Seventeenth Series, Vol. II No.17 Tuesday, July 09, 2019
Ashadha 18, 1941 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

First Session

(Seventeenth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. II contains Nos.11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

© 2019 Lok Sabha Secretariat

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

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

CONTENTS

Seventeenth Series, Vol. II, First Session, 2019/1941 (Saka)

No.17, Tuesday, July 09, 2019, / Ashadha 18, 1941 (Saka)

SUBJECT	PAGES
ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	
*Starred Question No. 221 to 226	20-63
WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS	64
Starred Question Nos.227 to 240	
Unstarred Question Nos.2492 to 2721	

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

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 65-84

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA 85

STATEMENT BY MINISTER 86-94

Status of implementation of the further recommendations/ observations proposed by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs in respect of the Paras categorized in Chapters III and IV of the 216th Report of the Committee on the 'The Cyclone Ockhi - its impact on Fishermen and Damage caused by it' pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs

Shri Nityanand Rai 86-94

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on Official Language 91-96

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Alleged engineering defection detrimental to the health of Parliamentary democracy 97-131

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 132-171

(i) Regarding supply of surplus water from Tikri Minor canal of Suryu Nahar Pariyojana - Phase II to Aranga reservoir in Gonda Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Kirti Vardhan Singh 133

(ii) Need to make Mahisagar river in Anand, Gujarat, pollution free.

Shri Mitesh Patel (Bakabhai) 134

(iii) Regarding setting up of Trauma Centre level-I at Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital attached with Kanpur Medical College, Uttar Pradesh.

Shri Devendra Singh Bhole 135

(iv) Need to declare Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project as project of national importance.

Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria 138

(v) Need to set up Kendriya Vidyalayas in Santhal Pargana Region.

Dr. Nishikant Dubey 140

(vi) Need to expedite construction of Majhgay dam project in Madhya Pradesh.

Shri Vishnu Dutt Sharma 142

(vii) Regarding delimitation of Assembly constituencies in Jammu and Kashmir.

Shri Ajay Misra Teni 144

(viii) Regarding appointments on compassionate ground.

Shri Satyadev Pachauri 146

(ix) Need to start flight services from Gondia Airport under UDAN Scheme.

Shri Sunil Baburao Mendhe 147

(x) Need to expedite electrification of Itarasi - Allahabad railway route.

Shri Rakesh Singh 148

(xi) Need to include Bhojpuri language in Eighth Schedule to the constitution.

Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal 149

(xii) Regarding providing corpus fund for the creation of an SC/ST bank.

Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki 151

(xiii) Need to provide rail link between Meerut and Panipat.

Shri Rajendra Agrawal 152

(xiv) Need to declare Gandhi Ashram in Vaishali district, Bihar as National Heritage.

Shri Ajay Nishad 153

(xv) Need to fill up backlog vacancies meant for SCs/STs in Central Government Offices and Departments.

Shri Kaushal Kishore 154

(xvi) Need to ensure Minimum wages Act applicable to Tea Garden workers.

Shri Raju Bista 156

(xvii) Regarding wild animals menace

Adv. Dean Kuriakose 157

(xviii) Regarding implementation of POCSO Act.

Shri Benny Behanan 158

(xix) Regarding funds for AMU Kishanganj Campus, Bihar

Dr. Mohammad Jawed 159

(xx) Need to provide better rail connectivity to Namakkal in Tamil Nadu.

Shri A.K.P. Chinraj 160

(xxi) Regarding transfer of Government assets to private hands.

Prof. Sougata Ray 162

(xxii) Regarding Varikapudisala Lift Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh.

Shri Lavu Srikrishna Devarayalu 163

(xxiii) Regarding setting up of Post Office Passport Seva Kendra at Dombivali in Maharashtra.

Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde 165

(xxiv) Regarding gauge conversion of railway lines between Banmankhi and Bihariganj in Bihar.

Shri Dinesh Chandra Yadav 166

(xxv) Regarding setting up of Red Gram Board in Tandur region of Telangana.

Dr. G. Ranjith Reddy 167

(xxvi) Regarding providing financial assistance to farmers who were hard hit by cyclone Gaja.

Shri M. Selvaraj 169

(xxvii) Need to put in place safety measures for Kollam bypass in Kerala.

