.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not disturb him.

[Translation]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, he said that there is no difference between NDA and UPA, but NDA = UPA + Cow. Now from where did this new cow come to India? It is said in Article 48 of our Constitution that -

> "The State shall endeavour to stop cow slaughter, slaughter of milch animals."

This is already written in our Constitution. In most states of our country, cow slaughter is banned. In Haryana, killing a cow can lead to imprisonment for up to 10 years. However, this issue is now being raised in a new manner. I wish to state that this is a matter of mindset. Before the last election, Shri Narendra Modi had stated here that the

UPA government had done such and such, and that cow protection was not being ensured in the country. Hon. Modi ji is now the Prime Minister. He has become responsible. However, his followers have declared that they will take up cow protection, and they are the ones who have entered the field.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If there are any unparliamentary words, they will not go into the proceedings.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, today when Hon. Modi ji makes this statement that – [English]"The VHP, Vishwa Hindu Parishad, Hindu outfits condemn Modi's remarks on gau raksha."[Translation] Even now, the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Rashtriya Goraksha Dal have condemned Hon Modi ji. I condemn these people, and I demand from the Hon. Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad and the Rashtriya Goraksha Dal be banned. There is no need for them in Hindustan, because the authority lies in your hands.

Hon. Chairperson, a new environment must be created. Before the elections, the BJP Members had stirred up a wave of Hindutva, but now they are in power. Now, they must act with responsibility and create an atmosphere of tolerance in the country, where our Muslim

and Dalit brothers do not have any concern about their safety. I am deeply grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I recall Mahatma Gandhi, because Gandhi ji used to say, “Always think of a talisman, think of the poorest person you know and think whether your action will help in wiping off the tears of his eyes”.

Sir, I say to the Members of the ruling party: do something that can wipe the tears of the Dalits. Please take steps to wipe the tears of the Dalits. Enough has been said about Hindutva. You are now in power. Let it go now, and allow our society to cool down. Jai Hind.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Chairman, Sir, the last line that Prof. Saugata Roy said about Gandhiji's talisman was the line which I had actually noted to start with. It is always my misfortune, Sir, that I have to speak only after Prof. Saugata Roy.

He reminded us about Raja Ram Mohan Roy and Swami Vivekananda. We should also remember about Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar who led a struggle against *Sati Dah Pratha*, widow burning, which was one of the most heinous crimes of Hindu society. He also should have mentioned about Thakur Ram Krishna Parmahans who said, 'God lives in every human being'. These were the nineteenth century stalwarts who led society to bring in cohesiveness in our society.

Sir, 500 years ago there was a poet in Odisha, who is called a saint, Balram Das. His stanzas are even read today in the month of *Margashirsha* on the day of *Guruvar* because on that day every Hindu family worships the paddy that is brought back to their house from the field after harvest and it is called Lakshmi. The *Puran* is called as the *Lakshmi Puran.* It is not a very big one, hardly 46 or 48 pages with a small one-eighth size of a demy.

I will tell you the story in short. It is relating to Lord Jagannath, his elder brother Lord Balabhadra, his sister, Devi Subhadra and the wife of Lord Jagannath, Goddess Lakshmi. Lakshmi always travels to those houses which are kept clean – the word that is now being repeatedly used, *swachhta*. Lakshmi does not visit any house which is dirty. And it is in the month of Margashirsha that Lakshmi pays the visit.

While visiting, she came across a very beautiful and well kept house and she entered the house and blessed the lady who has kept the house clean. The moment she was entering the Puri Temple, Lord Balabhadra told his younger brother, Lord Jagannath that Lakshmi has visited a Scheduled Caste woman's house and hence, she cannot enter this Temple. Obeying his elder brother's command, Lord Jagannath said that as she has visited that house, she has become an outcaste and she cannot enter it. She said that wealth travels everywhere and as Lakshmi is the Goddess of Wealth, she travels everywhere and she has made a vow that she will go to the house which is clean and caste does not matter. Yet, she was denied entry into the Temple. Lakshmi left the Temple. What happens if Lakshmi goes away? Impoverishment attacked the temple. It came to such a pass that whatever food was there in the temple was exhausted and a time came

when the Lord was without any food. They had to go out begging and the long story concludes in this way.

On every Thursday, between 15th November and 15th December, all the ladies sit together and read this Lakshmi Purana. Ultimately, both the brothers had to beg Lakshmi to come back to the Temple. But the story is this. *Swachhata* is the order of the day. Lakshmi can reside in a place where you have *swachhata* – without a cess - and it does not matter which caste he or she belongs to.

It also propagates that anybody can enter the Temple and nobody is an outcaste in the society.

The Hindu society is a cohesive society but we have people amongst us and we had people amongst us who created barriers between ourselves.

Another great revolutionary was Chaitanya Mahaprabhu. He travelled from Nadia to Puri and subsequently came to Brindavan but he passed away in Puri itself. He revolutionised the society by accepting one and all. How many of us today actually discuss about Chaitanya Mahaprabhu as a social reformer? He built up that society when the Hindu society was getting fragmented with the opression of foreigners. How many of us really remember Kabir who actually

encompassed everybody into one society and to believe in the Supreme being? Today, we need people to do as Chaitanya Mahaprabhu did during that time. It was not only in Bengal and Odisha but Assam also today is bereft of this type of casteism because of Vaishnavite culture. Shankar Deb propagated and of course, he was influenced by Jagannath cult during his visit and that is the reason why all this has happened. We should also remember Guru Nanak Dev.

We should also remember Dayanand Saraswati who revolutionised the Hindu society; we should also remember Narayana Guru who propagated faith in God, which made society cohesive. It was because of social reformers of our country and of our land, this civilisation and this culture has been surviving and progressing for more than 5,000 years.

Prof. Saugata Roy mentioned about Mahatma Gandhi. During the freedom struggle, he was leading a political struggle, no doubt. He arrived in India from South Africa perhaps in 1916. We got Independence in 1947. He led agitations in 1921, in 1930, in 1932, in 1940 and in 1942. If we calculate the number of years of political struggles he led in this country, it will not be more than ten. It was from 1916 to 1947, a period of nearly 30 years. What agenda did he

give to his followers? The agenda was ‘social reform’.

The State of Odisha very nostalgically remembers the padyatra which Gandhi started in 1934 from Puri to Bhadrak in two phases. During that period, before the culmination of his padyatra in Bhadrak, he stayed in our house. He was collecting money for the Harijan Fund. G.D. Birla was the treasurer of that Fund. A number of other people were also there. So, people were asked to come and donate. My mother gave away all her gold ornaments in his feet. Still Gandhi ji was looking at her arms. My mother showed the bangles to him and said, “I have to keep these two bangles because of my matrimony”. He said, “I understand”. He asked her as to how much time you are going to spend in a Harijan *basti*. She said, “I have been doing this for the last ten years and I will continue to do this as a practice. Every month I will be spending ten days there.” That is how the commitment of the people of that age was.

Another interesting thing happened. This relates to Gandhi ji’s visit to Puri. On 12th February, 1948 – this is after Gandhiji’s visit to Puri, before that in Berboi, Delang in 1934 – he had visited that place along with Kasturba. Gandhi ji instructed Kasturba not to visit Jagannath Temple because the Dalits are not allowed into that

Temple. He said until and unless they allow Dalits to enter, we should not enter that Temple. Despite that, Kasturba stealthily, I would say, went and bowed before the Lord. … (*Interruptions*)

When she came back, Gandhi ji asked her, "Why did you go?" I may not come again to this place and it was in my mind that I should go. Gandhi ji kept fast for three days. He did not talk to her till both of them left Odisha. Gandhi ji never visited Jagannath Temple during his life time. When he was killed here in Delhi on 30th January, 1948 and when the ashes were supposed to be immersed in the Bay of Bengal in Puri the Dalits of Odisha took it upon themselves and said what could not happen during his life time we will do it during the immersion of ashes.

What could not happen during his lifetime, we would do it during his immersion of ashes? What did they do? [Translation] They went on a *satyagraha* – 18 selected Dalits of Odisha went on a *satyagraha* before the temple of Jagannath Puri. They clearly gave out notice that these are the conditions; Government will not intervene. No police force would support us; we don't need police to protect us. We want to impress upon the servitors of the temple, the King, who is the proprietor of the temple that until they allow us to enter, we will not

enter. It was not by force. It was by the commitment on *satyagraha* that they will allow us. Day after day they were bullied, they were threatened; stones were pelted on them; a number of them were carried to the hospital, grievously injured. On 12th February morning, the gates were wide open. The Pandas and the servitors came out, garlanded them, and ask them to enter the temple. That was a lasting decision, unlike the Hon. Member from BJP, my friend, Dr. Tarun Vijay, forcefully entering a temple. That is not the actual way how we can bring society together. It is by our moral pressure that we should bring all society together. I need not go into other aspects.

Here, I would just like to mention about rising of conflicts. All this I had said was about 500 years ago or something which has happened in 1948. What did Vinoba Bhave do? He travelled far and wide of this country, even to the Kandhamal district about which our friend, Shri Muniyappa mentioned. He lived with the tribals of that time, who were at that point of time – I don't know whether I should say this or not - were little uncivilised. Raw meat was being taken. It was Vinoba Bhave and the Bhoodhan Movement workers who made a great difference by living with them, for months together, for years together, and got them to the mainstream.

Today, what we see here is a conflict. The conflict is about the growing *Dalit* demands for justice and dignity. Our Constitution provides that. Yet, society and certain sections do not recognise that. There, the conflict arises. If we take the reports of the last 10 years, it is increasing day by day.

I would only mention here, today, we do not have social reformers. The Constitution has made parliamentary democracy the order of the day. A number of political parties are working for vote bank politics. No political party has taken upon itself, I would also say that even our party, to bind society together. We think that some other person would do that. Until and unless a political party which has a presence in every village, in every ward of every city to take it as a social reform to bind all groups together, economically, socially, we cannot meet this challenge that is before us.

Today, Indian society is fragmented because of vote bank politics. A number of political parties are surviving by dividing society, either by religion or by caste. Therefore, my appeal to all the colleagues present here in this House, and through this discussion to everyone, every citizen of this country is this. Can we force our political parties to take up social reform as a political agenda? Then

only can we meet this challenge of casteism and its tentacles. Today, India needs social reformers. We need to look at the demands for justice and dignity of Dalits in this country. Law alone cannot stop atrocities, but fear of law would and that is why I would like to understand how much action has been taken on this front.

Sir, I am a member of the Vigilance and Monitoring Committee of a district in my State. This Committee is there in all 640 districts of our country. I am not aware of the position in urban areas. But this Committee is headed by the District Magistrate and the Superintendent of Police is a member of this Committee. I would urge upon all my colleagues to attend the meetings of this Committee and see how many cases have been filed, how many cases have reached the courts and what is the progress made in those cases. If we ourselves get involved in monitoring those cases, I think a lot of these incidents will come down, because the police stations do not take cognisance of these incidents.

Therefore, my last suggestion would be this. Let us think of Sant Balarama Das's Lakshmi Purana, let us think of Vinobha Bhave's *padyatra*, let us think of Gandhiji's *padyatra* and let us also think of what Thakur Paramhansa said, 'God lives in every human being'.

[Translation]

SHRI SADASHIV LOKHANDE (SHIRDI): Hon. Chairperson, I am speaking on behalf of the Shiv Sena during the discussion being held under Rule 193 regarding atrocities committed against Dalits. I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

It has been almost 70 years since Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar gave us the rights and privileges we enjoy today. Yet, even after these 70 years, atrocities against Dalits continue. You may recall that the very voting rights through which we are elected to the Parliament and Legislative Assemblies are being overshadowed by the increasing number of atrocities taking place in our own constituencies. In particular, I would like to highlight the situation in Ahmednagar, Maharashtra. In Maharashtra, and specifically in Nagar, such atrocities are prevalent. These atrocities are often politically motivated. The root cause is political in nature. Dalits are exploited, and atrocities are committed against them to keep them suppressed. They are used for political purposes when, in fact, we should be working towards their upliftment.

Today, our education system – especially the schools in villages – must be used as a tool to improve the condition of Dalits. Such

education should be imparted through schools to bring about a positive change in their lives. Dalit children should be provided quality education to uplift their socio-economic status. Even today, after 70 years, social atrocities against Dalits continue in Maharashtra – whether it was under a BJP government or a Congress government. We should not dwell on who was in power. It has now been two years since we have come into government.

I would like to present an example. I used to be elected as an MLA from a particular constituency. From the same area, our MLA was elected – Shri Nikalji Guruji. While staying at Maharashtra Sadan, that Guruji used to sleep on the cot, and our Dalit MLA had to sleep under the cot. Is this the kind of progress we have achieved after 70 years? This is not progress. Therefore, I wish to emphasise that our Dalit brothers must be provided with adequate resources so that they too may advance in society. I would like to give another example. In Maharashtra, a mill was established in the name of Dalits, called Deen Dayal Shudra Girni. An amount of Rs. 40 crore was spent by the State Government on that Shudra Girni. However, at that mill, which was supposedly created in the name of Dalits, the post of Chairman has only been provided with a table and two chairs, whereas the Vice Chairman has been given a 1500 square feet office. Is this what we

call progress after 70 years? The misuse of funds allocated in the name of Dalits is extremely unfortunate.

My suggestion is that those who are engaged in political work should continue their political responsibilities, but the upliftment of Dalits must also be ensured. Whether it is in the political, educational, employment or business spheres, even after 50 to 70 years, Dalits are still struggling. In the year 2015, the Hon. Minister for Social Justice and Empowerment had allocated Rs. 200 crore to support Dalits in starting businesses. Even today, Rs. 40 crore of that amount remains unutilised. If it takes two years to distribute Rs. 200 crore, then progress cannot be expected. My suggestion is that real progress requires vision. And for vision to emerge, awareness must be created – in villages, in tehsils, in districts, and in the state. Atrocities against Scheduled Castes must not be allowed. In this regard, the Union Government has formed a committee under the authority of the Chief Ministers. All Hon. MPs and MLAs are to be Members of that committee. However, in two years, not a single meeting has been held under the leadership of the Chief Minister in Maharashtra. As a result, no issues have been resolved there. My suggestion is that this work must be carried out in Maharashtra. I do not wish to speak about what the previous governments have done over the past 50 to 60 years. Had

the situation improved in these 60 to 70 years, we would not be facing these circumstances today. I am 53 years old now. To create awareness in society, to build a better society, and to ensure the upliftment of Dalits, the presence of social organisations is essential. People from all communities in the villages must come together to eliminate the injustice being committed against Dalits. This issue must not be politicised. If an upper-caste person is causing hardship, it is wrong to exploit Dalits just to remove him. Efforts should be made to bring about change through awareness in the villages. It is through unity between the upper castes and Dalits that the villages, the states, and the nation can develop—and only then can Dalits be freed from atrocities.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwalji to intervene.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Sir, he is not present in the House… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): He is not here, Sir… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He is not replying to the debate. He was to

just intervene.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Dr. Ravindra Babu.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He is coming. He is a Minister. He is not an ordinary Member.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have just received the message that he is coming. Some urgent work was there and he had gone to the office. He is coming.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, the Hon. SHRI MEGHWAL was sitting among us; he has just gone to drink water.... *(Interruptions)* There is no need to create such a commotion over this.... *(Interruptions)* A very important subject is being discussed, yet there is not a single senior leader of the Congress Party present in the front row. The entire front

row is empty.... *(Interruptions)* They wish to express their concern for the Dalits, yet the entire front row of their side is vacant.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is okay.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He has come. Let him speak.

Dr. Ravindra Babu, you may speak afterwards

Yes, Mantriji.

17.00 hours

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the incidents of atrocities and atrocities on Dalits being discussed under Rule 193.

Mr. Chairperson, I wish to inform you that whenever the atmosphere of elections arises, certain incidents tend to occur which give the impression that an extraordinary individual has emerged from within this political system. I feel that some people are unable to digest this fact, and that is why such incidents are excessively highlighted. For instance, during the Bihar elections, the issue of non-tolerance gained prominence across the country, and many even spoke of returning their awards. However, as soon as the Bihar elections concluded, the issue of award returns also disappeared. At times, they see the Gujarat elections, and at other times, the Uttar Pradesh elections. I wish to submit that the Dalit issue is a very sensitive matter. If this discussion is conducted with seriousness, only then will

we be able to understand where we have gone wrong.

I would like to share from my political experience that India has faced many evils, which are gradually being eradicated. However, the greatest social evil in our society is the caste system. The evil of caste-based untouchability is more prevalent in South Asian countries, especially in India. Other developed countries have witnessed conflicts based on religion, language, and colour. They have also seen struggles between the rich and the poor. But the caste-based struggle is a uniquely Indian social evil. India has been grappling with this problem for a long time. A very important question is when this social evil took the form of inequality. Historians may differ in their views on this matter, but it is certain that caste-based untouchability had already taken root during the medieval period. The religious saints of India made relentless efforts to eradicate this evil, among whom Kabir, Nanak, and Ravidas were prominent. In modern India, those who have most significantly challenged casteism include Swami Dayanand Saraswati, Swami Vivekananda, Veer Savarkar, Mahatma Jyotiba Phule, and Dr. B. R. Ambedkar. India has never lacked saints who have preached humanity. In politics, many eminent personalities have recently been mentioned in discussions, including Mahatma Gandhi, Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya, Ram Manohar Lohia, and

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay. The ideology propounded by Pandit Deendayal ji is being further advanced by the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Bhai Modi.

Sir, through you, I wish to convey that the Dalit community in Indian society was associated with saints such as Kabir and Ravidas before independence. However, around the time of the freedom struggle and afterwards, the Dalit community has been most closely associated with Baba Saheb Ambedkar. The struggle between Baba Saheb and the Congress Party can be seen recorded in the pages of history. You may recall that Baba Saheb wished to enter the Lok Sabha after winning the elections but was instead inducted into the Rajya Sabha. You are likely aware of who prevented Baba Saheb from entering the Lok Sabha. This is documented in the annals of history. Since you hail from Maharashtra, you will know that all routes for Baba Saheb's entry into the Lok Sabha were blocked. After independence, under the leadership of Pandit Nehru, a government was formed in which Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and Baba Saheb were non-Congress leaders and served as members of the Cabinet. People often ask how close the Bharatiya Janata Party has been to Baba Saheb. I wish to state that from the time the national government was formed at independence, we have been close to Baba Saheb.

Today, our Prime Minister has diagnosed the core problem faced by the Dalit community. The Congress Party may also have made efforts to eliminate our social evils, from Mahatma Gandhi to many other leaders. The SC/ST Atrocities Act was enacted and amended in 1989. It was further amended during the tenure of Shri Modi, who has explicitly stated that until the economic condition of Dalits improves, inequality will not be eradicated. I would like to say that Shri Narendra Modi is the first Prime Minister of this country to engage in such reflective thinking. Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi has pondered and deliberated and concluded that we have weapons to fight social evils. These weapons include the Protection of Civil Rights and the Atrocities of SC/ST Act. However, we had fewer weapons to bring about equality on an economic basis. I wish to quote Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who explained where and why this evil exists. It was this reflection that Narendra Bhai Modi undertook and subsequently introduced certain schemes, some of which I would like to mention here.

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

Sir, on 25th November 1949, Baba Saheb had said -

I quote:

[English]

> "On the 26th of January 1950, we are going to enter into a life of contradictions. In politics we will have equality and in social and economic life we will have inequality. In politics we will be recognising the principle of one man one vote and one vote one value. In our social and economic life, we shall, by reason of our social and economic structure, continue to deny the principle of one man one value. How long shall we continue to live this life of contradictions? How long shall we continue to deny equality in our social and economic life? If we continue to deny it for long, we will do so only by putting our political democracy in peril. We must remove this contradiction at the earliest possible moment."

[Translation]

Baba Saheb, during the debates while adopting the Constitution, made his final statement, in which he remarked on this very issue. Why have subsequent governments not considered what needs to be done to achieve economic equality and what efforts should be made

to attain social equality? Among the efforts made by the current government to bring about economic equality, I would like to mention one or two here. Our opposition colleagues may say that this is politics, but I do not wish to engage in politics; I have risen to make a serious speech on this matter. The SC/ST Amendment Bill has been strengthened during this government's tenure. This clearly reflects the sentiment that if atrocities are committed against Dalits, stringent action will be taken. This is the view of Shri Modi.

Secondly, there is the Mudra Scheme. To ensure that members of the Dalit community become economically empowered, Shri Modi appealed to Dalit brothers to become job providers rather than job seekers. Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Prime Minister made a very significant statement: Why be a job seeker when you can be a job giver? Do not seek employment; instead, create employment. In line with this, the current government implemented the Mudra Scheme, under which the government's target was to provide loans to 1 lakh 22 thousand people, but loans were disbursed to 1 lakh 36 thousand people.

Furthermore, there is the Venture Capital Fund Scheme, which is a very important scheme. For the first time, our government

established a Venture Capital Fund Scheme worth Rs. 200 crore. Shri Modi considered how to eliminate economic disparity. There is an organisation called DICCI, founded by entrepreneurs from the Dalit community. DICCI was established in 2005. At that time, the UPA government was in power, but the UPA Prime Ministers never met the members of DICCI. It is our Prime Minister, Shri Modi, who invited the members of DICCI and asked them what they wanted. DICCI suggested that credit facilities be increased. Until now, members of the Dalit community were given loans of Rs. 2,000, Rs. 5,000, Rs. 10,000, Rs. 20,000, or Rs. 50,000. They proposed that this be raised to a minimum of Rs. 50 lakh and a maximum of Rs. 15 crore.

Sir, through you, I challenge that whether it was the Mayawati government or the Congress government, till now, under this Venture Capital Fund Scheme, loans have been sanctioned in 46 accounts amounting to Rs. 168 crore to Scheduled Caste entrepreneurs. Among these loans, three accounts have loans of approximately Rs. 15 crore to a single company. This reflects Shri Modi’s view that you should not be job seekers but job providers, and the government is moving forward accordingly.

Sir, I would also like to inform you about the Stand-Up India

Scheme, which others have mentioned as well. I too wish to mention that these schemes, offering loans ranging from Rs. 10 lakh to Rs. 1 crore, will benefit members of the Dalit community. These benefits will increase their economic capacity, and as their economic capacity grows, social inequality will also diminish.

Sir, I will conclude my remarks by stating two or three points through you. I wish to mention that Maithili Sharan Gupt used to study social matters. He also said, "The world follows the profession of trade; it does not consider the work but the results. It is not important in which state an incident occurred, but how to prevent these incidents is what matters." You may say that an incident occurred in Gujarat, or that an incident occurred in Rajasthan. Shri Dipendra is seated here, the Mirchpur incident in Haryana is also there—who is to blame for that? The Jhajjar incident is also there-who is to blame? There was a massacre in Bihar-who is to blame? An incident recently occurred in Uttar Pradesh-who is to blame? The important question is why these incidents happen. Therefore, our Prime Minister has the vision to empower people economically, and he has drawn this thinking from the principles of Jyotiba Phule and Dr. Ambedkar. Maithili Sharan Gupt said, The world follows the profession of trade; it does not consider the work but the results. I also wish to mention that

Shakespeare has been quoted many times stating, God is mighty but money is almighty. It is this economy wherein schemes such as Mudra, Stand-Up India, Venture Capital, and Start-Up have been introduced, through which members of the Dalit community are set to benefit, and we have seen those benefits directly.

Hon. Ram Vilas Paswan is seated here. Recently, in March, DICCI organised a fair in Mumbai. I wish to inform the House through you that people often say that Scheduled Caste individuals have little faith in entrepreneurship. At the March fair, 250 entrepreneurs from the Dalit community participated. Hon. Ram Vilas Paswan inaugurated the event. More than Rs. 10,000 crore in revenue was generated for Dalit entrepreneurs. This visionary work aimed at reducing economic disparity is being undertaken by Hon. Modi. This is what we wish to bring to your attention.

Hon. Modi is reducing economic inequality and accomplishing the task that Baba Saheb stated in 1949 that we must reduce both social and economic inequality. After the country's independence, we achieved political equality, but how social and economic equality would be attained was a task governments were required to undertake; however, they failed to do so.

Therefore, I wish to say to the House through you that the schemes introduced by Hon. Modiji such as the Mudra scheme, the Stand-Up India scheme, the Start-Up India scheme, and the Venture Capital Fund scheme, are noteworthy. If you examine the Venture Capital Fund scheme, it offers a minimum loan of Rs. 50 lakh and a maximum loan of Rs. 15 crore. I challenge whether under Congress governments or Shrimati Mayawati's government, no such scheme was introduced for Dalits. Hon. Modi has brought such schemes. ... *(Interruptions)* The discussion is disturbed because the Dalit community was once aligned with Congress. The reason we have not stayed aligned is singular: that from 1949 onwards we have consistently followed the principles of Baba Saheb Dr. Ambedkar.

Just now, when the name of Gandhi ji came up, he said that we should wipe the tears of the person who is at the very bottom. Pandit Deendayal ji also said the same, that the last person standing in society should be served first. This is exactly what Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar said. Deendayal ji brought the Antyodaya scheme. The concept of Antyodaya is also close to Baba Saheb's thoughts. Because their views are aligned with Baba Saheb, what happened was that the Dalit community, which was earlier with Congress, gradually started moving away from them. I say with confidence that the Dalit

community has not really seen God—where God is, some spiritual people might have seen, but if the Dalit community considers anyone as God, it is Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Dr. B.R. Ambedkar stands close to the ideology of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Whether it is the issue of Article 370 or the partition of Pakistan, Baba Saheb stands close to the BJP's ideology. If Baba Saheb was not allowed to enter this Lok Sabha, it was because Congress did not allow him.

As we advance following Baba Saheb's ideals, the Dalit community is connecting with us. Their problem is this: when the Dalit community looks at Baba Saheb.... *(Interruptions)* I want to say that they too were in power. Baba Saheb's birthplace, place of liberation, initiation site, chaitya site and education centre these are the five sacred places associated with Baba Saheb. They too were in power but why did they not develop these places? ... *(Interruptions)* Today, there are many educated people in the Dalit community who say that Baba Saheb was a benefactor of humanity. It is because of Baba Saheb that the Dalit community is joining us, and this is their pain there is no other pain. I would like to say that the Dalit community is definitely joining the Bharatiya Janata Party because Modi Ji is adopting Baba Saheb's ideology, whether it is through the economic system, via DICCI, Stand-Up India, or the Mudra scheme,

which are all aimed at economic empowerment. ... *(Interruptions)* The Dalit community in Gujarat is not with you. I will tell you why. … *(Interruptions)* I have diagnosed why the Dalit community is not with you in Gujarat. When the Godhra incident occurred and people were killed, they were all Dalits. You never spoke about them but you spoke about those killed in the other riots. Therefore, the Dalit community in Gujarat is not with you and will not be. The Dalit community knows who speaks for them and who will take them forward.