Shri N.K. Premachandran 170

(xxviii) Need to establish a Tourism University in Parasnath Hills in Giridih Parliamentary Constituency and promote tourism in the region

Shri Chandra Prakash Choudhary 171

UNION BUDGET, 2019-20– GENERAL DISCUSSION 172-726

Shri Virendra Singh 172-187

Shri Nama Nageswara Rao 188-192

Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar 193-199

Shri Ramchandra Paswan 201-205

Shri A. Ganeshamurthi 206-210

Shri H. Vasanthakumar 211-219

Shri S.R. Parthiban 220-221

Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki 222-225

Shrimati Pratima Mondal 226-233

Shri Nandkumar Singh Chauhan 234-239

Shrimati Ranjanben Bhatt 240-245

Shri Mitesh Patel (Bakabhai) 246-250

Shrimati Preneet Kaur 251-256

Shri Ajay Misra Teni 257-258

Sushri Sunita Duggal 259-269

Shri A. Raja 270-265

Shrimati Rekha Arun Verma 279-284

Shri K. Subbarayan 285-289,

Shri Sisir Kumar Adhikari 291-295

Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel 296-298

Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore 299-310

Shri Anto Antony 311-315

Shri Margani Bharat 316-323

Shri P.P Chaudhary 324-330

Shrimati Supriya Sadanand Sule 331-348

Shri Ram Mohan Naidu Kinjarapu 349-359

Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil 360-363

Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi 364-372

Shri Dileshwar Kamait 373-375

Shri B.B. Patil 376-380

Shrimati Rama Devi 381-386

Shri Sudhakar Tukaram Shrangare 387-394

Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal 395-399

Dr. K. Jayakumar 400-408

Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde 409-419

Shri Rajendra Dhedya Gavit 420-425

Shri Rajan Baburao Vichare 426-430

Shri S. Gnanathiraviam 431-433

Shri Bhagwanth Khuba 434-439

Shri Girish Chandra 440-443

Shri K. Navaskani 444-451

Shri Anubhav Mohanty 452-458

Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya 459-464

Adv. A.M. Ariff 465-471

Shri G.M. Siddeshwar 472-474

Shri N.K. Premachandran 475-480

Shri Asaduddin Owaisi 481-492

Shri Tirath Singh Rawat 493-497

Shri Saptagiri Sankar Ulaka 498-502

Shri Thomas Chazhikadan 503-506

Shrimati Aparupa Poddar 507-511

Shri Gajanan Kirtikar 512-516

Shri Sunil Kumar Pintu 517-520

Shri Asit kumar Mal 521

Dr. Subhas Sarkar 522-525

Shrimati Anupriya Patel 526-532

Prof. Rita Bahuguna Joshi 533-543

Shri M. Selvaraj 544-546

Shri Hanuman Baniwal 547-554

Shri Vijay Baghel 555-558

Shri Talari Rangaiah 559-562

Shri Pankaj Chaudhary 563-569

Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi 570-575

Shri M.K. Raghavan 576-580

Shrimati Sumalatha Ambareesh 581-589

Dr. D. Ravikumar 590-

Dr. Virendra Kumar 592-601

Shri Nihal Chand Chouhan 602-609

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel 610-617

Adv. Ajay Bhatt 618-627

Shri P. Raveendranath Kumar 628-632

Shri Ratansinh Magansinh Rathod 633-634

Prof. Sougata Ray 634-645

Shrimati Locket Chatterjee 646-652

Shri M. Badruddin Ajmal 653-666

Kumari Agatha K. Sangma 667-672

Shri Pradeep Kumar Choudhary 673-675

Shri Komati Reddy Venkat Reddy 677-681

Shri Bandi Sanjay Kumar 682-685

Shri Kuruva Gorantla Madhav 686-688

Shri Khagen Murmu 689-691

Dr. Thol Thirumaavalavan 692-694

Shri Ravi Kishan 695-702

Shri Prathap Simha 703-707

Shrimati Sangeeta Azad 708-710

Shri Sangam Lal Gupta 711-716

Shri Tapir Gao 716-721

Shri Om Pavan Rajenimbalkar 722-723

Shri Mukesh Rajput 724-727

Shri Dharmendra Kashyap 728-730

Shri Gaurav Gogoi 731-735

Shri Sushil Kumar Singh 736-743

Shri Ramcharan Bohra 744-748

Dr. Subhash Ramrao Bhamre 749-751

Shri Parbatbhai Savabhai Patel 752-755

Shri Ajay Tamta 756-764

Shri Raju Bista 765-769

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shri Om Birla

PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

Shrimati Rama Devi

Dr. (Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki

Shri Rajendra Agrawal

Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi

Shri Kodikunnil Suresh

Shri A. Raja

Shri P.V. Midhun Reddy

Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab

Shri N.K. Premachandran

Dr. Kakoli Ghosh Dastidar

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shrimati Snehlata Shrivastava

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, July 09, 2019, / Ashadha 18, 1941 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock.