I would like to say one thing. Mahu, where Dr. Baba Saheb was born had any Prime Minister ever been to Mahu until now? Narendra Modi is the first Prime Minister to visit Mahu and celebrate 14th April there in 2016. … *(Interruptions)* This is the pain one feels... *(Interruptions)* Thawar Chand Gehlot Ji is sitting here. Hon. Modi Ji was laying the foundation stone of an international convention centre. He specially said that if Dr. B.R. Ambedkar had not been there, Narendra Modi would not be the Prime Minister today. If anyone is to say this, it is the current Prime Minister of India, Narendra Bhai Modi. That memorial was also constructed under our government by Thawar Chand Gehlot Ji. … *(Interruptions)* I will now try to conclude.

I wish to say that there is a need to reflect on why such incidents happen to the Dalit community. We have the means to eliminate social inequality, as I have stated, and we have made those measures more stringent. Narendra Bhai Modi's thinking is that the law should be made stricter, and we have done so. We are also working to remove social inequality, but the greatest effort to eliminate economic inequality is being made by the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA Government under the leadership of Narendra Bhai Modi. This is their grievance, why has the Bharatiya Janata Party come so close to the Dalit community? This is the pain one feels. … *(Interruptions)* I come from the field. ... *(Interruptions)* I roam in the field, I observe in the field. They tell me. ... *(Interruptions)* Just now, the issue of cow protection came up.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, can you imagine this? Shri Saugat Roy said that the Prime Minister spoke only after 26 days. I want to ask them, can anyone say such a thing that if there is a fake cow protector connected to anti-social elements, I appeal, do not harm our Dalit brothers, shoot me instead? If anyone says this, that person is the Prime Minister of the country, the current Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji. ... *(Interruptions)* You also criticise him. … *(Interruptions)* You criticise such statements as well. ... *(Interruptions)* Such

statements should not be criticised. … *(Interruptions)*

The confusion is that we have not been able to advance the Dalit community economically. In those states where the Dalit community has progressed economically, inequalities have also diminished. As I mentioned earlier, on 25 November 1949, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar said that we are entering political equality, but in our country, social and economic equality does not exist. Who will bring this? Previous governments have failed to bring it, and the present government is becoming successful in doing so. That is why there is opposition.

Sir, I will end by saying that when the land changes, the era will change. … *(Interruptions)*

Jyotiraditya Ji, Baba Saheb once said that if industrialisation takes place, then the condition of Dalits will improve, and they will get better jobs. Therefore, the Land Acquisition Bill that we brought was intended for investment. It would increase infrastructure. … *(Interruptions)* They did not allow it to be passed, but Baba Saheb's vision was that industrialisation should happen in this country. … *(Interruptions)* I want to say that if the economic condition is not improved, social and economic equality will not come. … *(Interruptions)*

I assert that when the foundation changes, society will transform. Today, the Dalit community is receiving the support of the Government. Therefore, when the land transforms, the times shall change. When we stand united, this narrative shall be rewritten, these injustices shall cease, and the Dalit community shall actively contribute towards the making of One India, Great India, Progressive India, and Empowered India.

Sir, I express my sincere gratitude to you for granting me the opportunity to speak.

* **DR. YASHWANT SINGH (NAGINA):** When the illustrious heroes of this nation struggled for independence, the distinguished sons of the Dalit community too made every possible contribution towards the liberation of the country. They nurtured the hope that once the country attained freedom, it would prosper and that with the nation's progress, their own community would also advance.

I wish to state that no individual is born mentally weak or incapable. Rather, it is the environment into which one is born that shapes one's growth and development. Approximately 25 percent of the nation's population belongs to the Dalit community. This is a community that has historically and consistently borne the brunt of various forms of oppression. The incidents of atrocities that come to light constitute less than 2 percent of the actual number of occurrences.

If we see the causes of atrocities against Dalits, the primary reason is the centuries-old weak economic condition of the poor. These people neither possess their own cattle, nor do they have their own land, nor do they have stable employment. They do not even have sufficient food to eat, nor access to clean drinking water. Even if

* Speech was laid on the Table.

someone endeavours to uplift themselves through hard work, the entire society becomes an obstacle in their path to progress. This is because the upper classes, through their dominance, seek to instil fear in the minds of Dalits so that their advancement remains unseen. For this reason, Dalits are

- neither allowed to undertake good work
- nor are they permitted to drink water from communal resources such as wells or taps;
- their mothers' and sisters' honour is violated through intimidation;
- their homes are brazenly set on fire to not only destroy economic progress but also to force them to leave the village, thereby allowing others to seize even their smallest possessions.

We all witness these atrocities, although they are few in number. However, due attention is not paid to the causes behind these atrocities. After independence, the Constitution of the country was enacted in 1950. The Constitution ensured that every citizen in the country would have equal rights. Yet, the approach of successive governments has been such that although progress has been made, the benefits of this progress have not reached the deprived sections

proportionately. We may be able to see the atrocities committed by the dominant sections, but the atrocities committed by the government are neither brought to light nor do the courts intervene in such matters. I would like to present some examples of this.

Children from poor Dalit families attend government schools in villages, but governments have gradually shifted their focus away from primary education. These primary schools have effectively become institutions for serving mid-day meals to poor and deprived children. This is a deliberate strategy by the governments to marginalise the poor, because if good education is not provided, progress will come to a halt.

The Dalit community in this country mostly obtained Class D and Class C jobs due to their limited education, and the majority of these jobs were primarily in the category of sanitation workers. Through government employment, poor Dalit individuals were able to provide proper care for their children and bring them into the mainstream of society. However, successive governments have curtailed the progress of these poor individuals by outsourcing all Class D and Class C jobs on contract.

The Constitution provides for reservation of government jobs for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. However, governments have committed an injustice by not implementing this reservation in full. The injustice reaches its peak when reservations are even denied in promotions. An even greater injustice is committed by the government through the complete privatisation of the system, which excludes the application of reservation. My demand is that a law on reservation be enacted and that it be incorporated into the Ninth Schedule of the Constitution.

The Constitution also mandates that budgets for the progress of SC/ST communities be allocated proportionate to their population under the SSP/SCST Fund. Till date, no government, whether Union Government or State Government, has either allocated the full amount or utilised the fund properly. If this fund were used appropriately for the development of these deprived communities, significant change could be effected. This is a grave injustice by the government towards the Dalit society. The situation worsens when the fund is used for purposes unrelated to Dalit development.

The Dalit community cries out for justice but does not receive it because there is no representation for Dalits in the judiciary. This is

why the attitude of courts in most cases concerning Dalit interests is hostile. Judgements on reservation issues are invariably against Dalits. This constitutes an injustice by the judiciary towards Dalits. Here, I demand that reservation be introduced for Dalits in the judiciary.

All classes of society are given opportunities in the armed forces. However, eligible members of the Dalit community are denied recruitment opportunities in the army through reservation. Physical examination standards and measurements are relaxed for people from hilly regions for army recruitment, yet large numbers of jobs are not provided to Dalits. I say with pride that the Dalit community of this country is no less patriotic than any other community, as Dalits are the original inhabitants of this land and are ready to lay down their lives for the country's defence. I urge the government to end this injustice and provide reservations in the armed forces. The distribution of all government facilities meant for the poor continues to be arbitrary and biased, and the government takes no action. This is nothing but oppression.

The Scheduled Caste/Scheduled Tribe Commission was established to prevent atrocities against Dalits, but it is a toothless

tiger. It lacks any provision to punish offenders. Therefore, I earnestly request the government either to empower these Commissions or to dissolve them altogether, as they are nothing but a farce.

Vacant government land should be allocated to the poor, Dalits, and deprived communities so that they may cultivate it and contribute to the country's progress. I am confident that these people have the capability to turn barren land into gold. The government should prioritise this.

The current Government is one that seeks to realise the dreams of Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. This government desires to advance Baba Saheb's ideals. Hon. Narendra Modi Ji took oath stating that this government is for Dalits, deprived, and oppressed people. On this basis, I humbly demand from the Hon. Prime Minister to expedite all initiatives for Dalit development to fulfil these promises and to eradicate this social evil.

***SADHVI SAVITRI BAI PHULE (BAHRAICH):** When our country, India, was subjected to the rule of foreign powers, the Adivasi and indigenous people of India were enslaved in two ways- firstly, by foreign rulers, and secondly, by the existing social system within the country. These communities, who were enslaved for thousands of years, made immense sacrifices, attaining martyrdom while fighting against the Mughals and the British to liberate India. History bears testimony to this fact even today. However, it is a matter of regret that the communities that made these sacrifices in large numbers are rarely remembered, while communities with comparatively fewer martyrs have many more memorials erected in their names. When the struggle for India's freedom was underway, two kinds of oppressed people participated wholeheartedly-they did so with the hope that once the country attained independence, they would be free from bondage and would be able to live a life of equality and dignity. They hoped that they would have land to cultivate, receive respect, gain access to education, have a voice in the executive, receive justice through the judiciary, and attain equality in the entire system.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

The status imposed upon Dalits and backward communities thousands of years ago by the social order still exists in independent India. You all witness this even today through television, radio, and newspapers. Untouchability, discrimination based on caste and social hierarchy, are still prevalent on a large scale. In some places, they are denied entry into temples; elsewhere, they are subjected to caste-based slurs, assaults, rape, exploitation, atrocities, and even murder. These incidents occur in greater numbers in some states and less in others. I would like to present a few facts to substantiate this.

1. In Sonipat, a 14-year-old boy was killed by two policemen.
2. An attempt was made to kill a Dalit writer in Bangalore.
3. 3 Dalits were killed for drinking water from a tap in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh.
4. Dalit was beaten to death in Haryana.
5. The Dalit family was burnt alive in Faridabad.
6. In Bihar, 2 Dalits were lynched.
7. 2 Dalit sisters were paraded naked after being raped in Amritsar.

8. Dalit Kanwariyas were stopped from offering water in Nagaraul.

9. Dalits were banned from entering the temple in Himachal Pradesh.

10. A Dalit was beaten to death by the police in Amdanagar, Maharashtra.

11. In Alirajpur, Madhya Pradesh, water is not allowed to be taken from hand pumps.

12. Dalit Sarpanch was made to sit on the ground in Jaipur.

13. In Rajasthan, 3 Dalits lost their lives after being run over by a tractor.

14. In Uttarakhand, Dalits were prevented from entering the temple and were pelted with bricks and stones.

15. Dalits were not allowed to open schools in Morena district.

16. The Dalit family was stripped naked in Dankaur, Noida.

17. In Tirunelnelli of Tamil Nadu, a picture of the Dalit leader Ambedkar is worn around the neck to identify Dalits

and a thread of yellow, green, white etc. is tied on the hand.

18. In Karnataka, a Dalit student was forced to drink toilet cleaners.

19. A Dalit woman was raped in Kerala.

20. In Thiruvananthapuram, a Dalit girl was gang-raped for two months.

21. A Dalit girl was raped in a moving bus in Tripura.

22. Dalit was beaten to death in Lakhimpur.

The entire nation is already aware of the recent incident in Una; there is no need for me to elaborate on it.

How much should I recount?

The country may have gained independence, but the condition of the downtrodden Dalit community in free India has seen no substantial improvement. In a nation where animals and birds are worshipped, the plight of the Dalit society remains deeply unfortunate. I bow in reverence to Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Ji, who, while enduring numerous social evils and injustices, gave this nation its Constitution-a document that governs the executive, the legislature, and the judiciary. I would like to state that the atrocities, rapes, and

exploitation being committed against Dalits across the country, in my view, are happening primarily because they are considered untouchables. It is this label of untouchability that forces them into menial and degrading work. If being assigned such tasks such as manual scavenging, is the reason they are labelled untouchable, and if for this they are assaulted, raped, denied dignity, and even murdered, then I demand that the Government must enact a law specifically aimed at stopping such practices imposed on Dalits and those labelled as untouchables.

I urge that all such degrading forms of labour including manual scavenging, the removal of dead animal carcasses, washing clothes, lifting refuse, and cleaning drains, be strictly prohibited, so that the oppressed and marginalised people of this nation may be able to live a dignified life of respect and opportunity.

On my behalf and on behalf of the Dalit society, I express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

*__SHRI KAMLESH PASWAN (BASGAON):__ As a leader of this very community, I consider myself to be an ambassador and a representative of this community. This caste-based division which has created divisions robbing men of the very basic human dignity that they deserved for the thousands of years, what is surprising is that it was done mainly in the name of religious order.

This is a tricky path wherein the intersection between religious and social order is often blended making it the most lethal form of imposing order upon people. And that prominence was but natural simply because before the rule of law, it was only religion which could help establish such an order. Caste which was supposed to be a social institution was degenerated into a license to commit atrocities upon those at the bottom of the ladder. This continued for hundreds of years. Sadly, this continues today as well.

The warrant of any religion may that be Hinduism or Islam ended the day the people of this country gave the constitution to themselves. This constitution will be our religion and so shall we be governed by

* Speech was laid on the Table.

it. The problem is that somewhere some sections of the society haven't been able to fight it. This saddens me terribly, as a MP from the ruling party we have for years on fought against this sort of domination and supremacist attitude which some anti-social elements have adopted in the name of religion and caste. The message of every religion is to bring man closer to God but that doesn't mean to distance man from man. Not to call a man a Dalit and treat him in a manner in the most inhuman manner.

Despite all constitutional guarantees, despite the much prized reservation granted to the SCs and STs there is little that has been done to DIGNIFY the existence of the these classes.

It is only saddening that certain people even today are being ostracized for practicing a particular profession. This is sixty years after a freedom movement which celebrated the dignity of labour, which respected every man for the profession he practiced and celebrated his role, however small in the movement. That earnestness has dissolved in the self assumed sense of supremacy some elements carry and it is imperative to challenge that on all fronts.

What I also wish to bring to your notice is the way contemporary identity of the Dalits is being painted. The media as it so seems picks

up any social problem and tries to project it as a matter of Dalit atrocity. This rather stigmatizes Dalits than giving them the coverage. Having a roti in a Dalit home doesn't solve matters. What does for them is, to give them equity, give them the kind of respect that we shall want to be rendered to ourselves; I believe that is enough. A Dalit's man politics never revolves around Caste. His manifesto only includes Roti, Kapdaa and Makaan. If he is not given safety for these three articles, then the society has got a lot to reproach itself with.

It is not one Government, one party (like a lot of parties claim) which shall solve matters, it is the mind-set which some elements have developed which needs to be corrected.

Wherever he has been given the opportunity, the Dalit has shined everywhere, in politics, in industry and commerce, agriculture, entrepreneurship. Everywhere!

I think that the government is on the right trajectory, it genuinely feels for them rather than using them. The Prime Minister's latest statement is an affirmation in that direction. I urge parties to genuinely help the poorest of this community rather than using their identity to consolidate their own political capital.

Social inclusion is the key. Even Dr. Ambedkar suggested that

the precursor to the success of any political or legal solution, once that is achieved, things shall fall in place. They will. I am sure.

[Translation]

***SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA):** In 2015, the current NDA government introduced an amendment bill to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989. This included provisions for the establishment of special courts and other designated fast-track courts. Under these provisions, in response to the recent Una incident, the Government of Gujarat has established a special fast-track court. The charge sheet in this case is expected to be filed shortly.

The recent statement by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi regarding the identification and strict action against those falsely claiming to be cow protectors is indeed a positive step towards curbing atrocities against Dalits.

Social justice is a core principle of our democracy. Continuous efforts are being made to bring the backward sections of society into the mainstream by ensuring their access to social, economic, religious, cultural, and educational justice.

From Narsinh Mehta to Mahatma Gandhi, many great individuals have undertaken meaningful efforts towards the eradication of

* Speech was laid on the Table.

untouchability.

Gandhiji used to say that untouchability is a blot on Hindu culture. He believed that efforts to eradicate it should be made at every level from Panchayat to Parliament, from Sarpanch to Member of Parliament. Dalits must not be viewed by political parties merely as a vote bank.

Rather than offering crocodile tears or superficial sympathy, there should be sincere loyalty and goodwill towards them.

The work of manual scavenging and sanitation is being performed by Dalits for which we must express our gratitude. Any hatred or contempt directed towards them is a betrayal of humanity and of human values. We must strive for the upliftment of Dalits by eliminating untouchability and putting an end to the injustices inflicted upon them.

When we are celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of the Messiah of the Dalits and the architect and leader of the Constitution, Dr. Ambedkar, every incident of atrocity against Dalits is indeed unfortunate. All of us, as responsible citizens, must remain committed to their cause.

Under the present NDA Government, amendments were made to

the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules, 1995, through a notification issued on 14 April, 2016, on the occasion of Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary. These changes have led to a faster process for providing relief in cases of offences.

In cases of murder, complete disability caused by assault, and acid attacks resulting in more than 30 percent burns, as well as gang rape, a compensation provision of Rs. 8.25 lakh has been made. For rape cases, a provision of Rs. 5 lakh has been made. In cases of sexual harassment, a compensation of Rs. 2 lakh is provided. Additionally, for acts such as forcing a groom off a horse or preventing a wedding procession, a provision of Rs. 1 lakh has been included. These provisions are commendable.

Investigations must be completed, and the charge sheet filed within 60 days. Relief provisions for rape and gang rape have been introduced for the first time.

For serious nature offences, a provision has been made to provide acceptable relief amounts to SC/ST women, even if no one is convicted upon completion of trial. Based on the nature of the offence, the relief amount has been increased from the earlier range of Rs.

75,000 to Rs. 7 lakh 50 thousand to a revised range of Rs. 85,000 to Rs. 8 lakh 25 thousand.

There is a provision to provide relief, in cash or any other form, to the victim of the atrocity, their family members and dependents within 7 days.

The payment of compensation amounts to victims for various offences under atrocities has been made more rationalised.

At the State, District, and Sub-division levels, provisions have been made for regular review of the schemes related to justice and rights for the victims and witnesses in the concerned meetings.

This clearly reflects how sensitive the present NDA Government is towards the eradication of atrocities against SCs/STs.

My suggestions are as follows:

1. Security cells of Scheduled Castes should be established.
2. Special police stations should be set up at the district places of all the States to register complaints of Scheduled Castes.
3. In case of physical, mental, psychological, emotional or financial harm and damage to the property, there should

be a provision for immediate compensation.

4. Employment of manual scavengers should be prohibited, and arrangements for their rehabilitation should be made at the earliest.

5. As a socio-economic boycott, strict action should be taken against the culprits.

6. Cases of crime against scheduled castes have increased by 18.6 percent in 2012-2013 as compared to 2009, with Uttar Pradesh and Bihar at the top with a ratio of 17-18 percent. Strict steps should be taken by the government in this regard.

7. Under the Scheduled Castes Prevention of Atrocities Act, special fast-track courts should be set up to deal with the cases pending in the courts in the last 3 years, and it should be supported financially by the Central Government.

8. The amount of compensation under Dalit atrocities should be increased on the basis of the atrocities.

9. For the educational upliftment of Dalits, they should be benefited from the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana for loans, scholarships, and doing economic business.

10. There is a need to transform societal attitudes to encourage their inclusive participation in communal feasts and all cultural and religious festivities.…

…(*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go in record.

(*Interruptions*) ... *

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have a long list of speakers who want to speak on this subject. The Members, who want to lay their written speeches on the Table, can do so. That will be treated as a part of the proceedings.

The Hon. Minister is going to reply at 6:00 o'clock. I request the Hon. Members to be brief while delivering their speeches.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call everyone. Let them be very brief. Meanwhile two Hon. Ministers also want to make interventions.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): This is a

* Not recorded.

very important subject. … (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Members should be given more time to speak.… (*Interruptions*) We should be given more time. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, we are ready to sit till midnight. You may extend the time of the House. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: We will take a decision at 6 o'clock. If the House feels so, I, as a Presiding Officer, have no objection to it.

… (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI

ANANTHKUMAR): Sir, I appreciate the feelings of the Hon. Members. This is a very important issue. I also agree that there should not be any limit, but at the same time, I hope our friends will also appreciate that while discussing and deciding about the time for this discussion and debate, we ourselves have decided that we would fix four hour's duration. Already, we have had discussion for almost three hours.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: What is mentioned here is two hours.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, we started at 2.35 p.m. Therefore, we can continue for a while and there will be an opportunity for everybody. That is the only thing I am telling you. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The only thing is that Hon. Members should be brief.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Jyotiradityaji, whatever we have decided, let us do that much. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Ravindra Babu.

DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM): Sir, we have seen

today what ‘atrocity’ means very clearly before our eyes. We have clearly witnessed what an atrocity means.

Sir, if I say that there are no SC Members of Parliament here, it will be very shocking to everybody. Definitely, there are no SC Members here and there are no ST Members here because we all belong to one political party or the other and we are all fighting among the parties, forgetting about the main issue for which we are agitating, that is, atrocities against Dalits.

I do not know whether Congress is good, BJP is good or TDP is good. When atrocities against Dalits are happening, it is immaterial whose regime it is. Let us concentrate more on Dalits than on political parties. That is my fervent appeal to all Members, cutting across party lines. This is not the time to settle score as to who has achieved more and who has not achieved more. We will settle those scores during election. Let the people judge who has done good and who has not done good.

Sir, without mentioning Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, discussion about atrocities against the Dalits will be incomplete. I have seen all my Hon. colleagues talking about atrocities happenings after Independence.

Sir, very conveniently they have forgotten that the origin of atrocities on Dalits and untouchability dates back to 2000 B.C or 3000 B.C., ever since the Vedas came to India and ever since the practice of the *Varna* system started in India. There is untouchability and the lower caste system since then. Ours is a graded society having four *Varnas*. In the graded society, there is an ascending form of superiority complex and descending form of inferiority complex.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Member, just a minute.

17.31 hours

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: According to the List of Business, there is item No. 36: "Half-an-Hour discussion" to be taken at 5.30 p.m., relating to Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana. What have you to say, Mr. Minister?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Sir, this is a very important discussion, that is, 'Atrocities on Dalits'. Therefore, Sir, I request you to kindly continue with this discussion, and item No. 36 can be taken up in the next Session.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right, if the House agrees, then we can proceed with the discussion.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: All right.

17.32 hours

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193...Contd.

Atrocities against Dalits in the country

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Hon. Member, Dr. Ravindra Babu, may continue his speech.

DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM): Sir, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar said that political democracy and political freedom would be useless and unfit in a country like India where society is on an unequal footing; it is not on an equal footing. In such a country, if we practise democracy, it would be useless, until the caste system is destroyed. Until the caste system is abolished, there is no meaning of democracy. This is what Dr. Ambedkar has said. I subscribe to that view one hundred per cent; I hope all our brothers also subscribe to that.

The graded society is like apartheid. We have seen in South Africa that the 'Blacks' were excluded because they were 'Black'; the 'Whites' were superior because they were 'Whites'. In India, everybody looks the same. I look like anybody else. Most of the people who participated in today's discussion on 'Atrocities on

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes' belong to SC category. Nobody from the Upper Castes or any other Castes is speaking on 'Atrocities on SCs/STs' excepting the SC/ST people. When the SC people are facing the atrocities, the perpetrators are also supposed to speak. … (*Interruptions*) What is their mindset? I know the mindset of those who have objected to the discussion on 'atrocities on Dalits'. However, I would like to know how the perpetrators feel. That also should be looked into. … (*Interruptions*) I do not know why this sort of atrocity is being committed on a discussion concerning 'atrocity'. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): It is not correct. Members like Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab and Prof. Saugata Roy also spoke on this subject. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Everybody is participating in this discussion and there is no caste difference here. … (*Interruptions*)

DR. RAVINDRA BABU: That is why I said, "Majority of those who spoke…" My dear friend, I did not use the word 'exclusively'.

Please do not commit atrocities on me now. Let me speak because the freedom of speech was given in the Fundamental Rights.

Please do not curb it; please do not stifle it now. I am talking about Dr. Ambedkar. While speaking about Dr. Ambedkar, at least, do not stifle my voice.

Therefore, it is a graded society and there are inequalities in the society. There is an ascending form of superiority and there is a descending form of contempt. When I am higher up in society, in caste hierarchy, I feel good. Coming down from the Upper Caste to the Lower Caste, I feel a sense of contempt. In India, there are so many sub-nationalities; there are so many sub-nations, which are already in-built. Our Prime Minister's cry "to have one Nation" will not be heard until the caste system exists in India. If you want to really achieve "one Nation", the caste system should be abolished by all means. I do not know how to abolish this, that is, whether by giving political freedom or by economic freedom, which is what our Pradhan Mantri Shri Modi Ji is trying his level best by having inclusive growth. As my colleague, Shri Meghwal Sahib said, we also have a Mudra Scheme. The financial assistance being given to an SC entrepreneur has been enhanced from Rs. 15 lakh to Rs. 15 crore. Of course, there are a lot of problems like giving collaterals, etc., which should have been removed. Ultimately, atrocities are still happening in so many ways – physical atrocities, atrocities with violence; there are rural

atrocities; and in urban areas also, there are atrocities. There are people who discriminate in the name of caste system. In Upper Castes also, there are so many castes, for example, Brahmins, Vaishyas, Kshatriyas and Sudras. They cannot marry each other because of social, impregnable barriers. How can we break that? How can we bring them into India as one nation? How to make them feel as part of one nation? There is a caste barrier; there is a language barrier; there is religious barrier; and there are so many barriers within India. How can we achieve the nationhood? How can we achieve this character of one nation? There are lots of reservations.

In the Government of India, in spite of reservation, in spite of the Parliament, in spite of the Parliamentary Committees, there are lot of Departments who indulge in atrocities, they indulge in discriminations by denying the promotions to the SC, ST people. They indulge in the recruitment process itself. I can give you a small example. We have got the Central Board of Excise and Customs. It has undergone massive expansion by having cadre restructuring and by recruiting 5000 officers. In that, they have exclusively removed SC/STs in promotions from Category ‘B’ to Category ‘A’. When we asked about it in the Committee, they quoted the High Court Judgment, Supreme Court Judgment and CAT judgment. Why can we not have an

amendment to give immunity to these people? It is a form of atrocity.

Atrocities are happening in rural areas because of landlessness. There are so many SCs without any land. If we give them land, most of the issues will be solved. They will at least have the pride of having a land. They can at least be on par with others. … (*Interruptions*) In Amalapuram, one accident happened. Later on, it was known that it was a mistaken identity which was tried to be blown out of proportion. I myself verified and there is no such thing. It was a mistaken identity.

After Liberalization, Privatisation and Globalization (LPG), the Government has shrunk in its size. That means, many jobs were given to private companies. With liberalization, multinationals came to India. Now the slogan is, 'more governance, less Government.' It means that there will be less Government jobs. It would mean lesser reservation and so on. How can we stop this? At least, there should be reservation in the private sector also. Therefore, there would be some amount of justice done to these people, though not as entrepreneur but at least in jobs.

We have privatized education in educational institutions. There should be free education for SCs and STs who are more suffering. They cannot afford to go to Apolo Hospital; they cannot go to big

public schools. How can we do justice? How can we stop atrocities? In every walk of life, there is atrocity against SCs and STs. SCs/STs are symbolically identified with the poor people of the society. They belong to the lower strata of the society. They are very poor economically also. They have been suffering for centuries. They are very poor. Let us put some stop to all these atrocities once for all.