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Deepak Baij, Question No.221.

(Q. 221)

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ: Hon. Speaker Sir, my question relates to branded and generic medicines. The reply of the Hon. Minister has also been received. Sir, at present, 5,028 Jan Aushadhi Kendras are being operated in the country. The Hon. Minister has stated this in his reply. Under this scheme, 206 Kendras are being operated in Chhattisgarh. A total of 714 medicines are available at these Kendras. The medicines available at these Kendras are cheaper by 50 to 90 percent.

Hon. Speaker Sir, even today, due to the high cost of medicines, nearly 6 crore people become poorer every year. At present, many community centres in the country do not have Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras operational. In many community centres in tribal-dominated areas such as Bastar, Jan Aushadhi Kendras are still not being operated. By when will such Kendras be made operational? Further, not all medicines at the Pradhan Mantri Jan

---

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

Aushadhi Kendras are inexpensive. Only multivitamins, pain-relief medicines, and a few common medicines are cheap. Other essential medicines are also expensive compared to branded medicines. Why is this so? What steps is the Government taking to ensure that affordable medicines are made available to the people?

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Hon. Speaker Sir, the question raised by the Hon. Member is a very important question. When the Modi-One Government was formed, the Prime Minister had said that no one in my country should ever be in a situation where they die due to lack of medicines. My Government will remain dedicated to the poor, oppressed, afflicted, and deprived. To realise this commitment, Jan Aushadhi Kendras are being operated across the country. The Hon. Member has mentioned that every year 3 crore 8 lakh people, that is, 75 lakh families, fall below the poverty line due to increased expenditure on medicines, serious illness at home, and other difficulties. In such families, the education of children suffers, and the family faces hardships. In this context, 5,410 Jan Aushadhi Kendras have been started across the country as of today. Further, medicines at the Jan Aushadhi Kendras are available at a maximum of 50 percent and a minimum of 80 to 90 percent lower than the market rate. The Hon. Member has stated that the prices of medicines are higher than branded medicines. At any Jan Aushadhi store, our mandate is that we do not charge more

than 50 percent of the market price. Medicines are provided through the Jan Aushadhi Kendras at rates lower than 50 percent. Hence, today, 5,410 Jan Aushadhi Kendras are operational across the country.

SHRI DEEPAK BAIJ: Hon. Speaker Sir, in 5 years, you have operated only 5,018 Jan Aushadhi Kendras. Sir, the Hon. Minister has mentioned 714 medicines. Even today, all these 714 medicines are not available at those Kendras. Only a few common medicines are available there. Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the prices of branded medicines are not determined by the pharmaceutical companies themselves. The prices of medicines are fixed by the Drugs Control Order. Is there no control over the pharmaceutical companies under the DPCO, due to which the branded medicines are continuously becoming costlier and going beyond the reach of the common people?

Secondly, the Union Government should ensure strict compliance with the rule framed under the MCI, enabling Government and private doctors to prescribe inexpensive generic medicines. Though this rule has been issued by you, it is not being implemented. Even today, doctors continue to prescribe costly medicines. Will the Government enact a mandatory law to ensure that both Government and private doctors prescribe such medicines?

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Sir, the important point is, what is a generic medicine and what is a branded medicine? A generic medicine is a short name, and because of this short name, the medicine becomes inexpensive, whereas a branded medicine becomes costlier. For example, if you take one litre of water, the price of that water may be Rs. 2. The same water, when sold in a one-litre Bisleri bottle, costs Rs. 12 to Rs. 15, and when sold under the Aquafina brand, it costs Rs. 24. It is still water, only the name changes. Similarly, a generic medicine is like a short name. Paracetamol is a short name, it is a drug. When it is sold under the brand name Calpol, its price increases. Today, if you go to America, you will find that out of every five tablets consumed there, one tablet is a generic medicine manufactured in India. Across the world, out of every six tablets consumed, one is a generic medicine manufactured in India. Generic medicines provide affordable drugs to the people, and it is our endeavour that such inexpensive medicines are made widely available and that awareness about generic medicines increases. Hon. Speaker Sir, we have not done token work, we have done total work. When this scheme was started in the year 2008, by the time our Government came to power after six years, there were only 72 Jan Aushadhi stores. The Hon. Prime Minister took the initiative and expanded the chain of Jan Aushadhi stores across the country. As a result, the market share of generic