Lastly, in the name of *gaurakshak*, there is lot of hue and cry in the country. Some are misguided; some are criminals. Under the guise of *gaurakshak*, they may be exhibiting their paranoid qualities. This is what our Government also says. Let us not encourage them. Let us give them the severest punishment. There are political parties and certain politicians who are trying to exploit this caste for their political game. In SCs, there are so many sub-castes. In Andhra Pradesh, there are sub-castes like Mala, Madiga, Relly and so on. One party will encourage one sub-sect and another party will encourage another sub-sect. It is for their own advantage. We have been unnecessarily used as a pawn in their hands. In order to stop this, let us rise above these political parties. Let us rise above the caste feeling and build one nation with a strong intention of making the Dalits strong and then only country will become strong.

Last but not least, the economic sharing of the SCs in the country is .0003 per cent and rest of the percentage is shared by upper castes. Lower castes and especially SCs/STs are feeling alienated. They are feeling subjugated. They are feeling slighted. They are feeling as to whom this country belongs to. They feel that this country does not belong to them. Tribal people are confined to hills. We cannot bring all of them to plains and make them feel they are Indians. There is a subconscious, palpable and visible restlessness among SC, ST population in general and youth in particular. It is high time we addressed their grievances.

Sir, Ambedkar denounced Hinduism. He said, 'I am born as a Hindu, I do not want to die as a Hindu'. Of course he also burnt the Manu Smriti, that is all a part of his ideology and philosophy. Maybe out of his own convictions and for his own correct thinking he did like that. Ambedkar used to believe in Buddha. So Buddha is the God for Ambedkar. Ambedkar is the God for SCs. Therefore, the Hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh Chandrababu Naidu-garu said that the capital of the State should be called Amaravathi a place associated with Buddhism.

Jai Bheem! Jai Hind!

*** SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government to an issue which requires immediate attention. There has been a sharp rise in incidents of atrocities being committed against Dalits.

A 14 year old Dalit girl died in our Capital after being repeatedly raped and tortured. She was also forced to drink acid by her kidnappers. The girl died a painful death and it was only after the Delhi Commission of Women issued a notice to the DCP that the accused were arrested.

Similarly, a Dalit family in Karnataka's Chikkamagaluru district was attacked last week because it was suspected that the family had eaten beef. According to the police complaint filed, more than 40 members of a group attacked the family on July 17. Allegedly even after the arrival of the police, the beating continued and serious injuries were caused.

In the Beed district of Maharashtra, two men were beaten by over 25 people. They were threatened, abused and beaten with belts.

And we all know, earlier this month in the town of Una in Gujarat, dalit men were mercilessly flogged, stripped and beaten with

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

iron rods by cow vigilantes who also uploaded the video online. This was done on the suspicion of these Dalits skinning a dead cow.

During April 2016, the brutal murder of Dalit woman Jisha in Kerala shocked everybody. Similarly in March 2016, Delta Meghnal, a 17-year-old Dalit girl was raped and murdered in her school in Bikaner, Rajasthan.

These are few of the many horrendous incidents which have taken place and which are still taking place all over our country. Even though there are laws in place to deal with such incidents, there seems to be no concrete prevention of such atrocities.

According to the National Crime Records Bureau (NCRB) reports-in 2014, crimes against the Scheduled Castes (SCs) were 47,064 which was a sharp increase over 39,408 in 2013 and 33,655 in 2012. An increase of almost 19% took place in 2014 over 2013. The charge sheeting rate in crimes committed against Dalits was 92.3%, while the conviction rate was only 28.8%. The rate of such crimes against SCs surpassed the national average in as many as 10 states in 2013 and 2014 (the rate of crime is the number of crimes reported against SCs per one lakh of their population). In 2014, the rate of crime against Dalits was 23.4 and in 2013 it was 19.6. NCRB statistics

further reveal that in 2014, some 2,233 Dalit women were raped which increased from 2,073 in 2013 and 1,576 in 2012.

Thus, with the hostility and atrocity increasing against the Dalits especially with the women, with each passing year, I urge the Government to look into this matter and take strict action against those who commit such atrocities.

* **SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL):** The rate of atrocities against Dalit communities is drastically increased in past few months and the number of incidents and the barbarian style of attacks are shame for the whole country.

The deep-rooted hate and disaffection in society is a main reason behind this. It is very unfortunate that various state Govts and the union govt is not properly addressing the crimes against Dalits. The Dalit community in the country are scared and feeling insecure after the Gujarat incident. Dalit community has been seething with anger over the public flogging of a group of Dalits who were skinning a dead cow in Mota Samadhiyala, a village near Una town in Saurashtra region on July 11.

Four of them were brutally beaten with steel pipes and iron rods, stripped, tied to an SUV and paraded in the main market near the local police station in Una by members of local cow vigilante group Gau Raksha Samiti (cow protection committee). The flogging was filmed, posted on Facebook as warning to other Dalits were they the repeat such acts. It is such a shame that these kind of news are coming from the state of Hon'ble Prime Minister and very unfortunate that he is not

* Speech was laid on the table.

ready to take stand in the house during the parliament session.

Earlier in July, a Dalit farmer was killed by villagers when he tried to cultivate a common grazing land in a village near Porbandar. Only in April this year, a 31-year-old Dalit- Ketan Koradia, a clerk in a local court in Ahmedabad- committed suicide, alleging discrimination in the work place where he had constantly faced caste abuse. In 2012, three Dalit youth were killed in police firing in Thangarh town of Surendranagar district. The State government, headed by the then Chief Minister Narendra Modi, had set up a three-member committee to inquire into the incident and submit a report. Till date, the government has not made the report public.

The outburst of protests by dalits all over Gujarat is an expression of the pent up anger at the oppression of dalits in the state under BJP rule. The fact that over 20 dalits have tried to commit suicide during the protests shows the depth of frustration in the dalit community. However, it is heartening that dalits are protesting vehemently and sending a message that they will not tolerate such atrocities. In many places in Saurashtra, dalits have refused to clear the carcasses of dead cows stating that let the cow protectors lift the dead cows. This has effectively exposed the gau rakshaks who will not touch a dead cow.

The perversity of law enforcing agencies, legal system and communal and criminal gangs collaborating to assault and intimidate poor people belonging to dalit and minority communities in the name of cow protection is becoming a routine affair in several parts of India. Laws prohibiting cow and bullock slaughter provide legitimacy to such violent lunacy. These laws are loaded with majoritarian prejudices and hatred towards dalits and minorities.

These laws which do not befit a modern republic must be withdrawn to stop communal and criminal elements from perpetrating violence, murder and humiliation of minorities and dalits in the name of cow protection.

Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate and necessary steps to stop the atrocities against those who are behind these incidents and give strict instructions to the state govts who fail to stop these crimes.

***SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL):** I wish to express my deep gratitude and sincere thanks to my beloved leader Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchithalaivi Amma for giving me an opportunity to express my views on "Atrocities against people belonging to Scheduled castes in the country".

The Constitution of India vide Article 15 lays down that no citizen shall be subjected to any disability or restriction on the grounds of religion, race, caste, sex or place of birth. It also guarantees that every citizen shall have equality of status and opportunity.

The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill was passed in the year 2014 after the present Government came to power. That bill replaced the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Ordinance, 2014 and sought to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

The Act prohibits the commission of offences against members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs) and establishes special courts for the trial of such offences and the rehabilitation of victims. The term 'atrocity' was not defined until the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act that was passed by the Parliament in 1989. In legal parlance, the Act understands the term to mean an offence punishable under section 3(1) and (2).

People belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes face persistent discrimination and serious crimes are committed against them. “Untouchability is a Sin” We must totally eradicate discrimination and untouchability in any form.

There are various types of discrimination against SCs and STs ranging from denial of entry into non-Dalit streets and places of worship, prohibitions against food sharing, denied cremation and burial grounds, denied access to water facilities, ban on marriage processions, not allowed to sell milk to cooperatives, denied barber services and laundry services.

As per Crime Statistics of India, every 18 minutes a crime is committed against SCs; every day 27 atrocities against them, (3 rapes, 11 assaults and 13 murders); every week 5 of their homes or possessions burnt and 6 persons kidnapped or abducted.

In the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, a group of dalits have been flogged in public who were allegedly skinning a dead cow in Mota

Samadhiyala Village near Una town. It is learnt from Media reports that four of them were brutally beaten with steel pipes and iron rods, stripped, tied to an SUV and paraded in the main market near police station in Una by members of the local cow protection committee. The flogging was filmed, posted on social media and went viral within hours. This has led to public outburst and condemning.

The cases of discrimination against known public figures in the past illustrate the gravity of the problem. In November 2011, a Justice of a High Court stated that he had been humiliated by fellow judges due to his caste since 2001. In June 2011, the Chairperson of the National Commission for Scheduled Castes – himself a Dalit – was denied entry into a Hindu Temple. In July 2011, a Dalit Member of a Legislative Assembly, was allegedly not allowed to eat food along with his colleagues at an official meeting.

The UN Special Report on Violence against Women noted that Dalit women “face targeted violence, even rape and death, from powerful members of dominant castes who employ these methods to inflict political lesion and crust dissent within the community”. Assaulting or sexual exploiting an SC or ST woman is an offence under the Act.

Empower the Women to empower the nation. There should be Special Courts for women. Atrocities against women belonging to a Scheduled Caste or Scheduled Tribe should be tried by special courts for women with women judges and women public prosecutors. All Women police stations in Tamil Nadu-first of its kind in the world-are the brain child of Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma. These All Women Police stations provide assistance and redress the grievances of all women, especially SCs and STs. All other States of the country can try to follow this method to provide protection to Women.

With regard to false and malicious complaints filed under the Act, the Committee noted that relevant provisions of the Indian Penal Code, 1860 are insufficient, and a provision addressing this problem should be included within the Act. The Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 provides for a similar clause.

In most cases, unwillingness to file a First Information Report (FIR) under the Act comes from caste-bias. Policemen in many instances are reluctant to file FIR and cases against fellow caste-members because of the severity of the penalties imposed by the Act.

The Act specifies that a non-SC or ST public servant who

neglects his duties relating to SCs or STs shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term of six months to one year. The Bill specifies the duties, including: (a) registering a complaint or FIR, (b) reading out information given orally, before taking the signature of the informant and giving a copy of this information to the informant, etc. 'The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill that was passed in 2014 has the provision which specified that an Exclusive Special Court must be established at the district level to try offences.

In districts with fewer cases, a Special Court may be established to try such offences. Justice delayed is justice denied. There should be less pendency of cases in courts. Adequate number of courts must be established to ensure that cases are disposed of within two months. Appeals of these courts shall lie with the high court, and must be disposed of within three months. A Public Prosecutor and Exclusive Public Prosecutor shall be appointed for every Special Court and Exclusive Special Court respectively.

The socially disadvantaged groups of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes need a constant special focus for their socio-economic advancement. Government of Tamil Nadu under the

leadership and guidance of Hon'ble Amma is committed to continue its efforts for their welfare and upliftment.

Under the fostering care of Hon'ble AMMA several appropriate policies for the welfare programmes are undertaken to ensure socio-economic development of Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Major ameliorative activities for these communities are grouped under educational development, economic development, Special Component Plan for people belonging to Scheduled Castes and the Tribal Sub Plan for Tribals. Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) implements the economic development programmes in addition to the regular economic development programmes implemented by various departments for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with specific target coverage for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department of Tamil Nadu implements all the programmes and schemes effectively for the economic and educational advancement of these people.

The Tamil Nadu Government led by Hon. Puratchithalaivi Amma is committed for the cause of protection of people belonging to Scheduled Castes and Tribes. Tamil Nadu Government has been

implementing several welfare programmes meant for Scheduled Castes and Tribes, particularly women.

The law enforcement agency, the police and the judiciary, should be free from caste prejudice to address this perennial social problem. We should be united and committed to protect the basic human rights and principles of justice, equality, liberty and fraternity.

*SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): Today 68 years after independence, dalits continue to bear the brunt of violence and discrimination in recent weeks by attacking dalits by so called "gau rakshaks".

The recent Una incident is symptomatic of a deeper malady that has been plaguing our country for a long time. The dominant caste of India tends to reinforce the hierarchical caste based power structure and suppress dalit rights assertions. Dalits have been asserting their fundamental rights guaranteed by the constitution, which is being resisted by the dominant castes, leading to atrocities.

On July 11, this year two members of dalit family were brutalized by the cow vigilante group Gau Rakshaks for skinning a dead cow. The vigilantes broke the hands and legs of the dalits, pushed and kicked them around. Even the visuals of this ghastly incident was shot and displayed proudly by these cow vigilantes. Later the police found that the cow was killed by the lion. Dalits were so angered that they went on warpath and some of them even attempted suicide.

Around the same time in Maharashtra, the demolition of Ambedkar building in Mumbai and again the dalits were harassed.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

The beating and killings of dalits by the cow vigilantes spread in several parts of the country including Uttar Pradesh, Chhatisgarh, Chennai, Andhra Pradesh etc. The anguish and frustration of the community which continues to exist on the margins of the society, is finding expression in protests.

The so called Gau Rakshaks have become a law unto themselves and appears to be encouraged by some elements. These should be declared as criminal organization and banned permanently. The killing of dalits and people from other religion by cow vigilantes is a blot on humanity and also on the country as a whole. Protection of cow is essential but not at the cost of human lives. Cow vigilantes are human and should behave as human beings otherwise they should be severely punished as per the law. The government is for the protection and safety for its citizens and should never ever allow the people to take law into their hands.

Even today dalits are not permitted to enter the temples and are even prevented from entering the police stations in about 28 percent of Indian villages. They are denied access to water sources and their children are made to sit separately while eating in several government schools. Access to justice for dalits is access of justice is abysmally

low. There is also a severe lack of empathy on the part of administrators, police and other authorities, who tend to carry their biases to work.

A day after Prime Minister condemned the attack on dalits, a group of men bashed up two dalits accusing them of killing a cow in Andhra Pradesh. Dalits were brother and were tied to a tree stripped off their clothes and thrashed mercilessly. The younger brother died immediately. Dalits are continue to be discriminated and oppressed in all educational institutions, villages, in job market and also on political battle front in the state because the state establishment is anti dalit, thus leaving them with little respite in any sphere of at any juncture of their lives.

We may be a democratic republic, but justice equality, liberty and fraternity- the four basic tenets promised in the permeable of our constitution are clearly not available to all. We all have work for the concept of equity and equality. There is also need for proper implementation of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe (Prevention of Atrocities) Act.

PROF. A.S.R. NAIK (MAHABUBABAD): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am new Member in this House. For about three hours I have been listening to senior Member talking about issues pertaining to atrocities on dalits and citing the incidents of violence that occurred in different parts of the country. I would like to make one point. There are various Commissions, and Committees established under the due process of law in this Parliament. What is their role? What are the guidelines? What are their powers? That is not mentioned here. The gun is in the hands of the members of these Commissions and Committees but the bullets are in the hands of the Government. How can these bodies take action against culprits? When incidents of atrocities occur anywhere in the country, no fact-finding Committee visits the place, no Commission is allowed to go to the spot. How can they take action? I am observing as a new Member in the Parliament that party issues are given more importance than dalit issues.

Sir, the process of birth is common for every human being across the globe. The human anatomy is the same for every one of us and the organs are all the same. Unfortunately, it is only when a person comes out of mother's womb that all these issues arise. Until then we are all the same. We all take 40 weeks or 280 days to take birth. But discrimination starts only after one comes out of mother's womb. And

that discrimination haunts dalits till their last breath. We are coming from the rural areas and we are seeing everyday what is happening in the villages.

After these many years of Independence, even today we are discussing the issue of atrocities on dalits in the country. What action has been taken by successive governments against the culprits? There is no policy. How can we curb these atrocities or minimize them? We all know the statistics, they are all available in the records. We all know how many atrocities were committed on dalits and how many of them lost their lives District-wise, State-wise.

According to a study on untouchability in rural India, there is discrimination against dalits in 565 villages in 11 States, and 47 per cent of dalit villages are prevented from selling milk to cooperative societies. This is actually happening. There are many rural areas in the country where the eateries in Hotels maintain a two-glass system and the glasses used by the dalits are not used by others. Nobody is bothering about the issue. I can say one thing. The National Commission for Scheduled Castes is there. What powers has the Government given to this Commission? It has only advisory role. The Commission has submitted many recommendations to the

Government but nothing has happened. So, what is the use of constituting a National Commission on SCs and STs? There is a Committee with Members from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha. It is the Standing Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We, the Members of the Committee, have not gone anywhere and have not visited any place. We have also submitted a Report. There is no action on that report. So, what is the use of having this type of a committee? The Government is spending crores of rupees. Wherever atrocities on dalits occur, you should send a fact-finding committee and take the action. dalits are STs; they can be easily trapped by others. Why? It is because of poverty. There is no land; there is no proper livelihood. They can be immediately caught by others. There is reservation in this Parliament. We are also responsible. Forty-seven Members from Scheduled Tribes and 87 Members from Scheduled Castes are here. Total 134 MPs are elected from reserved communities. I am not asking them to fight against their parties. But my request is, when reservation issue is there, when policy issues are there, we are not coming forward and requesting the Hon. Prime Minister. [Translation] We are also guilty of this. Why are you not giving power to the commission? This is happening because of not giving power, the conditions are not being fulfilled. The one who has

the capability to run the entire country is Minister Sahib. I want that proper guidelines should be given to the Commission. You can give powers to the Commission. You should give the strictures to be passed by the Chairperson and immediate action will have to be taken by the Commission. Then only the situation can be controlled. Otherwise if we go there, we can take the record and submit it to the Government. So far, the result has been zero; nothing has happened. The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and other Ministers are here. Definitely, in their reply, they can show a positive solution to curb or minimize or eradicate this issue.

***SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM (JAMNAGAR):** Before sharing my views on this topic, let me remind that our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji at his first Town Hall speech has already clarified that acts of atrocities are pursued by a bunch of anti-social elements, who pretend to be self-proclaimed cow protectors. They should thus be dealt severely as per the law. His message was clear and categorical that atrocity should be denounced in the name of 'gauraksha'. Cow-protection or for that matter any noble activity is considered to be a social service and any form of social service is not meant to unleash atrocities on other people but it requires a great deal of self-sacrifice.

Our stand is clear that we don't approve of those who want to distort the whole concept and create lawlessness in the society. It is a political agenda that parties are fighting tooth and nail to propagate that ever since the Modi government has come to power; such anti-social elements have gone on the prowl. It is meant for political gains to divide the society and the country as a whole and create a perception issue for BJP. It is deliberately sketched to bring a bad name to the party and to our Prime Minister even if the party is in no way

* Speech was laid on the Table.

associated with them.

These incidents are highlighted by the opposition and the media. However, let me take this opportunity to remind the House of the sustained Dalit outreach programmes undertaken by the party and the government's development work. Underprivileged sections remain a top priority for the Government and the Government has been trying more and more to get people within the ambit of social security programmes and welfare measures. Society and public disclosure is being devised in a way under the present Government to impact the daily lives of the underprivileged sections of society.

Our Hon'ble PM Modi recently told his party MPs to reach out to the transgender community in their respective constituencies. This is possibly the first time the BJP leader has reached out to the community, often ostracized by society and shut out from jobs and education opportunities.

Even MUDRA Bank was set up by Government for development and refinancing activities relating to micro units. What are the intentions of such programmes? [Translation] The purpose of MUDRA is to provide funding to the non corporate small business sector. The government wants youth to be job creators and also uplift

people from the marginalized sector to be able to avail opportunities. To cite more, the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana is one of the different flagship schemes that seek to improve the livelihoods of the poor through skill development. However, anti-Dalit campaigns are run by political parties to wash away the efforts of the government, consciously. Also, these are attempts to draw political mileage from unfortunate incidents.

Discrimination and atrocities against Dalits are a national shame. They constitute major social challenge for all Indians, irrespective of region, religion, caste and political affiliation. It is a matter of paramount importance to put an end to any kind of social scourge and not score political brownie points; the Congress and some opposition friends are, unfortunately, trying to derive political mileage and whipping up social tensions in the wake of the heinous incident at Una in Gujarat. Following the dastardly atrocity, the Gujarat government has not only arrested 16 accused but has also filed cases under various sections, including the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The Government has also approached the high court for setting up a designated court to ensure speedy trial of the case. The BJP leadership also acted swiftly in connection with the despicable remarks made by a former Uttar Pradesh party leader against BSP leader Mayawati. He

was expelled from the party immediately.

Some parties are also making it appear as if the atrocities are happening because of the NDA government at the Centre, while it is a well-known fact that law and order is a state subject.

To lend a sense of perspective to this discourse, it may be relevant to point out that atrocities against SCs have declined under BJP rule in Gujarat as compared to when the Congress was in power. In 1994, the number of cases against Dalits stood at 1,916, while there has been a steady decline after the BJP came to power. The opposition has only used the Dalits as mere vote-banks instead of working towards their social empowerment. Through their crass display of myopic politics, some parties are magnifying the Gujarat incident and defaming the Government.

The irony of this kind of political opportunism becomes all the more glaring when one finds that Uttar Pradesh (8,066 cases) and Bihar (7,874), are among the top states as far as crime against SCs were recorded. It is also pertinent to note that 113 Dalits were killed in Miyanpur and Bathanitola when Lalu Prasad Yadav was the chief minister. All the accused were later acquitted. The lip-service paid by these two leaders to the dalit cause stands exposed by recent reports

that not a single Dalit found a place in the list of 90 law officers appointed by the Bihar government. And surprisingly, Congress leaders have never bothered to visit states they have ruled in the aftermath of any Dalit-related incident. Just before the Kerala elections, a Dalit law student was brutally raped and murdered at Perumbavoor; curiously, till there was a massive public outcry, no action was initiated by the then Congress-led government. When a political outfit loses its credibility and people start calling it a symbol of falsehood and baseless promises-that is exactly what has happened to the Congress. They are in a desperate attempt to stall the good work of the Government by highlighting stray and unfortunate incidents for narrow political gains.

Some of the political critics of the NDA government also have no hesitation in sympathizing with the supporters of Afzal Guru, Yakub Memon, Maqbool Bhatt and terrorist Burhan Wani. Irrespective of these attempts to defame the BJP, the NDA government, under the stewardship of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, is fully committed to the upliftment of SCs, STs, OBCs, minorities and other weaker sections. It should be noted that the largest number of MPs belonging to SCs, STs and OBCs are in the BJP. The time has come for all political parties to strive towards bridging the gap

between the haves and have-nots and eradicate social evils. This can be achieved if they place the interests of the nation above narrow political interests.

This is the first time ever in History that a special Parliament session was dedicated in Parliament on Dr. Ambedkar's birth anniversary. The Government believes in the ideals of Dr. Ambedkar and his views on nationalism and with this I would like to quote Dr. Ambedkar here, as he said "I like the religion that teaches liberty, equality, and fraternity." [Translation] That is one of the foundation pillars of BJP. So, the time has come to put an end to vote-bank politics and strive for all-round development of all sections of the society. That is what the present Government believes in and stands for – "Sabka sath sabka vikaas". I conclude by appealing to all political parties to cooperate with the Government in emancipation of the downtrodden through multi-pronged strategies and good governance.

***DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR):** Before expressing my views on the recent reported atrocities on dalits in different parts of the Country, I would like to recall the remarks of Dipankar Gupta, a renowned sociologist that the Caste system in our country may vanish in the course of time, but the caste identity will remain forever. Whatever education you get, whatever position you secure in your job, you will be identified as the person from so called higher caste or lower caste. If at all you are from a lower caste and have achieved your destination with merit, nobody will recognize that rather they would put remark, oh, he is belonging to this lower caste and is having reservation, that's why he got it. My point is your identity in your native place is determined by your birth in a caste.

In regard to the topic, almost all of us must be feeling the heat of incidents across the country in which the dalits have been attacked, the dalit women and girls have been raped, the dalit students have been made to commit suicides, dalit politicians have been projected in derogatory image etc. Since the time immemorial, when the society was divided on the basis of caste system, everybody should know that it was not the dalits who preferred to become dalits and out caste. It

* Speech was laid on the Table.

was the rich and educated who made the caste system thereby making others as their servants. Around 160 million people in India are levelled as out caste or untouchables, the term itself poses them as impure, less than human. If you go through the newspaper, you will be coming across the news like Dalit boy beaten to death for plucking flowers, Dalit tortured by cops, Dalit 'witch' paraded naked, Dalit killed in lock-up, Dalit woman gang-raped, paraded naked, dalit student committed suicide etc. You must have come across the recent incidents of atrocities on dalits in Gujarat, Haryana, Andhra Pradesh, Bihar etc. As all of us know India's Untouchables are engaged with the lowest jobs, and live in constant fear of being publicly humiliated, paraded naked, beaten, and raped with impunity by upper-caste Hindus seeking to keep them in their place. Merely walking through an upper-caste neighborhood is a life-threatening offense for them. As per the report of International Dalit Conference, nearly 90 percent of all the poor Indians and 95 percent of all the illiterate Indians are Dalits. Every hour two Dalits are assaulted; every day three Dalit women are raped, two Dalits are murdered, and two Dalit homes are torched. Nobody believes the statistics because the police, village councils, and government officials often support the caste system, which is based on the religious teachings of Hinduism, many crimes

go unreported due to fear of reprisal, intimidation by police, inability to pay bribes demanded by police or simply the knowledge that the police will do nothing. There have been large-scale abuses by the police, acting in nexus with upper caste people, including raids, beatings in custody, failure to charge offenders or investigate reported crimes.

It is high time we should fight against such odds. We should fight against the bondage that has been inflicted upon the untouchables with the help of education, welfare systems and liberal mindset of so called higher caste people of our society. Everybody should try to understand why somebody has been labelled as out caste and untouchable. Why somebody is following the practice which is unholy in nature?

I would like to urge upon the Government to seriously look into the matter and take steps to curb the incidents of atrocities on dalits countrywide.

[Translation]

*__DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR)__: In our country, India, atrocities and injustices have been committed against Dalits for thousands of years. It was due to this oppression and social system that the revered Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar emerged as a saviour of the Dalits. Had it not been for Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, one cannot imagine where the Dalit community would be today.

Unless there is a transformation in the societal mindset, irrespective of the government in power, injustices and atrocities against Dalits and the poor will continue. Whether it is a Dalit officer, employee, or social worker whenever a Dalit tries to progress in society, certain elements within the community create obstacles to hinder that progress.