medicines, which earlier was only two percent, has now increased to eight percent. With the share of generic medicines rising to eight percent, the poor and middle-class people of the country have benefited to the extent of Rs. 2 thousand crore. This is the outcome of our commitment towards the welfare of the poor.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Fake medicines are also available. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have not allowed you. Hon. Member please stop. Hon. Member, you are a senior Member.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You give it to me in writing, I will allow it. Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, you may ask your question.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: I would like to ask that if you are so concerned about generic medicines, why do you not include it in the Act? Is there any definition of 'generic' in your Act? You have mentioned that when water is sold in a Bisleri bottle, its price becomes higher, but if sold otherwise, it remains cheaper. Do you have any definition?

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you are requested not to deliver a speech.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: I am not delivering a speech. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you may respond to the points raised by the Hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: This is not a question of definition, it is a question of commitment and ensuring that the people have access to affordable medicines. ...*(Interruptions)* The point is that the citizens of the country should have access to affordable health care. For this, the commitment of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is that, in addition to Jan Aushadhi stores, 10...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. member please stop. You are a senior member.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you may speak. Do not respond to every point raised by the Member. Please answer only what has been asked. You may now be seated.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA: Sir, let them advocate for whomever they wish to, we have no objection to that. Our commitment is towards the poor, and we are ensuring affordable medicines for them. There are ten lakh cardiac patients in the country. We reduced the price of cardiac stents and thereby

extended help to the poor, which benefitted the people of this nation by Rs. 4547 crore. That is our commitment. We fixed the ceiling price of 1032 medicines, which resulted in a benefit of Rs. 2422 crore to the citizens. Hon. Prime Minister Modi is firmly committed to the welfare of the poor. Not only this, earlier, when poor patients went to hospitals, many of them could not afford knee implants and hence refrained from undergoing the procedure. The Modi Government capped the price of knee implants … (Interruptions) … and as a result, nearly Rs. 1500 crore worth of relief has been extended to the people. Secondly, we have taken the initiative as cancer medicines in the country are extremely expensive and a point was also mentioned regarding the prices of medicines in Jan Aushadhi Stores being higher.

Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of all to the medicines required by cardiac patients. They have to take Losartan 25 mg. In the market, the price of this medicine is Rs. 33, whereas in our Jan Aushadhi Store, the same medicine is available for Rs. 5. Similarly, the anti-cancer drug Docetaxel 80 mg costs Rs. 17,000 in the market, but in our Jan Aushadhi Store, it is available for Rs. 1,800. This reflects our commitment towards the poor.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to appeal to all the Hon. Members present here to ensure that a Jan Aushadhi Store is opened

at every block level in their respective Parliamentary Constituencies, as today these medical outlets, popularly known as Modi ji ki Dukaan, are gaining recognition across the country. I would like to cite an example to illustrate the benefits that the public derives from these stores. On 1 June 2018, the Hon. Prime Minister interacted with the beneficiaries of the scheme. Among them was Mr. Subhash Mohanty from Odisha, who was suffering from diabetes and high blood pressure. While speaking to the Hon. Prime Minister, he stated that earlier he had to spend Rs. 3,000 every month on medicines, but after a Jan Aushadhi Store was opened in his area, he now gets the same medicines for Rs. 400. This initiative provides both service and employment. Therefore, I request all Hon. Members to get Jan Aushadhi Stores opened in every block of their respective constituencies. This will generate employment and provide affordable medicines to the people. You may visit the BPPI website, download the application form, fill it, and send it to my office. I shall ensure that a Jan Aushadhi Store is opened at the block level in your constituency. This will benefit the poor, bring you goodwill, and serve the people. Thank you.

(Q. 222)

[English]

SHRI BALLI DURGA PRASAD RAO: Hon. Speaker, Sir, first of all I convey my thanks to Lord Venkateswara Swamy. It is my maiden Question. I also convey my thanks to Hon. Speaker for allowing me this Question.

Sir, Tirupati Balaji is our God. I also convey my thanks to our Hon. Chief Minister,Shri Y.S. Jaganmohan Reddy and the people of Tirupati Parliamentary Constituency.

Coming to my Question, first of all, let me say the answer given by the Hon. Minister is not satisfactory. If there is no complaint about the DRDAs, why have the Committee been formed twice, and their recommendations were also received? The cost implementing the recommendations to reform DRDA was estimated at about Rs. 12,000 crore. Then, the Government dropped this proposal of modification.