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, the principal drafter of the Constitution, framed laws in the interest of Dalits, granting them social and political rights. Alongside this, provisions were made in the Constitution for industrial advancement. In Maharashtra, irrespective of which government is in power, atrocities against Dalits have been a constant occurrence. It is important to examine the root cause of this. If a Dalit,

* Speech was laid on the Table.

after attaining the highest levels of education, secures a Class I job, even if they perform excellently, they are often suspended over trivial matters. However, even after one or two years, they are not reinstated. This itself is an atrocity against Dalits. The Union Government must take cognisance of such actions, as they tarnish the government's image and portray it as anti-Dalit. In such cases, immediate steps should be taken to reinstate such officers. Alongside the general population, SC/ST officers are also compelled to face severe challenges.

To eliminate atrocities against Dalits, a revolution in social transformation is imperative. If the Hon. Prime Minister's vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" is to be truly realised, the infringement of rights must be halted first. Protecting constitutional rights is a collective responsibility of both the State and Union Governments.

There is a need not only to reduce atrocities against Dalits but also to ensure that Dalits are genuinely granted the right to social equality in society.

The Union Government must work towards enhancing the social status of Dalits by ensuring their protection and security.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I have risen to intervene in this debate though I am not feeling well. I have been suffering with fever and running nose for last two days. But since it is a very interesting matter and we are discussing it, I thought that I should intervene for a while.

The purpose of the discussion is to identify the problem and also suggest ways and means to answer the problem to create a favourable atmosphere in the society so that there is social harmony in the society and then we move forward. After Independence, we are now celebrating 70th year. In the 70th year, we are discussing this issue. It is really a shame to the entire system. It is a challenge to all of us including me, my Party, my Government, your Party, your Governments, all Parties. It is not simply one State. If you try to confine it to one State, if you try to confine it to one political party, it means you are doing injustice to the community, to the issue. It means that you are trying to score brownie political points and the cause is

lost. This is what has been happening all these years.

The framers of the Constitution, the great leaders who were instrumental in getting the freedom, gave us the Constitution, the best in the world; they gave us the reservation. Dr. Babasehab Ambedkar has shown the way and he clearly told us at that time that till academic empowerment is given to the people, till education is provided to the people, these sections cannot match the competition with others; that is the thrust. We have made progress. The earlier Government or this Government or any other Government in between, everybody has done their bit; I am not going into that.

Today, we are trying to discuss it as if it is happening simply because this Prime Minister is there or this particular State is involved. It will be totally wrong and unfair to attribute it to one State. Secondly, it is totally unfair to target a particular party and Government or a particular leader who has dedicated his entire life for the cause of the downtrodden.

The third point I want to make is this. What is happening in the villages? Is the question of untouchability confined to one party? Is it confined to one region? Is it confined to one place? Is it confined to one party's rule? Let us put that question to ourselves. Is it happening

because one particular party is there in Gujarat today? What happened in Gujarat earlier? What happened in Maharashtra? What happened in Madhya Pradesh? What happened in Karnataka? What happened in Andhra Pradesh? What is happening in Uttar Pradesh? Is it not an issue for all of us to introspect and get answers rather than trying to put it as a political issue and blame somebody? You may be achieving a temporary benefit of getting a headline but that headline cannot be the deadline to end this. The mainline is to address the social problem. We have to eradicate this malady of untouchability from the society itself. For that, we have to create awareness among the people. Are we doing it? Should we not do it at least now?

The first is creating awareness; the second is bringing Bills. There are enough Bills but you must also have enough will, and administrative skill to implement the same and create proper climate in the society, rather than putting one community against another. This is what some people are trying to do. That is where I am pained.

In spite of my difficulty in speaking, I want to intervene in this debate because we should really compete in developmental activities. We should really compete in empowering these vulnerable sections. We should focus on *antyodaya*, uplifting of the poorest of the poor, as

said by Dr. Babasehab Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhiji and Deen Dayal Upadhyayaji. In that, we should have competition but what are we doing? If some incident happens, we make a beeline, go there, have a photo opportunity, get it published widely, forget, and wait for an opportunity to go to the next place. While doing the political pilgrimage also, we do not cover States ruled by our own party. If something happens in a State where a party in opposition in the Centre is ruling, you do not go there because you do not want it to be highlighted. You want to go only to Gujarat because Gujarat is ruled by a particular party.

Earlier before the election, a heinous incident happened in Kerala where a girl was raped and murdered brutally but nobody visited Kerala. There was an incident in Karnataka involving a police officer. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: You have come to the point now. … (*Interruptions*)

Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot has visited; not the other leader who went for photo opportunity to Hyderabad. That is the point I am

making. … (*Interruptions*)

If something happens in a state ruled by a particular party, the other party's leader visits that state. If something happens in a State ruled by this party, the other party's leader goes there. You have misunderstood me. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): You can come to Kerala. We have no objection. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Thank you, Sir, for your permission. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Karunakaran, please take your seat.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Why are you disturbed, Shri Karunakaran? … (*Interruptions*)

Please bear with us. Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot had been asked by the House for information. … (*Interruptions*) It was the Rajya Sabha. … (*Interruptions*) You put that question to your leader. Why did your leader who went to Hyderabad could not go to Kerala? … (*Interruptions*) Why has he not gone to Bulandshahar? Why has he

not gone to other places? … (*Interruptions*) Why did he go only to Una and Hyderabad Central University? Why did he not go to other places? … (*Interruptions*) Since they were ruled by your party, you did not go there? I am putting this question to all the Parties and to myself also.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Who is ruling Haryana?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: This is what I am trying to say. When something happens during your regime in Haryana, you are quiet, silent, but if something happens during our ruling in Haryana, you become violent. That is the problem I am highlighting. So, my point is, let us not try to do this. Let us not have exceptions. Let us condemn such incidents. Let us disassociate ourselves with such heinous crimes. Let us create social awareness among the people. Let us take administrative steps. Let us strengthen the hands of the administrative machinery.

Sir, this Government, led by Shri Narendra Modi, has taken up the historic legislation of Prevention of Atrocities against the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. I am not elaborating all the other measures undertaken by us. The Prime Minister has taken up a

novel scheme keeping in mind funding the unfunded, financing the un-financed, backing the un-backed and reaching the un-reached. That is the principle of this Government and that is how this Government has become popular among the people. You are worried… (*interruptions*) Sir, here the situation here, that situation there, so it became yes-yes. You may try to understand.

Sir, I would like to put it on record. If you see the record of the Lok Sabha, the highest number of Scheduled Caste MPs are on this side. The highest number of Scheduled Tribe MPs are from this side. The highest number of Backward Class MPs are from this side.… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: How many SC/ST or Backward Class Cabinet Ministers do you have?… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

…(Interruptions) …[*]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: This is the problem with them. Truth is unpalatable to them. We have the highest number of Scheduled Caste MPs.… (*Interruptions*)

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[*] Not recorded.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: How many Scheduled Caste Ministers do you have? … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Shri Suresh, address the Chair. You should know how to conduct yourself in the House.… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please sit down.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: You have only Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot.… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): Can you not see Shri Ram Vilas Paswan Ji?

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: He is from a separate Party, not BJP.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I agree with you that all the Ministers of your Government were Scheduled Caste! ….(*Interruptions*) Sir, please ask them to sit down.… (*Interruptions*)

17.58 hours (Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): As just stated by the Hon. Minister, out of the 19 Ministers appointed, five belong to the Scheduled Castes and three are from the Scheduled Tribes. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Venkaiah Ji, how much time will you take?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We have to extend the time because this is a larger issue.

HON. SPEAKER: Please try to conclude now.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: If you can make them not to interrupt me then I can conclude early…. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam, we may have to discuss it next time… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will decide that. It is not your job.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: So, my point is that this

Government is committed to the welfare of the weaker sections and down-trodden. This Prime Minister today is considered as the messiah of the poor, particularly the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. You go anywhere in the country. People raise slogans. I saw in the media today one Leader saying that Modi's image is getting tainted. It is being painted. Paint can be removed. Shri Narendra Modi, by his actions. The historic steps he has taken for the gaon (village), the poor, the farmers, the labourers, the women, and the youth, there is no precedent for them in history. Therefore, I wish to ask: who are the ones giving such slogans in this country? 'Tilak, Taraju and Talwar - Inko Maro Jutte Char', who said this? Who said that? [English]So, let us not rake up further social tensions. Let us try to bring together these communities. Let us all join together to fight this evil. Let us all come together to end these atrocities. Let us have a political will. Let us come together and make a declaration that this is not acceptable. If something is happening in your State, it is good. If something is happening in my State, it is bad.

18.00 hours

This approach has to be given up. If you want to really serve, you should serve the people. You have seen what happened in Hyderabad.

People are quoting it. Hyderabad Central University Secretary who belongs to SFI has resigned from his post and made allegations that this agitation is funded by the Congress and the Left. That is the allegation made. I can authenticate that letter and place it on the Table of the House. … (*Interruptions*) I have the letter with me. I can sign it and give it to the Secretary-General.… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please understand it is already 6 o'clock. If you all agree, I will extend the time of the House for one hour but in one hour we have to complete it. All Hon. Members should take care of this.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please allow him to speak. Kindly understand that we cannot conclude the discussion merely by doing this. If you allow others to speak, I will ensure that everyone gets the opportunity to express their views. All of you, please be seated. Why are you disturbing him? Please do not disturb.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Why are you all speaking? You should sit down.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: It is the end of the day. Democracy functions by numbers. You cannot just speak and run away. You have to accept the reality and get the reality also and get the response also.

The concluding part of my speech is like this. I only wanted to speak for four to five minutes as I was not well. But some of my friends wanted to engage with me.… (*Interruptions*) Subba Rao and Appa Rao can take care of themselves. Let us take care of our dalit brothers. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not answer anybody. Address only the Chair and do not answer anybody.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Firstly, let us not politicalise this issue. Secondly, these are not incidents that have to be condoned by anybody. Thirdly, let us not give political colour to this and thereby do injustice to those sections. Lastly, there is a need to create social awareness among different sections of society and it is a challenge to all of us, both this side and that side. We should all introspect and effectively deal with this situation. … (*Interruptions*) You have ruled for 50 years and ruined the country. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not fair. Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) *

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Had you done it, this situation would not have been there. Thank you very much.

* Not recorded.

18.04 hours

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA AND BILL AS PASSED BY RAJYA SABHA *

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I have to report that Rajya Sabha has agreed without any amendment to the Central Agricultural University (Amendment) Bill, 2016 as passed by Lok Sabha on the 9th August, 2016. I have also to report that Rajya Sabha has passed the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016.

Madam, I lay on the Table the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016 as passed by Rajya Sabha on the 11th August, 2016.

* Laid on the Table.

18.05 hours

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193.... Contd.

Atrocities against Dalits in the country

[Translation]

*** SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI):** Today, the incidents of atrocities against Dalits occurring in our country are a consequence of the failures of the previous government. The present Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, who gave the slogan "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" (Together with all, development for all), is indeed rendering it meaningful. At present, schemes such as the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, Mudra Yojana, Stand-Up India, and Skill India have benefited our Dalit brothers the most. If there is any political party that has done the greatest injustice to Dr B. R. Ambedkar, it is the Indian National Congress. The improvement in the condition of Dalits that we are witnessing today has occurred only in the past two years under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. This fact is well known to Dalit brothers across the country. If we wish

* Speech was laid on the Table.

to bring the Dalit community into the mainstream, it is imperative that we prioritise their education and make them self-reliant. At the time when Babasaheb Ambedkar wished to pursue higher studies abroad, he was financially constrained. It was then that the Maharaja of Baroda, His Highness Sayajirao Gaekwad, granted him a scholarship to study abroad. Today, the Constitution of India, in the presence of which we sit in this Parliament, is adorned with the pearls of Dr Ambedkar's vision. Even today, had it not been for the contributions of the Dalit community, the nation could not have progressed. Dalits have played a significant role in the development of our country, and we must never forget that. I would like to ask the Members of the Congress Party: who obstructed Babasaheb Ambedkar when he wished to enter the Lok Sabha? Who removed him? And today, the same Congress sheds crocodile tears. The Congress has always followed the policy of "divide by caste and rule. Therefore, I extend my support to the statement placed before the House by the Hon. Minister concerning the issues of Dalits. It is the resolve of our government, and of our Prime Minister, to ensure that the dignity of Dalits is enhanced. It is the agenda of the NDA government to bring the Dalit community into the national mainstream, and this is the very objective upon which the government is working.

[English]

*__DR. RATNA DE (NAG)(HOOGHLY):__ Dalit atrocities have increased manifold in the last two years or so. Dalit youths are at the receiving end. Most of the time, I find Dalits are discriminated in the name of religion. Caste-related activities too have increased manifold in our country. Dalits are attacked not for any major crime but for flimsy reasons and grounds. Dalit youths are treated badly, sometimes stripped in public and paraded naked in public for stealing grass cutting machine or something very petty. Dalits are killed on land dispute.

Upper caste men lynch Dalits for merely crossing their fields. Is it not a shame in this age and time? Who will take care of Dalits, if not the Government? There are incidents where Brahmin family was ostracized for blessing a Dalit couple. How can we keep quiet by witnessing such incidents in the society?

When it comes to Dalit girls, the situation is still pathetic. Dalit girls are raped, and then burnt to death. Of late, we find such cases in abundance in different parts of the country.

For all the atrocities on Dalits, I feel that Government of India

* Speech was laid on the Table.

has to do a lot. Bring in laws to provide more protection to Dalits so that no Dalit face any kind of problem in leading his life.

Some years back, the Supreme Court slammed a State government for delay in arresting 60 accused in the killing of two Dalits and torching of houses allegedly by upper caste people at Mirchpur village of Hissar district. This is the response of the Government machinery when it comes to taking follow up action against killing of two Dalits. Under such a fearful scenario, how can Dalits lead a normal life in the country? I would like to strongly urge the Government to take stern action against those who attack Dalits for no reason. Law should prevail. And it should prevail swiftly by actions against those who indulge in atrocities against Dalits.

All these atrocities against Dalit stand testimony before Parliament that untouchability still exists in India. How to get rid of untouchability and atrocities against Dalits? I expect the Minister to respond to this pointed question.

On the one hand, we celebrate Constitution Day, on the other hand, we have schemes and programmes aimed at bringing discernible changes in the lives of the people. But on the ground, what is the reality? Dalit youths and girls face discrimination of various

kinds of our society even after 69 years of Independence. How can we tolerate such a heinous crime against Dalits?

The Hindu dated July 21, 2016 article – 'Gujarat has history of atrocities and discrimination against Dalits' speaks volumes about Dalit atrocities in Gujarat. For three days in a row Gujarat's Dalit community agitated with anger over the public flogging of a group of Dalits who were skinning a dead cow in Mota Samadhiyala, a village near Una town in Saurashtra region on July 11. This has become a national use. How long would we keep quite or allow such gruesome incidents to take place against Dalits? We should put a stop to such incidents, not only in Gujarat but also in other parts of the country.

Government of India has to take stern action against those who indulge in atrocities of any kind or for that matter for any reason against Dalits should be put behind bars, punished swiftly so that it becomes a lesson to others. I would like the Hon. Minister to take the House into confidence and assure the House, and to the entire country that atrocities against Dalits would come to a grinding halt henceforth and Dalits are allowed to live a life of peace and tranquility.

I would like to conclude with a quote from Dr. B.R. Ambedkar – "I like the religion that teaches liberty, equality and fraternity." Let us

try to imbibe this and start treating Dalits and those who are underprivileged and disadvantaged on an equal footing, by giving them respect, care, affection, love and what not to usher in a society free from upheavals and discrimination against Dalits.

[Translation]

***SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU):** The atrocities committed against Dalits are not a recent phenomenon, they have persisted for centuries. In fact, it has often been observed that such atrocities are more frequently inflicted upon the poor. At times, these acts of brutality are carried out by individuals of wicked disposition who exploit caste-based animosities to target and oppress others. Such individuals are perpetually on the lookout for opportunities to commit these acts of violence. It must be emphasised that those who perpetrate such atrocities have no true caste or religion, their actions are guided by malice and mischief alone. There must be concerted efforts to prevent such incidents, and the law must be enforced with utmost strictness and rigour. However, it is also frequently observed that some political parties remain poised to exploit any such incident for political gain. They await the occurrence of such events merely to turn them into political issues. Through this august House, I wish to appeal to all political parties to refrain from politicising such sensitive matters. Rather, we must seek to understand the root cause of each incident and strive to identify the true culprits. Once identified, the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

perpetrators must be subjected to the harshest possible legal action. It has also come to notice that certain mischievous elements seek to tarnish the reputation of specific organisations by orchestrating such events. This, too, must be condemned in the strongest terms and dealt with firmly.

[English]

***SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):** Even after seventy years of Independence, the issue such as atrocity on Dalits is still persisting. Keeping the interest of Dalits, the country has brought a lot of legislation to prevent atrocities and also to deal with such incidents.

What actually prompted to discuss the present issue is very important. The recent incidents in various parts of the country are creating disharmony among the different castes and communities. For example, thrashing Dalit youths in Gujarat alleging that they skinned out the dead cows is highly condemnable. In the guise of cow protection, the cantankerous people by taking law into their hands have not only thrashed the Dalit youths but also put the incident in the social media. This incident enraged not only the Dalit youths in the State of Gujarat but also all secular people in the country. Another worst situation is that this incident happened in the State where our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi ji was born. In addition to this, the incident happened in the State from where our Prime Minister Shri Modi ji has come and where he served as the Chief Minister.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

In addition to many such incidents happening in the country, the filthy language used by a BJP leader in Uttar Pradesh towards Kumari Mayawati is also viewed very badly by the people of this country.

Incident after incident is happening in this country in spite of the stringent law that we have. Some section of the society is always trying to create disharmony among different sections of the society with a view to gain polically also. Such things should be prevented and it is the duty and responsibility of the civilized society to prevent such incidents.

The need of the hour is to educate the people more. We must give more thrust to economically empower Dalits. We must see that they are empowered socially also. Ultimately, everybody should live like human beings.

***SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR):** I wish to express my deep gratitude and sincere thanks to my beloved leader Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchithalaivi Amma for giving me an opportunity to express my feelings on “Atrocities against people belonging to Scheduled castes in the country”.

There are various types of discrimination against SCs and STs ranging from denial of entry into non-Dalit houses and places of worship, prohibitions against food sharing, denied cremation and burial ground, denied access to water facilities, ban on marriage processions, not allowed to sell milk to cooperatives, denied barber services and laundry services.

As per Crime Statistics of India, every 18 minutes a crime is committed against SCs; every day 27 atrocities against them, (3 rapes, 11 assaults and 13 murders); every week 5 of their homes or possessions burnt and 6 persons kidnapped or abducted.

In the Saurashtra region of Gujarat, a group of dalits have been flogged in public who were allegedly skinning a dead cow in Mota Samadhiyala Village near Una town. It is learnt from Media reports that four of them were brutally beaten with steel pipes and iron rods,

* Speech was laid on the Table.

stripped, tied to an SUV and paraded in the main market near police station in Una by members of the local cow protection committee. The flogging was filmed, posted on social media and went viral within hours. This has led to public outburst and condemning of such sporadic incidents.

The Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe population together constitute nearly 20.04 percent of the State population of 6,24,05,679 (Census 2001). Scheduled Caste population account for 19 percent and the Scheduled Tribe 1.0 percent. 70 percent of the Scheduled Castes and 85 percent of the Scheduled Tribes are living in rural areas. Socially disadvantaged groups of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes need a constant special focus for their socio-economic advancement.

Government of Tamil Nadu under the dynamic guidance of Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA has taken several steps by framing appropriate policies needed to design and implement various welfare programmes for achieving the objectives of creating favourable environment to ensure speedy socio-economic development of Adi Dravidars and Tribals. Major ameliorative activities for these communities are grouped under educational

development, economic development, Special Component Plan for Adi Dravidars and the Tribal Sub Plan for Tribals. Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing and Development Corporation (TAHDCO) implements the economic development programmes in addition to the regular economic development programmes implemented by various sectoral departments for the benefit of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes with specific target coverage for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department is implementing all the programmes and schemes effectively for the economic and educational advancement of these people.

The Adi Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department in Tamil Nadu, primarily concerns with the overall policy formulation, planning and coordination of welfare programmes for the development of Adi Dravidar and Tribal population of Tamilnadu. The census 2011 figures indicate that out of the total population of 721.47 lakh of Tamilnadu, about 144.38 lakh (20.01%) belongs to Adi Dravidar and 7.95 lakh (1.10%) constitute Tribal population. The aim of this department is to carry out the noble and laudable policies of the Government for the accelerated growth of the Adi Dravidar and Tribal

people at par with the general population of the State and sustain their development.

To ensure socio-economic, educational and human development as well as the security and social dignity of the Adi Dravidar/Tribals at par with the general category and realize the goal of inclusive growth, the Budgetary allocation for this Department is Rs. 2106.29 crore for the year 2015-16.

Due to the initiation of the Government all steps are being taken to abolish untouchability and to prevent atrocities against Adi Dravidar/ Tribes. For this purpose, the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955, the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 and Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Rules 1995 have been enacted by the Government of India and are being implemented effectively in the State.

The ordinance to amend the SCs/Sts (PoA) Act 1989 was promulgated by the President of India on 04.03.2014 which is called as the SCs/STs (PoA) Amendment ordinance, 2014. It has come into force from the date of promulgation i.e., on 04.03.2014. The cases under the SCs/Sts (PoA) Act 1989 are now registered as per the new

ordinance.

The Social Justice and Human Rights wing with its headquarters at Chennai is functioning for this purpose, under the control of the Additional Director General of Police.

The functions of Social Justice & Human Rights wing are (i) to supervise registration, investigation and filing of cases under these two acts and (ii) to act as a Protection Cell for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

Special Courts have been formed for speedy disposal of cases registered under SCs/STs (PoA) Act and PCR Act.

The Government has set up 6 Special Courts which are functioning at Thanjavur, Tiruchirappallli, Madurai, Tirunelveli, Villupuram (including Cuddalore) and Sivaganagai (including Ramanathapuram) Districts to try cases registered under these Acts. In all other districts, the existing Sessions Courts have been empowered to try these cases. Besides this, 37 Mobile Police Squads each headed by an Inspector of Police and 11 Supervisory squads each headed by a Deputy Superintendent of Police with Head Quarters at Chennai, Kancheepuram, Villupuram, Vellore, Salem, Coimbatore, Trichy, Thanjavur, Madurai, Ramanathapuram and Tirunelveli are

functioning.

Under Rule 17(1), SC/ST Prevention of Atrocities Rules 1995, the State Government has constituted District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee in each district headed by the District Collector concerned with five officials/ non-officials as members. The District Collectors are also empowered to nominate a person as a member who has the right aptitude and understanding of the problems of SC/ST. The District Level Committee shall meet atleast once in three months to review the implementation of the provisions of these Acts and also to monitor the relief and rehabilitation facilities to be provided to the victims and to review the stage of the cases registered under these Acts at the district level. Further, a State Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committee is also functioning under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister to review and monitor the implementation of these Acts.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI): Madam Speaker, thank you. The discussion is unfortunately taking the turn of BJP versus the Congress. It is very unfortunate. It is not the intention of the discussion here.

This is a very genuine issue where nearly 25 per cent of the people are undergoing humiliation, indignity and, therefore, we have to find some solution to this. Of late, it is increasing. Why we are all concerned is not because a particular Government is there. But of late, the number of these incidents is increasing in most of the States. So, we all want to request the Government which is in power to take some solid action so that such things are not repeated, particularly in States like Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, U.P., M.P., A.P., etc. It is happening in almost all States irrespective of the party that is in power. … (*Interruptions*)

For centuries these people have been deprived of various things. For example, till Independence they were not supposed to own a piece of land. They could not educate themselves and they could not take up Government jobs. They could not do any job except scavenging. The reason why they are poor is, the system has suppressed them. The system did not allow them to develop. So, it is not their fault. It is the

fault of the system. Therefore, we request the present Government to improve the system.

Some of the Hon. Members who spoke earlier mentioned about their jobs. I tell you that because of the penury and poverty, these things have been imposed upon them, particularly the removal of dead carcass, untouchability, and manual scavenging. They were literally imposed upon them because the main villagers need these kinds of services. Therefore, they did it out of compulsion and not out of any choice. It was only imposed on them.

I would like to tell you a thing. I do not know whether I am right or wrong. Gandhi ji may have got this great independence to the country. But his vision as far as Dalits are concerned was extremely limited for the simple reason that when Dr. Ambedkar was asking for a separate electorate, he did not agree to it. Had he agreed to a separate electorate, I am sure the problems that are existing today would not have been there.

Just for the memory of all of us, I would like to mention the kinds of indignant actions, the subhuman and inhuman actions against Dalits. I would like to mention that in brief. The Chair may kindly permit me to do so. The Dalits are forced to eat human excreta; the

Dalit women are stripped and paraded naked; the Dalits have been mowed down by tractors; a Dalit groom was attacked just because he was riding on a horse; a Dalit youth was brutally killed just because he played an Ambedkar ringtone in his mobile; and a small Dalit boy was burnt to death just because his goat has entered other people's land. So, if this is the situation, I think, all the political parties should come together and find a solution to it.

The poverty is so much. We have read about it in the newspapers. In Uttar Pradesh, a Dalit couple have been hacked to death just because they were not able to pay Rs. 15. Therefore, the Government instead of arguing should take some action to remove poverty. Perhaps the previous Government did not do it. As the Hon. Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu said, if they had done it the problem would not have been there now. So, we are asking the present Government not to repeat what the previous Governments have done. Kindly do something to remove their poverty. The penury is so serious that the couple could not pay Rs. 15 and were hacked to death just for Rs. 15.

I do not belong to the Congress nor to the BJP. But I am also totally confused now for the simple reason that the stand that the BJP is taking is extremely strange. For example, they want to have so many

buildings in the name of Dr. Ambedkar, particularly in connection with his 125th anniversary. It is fair enough. The BJP Chief had a special bath with the Dalits in Ujjain Kumbamela and he also had food with them. Workers of BJP polished shoes of *Dalits.* But when it comes to the service, what we request is this. I have carefully been watched in the last two or three years. There is no specific scheme which really benefits *Dalits.* Therefore, what we repeatedly request the Government is, kindly ensure that poverty is removed. Poverty is very rampant. Some type of empowerment should be done to these people - giving land to them. In 2004, a Joint Resolution was passed and in the President's Address to the Joint Session, it was mentioned that all the landless *Dalits* in rural areas should be given land. Ten years of the Congress-led UPA Government have gone, not a single piece of land has been given. After that, two years have passed, but there is no thinking of that. Unless income-generating activity is given to those people, some empowerment is done, I am sure, they will never come up. That is more important.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, you conclude. You have given good suggestions.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: Everyone has

taken a lot of time.

HON. SPEAKER: No, you have to conclude now.

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI: I do not know whether many of us are aware that a Governor's Committee has been appointed, which is extremely rare, and found that there is plenty of land that could be given to all the landless. Land is available but the same is not given to these poor people.

We have a Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, who has gone on record and said that he has been in public life for 40 years, and for three times he has served as the Chief Minister. He said that no one wants to born as a *Dalit.* Therefore, it is extremely unfortunate to make such kind of statements because it is hurting all of us.

Let me say lastly one or two remedies, with due apologies. I don't get into any controversies. I am not supposed to do that. Under the Special Component Plan, the Government is giving Rs. 65,000 crore, which is mostly going for general purposes projects of irrigation, infrastructure, buildings, etc. It is not necessary that only *Dalits* are doing it; all other people are there. Therefore, whatever is given by the Government under the Special Component Plan or the Sub-Plan, either Rs. 65,000 crore for the SCs, or Rs. 35,000 crore for the STs, if

it is spent exclusively for them in infrastructure like building schools, etc., I am sure, they would come up. This aspect should be considered by the Government. Income-generating activities should be given to them.

About Amalapuram, everybody has spoken. I do not want to get into that. I am sure that *Gau Rakshaks* is a new concept. It was not there before. Therefore, all of us wonder that unless the present Government stops it, there is no end to that. This new concept has to be stopped. Because of constraint of time, by greatly honouring the Chair, I conclude my speech by expressing thanks.

***PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED):** Dalits were ill treated for decades, and now under the leadership of Modiji, matters have changed mainly due to the introduction of innovative poor-people-friendly schemes. Dalits are being empowered through education, agriculture, skill development; infra structure development, better housing, more opportunities to obtain jobs.

Dalits need protection and a congenial environment to grow and develop. They have been suffering from injustice and atrocities for a long time. They were alienated and their living conditions were abysmally poor. But, it is these Dalits, the first citizens of the country who should be supported financially, socially and intellectually.

It has been proven time and again that once the Dalit societies were provided with necessary inputs for development, they proved their mettle and were successful in their struggle for upliftment.

Atrocities against Dalits can not be tolerated and this Government is totally committed to work steadfastly for the development of Dalits in the country. The State Governments can extend their co-operation in implementing the welfare schemes of the Central Government without any ifs and buts, and thereby became a

* Speech was laid on the Table.

catalyst to ensure the growth of the Dalits who were approached for long period.

***DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA (BARDHMAN DURGAPUR):** All citizens of India general and particularly vulnerable sections of society have right to equality of status, social dignity and right to education and scope for earning a livelihood.

Unfortunately, there is gradually increasing propensity towards vulnerable section of society, SC/ST/Dalits as well as minorities. Total number of crime recorded is 47,064 in 2014. The percentage of population of SC/ST/Dalit is around 23% or more in India having variability of (1.3% -23%) between States and districts. More over in some places population statistics is under estimated.

More than 150 years back there was a (1) Dance Drama "Chandalika" by Kavi Guru Rabindranath Tagore and (2) 'Abhagir Sarga' by another famous Bengali writer Saratchandra Chattopadhyay. These stories are about a dalit (1 ST one) + SC (2nd one) + others who were discriminated. The upper class used to shut their dream of right to proper living and eternal journey. Being an Indian I feel ashamed that still those stories are pertinent in our so called modern 21st century Indian society.

The society itself is largely responsible. P.L. Punia said "the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

feudal mind set preventing all initiative getting implemented on the grounds”

Actually, it is not only lack of will on the part of ruling party which is dominated by upper class politicians. The poison of hatred prevails even among bureaucrats and high ranking police Officers. There are various laws regarding rights of SC/ST/Dalit and there is law against atrocities on these social groups. In 2015, an amendment bill was introduced and passed “The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015. Provision of special court is there for quick disposal of criminal cases and quick relief. There is special provision of compensation for women victim, verbal abuse physical torture including rape. Ironically implementation is low due to various causes. Instead there are series of crime in recent political regime, suicide, murder, rape, etc. that are all are increased.

The case is not taken up by police, court denies relief due to authenticity of complaint and evidences. Investigation needs DSP level police which is often not available. Education rate of this class is very low, so they can not seek justice properly.

Crime rate in West Bengal is very very low show our political

leaders believe in equality and hates discrimination. People of West Bengal are socially conscious politically motivated by our leader Ms. Mamata Banerjee's believe in respect for all people inspite of their different cast, creed and religion. Her intension to upbring the oppressed class of people.

The Government of India is heading towards SGD goal by 2030. I would say it is only a dream. SC/ST/Dalits are about 23% of population minorities are between 15 to 30%. If you are ignoring about 50% of the society our SDG goal will never be reached.

Swami Vivekananda said:

"Jare Tumi Rekhecho Paschatey say tomare Paschate Taniche" of 50% of manpower is wasted, how can a nation thrive or a dream about advancement? We promise about national integration on one hand and on the other hand we are ignoring almost half of the society.

We demand strong political commitment to deal with equality and stop discrimination. We look forward for empowering of SC/ST/Dalits. Establishment of standard residential school is an urgent need.

The cases against atrocities should have prompt disposal and should be non-bailable. Punishment against these crimes should be

stronger depending on the gravity of the offence.

'Not accepting FIR' should be made punishable offense for police. There should be security measure for victim and related person (witnesses etc.). For social awareness political persons, religious Gurus, teachers, NGO's should come forward and entrusted with "united we live divided we die".

"NANA ROOPE NANA SHAJE

JANMIACHMI DHARA PARE

BHINNO BHINNO KAAJE

MANAB SHEBAR TARE

TABE KANO HE AMRITO SHANTAN

EI DHARA TALE NEI TABO STHAN"

[Translation]

***DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH):** Concern for the welfare of Dalits has been expressed by leaders of all political parties. It is now nearly seventy years since our country gained independence. However, during this period, Dalits have largely been used as mere vote banks, with their economic, social, and educational development being consistently neglected. If Baba Saheb Ambedkar had not provided for reservation in the Constitution, it would have been nearly impossible for members of this community to voice their concerns today. Even now, very few Dalits reach officer-level positions, and they face considerable difficulties in securing promotions. Their service records are often deliberately tarnished to prevent their advancement. Some progress is indeed visible in the political outlook towards Dalits, but this is often driven more by electoral calculations than genuine intent.

Thanks to the earnest efforts of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, a significant number of Dalits have rallied in support of the BJP. Furthermore, government schemes such as the Mudra Yojana, Prime Minister's Security Insurance Scheme, and Atal Pension Scheme have

* Speech was laid on the Table.

contributed substantially to the socio-economic and educational upliftment of the Dalit community. The leadership style of the Prime Minister has fostered a renewed sense of confidence among the people, which has caused apprehension among opposition parties regarding their diminishing support bases. Certain political parties are attempting to exploit incidents in various states for political gain, especially since no major corruption or scandal has been found against this government in the last two years. Public acceptance of Prime Minister Modi's leadership has only grown stronger since 2014. Consequently, opposition parties are now intent on obstructing good governance. The BJP government has also undertaken historic work in acquiring and developing key sites related to Baba Saheb Ambedkar including his birthplace at Mhow, the place of his initiation at Nagpur, the Chaitya land in Mumbai, the constitution drafting site at 26 Alipur Road, and his place of education in London.

The Congress Party, despite being in power for nearly 60 years, did not acquire or lay the foundation for the development of any such significant site. The Dalit community is rapidly growing in support of Prime Minister Modi due to these efforts. Consequently, the opposition is uniting both inside the country and within this House to defame the government. Today, when we speak of the upliftment of

Dalits, it is imperative to forget all differences and come together unitedly to move forward.

[English]

*SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): India is having a heritage culture of 1000s of year and I am sad to say that inspite of 69 years of independents we are unable finish untouchability from the minds of people. Our great country leaders like Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and many others have given up their lives to whipe out untouchablity from the society. Mahatma Gandhiji in his freedom struggle period has almost 3/4th of time to bring social awareness in the society and he has succeeded also in a big way. That is why we all are together working towards the betterment of the society. It is definitely worrying us whenever any attack takes place on Dalits or muslims or Christians, all political parties takes cognigence and find out ways to punish the culprits. At the same time, one should not forget that we have achieved a lot through social awareness. We have succeeded in keeping all caste people together, we are also thinking together to find a better way solution to the long pending unsolved issues. We also believe that education is the lone solution to end untouchablilty and we are working hard on Government level and also each and every family has accepted that through education only we all can come out

* Speech was laid on the Table.

and march towards equal status to all. Lot has changed in the last some decades and we are on the fast track in the presence under the leadership of our great Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji who has changed the scenario of our nation in the last two years in all the fields. People of our country apart from political parties are gaining faith on him because of his tireless efforts. His dynamic vision and various welfare schemes for the poor people of our country are taking shape and weaker section are benefited.

It is the moral duty of all the political parties to work in the interest of the weaker sections of the society by providing them good education, accommodation and also the good job. Then and then only, we will get answer to this long serious issue. Our is a very big nation having a population of more than hundred and twenty-five crore people of various castes and language speaking states are arising in single small families also. So, it is assumed that some minor things incidents are taking place and it is going to take place. It is the duty and responsibility of like-minded people to forget the happening to forget the past and march towards the progress. Let us all come together on the eve of our 70th year of Independence and work for the welfare of weaker section of the society by whole heartedly.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): Madam, I stand here on behalf of my Party to participate in this very debate. Madam, I always thought that I represented the modern India, where it is a gender-equal India, and a caste-free India. I studied in Maharashtra, which is a very liberal society, and we are part of our heritage.

I would like to take the reference of Prof. Roy who said about West Bengal. Just like you quoted Vinoba Bhave *ji* in your speech, Shahu Phule and Ambedkar were the first pioneers working against the caste system. Today, all over the country, these are the three names, who fought against the caste system. I really appreciate what Shri Venkaiah *ji* has said - it is a national shame. In the 21st century we have to discuss *Dalit* atrocities in this House. It is really very sad especially when we have just completed celebration of 125th birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar.

Both the Hon. Ministers spoke a lot about what all the government is doing. I appreciate that. But whoever is in the government, let us not make issues into data. We can quote all the data. We all have access to Google. It is not important what happened when you were in power and when we were in power. We are not numbers; we are not data. We talk about rapes; we talk about

atrocities. During your time, it happened five percent in West Bengal and ten percent in UP. Let us not take this debate to that level. Each one of us is equally responsible. Like one Hon. Member said from that side all are SCs and STs.

Madam, till I got elected I did not even know whether I was ST or SC or OBC and I do not even want to know. How does it matter whether I am Thakur or whether I am Meena or whether I am Dalit or ST. I represent 1.8 million people. 18 lakh people have elected and sent me. Does it matter whether I am a woman or a man or a Meena or an SC/ST? We, as a political class, need to make the change. I am so happy Athawaleji is here. [Translation] Athawale ji was with us in the government of 2004. At that time, Maharashtra elected five Members of Parliament who belonged to the SC-ST category, but were elected from open seats. This is the heritage. I remember all the Members' names. Hon. Sushil Kumar Shinde was elected from an open seat in Solapur, Hon. Prakash Ambedkar from Akola, Hon. Ramdas Athawale from Dadar, Mumbai, Hon. Yogendra Kawade from Chimur, and Hon. Gavai from Amravati. All these Members belonged to the SC-ST category, yet Maharashtra elected five Members to the Congress-NCP government in 2004 from open seats. This is the heritage. But just because something goes wrong as it

happened in Gujarat, what happened in Gujarat was unfortunate. Many people were saying that leaders go there just for sightseeing. That is not true. When our government was in power and such an incident happened, everyone made speeches, and we remember that well. You also did a lot of tourism at that time. Let us not get into that. Let us rise to the occasion.... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE): When your Government was in power, I was sitting on that side, and today, as I sit on this side, you are sitting on that side. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Ramdas Ji, it is not necessary for you to respond. Please listen, and then state your point.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please take it as a social issue.

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Madam, there is

no patience.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No one has patience these days.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: I am complimenting you that you have come from the open seat, not from SC-ST.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please address the Chair. Nobody will intervene. There is no need for that.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE: I have not even spoken about cow yet. [English] But what we really felt that this whole issue of atrocities is about Dalits and Minorities. Here I would like to add atrocities against women also. That is also an issue which we have discussed several times in this House. I appreciate the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is spending so much time here listening to this debate. It would have been better if the Prime Minister was here, because the statement he gave yesterday, it is a very good statement which he made. I appreciate that. Better late than never. But if his statement had also included Dalits, minorities and women, we would have liked it more, because he is not only your Prime Minister, he is the Prime Minister of the entire country and of us women too. All of us women were

going to meet him together, if we had included the atrocities that are happening against women, then a good message would have gone to the police force, because they have to do the implementation. We are happy about all the speeches that have been made in this entire Session. We are happy that such a good Bill has been passed. [English] They talked about seamless tax, they talked about no tax terrorism, no check post for tax etc. [Translation] Now, check posts have become for whom? For the cow protectors. From the region I come from, such things never happened, but it is a new development that cow protectors, 80 percent of whom are frauds and 20 percent are good, are involved. Among these 80, who are the bad ones? And among the 20, who are the good ones? Please explain a little who is bad and who is good. In my region, all of them seem bad to me, because they threaten people, use police force, and have FIRs lodged against them. Even in the transport of bulls and buffaloes today, these people are causing trouble. Hon. Home Minister, I request you to inform all Chief Ministers about the action that must be taken in such cases. This is very important.

Madam, I wish to conclude by saying one thing, and we must all be very proud of one fact. A girl named Tina Dabi has become the first Dalit girl to top the IAS UPSC examination in this country. She

did not appear under the SC-ST quota; she is a woman who succeeded through hard work. I think this is the legacy of SCs and STs. Similarly, five or six people from these communities are in the foreign service today, serving as Ambassadors in places like Tashkent, Prague, Copenhagen, and others. It is not true that these people have been denied justice. Those who have worked hard and received good education have earned a good name.

[English]

I would like to finish with what Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar said in the Constituent Assembly. I would just like to quote two lines.

I would just read his two lines. He said:

"Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it social democracy. In India there are castes. The castes are anti-national. They are anti-national also because they generate jealousy and antipathy between caste and caste. But we must overcome all these difficulties if we wish to become a nation in reality. For fraternity can be a fact only where there is a nation. Without fraternity, equality and liberty will be no deeper

than coats of paint.”

[Translation]

***SHRI RATNA LAL KATARIA (AMBALA):** The nation shall celebrate the 70th anniversary of its Independence Day four days from now. Yet, even after 70 years of independence, when discussions on atrocities against Dalits take place in the Indian Parliament, we are compelled to reflect on where the shortfall lies that a climate of social harmony has still not been established in the country. Just as the struggle for the rights of African Americans in the United States was led by Abraham Lincoln and King Martin Luther, a similar struggle in India was waged by Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar for the Dalits. When the Constitution was adopted in our country, just days prior, Dr. Ambedkar had stated in the Constituent Assembly that while we were attaining political freedom, we were yet to achieve economic independence. If we fail to attain economic freedom, then our political independence too may come under threat.

Our country has a federal structure. Law and order fall under the purview of State Governments. However, the Prime Minister is the guardian of the Constitution of India. When reports of atrocities against Dalits emerge from the States, irrespective of which party

* Speech was laid on the Table.

governs there people seek protection from the Prime Minister. Our esteemed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has fulfilled this responsibility with utmost diligence. He facilitated a two-day debate in the Indian Parliament on the contributions of Dr. Ambedkar, which sent a clear message across the nation regarding Dr. Ambedkar's services. Subsequently, all five sites associated with Dr. Ambedkar, be it his birthplace in Mhow, Chaityabhoomi in Mumbai, 26 Alipur Road in Delhi, or his educational institution in England, were declared national memorials by Modi Ji.

Today, opposition parties repeatedly use the pretext of cow protectors to attack the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh. In doing so, they tend to forget the core history of the R.S.S. I wish to bring to their attention that a meeting of the representative council of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh was recently held in Nagaur (Rajasthan), during which a resolution was passed stating that for establishing social harmony in India, three elements must be uniform throughout the nation.

1. The same temple 2. Same well and 3. Same cemetery

I wish to ask my opponents what element of communalism exists in this resolution of the R.S.S.? Where are the seeds of disintegration?

What aspect of caste-based inequality is present? It is my firm belief that if the aforesaid three aspects are addressed, not a single atrocity against Dalits shall occur in our country in the future. This resolution of the Sangh is similar to the Hindu Code Bill introduced by Baba Saheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, in which Dr. Ambedkar advocated for the rights of women, Dalits, Adivasis, and labourers, and emphasised equal opportunities for all. I have stated on numerous occasions that I am a worker from a marginalised family, and had the Sangh not come into my life, I would not be present today in this sacred temple of democracy. My family has been associated with the Sangh since 1942. From that time, we have witnessed how the Sangh and its various affiliated organisations have been working tirelessly to ensure equality for the deprived sections of our society. Therefore, it is not appropriate to unfairly take advantage of the R.S.S.'s absence in this House and hold it responsible for every incident.

It is a reflection of our Government’s commitment towards the welfare of the marginalised that we opened Jan Dhan accounts, launched housing schemes for the poor, initiated the Swachhata Abhiyan, ran programmes such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, and took successive steps to improve women’s healthcare and child welfare in rural areas of the country. I believe that when an incident of atrocity

occurs, strict action must be taken against it. However, to hold an entire community accountable for a single incident is not justifiable from any perspective. Some Gau Rakshaks (cow protectors) are carrying out commendable work in accordance with the provisions laid down in the Constitution. At the same time, it is also true that some anti-social elements, under the guise of Gau Rakshaks, infiltrate at night and commit atrocities against the poor. There is rule of law in the country. No individual has the right to take the law into their own hands. The authority to punish rests solely with the law. Our esteemed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has clearly expressed his intent by stating that if these fake cow protectors wish to shoot, they should shoot him instead of targeting Dalits. This is the vision of the Hon. Prime Minister, which finds expression in his words. Since childhood, he has fought for the poor, and even today, every statement he makes begins with the welfare of the poor and concludes with the welfare of the poor.

Today, there is no need to reopen those buried issues when, in Bihar, there used to be massacres of 61 Dalits in a single day. Incidents of gang rape against Dalit women in Uttar Pradesh are not new. Were there no atrocities against Dalits during Mayawati's tenure? Politicising every incident is not in the best interest of the

nation. Can the Congress absolve itself of the atrocities committed against Dalits over the past 70 years? What is needed today is to advance this marginalised community in the field of education to such an extent that they are able to stand on their own feet. They must be provided with quality healthcare services. The economic inclusion initiative undertaken by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji must now be brought to fruition. For years, matters related to employment and promotions for this community have remained pending, this needs resolution. Today, it is imperative that State Governments take strict action against those who perpetrate atrocities against Dalits. The laws enacted for the protection of Dalits must be enforced with rigour. The prosecution must be strengthened so that it can represent cases of atrocities against Dalits in a robust manner, thereby increasing the conviction rate. Special courts must also be given greater powers so that cases related to Dalit atrocities can be resolved within a stipulated timeframe.

In conclusion, I would like to state that the interests of the Dalits of India are secure in the hands of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. He has issued strict directives, both at the Union level and to the State Governments, against the forces that exploit and oppress Dalits. I hail from Haryana. Our esteemed Chief Minister Shri Manohar Lal

Ji has enacted a stringent law concerning cow protection, as a result of which such incidents will not recur in the State. He has also announced the issuance of identity cards to Gau Rakshaks, so that no impostor may misuse the role and commit atrocities.

[English]

*__DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH):__ It is highly sensitive matter and any atrocities against Dalits in our country is to be strongly condemned. The Constitution has provisions for abolishing untouchability, but it has not yet been abolished in the true sense. I wish to point out the several revolutionary efforts taken by the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for the upliftment of the dalits community. Very recently, a young boy belonging to the Scheduled Caste met Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, and had reminded the Chief Minister about the timely help rendered by our leader because of which he had became an IAS officer. As far as Tamil Nadu Public Service Commission is concerned, 69 per cent reservation for Scheduled Caste is being implemented in Tamil Nadu as per the provisions of the Act enacted by Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. Dalit empowerment is the only way to abolish the untouchability in the real sense. Hence, in Tamil Nadu, Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had enacted several welfare measures for the empowerment of the Dalit

* Speech was laid on the Table.

community politically, socially and economically. Our Hon. Chief Minister, Hon. Amma, has taken all possible steps to abolish untouchability in Tamil Nadu. In conclusion, Atrocities against Dalit community should be curtailed with Iron hands.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN): Madam, today, the Parliament of the country is holding a discussion on the atrocities committed against Dalits. On this occasion, I would like to unequivocally condemn, criticise and denounce, not only on behalf of the Samajwadi Party but also personally any injustice and atrocity being committed not only against our Dalit brothers in any part of the country, but also against any section of society. As far as these incidents are concerned, they are deeply unfortunate. Whether it was the incident involving Rohith Vemula in Hyderabad, or the incident in Una, or various other such events... *(Interruptions)* Whatever is necessary for Bulandshahr, the Government is doing it, there is no need to create disturbances. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No one should cause disturbances.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Madam, today I have been listening to the speeches delivered by several Members from the Treasury Benches, and after listening to them, it appears as though the only strong advocates and defenders of Dalits remaining in the country are those from the ruling party. On this occasion, I would like

to pose a question to the Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party: in this country, Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar renounced Hinduism and adopted Buddhism. Have those who subscribe to the ideology of the Bharatiya Janata Party ever criticised or questioned why Baba Saheb was compelled to adopt Buddhism? ... *(Interruptions)* The name of Gandhiji is invoked at every opportunity. I wish to ask, has anyone ever criticised Godse? If at any time criticism was made, please inform us. Today, you are engaging in politics in the name of Baba Saheb. But what struggles did Baba Saheb have to face? Why were our Dalit brothers denied entry into temples? Who were the people who denied them that right? Have those who barred Dalits from temples ever been criticised? Today, I say this with clear distinction: the party to which I belong, the ideology and thought with which I engage in politics, is inspired by Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, and that ideology is being carried forward by our respected Netaji. Madam, I assert this with distinction: even before Netaji formally entered politics, when he was still a student, he once ate a meal at the house of a Dalit friend. Following that, the villagers at the time ostracised Netaji from society. These are the hardships faced by socialists for the dignity of our Dalit brothers. Today, I can say with pride that in Uttar Pradesh, if anyone ever conceived the idea of

Ambedkar Villages, it was Netaji. No one before him had even considered such a thought. If any political party ever envisioned increasing Dalit reservation from 21 to 23 percent, it was the Samajwadi Party. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, today, there is extensive discussion on the economic advancement of Dalits. I would like to raise a point in this regard. The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is present here, I request the Minister of Home Affairs to call for the relevant data. Please examine the current status of Dalits, backward classes, and minorities in the premier services of this country selected through the UPSC. What is their representation today? The statement made by the Prime Minister in reference to the incident in Gujarat was, indeed, a serious and commendable one. However, it would have been more heartening had the Prime Minister also issued a statement at the time of the Dadri incident. The Prime Minister did not issue any statement then. At that time, Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party, including Ministers of this Government, were justifying that incident. ... *(Interruptions)* During that period, the Prime Minister did not respond to those professing love for cows. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, on this occasion, I would like to state that such atrocities

and injustices, whether against Dalits, Muslims, Scheduled Tribes, or the backward sections of the country, must be condemned. If all these communities are combined, they comprise at least 80 to 85 percent of the population of this country even today.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude. Your five minutes are over.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Madam, I have spoken about a Strong India, I have spoken about One India. Will injustice and atrocities against 80 to 85 percent of the population in this country continue while those seated in the Treasury Benches remain silent? How then will you build a Strong India? What kind of Strong India will you build? What kind of Strong India do you envision? Injustice is being done in the country's services. Today, the UPSC is committing injustices. Backward classes are being wronged, Dalits are being wronged, minorities, Muslims, are being wronged. What kind of society do you wish to create after this? ... *(Interruptions)* Let the nation be informed what kind of society they are trying to build. Hon. Speaker Madam, I strongly criticise all those who seek to divide society. ... *(Interruptions)* I oppose all such individuals. ... *(Interruptions)* I wish to say this: under such circumstances, you will

not be able to create a just society. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Dharmendra Ji, please sit down. Nothing will go on record. Your statement is not going on record.

…(*Interruptions*) ... *

* Not recorded.

SHRI DHARM VIR GANDHI (PATIALA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I have been listening to this debate since evening. ... *(Interruptions)* There is a discussion about the plight of Dalits and the atrocities committed against them. It pains me that none of the political parties have taken this matter seriously enough. No one has attacked the genesis, the root cause of this problem. Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar said that Dalits have two enemies, one is Brahminism, not Brahmins, Brahminism, and the other is capitalism. Today, Brahminism has been discussed in many forms, but capitalism has not been discussed at all.

Madam, the root of Brahminism lies in Indian culture; it lies in Manusmriti; it lies in the caste system. It lies in that couplet which says: “Dhol, Ganwar, Shudra, Pashu, Nari, ye sab taadan ke adhikari” (The drum, the rustic, the Shudra, the animal, and the woman, all are deserving of punishment). No one has spoken about this. ... *(Interruptions)* Our history and culture include Dronacharya, the teacher who cut off the thumb of Eklavya, a Dalit boy, a Bhil boy, so that he would not surpass his privileged disciple Arjuna. No one has discussed this binding influence of culture that holds India captive and how we can free ourselves from it.

Madam, I would like to tell you that people say, he is Sharma, he is Gupta, he is Maurya, he is Chaturvedi, he is Mukherjee. So, we are telling society that I am not a 'Chamar'. ... *(Interruptions)* We say that I am not a 'Chamar'. This is our culture; it is ingrained in our very being. If we want to break this caste system, we will have to take firm and revolutionary steps. For me, there is only one way to end the caste system and casteism, and that is higher education, higher education, and higher education for Dalits.

I would like to add one more point: until men step forward for women, the majority steps forward for minorities, and non-Dalits step forward for Dalits, the country will never be truly redeemed.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Speaker Madam, thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Please keep in mind you have only two minutes to speak.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Madam Speaker, in that case, I will just submit my remarks.

HON. SPEAKER: You cannot submit your remarks; you may speak. You can convey your point in two minutes.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would

appreciate your kindness and blessings on a few matters. I would like to quote some words of Baba Saheb.

> "The more backward, irrational, and superstitious a society is, the more deeply rooted becomes the tendency to worship gods, deities, and heroes. The creation of gods who are beyond life and questions serves the vested interests of certain individuals, as well as influential social groups and power structures. Influenced by the rulers' construction of gods and sects, the governed often begin to think that they should choose their own heroes and sects."

Baba Saheb was a great advocate of choosing one's sect and hero. He also said this:

> "Whichever way you turn, the demon of caste will block your path. Until you destroy this demon, you can neither achieve political reform nor economic reform."

He said something that those who call themselves Arjuna (referring to Dr. Ambedkar) stated:

> "Before building a classless society, society must first be made caste-less, category-less, and varna-less, because categories have made humans poor and varnas have made humans Dalits."

Those who have nothing are considered poor, and those who are nothing are considered Dalits. Baba Saheb sounded the clarion call of struggle, declaring: "Rights taken away are not given as alms; they must be reclaimed." I would humbly say to Arjuna that he said: "There is no room for free thought and development in Hinduism because of the lack of reason." He said he did not believe in any religion that did not teach liberty, equality, and fraternity. His vision was for life to be great rather than long, that was Baba Saheb's philosophy. Madam, history tells us that when morality and economics come into conflict, economics always wins. Vested interests are never relinquished voluntarily. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Madam, we do not wish to engage in politics or controversy. The Hon. Prime Minister, as an individual, undoubtedly says some good things, and there is no objection to that.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, I am completing my submission. Baba

Saheb Ambedkar had said that if the slavery of poverty is to be abolished, then man-made constructs such as religion, God, caste, and temples must first be discarded. Secondly, he said that to break the caste system in this country, inter-caste marriages must take place. If we consider Baba Saheb Ambedkar as a guiding light, then only by following his path can we envision this.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, I am saying this in conclusion. There are certain matters I wish to raise, and I will do so in just one minute.

Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to seek your protection on one matter. I urge the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs that above the section officer level, there is not a single SC, ST, or OBC officer. In 40 Central Universities, there is not a single OBC, Muslim, or Dalit... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please be seated.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record. Only Sirajuddin Ajmal *ji*'s statement will go on record.*...(Interruptions)...* *

* Not recorded.

SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL (BARPETA): Thank you, respected Madam, for giving me this opportunity. I am most obliged. As I do not have much time, I would like to say that I agree and associate with everything that has been spoken regarding atrocities on dalits. Here I would like to just add two things which are very important. I was very happy to hear our Hon. Prime Minister sahib when he said, do not shoot the dalits; he said, fire on me. If you would have also said, [Translation] do not throw stones; do not harm Muslims and women." Had he said that as well, we would have been very pleased

Madam, as our Hon. Venkaiah Naidu stated, there are so many Dalit Ministers, so many Dalits here. That is indeed a matter of great joy. Had the number been double, we would have been even happier. But, if there were three Muslim Ministers as well, we would have been even more pleased... *(Interruptions)* Why?... *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, I would like to say that this country is made up of all of us.... *(Interruptions)* [English] This country comprises Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, every community. It does not belong to one community. In the name of gau rakshak, in the name of cow vigilance, a lot of atrocities are being done on dalits and Muslims.

Madam, I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Home Minister to kindly look into this and stop this forever for the future of the country.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I believe that you and several Hon. Members, when you visited the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, must have seen the Cellular Jail. When one enters that jail, there stands an old peepal tree. That ancient tree silently narrates the entire saga of British-era atrocities, the oppression, and the stories of heroes like Sher Singh and others.

I have been a part of this Parliament for the past forty years. When I was first elected, the Belchhi incident had just occurred. Following that came the Pipra incident, and many other such events. Since then, year after year, whether it is this House or the other House, there have been discussions on the atrocities committed against Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, or Dalits. Debates take place, yet instead of these incidents decreasing, they continue to rise. We have figures available. I do not wish to delve deeply into statistics, but I would like to share just this much: if we speak solely about Dalit women, then in 2009, there were 1,346 cases of rape committed against Dalit women. In 2010, the number was 1,349; in 2011, 1,557; in 2012, 1,576; in 2013, 2,073; and in 2014, it reached 2,233. So instead of declining, the number rose from 1,346 to 2,233. In the same way, the total

number of crimes committed against Dalits increased from 33,394 to 47,064. Debates are held on this matter. But this is not an issue confined to any one party or any particular caste. This is a reflection of our mindset, and because of that, the head of the nation bows in shame. If you go anywhere in the world and tell someone that even today atrocities are being committed in the name of caste. In foreign countries, there may be the distinction between white and black, and that is at least comprehensible as a racial difference but when we are all the same people, and yet such heinous acts are committed in the name of caste, how can you believe that this nation will truly progress?

18.36 hours (Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

Many of our colleagues have stated, and even if I were to accept, for the sake of argument, that the head symbolises the Brahmin, the arms symbolise the Kshatriya, the stomach symbolises the Vaishya, and the feet symbolise the Shudra. If a Kshatriya's arm is severed, one might still survive. If something affects the stomach, surgery can be performed. But if the feet are paralysed, how will one walk? This lowest section of society which ought to be the strongest foundation,

is today the weakest. That is why we are unable to move forward, unable to progress. This is a blot on the nation.

We do not agree with the view expressed by many of our colleagues that Dalits should be regarded as objects of pity. What is rightfully theirs, you seek to bestow upon them as an act of charity. If you allow them entry into temples, you portray it as a great favour. In this country, who is more progressive, the person who fights against hypocrisy and superstition, or we Dalits who appear to support such practices? Between the two, who is truly progressive? I say this because, in this country, those born in so-called upper castes, Lord Buddha was a Kshatriya by birth, yet Babasaheb Ambedkar regarded Lord Buddha as his leader, because Buddha fought against the social and caste-based order. Dayanand Saraswati was a Brahmin, but it was a Brahmin who poisoned him, because he challenged superstition and orthodoxy. Swami Vivekananda was a Kayastha, but he boldly stated that the people of the so-called upper castes should hand over their rights to these Shudras, otherwise, when they rise, a single breath from them will shake the very foundations of your power.

V.P. Singh was born into a royal family. He was a Kshatriya. But I say this with full conviction, had V.P. Singh not been there, the

Mandal Commission, which had been hanging in limbo since 1980, would have continued to be shelved. Till 1989, the Congress was in government, why did it not implement the recommendations of the Mandal Commission? We entered Parliament in 1977 with great hope and passion, invoking the name of Babasaheb Ambedkar. But upon entering Parliament, we noticed that portraits of many leaders were displayed, in some cases, multiple portraits from the same family, yet no photograph of Babasaheb Ambedkar could be found. When we requested that his portrait be installed, we were told there was no space. In 1989, when we became Ministers and Shri V.P. Singh was the Prime Minister, on 14 April 1990, a portrait of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar was installed in the most prominent place. By then, the Bharat Ratna had already been awarded to actors and actresses, yet Babasaheb Ambedkar had not received it. On 14 April 1990, we ensured that Babasaheb Ambedkar was finally conferred the Bharat Ratna. Until then, his birth anniversary was not even observed as a public holiday, we made the announcement declaring 14 April a national holiday.

There were nine Buddhist individuals who had converted to Buddhism along with Babasaheb Ambedkar, and there had long been a demand that they be granted reservations. However, no such provision had been made. It was during our time that reservation was

extended to those nine Buddhists. You may criticise us as much as you wish, but I firmly believe that no one has done as much for Babasaheb Ambedkar as Shri V.P. Singh did, perhaps no one could have even imagined it. Go and visit Mhow, the place where Babasaheb Ambedkar was born, Hon. Saugata Roy, you will see that he had only a small room there. We visit that place every year because we come from that community ourselves. ... *(Interruptions)* On 14 April, the Hon. Prime Minister himself visited and inaugurated a grand memorial there. We also wish to extend our sincere thanks to Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. At 26, Alipur Road, where Babasaheb Ambedkar. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please address the Chair. Nothing will go on record.

…(Interruptions)… *

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You address the Chair.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you address the Chair.

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* Not recorded.

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: Listen, if you have allergy of Babasaheb Ambedkar's name, then I cannot say. [Translation] The reason for this lies with the Congress. As some of our colleagues have already pointed out, you left no means untried in your attempt to defeat Babasaheb Ambedkar. ... *(Interruptions)* Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru even fielded his own driver to contest against Babasaheb Ambedkar from Bhandara.... *(Interruptions)* Even today, you are unwilling to listen to the name of Babasaheb Ambedkar. From the very beginning, you have wilfully sidelined Babasaheb Ambedkar, who is considered not only the messiah of the Dalits but is revered by many as a divine figure. *This is what I wish to place before the House.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record, except the Minister's speech.

*…(Interruptions)… **

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will give you a chance. I will call you.

… (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will go through the record.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, Jyotiraditya Scindia ji is someone I regard as my own.... *(Interruptions)* If there is any unparliamentary expression, you have full authority to remove it from the record.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: All right, I will go through the record.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: I only wish to submit that the issue of Dalits is not the problem of any one political party. I say this because many of our honourable members have attempted to view this through a partisan lens.

I would like to present two examples. Much noise is being made regarding the Una incident. Honourable Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia is present here, as are others. But a far more horrific incident occurred

in Jhajjar, where five Dalits were beaten in the name of cow protection.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir,... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: I would assert, regardless of which party is in power, that you mention the Rohith Vemula incident. I come from that very community. When the Rohith Vemula incident took place, many rushed in to shed crocodile tears. But in that same university, between 2004 and 2013, eight Dalit students committed suicide. Who amongst you went to see them then?... *(Interruptions)*

Our colleagues from Bihar are present in this House. I ask, in 1996, when 21 Dalits were gunned down in Bathani Tola, who amongst you went there? In 1997, when 58 Dalits were massacred in Laxmanpur Bathe, did a single leader visit the site? Again, in 2000, when 34 Dalits were brutally shot dead in Miyapur, did any political figure step forward? And yet, today, we indulge in mere political rhetoric. Even as recently as 25th May 2016, in Bihar itself, two of our party's leaders, Sudesh Paswan and Sunil Paswan, were murdered simply because they had contested elections. These are not isolated incidents; such heinous crimes are continuing unabated.

We have completed 69 years of Independence. I have said it before, whether it be Dalits, women, or Muslims, injustice continues. Let us ask, who are the Muslims in this country? Who are the Buddhists? Who are the Sikhs? These are people who historically belonged to Dalit communities, who were forced to seek refuge in other religions due to centuries of oppression and atrocities. They turned to Islam, but even there they found caste divisions, there is Sheikh, Syed, Pathan, Churiharas. Later, during colonial rule, many converted to Christianity, yet over 50% of Indian Christians today belong to Dalit backgrounds, and they continue to demand reservations. I ask: if they changed their religion, why do they still ask for a reservation? The answer is clear, discrimination persists. Even among Muslims, a Sheikh will not marry an Ansari, nor a Kunjra. Why? Because caste discrimination has seeped into every faith. Babasaheb Ambedkar himself adopted Buddhism, hoping to escape caste. But even within Buddhism, when one travels to Japan, Canada, Russia, or Sri Lanka, their Buddhist communities make a distinction, saying, “These are all Mahar people.” So the truth is stark, conversion alone does not eliminate caste.

Whether you believe it or not, many people insult Hinduism, and we too criticise it. But why does Hinduism endure? It endures because

it is flexible. A person who believes in Ram is a Hindu, and one who does not believe in Ram is also a Hindu. A person who believes in Krishna is a Hindu, and one who does not believe in Krishna is also a Hindu. There is no god at all. The one who created god was clever. Periyar said everything, yet it remains the same. When Annadurai was delivering a speech in the Rajya Sabha, he was very angry after coming here. At that time, it was Madras, and he did not even accept that Madras was a part of the country. When people listened to his speech carefully, gradually everything changed. Religion means flexibility, freedom of speech. Until yesterday, you used to abuse the RSS, abuse Shri Narendra Modi, and even today you criticise them... *(Interruptions)* Until yesterday, you said that cow vigilantes were enemies. If Shri Narendra Modi, as Prime Minister, says that he supports cow protection and that if someone does wrong at night action should be taken against them by the State Government, then you should welcome it.

Action will be taken by the State Government. Here, different parties have formed governments in different States. Please, tell me, if an incident occurs in Uttar Pradesh, will you give the Union Government the authority to take action? If an incident happens in Karnataka, will you give the Union Government the authority to take

action? Since it is a matter concerning the State Government, only the State Government will take action. What more signal than this could there be than what Shri Narendra Modi has said? The Prime Minister says, if Dalits are to be shot, then shoot me... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would like to say, even after 69 years of independence, there are two kinds of India. Even today, the person who makes shoes does not have slippers on his feet; the person who makes clothes does not have clothes on his body; the one who builds palaces has only a hut to live in; the person who cleans everyone's filth lives in the dirtiest slum; the one who feeds everyone's grain has a son who goes to sleep hungry. Kindly look at our Bihar, poor children die without medicine and keep crying for milk. When they come at night and say, "Mother, give me bread," the mother does not have even bread to give the child. When a child of five or six years cries from hunger and says, "Mother, my stomach aches, please give me something to eat," the mother says, "Son, go to sleep; you will get bread in the morning." Even then, when the child does not stop crying, the mother slaps him. The child sleeps crying after the slap. When he wakes up in the morning, he timidly asks the mother, "Mother, last night I asked for bread, why did you slap me?" The mother has no answer. We have come to wipe the tears of that poor mother and child.

Sir, today there are one hundred and twenty-five thousand banks in the country, and if Shri Narendra Modi tells them to adopt one Dalit and one woman, to make them billionaires and millionaires and turn them into entrepreneurs, what is wrong with that? As far as 'Stand Up India' is concerned, we said you may criticise it. When you speak of Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, I want to point out that Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar said that we have only achieved political freedom; economic and social freedom have not been attained. On the subject of economic knowledge, I would like to say that there was no greater economist than him. However, Babasaheb Ambedkar was always called merely the leader of the Dalits, but his other aspect, that of a great economist, was never given due attention. Had Babasaheb Ambedkar become India's Finance Minister at that time, the country's map would have been quite different today.

Sir, through you, I wish to speak about the dignity of labour. Today, the lower the job, the more it is considered inferior. Cleaning happens abroad as well. It happens everywhere. But abroad, the cleaning staff also goes to the hotel at night and eats properly with everyone else. Here, the person who cleans belongs to a particular caste; the shoemaker belongs to another caste. One day, I was reading that a particular caste in the leather industry does the work of skinning

dead animals. I do not agree that a person of any specific caste should be the one to carry out the task of lifting dead cattle. The leather industry provides employment to 25 lakh people. India is the fifth largest exporter of leather. In 2014-15, the net export of leather and its products was 6.5 billion dollars, and among those working in the leather industry, the Dalit community forms the lowest rung. Above them are the traders, and then other groups. Therefore, I wish to say, as one of our colleagues mentioned, that no one would wish to carry excreta on their heads. But they do it because of poverty. Who would want to pick up a dead animal? But they have no alternative; they have poverty.

I kindly appeal to all of you. I do not want to go into data. Gujarat, Gujarat, Gujarat, however, most of these incidents have occurred in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: There is a population of 22 crore here and there it is six crore.

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: I am aware that your State is the largest State... *(Interruptions)* I was saying that I do not wish to go into figures. Uttar Pradesh is not a BJP State, Bihar is not a BJP State. Your State has the highest population, and you will see that the most

incidents are also occurring there. Similarly, Bihar comes second… *(Interruptions)* I also have data regarding the third and fourth positions. This is a reply on the floor of Parliament; we are not speaking on our own accord.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, one of our colleagues spoke about reservation in promotions. Why has the matter of reservation in promotions been delayed? The issue of reservation in promotions is a matter for the courts. I do not wish to criticise the courts. The Mandal Commission was for the backward classes. The Mandal Commission was implemented; we had been fighting for it since 1980. It was not only us who fought, Shrimati Madhu Dandavate, who came from the Brahmin community, also fought. Our colleague Harikesh Bahadur was fighting. Chandrashekhar Yadav was fighting. Hon. V. P. Singh was the Prime Minister, and we were Ministers when the Mandal Commission was implemented in 1990. When it was implemented, people went to the courts. There was no issue regarding Dalits there, but the Supreme Court's nine-member bench ruled that reservation would apply as per the Mandal Commission but not in promotions. Now, when there was no reservation for backward classes, where does the issue of reservation in promotions arise?

In 1995, when Hon. Narasimha Rao's government was in power, an amendment was made. After that, it was said that reservation in promotions would continue. People then went to the courts again, arguing that reservation in promotion would continue but seniority would not be maintained. Meanwhile, nothing was resolved. When Hon. Atal Ji's government came to power, three things happened during his tenure. First, it was said that seniority would be maintained; second, it was said that there would be no relaxation. At that time, we were Ministers, and the Constitution was amended to provide for relaxation. Seniority was also preserved. Third, it was stated that relaxation would be allowed but reservation would not exceed 50 percent. Subsequently, during Hon. Atal Ji's tenure, we further amended the Constitution to ensure that reservation would not exceed 50 percent, but a special recruitment drive could be held to provide 100 percent reservation. Against this entire case, Mr. Nagaraj approached the Supreme Court and claimed that all of this was unconstitutional. The Supreme Court in the Nagaraj case did not say it was unconstitutional but imposed three conditions. It stated that efficiency must be demonstrated, the creamy layer must be shown, and backwardness must be demonstrated. Now, what does backwardness mean for the Scheduled Castes? They enjoy

untouchability; they remain untouchable. There is no criterion for their backwardness. This should have been communicated in writing to the Government of Uttar Pradesh, to Hon. Mayawati's government, but it was not. As a result, the matter got stuck there. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY (JALANDHAR): After Nagraj case, the UPA government brought the 117th Constitutional Amendment to the Rajya Sabha.Why are you not bringing it to the Lok Sabha? *(Interruptions)*

19.00 hours

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: Why didn't we bring that forward? Why didn't we get it passed? For that, you should ask the Samajwadi Party. Why are you asking us? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Leave the backward classes aside, leave the Muslims aside as well. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Deputy Speaker, kindly allow us to express our views. ... *(Interruptions)* If you perpetrate injustice against the backward classes, we will not tolerate this injustice. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: Please listen to me. ... (Interruptions) I had said at that time... *(Interruptions)* I agree with you. ...*(Interruptions)* I had told Netaji, I had told Mulayam Singh Ji, do

not oppose it. If you want to include the backward classes, then include them, but do not oppose it. However, you all were angry with Mayawati Ji. ...*(Interruptions)* Regarding Mayawati Ji, Hon. Venkaiah Naidu Ji just spoke. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is already 7 o' clock. If the House agrees, we may extend the time of the House by half an hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended by half an hour.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would just like to say is that... *(Interruptions)*

You may speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Minister Ji, kindly allow us a minute to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: You may speak. We are letting you speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you address the Chair.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you when the Minister replies. You take your seat.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have mentioned the name of our leader. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would just like to say that the issue of Dalits is neither a matter of any party nor a matter of politics. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it is seven o'clock. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already extended the time by half an hour.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA : ... *… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): ... * … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I just want to say that people belonging to the Dalit class belong to the lowest section of the society. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please take your seat. I do not want to be harsh. You are speaking against the Chair. I am very sorry for that. Because I am lenient, do not take me like that. Hon. Speaker wanted to complete it by 7 O' Clock. It was all finalized. He could not complete it, so I have said, "can we extend by half an hour?" At that time, heated argument was going on. Now, even if you want, I would put it before the House. If you want, I can extend by another half an hour, till the Minister replies.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: It should not be half an

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

hour. It should be extended by one hour. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You can say that. But, they also have to say. Let them also say till what time they want it to be extended.

… (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): We may extend it till the Minister's reply is over.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time of the House is extended till the Minister's reply is over.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am concluding my remarks. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to say only one thing, as all our colleagues have said, that we often mention Babasaheb Ambedkar's name. Babasaheb Ambedkar was our Messiah, and on 26 January 1950, Babasaheb Ambedkar said that we are going to live in a contradictory society. There will be equality among us in politics, while social and economic life will be unequal. Therefore, we want that whichever government is formed, in matters of reservation, some progress is being made, but until economic and

educational advancement is promoted, nothing good will happen.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to congratulate Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji for taking up economic and educational issues for the first time and for moving forward to realise the slogan of Power to the Poor. I thank you very much.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, kindly allow me one minute to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you.

[Translation]

***SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** Today, in the House, by politicising the discussion on the issue of Dalits, the seriousness of the matter is being diminished. As is well known, law and order is under the jurisdiction of the State Governments. Recent incidents are being exaggerated and presented for political reasons. Today, the House should consider that to prevent such incidents, the law and order situation must be strengthened by cooperation with the State Governments. The Opposition raises these issues or pretends to meet victims only in states governed by the ruling parties. They do not raise the issues of oppression or matters in states where the Opposition is in power. For instance, despite serious incidents in Kerala and Bulandshahr in Uttar Pradesh, no Opposition leader has visited those places. Similarly, there are examples from other provinces as well. The Union Government has recently amended the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act to make it more effective. The Union Government has issued several advisory letters to the State Governments on this subject to prevent such incidents and to ensure effective action. The Hon. Prime Minister has appealed to all not to

* Speech was laid on the Table.

divide society on the basis of caste, religion, or other such grounds. The Hon. Minister of Home Affairs has also given examples, stating that during our government's tenure such incidents have decreased, whereas during the previous Congress government such incidents were more frequent. Our government has made every effort to bring Dalits to a position of equality and has introduced several schemes to make them economically prosperous, resulting in rapid improvement in the lives of the Dalit community, who are now becoming economically stronger.

I believe that the Opposition is increasingly worried by the growing inclination of Dalits towards the Bharatiya Janata Party and is attempting to exaggerate these incidents. The way plans are being formulated and executed concerning Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar and places associated with him also seems to be causing concern among the Opposition. In Uttar Pradesh, the party which has been making false promises for years in the name of Dalit upliftment and has come to power several times is particularly worried that Dalits are no longer going to fall for their deceit due to the policies of the Union Government. Therefore, its leaders are creating divisions in society and making derogatory remarks even against women. My humble appeal to all is to participate in a constructive debate on this subject,

to collaborate with the State Governments, and to take meaningful initiatives to prevent atrocities and discrimination against all sections of society, including Dalits, backward classes, women, and vulnerable groups, and to provide them with opportunities to progress.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the discussion under Rule 193 regarding atrocities and oppression against Dalits.

Sir, when the discussion on atrocities against Dalits has been going on for four hours, I believe this is not a question of any one party. After all, the oppression of Dalits across the country, whether we take the name of Vemula or any other, must be addressed with the question of what the solution is. The Hon. Minister has spoken at length, but even after seventy years of independence, Dalits remain where they are. The Minister gave a continuous speech for twenty minutes, but what will be the solution? Now only the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs can find some remedy. A solution must be found. Dalits must be educated. They are economically weak. Take an example from Bihar. Since the government of Shri Nitish Kumar

came into power in Bihar, continuous reservation has been provided in Panchayats and Zila Panchayats for Dalits. They have been given reservation everywhere, and the sons and daughters of Dalits have been handed the key, the chair, so that they may protect their interests. ... *(Interruptions)* To make them economically strong, they must be educated. The system of scholarships there provides Rs. 10,000 to girls and children from minority communities on passing the matriculation examination. ... *(Interruptions)* The Government of India should also implement a similar system. If a Dalit child passes matriculation or ISC, arrangements must be made by the Government of India for them to study in technical colleges. ... *(Interruptions)* Only then can atrocities against Dalits be eradicated. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Deputy Speaket, Sir, I seek your protection. I come from Bihar, and I take pride in stating that since Shri Nitish Kumar's government assumed office in Bihar, not a single such atrocity case has been reported. However, unless they are supported economically, educationally, and politically, mere speeches will not suffice.

With this, I conclude my remarks. Thank you.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Charanjeet Singh Rori - Not

present.

Shri E.T. Mohammad Basheer - Not present.

Shri N.K. Premachandran.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, it is quite unfortunate as far as this House is concerned that frequently we are having to discuss the issue of atrocities against dalits especially the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes.

Sir, it is an admitted fact that atrocities against dalits are increasing day by day. The National Crime Records Bureau confirmed the fact that crimes against dalits are increasing like anything. I am not going into statistics because of paucity of time. If we take the murder cases, they cases increased by 4.1 per cent when compared to 2013-14 in respect of Scheduled Castes and in respect of Scheduled Tribes they increased by 28.7 per cent when compared to 2013-14. If we take rape cases, as far as Scheduled Castes are concerned they increased by 7.7 per cent and as far as Scheduled Tribes are concerned they increased by 9.2 per cent.

If we take the highest rate of atrocities against the Scheduled Castes reported, the States that figure in the list are Rajasthan, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Kindly see that 23.4 per cent of rapes are in respect of SCs and 11 per cent are in respect of STs. What does it show? It shows that atrocities are increasing day by day. Why is it so? I am not going into the reasons because there is

no time. There are historic reasons and also there is an immediate context also. The historic reasons are mainly related to land, loan, and resistance against exploitation and there are also issues which are perpetuating the context of the present and also the existing issues.

Rohit Vemula's suicide, the Una incident and the Dadri incident, these three incidents have shaken the basic roots of democratic and secular fabric of our country. My only question is, why was the Hon. Prime Minister who is very vocal on all the issues keeping a steady silence in respect of these three issues?

On 6th August, our most respected Prime Minister made an unequivocal statement in Hyderabad, 'if you want to shoot, shoot me, not the dalits; if you want to attack, attack me, not the dalits.' He has made a very brave statement. I do agree and I appreciate this. But if this statement had been in the case of Dadri incident, I am very sure and confident that the incident of Una would never have happened in this country. On the very next day the 7th of August, the second in the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh hierarchy critized the attacks on dalits in the name of cow protection. Vishwa Hindu Parishad is still keeping silence. That is why, I am saying that when Shri Venkaiah Naidu was saying, 'do not politicize the issue', this is politics. Atrocities against

the dalits is politics; depoliticization means that the political parties have to take a clear stand that they will protect the interest of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, atrocities on them have to be banned.

I will conclude with one suggestion. The founding fathers of the Constitution, especially Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar had said that untouchability can be removed but caste system can not be removed because Indian society is such a type. So, educational, economic and social upliftment of the poor sections of society is the need of the hour.

[Translation]

***SHRI CHARANJIT SINGH RODI (SIRSA):** First of all, I thank the newspapers and the media for highlighting the atrocities being committed against the Dalit community through newspapers and television. Because of this, the issue of the Dalit community is now under discussion.

Regarding the atrocities being alleged against Dalits in the name of cow protection and the accusations of cow slaughter, and Dalits being beaten on these grounds, none of these allegations are true. Even today, Haryana has 432 gaushalas (cow shelters), and the majority of the cow care is done by Dalit brothers. Almost every Dalit household owns a cow, which they care for as if it were their mother. These atrocities must be stopped and the killing of Dalits prevented, failing which the country will face a great danger.

The late Chaudhary Devi Lal, former Deputy Prime Minister, was a saviour of the poor in Haryana and embraced the poor Dalits as his own. He established dharmshalas in every village, implemented the mother-and-child welfare scheme and initiated old-age pension schemes. Today, every Dalit in Haryana salutes him and hopes that

* Speech was laid on the Table.

his policies will be followed for the welfare of the Dalit brothers.

Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji taught that the Dalit society, the Brahmin society, and other castes should live together in harmony. We pay tribute to Guru Nanak Dev Ji, who united the five beloveds of various castes by tying the Khanda and offering Amrit, which promotes the message of coexistence in Sikhism and other religions.

God created human beings, but some followers of Manu's ideology have divided people on the basis of caste and have been oppressing the Dalit community for thousands of years. Therefore, the recent atrocities in Haryana and Una, Gujarat, which made headlines in the newspapers, where Dalit people were brutally beaten, must be taken seriously.

Even today, approximately 80 percent of the children from the Dalit community study in government schools, but the condition of these schools is extremely poor. There is a shortage of teachers, delay in the provision of textbooks, and scholarships are not disbursed on time, which causes significant harm to the children. As a result, children from poor families find it difficult to continue their education because the government has decided not to fail students from classes one to eight, making it very difficult for Dalit children to progress

further in their studies.

Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, living within the Dalit community, had given the slogan ‘Educate, be educated’ to the Dalit society, but today’s governments have shown great discrimination against the Dalit community, which has caused them to fall far behind. Our demand from the government is to cease this discrimination against Dalits so that they can contribute to the development of the country, as Dalits play an important role in running the nation.

[English]

*SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA (CHITRADURGA): 'Atrocities against Dalits in the country' is not a new subject. But over the years, the atrocities against Dalits in the country have assumed great importance.

The unfortunate thing is that, whichever part of the country we may look at, we would find that SCs and STs are being humiliated, tortured and maligned especially by the upper caste people. The most important aspect is that nowadays this has gained a political momentum. I am sorry to say that Dalits are being used for election purposes. Once elections get over, they are shown the real door.

The situation has worsened after Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG), the Government has shrunk in its size. That means, many jobs were given to private companies. With liberalization, multinationals came to India. Now the slogan is, 'more governance, less Government.' [English] It means that there will be less Government jobs. It would mean lesser reservation and so on. How can we stop this? At least, there should be reservation in the private sector also. Therefore, there would be some amount of justice

* Speech was laid on the Table.

done to these people.

Atrocities are happening in rural areas because of landlessness. There are so many SCs without any land. If we give them land, most of the issues will be solved. They will at least have the pride of having a land. They can at least be at par with others. That way, they will be able to provide good education to their children.

We have privatized education in educational institutions. There should be free education for SCs and STs who are more suffering. They cannot afford to go to Apolo Hospital; they cannot go to big public schools. How can we bring the justice? How can we stop atrocities? In every walk of life, there is atrocity against SCs and STs. SCs/Sts are symbolically identified with the poor people of the society. They belong to the lower strata of the society. They are very poor economically also. They have been suffering for centuries. They are very poor. Let us put a stop to all these atrocities once for all.

Lower castes and especially SCs/STs are feeling alienated. They are feeling subjugated. They are feeling slighted. They are feeling as to whom this country belongs to. They feel that this country does not belong to them. This has to be settled once and for all for building a united India.

[Translation]

***SHRI VIRENDRA KASHYAP (SHIMLA):** Today, cases of atrocities on Dalits in the country are emerging as headlines in newspapers and TV channels. Reports of rape against Dalit women emerge from various places, while Dalits are publicly stripped and beaten. Not only that, even a transaction of Rs. 15 leads to murder with an axe attack. Even today, Dalits are punished for drinking water from public taps. If Dalits prepare food for mid-day meals or enter temples, non-Dalits refuse to eat that food or allow their entry. All these incidents are occurring in the 21st century, even as humanity has reached Mars.

Every time an incident takes place, it is given a political colour and often used as a shield for political exploitation in an improper manner. Opposition parties particularly complain that during the tenure of this government or that government, atrocities against Dalits have increased. The question is not which government's rule saw an increase or decrease in atrocities against Dalits. The question is why, even after 70 years of independence and the enactment of the strictest laws, such atrocities continue. The root cause lies in the mindset of

* Speech was laid on the Table.

certain sections of society who do not want Dalits to have a social, economic, and educational place in society. This thinking is extremely dangerous. Our society, especially the Hindu society, must seriously reflect on this. If we fail to do so in time, Hinduism may face great difficulties in the coming days.

Today, we observe that members of the Dalit community are converting to Christianity and Islam. The reason behind this is the social inequality and discrimination they face, which compels them to take such steps.

Although the government has taken several steps which have enabled the Dalit community to progress economically, a stringent law, the Prevention of Atrocities on Scheduled Castes Act, has been enacted, under which action can be taken against nearly 125 different types of atrocities or offences. If the data for atrocities against Dalits in 2016 is examined, it reveals a total of 47,124 cases, with 1,19,469 cases pending in courts. It is unnecessary to discuss which region has more cases or under which government's rule the numbers are higher. However, the question remains as to what kind of environment should be created today so that there is a change in the mindset of the general public.

Although the Union Government has taken several steps in the past two years, such as providing loans ranging from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 10 lakh without any guarantee under the Mudra Scheme. Under the Start-up India/Stand-up India initiatives, similar schemes have been introduced to empower the Dalit community to stand on their own feet, to be independent and to become Entrepreneurs who generate employment. Therefore, it can be said today that in discussions of this nature, we must take Practical measures at every level to include Dalits in a fully competitive society.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I congratulate the dalit brethren throughout the country who have stood up against the majoritarian communalism and who have given a message to other weaker and oppressed sections that this discrimination, oppression and xenophobia can only be fought once they stand up and oppose the majoritarian communalism and take them head on.

Secondly, no democracy in the world has prioritized animal life over human life. This is what this Government is doing and I would like to congratulate them in a sarcastic way for taking the democracy in such a way that they have prioritized animal life over human life.

Thirdly, what Prof. Shepherd and Shri Kancha Ilaiah has said is that it is the first time that we are seeing skin for skin- skin of a human being for skin of a dead cow. This is what has been happening and the credit again goes to the ideology of the ruling party.

My fourth point is that it is a new phenomenon. Why have the *gau-rakshaks* come up suddenly? It is because you are in power and they are getting power from you and are getting emboldened.

My fifth point is: how is it that these so-called cow-protectors

want to look into my fridge, my utensils, my plate and what do I eat? What right do they have? They have no right whatsoever to look into my house and see what I am eating or what I am not eating. Look at the laws which you have made. I want to know it from the Hon. Home Minister. As per Section 354 of the IPC, for assaulting a woman there is sentence of two years. As per Section 509 of the IPC, for outraging the modesty of a woman, there is sentence of one year. But in Haryana, if you are caught with smuggling cows, there is imprisonment for seven years. I want to congratulate them. This speaks volume about *Beti Padhao, Bethi Bachao*. This is what they are doing. When it comes to women, when it comes to sisters, it is two years and one year of sentence. When it comes to cows, it is seven years of sentence.

My seventh point is that sexual violence against dalit girls has increased from 32 cases to 150 cases per year. One lakh dalits are dependent upon this job of skinning dead cows. Now, their whole economy is being destroyed. Thanks to the ruling party and their sister organizations, a dalit cannot sell the skin, bones or horns of a dead cow.

My next point is that the Hon. Prime Minister made a fantastic

statement, ‘shoot me; kill me.’ It was a very stoic moment. I am sure this dialogue was stolen from a very important Hindu movie. But any way, the Hon. Prime Minister made that statement. But all of us are complaining over here as to why he did not add Muslims and other people. I want to congratulate the Prime Minister on showing his mindset. Muslims can never be a part of Hindu nationalism but Muslims are an important pillar of Indian nationalism. This is what I want to say.

I want to conclude by saying if you are so-called protectors of cow, why are you taking insulin? Many BJP Members, I am sure, are diabetic. Insulin is made from the pancreas of cattle. I want to end my speech with a *sher* of Iqbal about the cow protector.

Khuda ki basti dukaan nahi hai,
khara jise tum samajh rahe ho
woh ab zarre khum aayar hoga,
tumhein tehzeeb apne khanjar se
apne-aap khud khudkushi karegi.

[Translation]

God’s abode is no mere market stall,

What you deemed pure now shatters small.

The culture you cherish, sharp as a knife,

Will end itself, its own tragic strife.

[English]

Let the Hon. Home Minister say whether his Ruling Party was not ...* The biggest beef exporters are Muslims. Would you ban beef export because in 2015 we exported 1,806 metric tons of beef, amounting to $ 4.8 billion? [Translation] Let the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs not indulge in semantics, ‘We will do this; we will do that’. You know this for sure. All these *gaurakshaks* belong to ... * You should crush them equally.

Thank you.

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, we are discussing a very serious subject, and I seek your protection. I am reminded of Munshi Premchand's story Sadgati, where the Dalit protagonist says that if he goes to the police station to ask for a pot of water, he is denied, so who would give him a cot to lie on? Today, the same situation has arisen among the people of our country, where every individual is facing contradictions over their water, land, property, temples, and mosques. Every citizen of the country is fighting the battle for freedom of expression, a situation created by this Government. It is astonishing that in the last two and a half years, the entire country has witnessed a surge in incidents upon incidents. If we look at the home state of Madhya Pradesh, 50 Dalit families have demanded euthanasia from the Chief Minister. What greater tragedy could there be than this? Where a Dalit woman poured kerosene on herself and her six-year-old child and set them on fire. Yesterday, in Morena, in my Gwalior-Chambal division, a Dalit woman died, and the villagers refused to give space for her last rites, forcing her family to cremate her in front of their own home. This is the state of affairs in Madhya Pradesh today. We have all witnessed the Mandsaur incident where women

were beaten. Women are present in this House, yet those who assaulted them were not imprisoned; instead, the women were jailed. What kind of justice is this? How are we living in such a country? Whether we speak of Madhya Pradesh, Haryana where a 21-year-old Dalit woman was repeatedly raped, or Gujarat and the Una incident where four Dalits were assaulted, those four Dalits do not bear wounds on their backs, but every Hon. Member sitting in this House carries those wounds on their backs. Today, I ask where the answer is for the 27 Dalit families in Saudapur, Gujarat, who were forced to leave their homes? The movement that arose forced the Chief Minister to resign. The reality is that today the true mask of the BJP is being removed.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am surprised that I am speaking as a citizen of one India. When Shri Arjunram Meghwal was speaking here, I have great respect for him, but today he said in the House that such incidents happen in the election atmosphere. Which election was about to take place in Gujarat? Which election was about to take place in Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan? When elections were held in Bihar, you said that reservation should be removed, your ... *(Interruptions)* You will have to answer for this. When elections were held in Bihar, your party president said that either we win the elections here or firecrackers will be set off in Pakistan. They will have to answer this.

Today, we need answers to these questions. ... *(Interruptions)* Today, the atmosphere in the country is such that we have 200 million Dalit brothers and sisters. Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, today you are speaking, I respect you, you have worked shoulder to shoulder with my revered father. You are like a father to me.

I would like to say before the House that "both the blame and the credit are mine" will not work. You cannot speak from one side and also speak from the other. In the end, we have to work according to our principles. If you think that so much atrocity occurred during the BJP's rule, then why did you not leave the government? If you think atrocities occurred during the Congress rule, then why did you not leave that ministry? My demand is that if we want to fight the Dalit cause, we must rise from our homes and fight. I also want to say that today the figures presented show that every 18 minutes an atrocity is committed against a Dalit, every day three Dalit women are raped, every day two Dalits die, and in the last two and a half years, there has been a 19 percent increase in atrocities against Dalits. We talk about Clean India; how do you expect to imagine Clean India?

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: How can I wind up, Sir? I have just started. This is an emotive issue. I am only the second speaker from the Congress. This is not fair, Sir.

[Translation]

We speak of Clean India. Cleanliness is not just on the roads, nor in the lanes; rather, cleanliness must be brought into our hearts, cleanliness must be brought into our minds. Only then will this country become clean. The country will not become clean by going street to street or neighbourhood to neighbourhood; instead, cleanliness must be brought into our mindset, and only then will our Clean India be realised.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I wish to speak about cow protection. Yes, it is our duty to protect cows, but we must protect those cows which are sick. Thousands of cows have died in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan, yet no cow protectors came forward for them. However, those who took the law into their own hands and resorted to attacking others must answer for their actions in this country. I am surprised that when the Prime Minister maintained a month-long silence on Kashmir, my brother Premchandran rightly said that, When the Dadri incident occurred, if something had been said then, perhaps the Una

incident might not have happened. Arjun Ram Meghwal ji spoke about Baba Saheb, and his grandson, Prakash Ambedkar ji, responded to the Prime Minister's statement by saying, "It is too little, too late." The Prime Minister, having taken the oath of the Constitution of India, pledged to dispense justice to all people without fear, favour, affection, or ill will, in accordance with the Constitution and law. Yet now we hear statements such as, If you want to attack, attack me; if you want to shoot, shoot me, but the attacks on my Dalit brothers must stop. What greater helplessness and despair could there be than a person saying, I am the first servant, or I am the watchman? If anyone attempts murder, then the Government and the Prime Minister must take action against that person. Only then will we support you; I assure you of that confidence.

Sir, outside the House, in Telangana, discussions about Dalits are held. In Madhya Pradesh, the focus is on Kashmir, while the House sits here in silence. Not a single word about Kashmir was spoken by my Prime Minister inside the House. Not a single word was said about Dalits by my Prime Minister in the House. How then will you inspire confidence in the 125 crore people of this country? We talk about Digital India, Start-up India, Stand-up India, but the reality is suppress India, repress India, weak India and beat India. There is talk of a

Congress-free India, and now you speak of * India, and when you recently went to Jhabua, you spoke there; your posters carry the message of*. You talk of* India. The Prime Minister makes statements, and the very next day, headlines read 'Three Andhra *dalits* tied to trees and thrashed for skinning a cow', '*Dalit* stripped and killed for stealing a watch'. If, after such statements, nothing happens from the Prime Minister, then what does it mean? *

I wish to ask about the so-called fringe elements. These are not fringe elements anymore; fringe has become the centre, and the centre has become fringe in our country today. I would like to ask, the Prime Minister gave seven commandments in Allahabad, such as the spirit of service. How can there be service when such a large section is deprived? He spoke of empathy, but in Telangana, his representatives said that what happened in Una was justified. Is that empathy? He spoke of restraint, but I ask, is the statement made by Shri V.K. Singh about Dalits restraint? Coordination was mentioned, But why is there no coordination between Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Gujarat and the Union Government, about which Shri Paswan said the state governments should take action? Why do you not order the state

* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

governments to take steps? Balance was mentioned, positivity was mentioned, and dialogue was mentioned, but about our Shrimati Mayawati Ji, who has been Chief Minister four times and is a Member of Parliament, *made a comment about her. Is this what you call dialogue? ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to ask why not even one Cabinet Minister went to the site of the violence? Whereas Indira Gandhi Ji had waded through water up to her waist to go when the Dalit massacre took place. Rahul Gandhi Ji went to Una; he went to Rohith Vemula's place... *(Interruptions)* But why could not a single Minister of the Government go at the time of any such incident, I would like to ask. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please wind up.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beseech you. I am fighting for the cause of Dalits.

[Translation]

The Congress government appointed Shrimati Meira Kumar as the Chairperson of this House, who belongs to the Dalit community.

* Not recorded as ordered by the Chair.

The Congress government made Shri K.R. Narayanan the President. The Congress government appointed seven SC-ST Members of Parliament as Cabinet Ministers. I would like to thank this government for appointing Shri Thawar Chand Gehlot from my state as a Minister. I want to congratulate them for at least giving representation to my state... *(Interruptions)* The Congress government brought the SC-ST Atrocities Act... *(Interruptions)* I want to know why the Home Minister has not issued orders for action on all these incidents. I want to ask why the Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment has not visited these places.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the demand of the hour is that we should not be with the people only in times of happiness, but sharing their sorrow in times of distress is not only our duty but becomes our dharma. This is Indian civilisation, this is an integral part of Hinduism, which the government itself seems to have forgotten. In the end, I want to say that these people talk about Babasaheb Ambedkar ji, but I want to tell them that the American Government says about the government of our country-

In conclusion, I want to say that these people speak about Baba Saheb Ambedkar, but I want to tell them that the American

government says about our country's government-

> "We have been clear in our engagement with India about our concerns about those times when the Government has been slow to react when violence has taken place and some of these controversies over the cows are an example of that."

I wish to remind them of what Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji said: 'Perform the duty of a ruler. For a king or a ruler, there can be no discrimination among the subjects, neither on the basis of birth, nor caste, nor community.' The Prime Minister had asked for suggestions for Independence Day. I want to tell them that merely carrying the tricolour and travelling across the country will not suffice; one must respect that flag, embrace the spirit it represents, hold its ideals in one's heart, and feel a renewed passion for it within the chest.

Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to conclude by quoting Rabindranath Tagore: -

"Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high

Where knowledge is free

Where the world has not been broken up into fragments

By narrow domestic walls

Where words come out from the depth of truth

Where tireless striving stretches its arms towards perfection

Where the clear stream of reason has not lost its way

Into the dreary desert sand of dead habit

Where the mind is led forward by thee

Into ever-widening thought and action

Into that heaven of freedom, my Father, let my country awake.”

[Translation]

[2*]**SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL):** India is a country where people of all castes and religions live together. Several times, external organisations have attempted to create caste-based tensions in the country by encouraging divisive forces, yet the Government of India has dealt with them firmly. All parties and groups have strived to keep India united. Injustice and atrocities are committed against Dalits and poor citizens and women of all castes and religions. The perpetrator is not defined by caste or religion; mentally disturbed individuals commit atrocities.

A criminal is not defined by caste or religion; they are simply criminals. In Nagpur district of Maharashtra, poor children from the Maratha community were subjected to atrocities and killed. Such offenders must be given the strictest punishment.

This land belongs to Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. The Constitution of India respects all castes and religions. Those who commit injustice against any caste or religion must be punished with the utmost severity.

[2*] Speech was laid on the Table.

[English]

***SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA):** The brutal assault, killings, on Dalit women are on the increase from the day one, the BJP government came to power in 2014. The so called proponents of Chaturvarnya, led by RSS and its affiliated organizations are spreading hatred against Dalits.

The dogmas of these casteist groups always failed to explain why they are doing it. As Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar says, "the Smritikars never care to explain the why and the how of their dogmas".

Every day the incidents reported in the media are shocking and very upsetting. Dalits in this country are feeling that they are not belonged to this country. The reason is not only the assault and atrocities against Dalits, but the general mindset of the group of people who spread hatred among the people, their attitude towards the Dalits, weaker sections in the society.

The beating of 7 members of a Dalit family in Una Gir Somnath district of Gujarat for skinning a dead cow cannot be seen as a standalone episode. It is a continuation of social discrimination the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Dalits are facing in this country.

Months before Una incident, a Dalit girl in Amreli district was brutally raped after dragging her away from her house in the midnight and left her. When the family filed petition with the Police, the culprit and his family is threatening the Dalit family and 22 members of the family are staying in District Collectors office campus. They left their home, land and property fearing death and arson.

On April 14, BJP made a huge show led by Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji by putting BR Ambedkar's photo on their posters to show their respect to him. They celebrate Ambedkar's legacy as if they are doing everything in their power to uphold his values. Modiji visited Mhow in Madhya Pradesh, Ambedkar's birthplace, and he launched the Gramodaya Se bharatodaya Abhiyan (Development of Nation through Development of the Village).

What for this show? Is it for appeasing the Dalits with an eye on upcoming elections or really showing their fraternity with the community? The incidents later happened and happening shows that it is pure appeasement politics and not real concern to the downtrodden community.

In Maharashtra, in October 2015, a Dalit student was thrashed

by his teacher for touching the mid-day meal plates. His father was also thrashed when he came to pick up his son.

In November 2015, around 100 children left a school in Kolar in Karnataka, refusing to eat the food dished out by a Dalit cook.

On 5th August, 2016 Times of India reported that pregnant women from upper caste refuse to eat food served by Dalits in UP Anganwadis. The scheme is to provide nutritious food to pregnant women under "Hausala Poshan Yojana". Do we have two nations in India, Dalit India and Caste India?

- In March, a 17-year-old Dalit girl in Rajasthan's Bikaner district was raped and murdered by her PT teacher in college. Similarly, in April, three young boys from the Kanjar community were thrashed by a mob in the name of stealing a motorcycle in Chittorgarh district.
- Despite 69 years of independence, the caste system remains strong in both rural and urban India. If you think urban India is free from the rule of caste, all you have to do is look at the matrimonial column daily newspaper.
- Of the 1.72 lakh crimes against SC/STs on trial in 2014, only 13% trials were completed. Reports suggest that crimes

against Dalits have increased in 2014. The number of cases registered under the SC/ST atrocities act against Dalits in 2013 was 39,000 while the number rose to more than 47,000 in 2014.

- A survey by the NCAER, India's oldest and largest independent non-profit economic policy research institute, found that one of every four Indian still practiced some form of untouchability.
- Some findings from the survey says that 27% admitted to practicing some form of untouchability.
- State-wise, untouchability is most widespread in Madhya Pradesh (53%), Himachal Pradesh (50%), Chhattisgarh (48%), Rajasthan and Bihar (47%), UP (43%) and Uttarakhand (40%).
- In his suicide note, Rohith Vemula had called his birth a fatal accident. He had written: "The value of a man was reduced to his immediate identity and nearest possibility. To a vote. To a number. To a thing. Never was a man treated as a mind. As a glorious thing made up of star dust. In every field, in studies, in streets, in politics, and in dying and living."

- It is not only the voice of Rohit Vemula, it is the voice of each and every Dalit youth in the country. The oppression of Dalits even in 2016 shows the uncivilized mindset of the majority caste in India.
- Five Dalit youths consumed poison at Rajkot as a protest against the attack as they lost faith in the government in protecting their life and property. A Dalit youth, Hemant Solanki, who had consumed pesticide, as a protest against the atrocities died at a hospital in Junagarh. In related incidents, more than a dozen Dalits, who had similarly tried to commit suicide to protest the atrocities on their community, were being treated in different hospitals.
- Thousands of Dalit protesters are on strike path for justice.
- Shri. Kuldeep Nayar, world renowned media person and writer says that the country is in emergency like situation after Gujarat incidents.
- The violence is RSS agenda instigated by caste groups lobby to disintegrate and eliminate Dalits.
- Now the attack against the Dalits both from caste groups and Police is rampant and the total law and order of the state in

Gujarat is in danger. Police is reluctant to register case against the attackers of Dalits. If register also they never book them under SC/ST Atrocities prevention act.

- In Gujarat police is the synonym for RSS. I wonder it is the agenda of BJP to polarize the community before the assembly election of 2017. Because the BJP is worried about the electoral prospect after Patel community revolt in the name of reservation. So a caste polarization in the name of Dalits is their only hope.
- It is not only in Gujarat, in all the BJP ruled states rape, killings and other forms of atrocities against SC/ST are on the increase.
- Cases were reported from Maharashtra, Haryana, Rajasthan, MP, Jharkhand, etc. While in power the intolerant caste lobby supported by RSS is fighting the Dalits and treating them as stray animals.
- Despite the cases reported, police is reluctant to register cases and those registered also are not enquired properly and the culprits are not punished.
- Last week a Dalit College girl was raped brutally by a gang of

five youth at Rohtak district of Haryana and left her in road side. The ailing Dalit girl was taken to hospital and in critical condition. The police have not taken case under SC/ST atrocities Act and so far no arrest has been made.

- The accused had allegedly raped the same Dalit girl three years back in Bhiwani district. Then for life and safety the family left to Rohtak and the accused followed them to Rohtak and again brutally raped her. If they are booked under SC/ST Act then, this would not have happened. Still the BJP ruled State government is not proactively taking action against the culprits.
- In Ahmednagar in Maharashtra a 11-year old Dalit girl was brutally raped and murdered on July 14th.
- During last year a Dalit youth was brutally killed in the daylight for using a caller tune praising Babasaheb Dr. B R Ambedkar. One Dalit family was excommunicated from their village.
- Maharashtra is the state where Dr. B R Ambedkar devoted his life for social reformation, is the place where Dalits are facing severe atrocities. As per the records of Crime Record bureau

there is 3.8% increase in cases against Dalits in Maharashtra.

- In Rajasthan two Dalit boys were killed. The crime against Dalits is reported as 17.1% in Rajasthan.
- In MP Dalit girl was brutally attacked for her shadow had fell on an upper caste man. In MP the atrocities against Dalits are reported to be 8.8% and every day we can hear an attack, a killing, a rape or a sexual assault on a Dalit girl.
- In Mathur village of Erode district in Tamilnadu, a Dalit pregnant women was brutally killed in the presence of her mother by goons during February 2016. RDO has reported murder; post partum report says it is murder. But so far the police have not done a proper enquiry and not booked the culprit under SC/ST atrocities Act. The administration is trying to help the accused. It is one state where untouchability prevails more in India despite the social revolution led by Great Periyar. Still there are separate Anganwadis for Dalits and other in Tamilnadu. The Dalits Panchayat presidents are not given proper place to sit and work.
- Another Una is reported in Vijaywada in Andhrapradesh. The Dalits were beaten up by Gau Rakshaks for skinning the dead

cow. The owner of the cow which was killed by electric shock has hired them to do the job, but Gau Rakshaks attacked the Dalits for doing their job only. Remember this after our Hon'ble Prime Minister criticized the actions of Gau Rakshaks and asked them to shoot him, rather attacking the Dalits.

- The Gau Rakshaks and the protectors of casteism led by RSS and Sangh family will not allow the Dalits to live with dignity. If Hon'ble PM has intervened in the incident of Una immediately after it occurs, this would not have been happened. He allowed the incidents to take unruly proportion for electoral advantage and when things were gone out of hand then only he opens his mouth. Vikaspurush Modiji has turned into Mounipurush Modiji and this has given courage to the thugs and goons to attack Dalits.
- Are we living in 21st Century India or in the caste ridden 19th and 20th Century. The BJP government and RSS have turned the country backward. Instead of social progress we are witnessing social regression.
- Today again a case of raping and sexual assault on a minor girl was reported from Sonipet in Haryana. The government

of Haryana is sleeping over the cases of Dalit atrocities. The two children in the family of dalits burnt to death recently at Faridabad. The house would like to know what action government has taken on that. Intolerance and social discrimination are increasing. BJP ruled State and Central Governments failed in its duty to protect the life and property of Dalits. The safety and security of Dalits are in danger.

- Gujarat is the land of Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi throughout his life stood for the development of Scheduled Castes, whom he lovingly called as Harijans. It is from the same land our Hon'ble Prime Minister hails and he is proud of that. The Nation heard of Gujarat model development after Narendra Modiji became Chief Minister. But now only we came to know what really is Gujarat model of development. A major section of people, around 7% of the total population, the SC in Gujarat is in trauma, distress and fear even after the continuous BJP rule for 15 years. Is this Gujarat Model.
- Now in the same Gujarat the second freedom struggle started. The struggle for freedom for the Dalits in the country for their right to live. The Constitution fails in protecting the lives and

property of Dalits. The laws of the nation fail. The law enforcement agencies in the country fail in protecting the Dalits. They are in the streets for freedom. The second freedom struggle started.

- In Kerala when Jisha a Dalit girl was brutally killed by a migrant labourer, the BJP leaders and Central Ministers, National Women Commission are all in queue to meet her parents. Reason is there was election in Kerala. Whereas after the brutal attacks on Dalits at Una we have not seen anyone there from BJP. No queue was seen to visit the family of the victims. I don't know where Shri. Tavarchand Gehlotji has gone. He traveled all the way to Kochi to meet Jisha's family but not seen in Una. Why you play indecent electoral politics in the name of Dalit
- Shri. Ramvilas Paswanji, you are a great Dalit leader and you grown to this level in the name of Dalits. But, what is happening in the country when you are a senior Minister in Central Government. We are not hearing your voice. Did the power conquer your brain? Paswanji, the dalits of the country look forward to you, for your words, your actions. I urge you

to quit the government and take the leadership of Dalit freedom struggle. Or you should openly announce that what the government and BJP doing is correct and tell that you are no more a Dalit.

- Shri Udit Raj ji you left the coveted civil service job and formed a forum for Dalit development. Then you joined BJP telling that BJP will protect the Dalits and take care of their development. Now what is the position Udit ji. Why can't you come out from this humiliation?
- Shri Ramdas Athavaleji, you become a Minister now in the government. You represent a Party formed by our great leader Babasaheb Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Are you not ashamed of continuing there? Are you comfortable in the seat when the Dalits in the country are being attacked bitterly and our girls are raped? Please open up yourself and let us hear you.
- Please note that, BJP claims that they are having maximum number of MP in parliament. We agreed. You have the maximum number. So you have decided to kill the Dalits to the maximum as you got the license to kill dalits as majority of Dalit MPs are with you. My Dalit friends in BJP, let me ask

you are you not ashamed of being their when your brothers and sisters are attacked in the name of caste. Have you indebted your opinion and voice of somebody. Do we have to take this humiliation further?

- In UPA Government the Dalits are having very high and powerful positions. The Speaker, Home Minister, Railway Minister, Urban Development and Poverty Alleviation, Micro Medium enterprises, etc were handled by Cabinet Ministers belongs to Dalits. Including MOS more than 15 Ministers were there from Dalits. How many you have. Only one Shri Thavarchandji. Then few MOS. What power the Dalits are having in BJP. What position you got for supporting them. How many Chief Ministers are from Dalits in BJP. How many Governors you appointed from Dalits?
- Who is the savior of Dalit, BJP or Congress, who started the schemes for their development, who introduced SCSCP and TSP. Now the BJP reduced the funds under SCP and TSP.
- Do you have the audacity to appoint a tribal CM in Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh where majority are tribes. But we did it when we are in power there. Sonia Gandhi ji did it.

- The implementation of SC/ST atrocities prevention act is not properly done. The police are not registering the cases properly. Always allowing the culprits to escape. The public prosecutors are not arguing the cases properly. With this type of administration, the Dalits will not get justice.
- Indian National Congress is the only Party stood with Dalits throughout history. I still remember as a student in 1977, the picture I saw of Smt. Indira Gandhi sitting on an elephant to reach the Dalit colonies which were burnt in a fire by Caste Hindus at Madhya Pradesh. When no leaders dare to visit the place, Smt. Indiraji took the pain to reach there to give solace to the Dalits.
- After that it is Smt. Sonia Gandhi's leadership which took steps to place Dalits in key positions of administration. She played a leadership role in appointing Dalit leaders as Cabinet Ministers in Key port folios, Speaker of Lok Sabha, Chief Ministers, and Governors. In the history of India the UPA government was the only government which has given Dalits maximum opportunities.
- In recent history the interventions of Shri Rahul Gandhi in

Dalit issues are incomparable. Where ever there is a Dalit issue, he is the first to reach with helping hand and healing touch. While Rohit Vemula died, he is the first leader to reach his family, visited Hyderabad University and discussed with the people. He is the first Senior leader to visit Una when the youth are beaten up in public.

- Rahul Gandhi always took a leadership role in bringing the Dalit issues to the limelight by visiting the houses of Dalits quite often and try to understand and solve their issues. He extensively travels among the SC/ST hamlets of Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, UP, etc. While the Gau Rakshaks and Sangh Parivar is attacking the Dalits, Congress is the only party spreading the message of love, harmony and peace among them.
- I urge that the cases booked under SC/ST atrocities prevention act should be handed over to CBI. Central Government should set up a special wing in CBI to investigate the cases against Dalits. We didn't have faith in state machinery. A special branch under CBI may help in bringing relief to Dalits.
- The pending bill for ensuring reservation to SC/ST in

promotion to government jobs should be taken so that the confidence of Dalits can be boosted.

- Similarly, reservation of jobs in private sector also should be ensured to bring the Dalits to the main stream.
- I conclude by quoting Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Once he pointed out that; I quote Indians today are governed by two different ideologies. Their political ideal set in the preamble of the Constitution affirms a life of liberty, equality and fraternity. Their social ideal embodied in their religion denies them. This still continues to be true. We should fight it and protect the dignity of Dalits and the right to live.

[Translation]

***KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR):** Since independence, the pace at which our Dalit brothers should have been treated with equality has unfortunately not been achieved. The Congress party, which ruled the country for 60 years, did not allow this to happen. If Jawaharlal Nehru had assigned the Finance Ministry to the Constitution maker Baba Saheb Ambedkar, then the economic upliftment and social equality of Dalits would certainly have emerged, and today atrocities would have been eliminated from the country. Congress did not grant equal status to the Dalit community. Baba Saheb Ambedkar was prevented from winning elections out of fear that if Baba Saheb spent more time in Parliament, Congress's monopoly and loot-based rule might come to an end. Due to this fear, our Dalit brothers have been subjected to oppression. Our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Bhai, who is tirelessly working day and night for the upliftment of poor and Dalit brothers, along with our party, our leaders, and our ideology, truly understands the pain and suffering of the Dalits and the poor. We also know that the hardworking brothers in the Dalit society who make shoes still walk barefoot; those who

* Speech was laid on the Table.

weave clothes lack proper garments themselves; those who build grand palaces do not have roofs over their heads; children of those who work in fields sleep hungry; those who clean the dirt of everyone's houses are forced to carry filth on their heads. Their homes are not built in clean places; our great human beings who clean are compelled to live in filthy environments. It is the responsibility of the present BJP government, headed by our Prime Minister, the pride of the nation Shri Narendra Bhai Modi, to remove their hardships and ensure the upliftment of our Dalit brothers. Our Government has been committed from day one to the economic, social, and political progress of our Dalit community.

I do not wish to repeat any of the points made by the learned Members earlier. Hon. Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh is also expected to respond in the House. In conclusion, I would like to assure this House that only the BJP Government possesses the capability which the previous Congress Governments could not demonstrate in 60 years that of uplifting the Dalit community. Our Government will prove within less than five years that we are committed to ensuring respect and honour for our Dalit brethren. We will not spare any enemy of society who perpetrates atrocities against Dalits. Our brethren will hold their heads high and, with honour, will play a

crucial role in making our country progressive and contributing to the glory of our great nation.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, a sensitive issue like Dalit oppression has been discussed in the House today. 22 Hon. Members of this House have participated in this discussion. I would like to mention here the names of all Hon. Members, Shri P.K. Biju, Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Dr. Udit Raj, Dr. K.Gopal, Prof. Saugata Roy, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Shri Sadashiv Lokhande, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Shri Ravindra Babu, Prof. A.S.R. Nayak, Shri Vankayya Naidu, Shri Varaprasad Rao, Shrimati Supriya Sule, Shri Dharmendra Yadav, Dr. Dharamveer Gandhi, Shri Pappu Yadav, Shri Sirajuddin Ajmal, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, Shri S.K. Premachandran, Shri Asaduddin Owaisi and Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia.

Sir, 70 years have passed since we attained independence. Even after seventy years, we still find it necessary to discuss the issue of atrocities against Dalits here. I consider this a pain in my heart, and I believe that any sensible being who loves India deeply will certainly share this pain. It cannot be denied that one of India’s unique features is 'Unity in Diversity.' Here, many castes, sects, denominations, and religions coexist harmoniously. As far as India’s ancient history and culture are concerned, if one were to take up the literature and scriptures from that time, they would see how broad-minded our

ancestors were. Their vision was so vast that they did not consider only those residing within the boundaries of India as members of their family but regarded all people in the world as members of one family. If any land has given the message of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam', the world is one family, it is the land of India. Those with a narrow mind cannot achieve this; only broad-minded people can. In a country where some are economically weak and socially left behind, and if they are subjected to atrocities, I believe this issue should not be politicised. It must not become a matter of politics but a shared duty for all of us to accept it as a challenge, that we acknowledge and confront the distorted mindset behind atrocities against Dalits. We must resolve to eliminate this mentality, and only then will we truly breathe freely. It is necessary for us to make this solemn vow.

There is no doubt that the section of society we refer to as the Scheduled Castes has remained somewhat socially and economically backward. However, we cannot deny the fact that over the past several hundred years, numerous social reformers have emerged. As Shri Ram Vilas Paswan has just mentioned, great figures such as Chaitanya Mahaprabhu and Guru Nanak Dev made significant contributions. Similarly, reformers like Jyotirao Govindrao Phule, Rajshri Chhatrapati Sahu Maharaj, Narayan Guru, Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar,

and Mahatma Gandhi have worked tirelessly for social reform. These individuals have made every possible effort for the social and economic upliftment of the Dalit community in the country.

Sir, I would also like to mention Swami Vivekananda here. Swami Vivekananda said, “Until the upliftment of the poor of this country is achieved, the progress of India in any form is impossible.” I would like to quote him here, modern caste distinction is a barrier to India's progress. It narrows, restricts, separates. It will crumble before the advance of ideal. Clearly, this pain was also felt deeply by Swami Vivekananda. Similarly, I would like to refer to the words of Mahatma Gandhi. Regarding untouchability, he said, “Untouchability means touching the Harijans, and not only that, but also considering them like our own relatives, treating them as ourselves.” In other words, just as we treat our brothers and sisters, we should treat them the same no one is superior, no one is inferior. This was the principle Mahatma Gandhi upheld. Likewise, Baba Saheb Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar stated that nationalism can only be justified when, by forgetting distinctions of caste, race, or colour, social fraternity is given the highest place among people. This was his vision.

I believe that after independence, the architects of our nation had

embraced the thoughts I have just referred to. Therefore, they articulated all these points. I hold the view that whether it is casteism or communalism, this entire cycle must come to an end. If we aspire to develop India, to truly make India the crown jewel of the world, this aspiration can only be fulfilled when we place humanity above all else. Only then can we accomplish this task. The Constitution contains numerous provisions aimed at preventing the oppression of the Dalit community and promoting their upliftment. There are many such articles which I shall not detail here, but I would like to say that even after the Constitution came into force, it was found necessary to enact certain laws to effectively enforce many of these provisions. I acknowledge that laws have indeed been enacted. Our government is also formulating laws and launching new programmes for preventing Dalit oppression and for the socio-economic empowerment of Dalits. From a historical perspective, the first significant legislation in this regard was the Protection of Civil Rights Act, enacted in 1955, which prohibited discrimination of any kind against any community. Despite the implementation of this Act, it was observed that Dalits have not been able to achieve socio-economic development, and their exploitation continues unabated. Although considerable efforts have been made to raise the educational standards among Dalits, thereby

increasing their awareness of their rights, nevertheless, crimes against them, their humiliation and harassment continue to persist. In light of this, the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989 was implemented. The current government has amended this Act in 2015. Many actions have been classified as offences under this amendment, such as forcibly shaving someone's head or putting a shoe around someone's neck. Such acts are now considered offences and punishable under the law. There are around 20 to 25 such provisions, the details of which I do not wish to elaborate on here. For example, any attempt to pressure or harass a witness, or to coerce them into silence through intimidation, is also treated as an offence. All these provisions have been introduced through amendments carried out by our government.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, there has been an attempt to spread a misconception that atrocities against Dalits have sharply increased since the Bharatiya Janata Party government came to power. However, I know that whoever has given this matter consideration, whether the Members sitting on this side or that, understand this reality: it is not true that atrocities against Dalits suddenly escalated after the BJP-led government assumed office. If anyone were to ask this question sincerely, placing their hand on their heart, the answer

from all would be a clear no. If I ask you to provide proof, how have these atrocities increased? Where will you get the evidence from? What statistics will you present? The data held by the government is what will be presented in Parliament. Apart from this, any authentic data collected by a national or international agency would be relied upon. Either bring that data from such international agencies, or accept the government's records, which I am presenting before you now. I do not wish to get entangled in this debate here. I will not delve into the data from the states. I want to mention here only the statistics from the past three years. If I were to go further back, the figures would be even higher. I wish to share with you the data from these three years only. I do not wish to name any particular state, nor do I intend to target any political party. However, I would like to present some statistics to you. In the year 2013 and there were even more cases before that, but I am taking data from 2013 to enable a comparison of three years. In 2013, there were 39,346 incidents of atrocities committed against Scheduled Castes; that many cases were registered. In 2014, the figure was 40,300, and in 2015, it was 38,564. I am not claiming that we have made significant progress or that the entire country has undergone a complete transformation, with atrocities against Dalits coming to an absolute halt. I do not wish to

make such a claim, and no government, regardless of who it was, could have made such a claim. This distorted mindset still exists today, and how we eliminate this twisted mentality is the greatest challenge before us. The problem cannot be solved through accusations and counter-accusations.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, you have come into the government... *(Interruptions)* During the elections, you had said that crime would decrease... *(Interruptions)* People had hopes that it would decrease... *(Interruptions)* But you have failed to bring about any decrease... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: What you could not achieve in 55 years, our government has done in two terms. I assure you... *(Interruptions)* What are you talking about?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Your statistics themselves show otherwise... *(Interruptions)* They indicate an increase... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: What do the statistics show?... *(Interruptions)* I did not want to present these figures, but I gave them because we must frankly accept the truth that such incidents occurred

before, continue to occur now, and if they are happening, how to stop them is a challenge for us. We need to make efforts in this regard, I feel. There are many incidents, but I do not consider it necessary to enumerate them here. There is a long list of incidents.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Please speak about Una.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: It also happened in Una. It was very condemnable and very heinous. I would like to say that the government there has taken whatever action was possible.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Secondly, whether it is Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Maharashtra, Odisha, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Gujarat, Kerala, or any other state, I observe that incidents of caste-based oppression continue to occur everywhere to some extent. We do have the names of incidents that happened in several states, but I do not wish to go into the details and mention all those names here. It has been asked why the Prime Minister spoke after such a long time, and even if he spoke, why was it outside and not inside the Parliament? I would like to say very respectfully to the Members sitting on the opposition benches: please look at the data from 1947 till now has the Prime Minister spoken on every issue?... *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: He neither used to speak nor used to see...

(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: I am not saying that... *(Interruptions)* Please listen to what I am saying... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SINDHIA*:* When the Prime Minister can speak outside, why can he not speak inside this temple of democracy?... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Please listen... *(Interruptions)* One minute, please hear me out... *(Interruptions)* Whether it is the Prime Minister or the Chief Minister, their dignity should be such that whether they speak or not, if any incident occurs anywhere, immediate and effective action must be taken. In Gujarat, the Gujarat government took effective action. It was not just a matter of registering FIRs and locking some people behind bars; the Gujarat government also suspended several police officers... *(Interruptions)* I say, if a crime happens anywhere, for example in Karnataka, what should I do then? What has the government done about it? You please tell me if your government should do something else, I will accept it... *(Interruptions)* Tell us the measures; we are ready to implement them.

As far as caste-based oppression or such problems are concerned,

they are utterly condemnable; however much they are condemned, it will not be enough. Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you know that law and order is a state subject. It is the responsibility of the state governments. As soon as the Prime Minister expressed his views regarding caste-based oppression, some people who were involved in nefarious and wrongful acts in the name of cow protection reacted. When the Prime Minister responded to this, I myself immediately issued advisories to all the state governments. I believe everyone should look at that advisory and ensure that strict action is taken against those involved in such acts under the guise of cow protection... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

… (*Interruptions*) ... *

19.46 hours

(Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and some other Hon. Members then left the House)

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I believe that had concern for the socio-economic development of the Dalit community been addressed earlier, we would not have witnessed such conditions and circumstances. However, our government has initiated several programmes for the socio-economic development of the Dalit community, which leaders such as Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, Shri Venkaiah Naidu, and Shri Arjun Meghwal have mentioned in their speeches. I can say that such schemes have never been implemented before. We are committed to ensuring their development and to stopping their oppression, but for this, cooperation from all political parties and their respective governments is essential.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to say that the Dalit community has made an unprecedented contribution to India, Indian identity, and Indian culture. Anyone who turns the pages of Indian history will come to understand this fact. Dr. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar was the architect of the Indian Constitution; that is one aspect. However, two of the most significant epics of Indian culture, which symbolize Indian culture and values globally, are the Ramayana and the Mahabharata. The authors of these epics, Maharshi

Valmiki and Ved Vyasa, were, by today's definitions, also from the Dalit community. This is the glorious history of India, the so-called Dalit community's contribution is that those who created these epics embodying values revered worldwide came from this community. Moving from ancient to medieval times, we see that saints such as Sant Ravidas, Sant Namdev, Dadu, and in South India, Tiruvalluvar, Sant Chokamela, and Sant Nandanar, among others, who emerged from so-called Dalit castes, did not only guide their own community but also led society at large.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I come from Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, great freedom fighters like Maharaja Bijli Pasi, Uda Devi, and Jhalkari Bai were born. The vast contribution of the great legacy of Dalits in India is often overlooked by intellectuals, either out of ignorance or prejudice. I believe this should not happen.

I would like to mention one more point about ancient India. People say that untouchability has a long tradition in India. This is not true. In the book The Untouchables, written by Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, on page number 99, he states, "In Manu era, there was no untouchability. *Sudra* and *Antyaja* were never untouchables in ancient India." Our history has been remarkably glorious. While distinctions

based on hierarchy between the great and the small, the high and the low, may have prevailed in other countries, such discrimination was absent in India. I firmly believe that ancient India should serve as our ideal. It is imperative that we commit ourselves to reestablishing social conditions akin to those of that era.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, how can sacrifice and dedication be fostered among all sections of Indian society? I would like to give an example. There is an episode in the Ramayana. When a person from the lowest rung of society raised a finger against Sita, the revered Sita of Maryada Purushottam Lord Ram, out of respect and consideration for that person's feelings, Lord Ram compelled the beloved Sita to undergo the Agni Pariksha, effectively letting her go. This may be subject to debate, and I do not wish to enter into whether it was right or wrong. However, it demonstrates how the feelings of a person from the lowest rung of society were to be respected.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, now I would like to cite an example from Rajasthan. In Rajasthan, Panna Dhai lived there—she was a royal nurse, and no harm or infringement should be done to her autonomy or freedom. To save the prince, she laid her own son in place of the prince, and the opponents killed her son. Panna Dhai

sacrificed her own child, born from her womb, for the country. This is why I said that the contribution of the Dalit community to India is immense, and we, as members of the government, understand this well. That is why our Prime Minister has initiated many welfare schemes and undertaken numerous efforts for the socio-economic development of the Dalit community.

Sir, I would also like to say that when India was under foreign rule, no matter how much suffering, humiliation, contempt, and poverty the Dalit community endured, I can assert with confidence that no one can question their patriotism. Their spirit of patriotism has always been, and continues to be, unwavering. Which other society in the world can you find like this? There will be none in any country that was denied entry into temples by certain people, that was humiliated over trivial matters, yet never demanded a separate nation. That community has never criticised India's culture. This Dalit community has also never criticised India's cultural heritage. Who can be a greater patriot than this? Moreover, no individual from the Dalit community has ever behaved like Jai Chand or Mir Jafar. Therefore, I say their patriotism is indisputable.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, over the past one hundred and fifty

years, both Dalit consciousness and cultural awareness have progressed almost simultaneously. When I look back at the pages of history spanning one hundred and fifty years, I arrive at this conclusion. How? Mahatma Jyotiba Phule's Satyashodhak Samaj and Swami Dayanand Saraswati's Arya Samaj emerged almost at the same time. Even in the twentieth century, from the 1920s to the 1930s, Dr Ambedkar was striving to invigorate Dalit consciousness with new energy. This was also the time when Dr. Hedgewar was initiating the awareness of cultural nationalism, thus, Dalit consciousness and nationalist consciousness were spreading simultaneously across India. Anyone who examines the pages of history from the past one hundred and fifty years will understand this. If you ask which is the largest organisation currently working in Dalit settlements in this country, I would say, quite naturally, I believe our friend from Odisha, Satpathy Ji, who is here, will agree with this reality. Which organisation is working within the Dalit community? Seva Bharati, an affiliate of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, is engaged in this work. Not only that, the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHATAB (CUTTACK): The Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Anand Marg are both working... ... *(Interruptions)* Both the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and Anand

Marg are involved. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: They may be working there.... *(Interruptions)* But I was speaking about the entire country. That is correct. ... *(Interruptions)* I am not saying that no other organisations are working beyond this. I mentioned the largest organisation currently active in this field. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHATAB: In 1999, when a severe super cyclone struck, only two organisations reached the affected area, where thousands of people lost their lives. At that time, the only two organisations working, who were involved in burying the dead and conducting their last rites, were one from the RSS and the other from Anand Marg.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: The Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram works extensively in tribal areas, taking care of Dalits, the poor, and tribals who are unable to send their children to school. The members of the Vanvasi Kalyan Ashram ensure that these children receive education. I have observed that nationalist consciousness and Dalit consciousness have progressed together, and through Dalit consciousness, efforts for the upliftment of Dalits have continued. At the same time, the other organisation that emerged has also carried

forward its efforts.

It was being said that we made a Dalit the Speaker, made a Dalit the President. Such matters should not be the subject of debate. Why do they not rise to these positions? No pity or favour was shown towards them. I would also say that we are the only national political party that has made a Dalit its national president; Congress has not done so till today. That means something. They should be given opportunities. Bal Yogi Ji was the Speaker, and it was our government when Bal Yogi Ji became the Speaker.

I believe that for upliftment, symbols and a strong, solid foundation are necessary. Since this government came into power, we have celebrated the 150th birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Ambedkar with reverence and enthusiasm... *(Interruptions)* the 125th birth anniversary, to be precise. We have celebrated it with great respect and devotion. Why have we done so? It is because there is a sentiment within us towards this society, a respect for the contribution this society has made to the country. That is why we have celebrated it. I was just discussing this with our Minister of Social Justice; it has been written that this is to honour the Scheduled Castes, but I do not believe that to be the case. Paying respect to Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar is not

merely honouring the Scheduled Castes, it is honouring India itself.

We have declared five places related to Ambedkar Ji, the place of his birth, place of education, place of initiation, place of nirvana, and place of his final rites, as the "Pancha Teerth" (five sacred pilgrimage sites).

What some people are trying to label as being anti-Dalit, we have actually implemented under the Stand-Up India scheme. If there was no genuine concern for the upliftment of the Dalit society, why would our government have mandated that every bank must appoint at least one Dalit and one woman? This ensures care for both Dalits and women. The responsibility of creating an entrepreneur lies with that bank. This step was taken by our government. Whether it is the Prime Minister’s Jan Dhan Yojana, the Jeevan Jyoti Insurance Scheme, the Atal Pension Scheme, or other insurance schemes, the result is that there is certainty for the future, if any accident occurs within a family, a fixed amount will be provided to the family members to enable them to live with dignity. This creates trust and confidence. The poorer a person is, the greater is the faith and trust they develop. Through the Prime Minister’s Jan Dhan Yojana, what has our government done? What has our Prime Minister done? He has instilled courage and

confidence in those who earlier did not even dare to enter a bank. Through the Jan Dhan Yojana, they can now open an account... *(Interruptions)*

Secondly, everyone is well acquainted with the name of Saint Ravidas. We have all heard of Saint Ravidas. I am from Varanasi. Saint Ravidas was from there. The King of Kashi was considered the greatest ruler of Varanasi. Saint Ravidas had a very small idol of Lord Ram. There was a belief in society that this idol of Lord Ram was so sacred that anyone who prayed before it would have their wishes fulfilled. The King of Kashi thought to himself that since this idol was so sacred, he should visit Saint Ravidas' hut. Saint Ravidas lived in a small hut, where he kept this small idol of Ram and worshipped it. The King decided to visit him personally. He said to Saint Ravidas, "Maharaj, this small idol of Lord Ram you have, please give it to me. In return, I am ready to give you ten times its value in gold." Saint Ravidas replied, "Maharaj, forgive me, but I do not want it." The King increased his offer, saying, "I will give you even more gold." Saint Ravidas again said, "No, I do not want it." The King said, "I will build your entire hut with gold." Saint Ravidas said, "No, I do not want it." The King said, "I will fill your hut completely with gold." Saint Ravidas said, "No, I do not want it." Saint Ravidas then said-

‘Ek ae moro Ram naam dhan, ek ae mori aasha,

oo dhan aihe chale jaihe, na chahe bhagat raay daasa.’

That is to say, my only wealth is the name of Ram, my only hope is Ram, and my sole trust is in Ram. O King, your wealth will come and go, but my wealth will remain with me. This was not acceptable to Ravidas. This is the greatness and nobility that has always belonged to the Dalit society of Hindustan. India can never forget this.

Several esteemed Members have raised many questions. Saugat Rai Ji, a senior Member of this House, also asked why special courts have not been established. Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to inform him that 13 special courts have been constituted in Andhra Pradesh, 5 in Bihar, 6 in Chhattisgarh, 26 in Gujarat, 1 in Karnataka, 3 in Kerala, 43 in Madhya Pradesh, 3 in Maharashtra, 2 in Odisha, 25 in Rajasthan, 6 in Tamil Nadu, 10 in Telangana, 40 in Uttar Pradesh, and 2 in Jharkhand, making a total of 192 special courts of this nature have been established.

TRS Member S.R. Nayak stated that the SC Commission should be given powers, claiming that it only issues advisories. However, this

is not the truth. The Commission has the powers of a court and can summon any official. What he said was not based on facts. Others have also raised many questions, but there is no need to go into too much detail.

I appeal to the House that since sensitive issues like Dalit oppression are being discussed today, we need to make a firm resolve. This task is far greater than merely the resolutions passed by this House or political parties. The social and cultural institutions of this country must come forward so that such incidents happening to Dalits do not recur.

Whether it is the Union Government or the State Governments, I expect all to take effective action to stop Dalit oppression. Governments will ensure that anyone attempting to oppress Dalits is severely punished. This is my assurance and conviction.

With these words, I conclude my submission by reiterating my Government's commitment to preventing the oppression of the Dalit community and to their socio-economic development.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Sir, we heard the Hon. Home Minister's speech very intently. I was listening

to every word. I have only one concern. I wanted a very clear message from the Home Minister of India. The message is against anti-social elements. It is not his Government; the Prime Minister has made it very clear. It is not his party, it is not even their organization RSS. But they are anti-socials and black-marketeers. So the clear message should have gone from the Hon. Home Minister that we will do everything that is possible as a House and as a Government against those who claim to be *gau rakshaks* but who are actually against the essence, that is India, that he understands.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Deputy Speaker, Sir, Satpathi ji has raised a question. Perhaps I have not been able to express the sentiment as effectively as he expected, but I want to state that any anti-social elements who attempt to oppress Dalits or anyone else in the name of cow protection or under any other pretext, I appeal to all State Governments that the strictest possible action must be taken against them.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 12th August, 2016 at 11 a.m.

20.08 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven O'Clock on Friday, August 12, 2016 / Shravana 21, 1938 (Saka).

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