If there was no complaint, why was the Andhra Pradesh State Government as on 11.4.2019 indebted to take to the tune of Rs.27,000 crore?

Sir, you know pretty well that our Chief Minister and the new Government of Andhra Pradesh started functioning 40 days back. All of a sudden, we are not in a position to pay a huge amount. My

request is that the Government of India, under the leadership of our beloved PM, Narendra Modi, should bear 50 percent of the debt on behalf of State Government.

As you said, latest reforms, women empowerment and everything is there in the Budget. So, as a part of that, I would request you to clear it on our behalf.

Sir, secondly, there are lots of problem in our State.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You may ask second supplementary question.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Sir, the Hon. Member has raised a question on DRDA. This institution is quite old. In the initial phase, for implementing programmes aimed at poverty alleviation in rural areas, certain mechanisms were established in selected blocks in 1969 and 1980 to ensure proper execution. Later, in the year 1980-81, the DRDA came into existence. At that time too, the issue under consideration was how its expenditure would be met. It was decided that the administrative expenses would be covered from the funds allocated for the respective projects being implemented. As per the present circumstances, after the 73rd Constitutional Amendment, District Panchayats have come into existence. Today, District Panchayats have developed a robust framework and are progressing towards empowerment. Therefore,

several States have merged the DRDAs with the District Panchayats. Since various schemes in rural areas have their own administrative budgets and dedicated staff, the relevance of DRDA is, in general, no longer evident, and hence, no further steps are being taken in this direction.

[English]

SHRI BALLI DURGA PRASAD RAO: Hon. Minister has explained everything about DRDA. We have formed the Government for the first time in the State. We want Rs. 27,000 crore for SHG women. I would like to know whether the Government is going to provide 50 percent of the cost. You are talking about women empowerment schemes and other things. It is a part of the DRDA Scheme. This is my question.

[Translation]

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to clarify to the Hon. Member that earlier, in rural areas, there were various schemes for poverty alleviation and other developmental activities. To ensure their proper implementation, to provide them with technical support, and to guide them effectively, the system of DRDA was established. At present, in rural areas, if roads are being constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, there exists a dedicated framework for it. Similarly, for

livelihood promotion, if the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) is being implemented, it too has its own structure. District Panchayats have their own staff as well. Therefore, considering the current situation, in the year 2016, we constituted the Sumit Bose Committee and entrusted it with the task of examining and suggesting how to improve the system. Shri Sumit Bose also observed that in the present circumstances, every scheme has its own administrative expenditure and institutional framework for implementation, hence, the existence of DRDA no longer appears to be justified.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what the Government's future course of action is with respect to the Sumit Bose Committee Report of 2016, which examined the proposal for the merger of the DRDA.

Secondly, the DRDA is responsible for the supervision and implementation of all MPLAD programmes, and in that capacity, we pay it a service charge from the MPLAD funds and it also undertakes compliance and coordination of DISHA. Therefore, its primary focus remains on maximising expenditure through DISHA rather than on preparing new developmental plans.

Sir, through you, I would also like to request the Hon. Minister to issue clear and effective guidelines. At present, it often takes up to a year for us to receive progress reports from them. Monthly Progress Reports (MPRs) are not received on time, which delays the utilisation of funds. Consequently, newspapers and other media report that Members of Parliament have not utilised their funds, whereas the actual responsibility for expenditure lies with them. Hence, instead of merging the DRDA, the Government of India should consider bringing it directly under its purview. Since we already pay service charges and provide funds, the agency could be made responsible for the direct implementation of our programmes. If there is any such proposal or plan under consideration, I would like to know its details from the Hon. Minister.

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Hon. Speaker Sir, this matter pertains to the DRDA. As per my information, DRDA is presently functional in the States of Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, West Bengal, Rajasthan, and Kerala. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has also decided to merge the DRDA with the District Panchayat.

As far as the expenditure of the MPLAD funds is concerned, the District Collector is directly responsible for it. The required administrative framework already exists at that level. Even if there

is any engineer working in the DRDA, he does not prepare our estimates. The construction-related works, whether of roads or buildings are undertaken by the Public Works Department. Similarly, if the project pertains to irrigation, it is implemented by the Irrigation Department, and if it relates to any other department, the concerned departmental mechanism carries it out. I am fully aware of the concerns expressed by the Hon. Member. I assure the House that all necessary steps will be taken to ensure that Members of Parliament do not face any inconvenience in this regard.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, this is a very important matter. The Hon. Member Shri Sunil ji has rightly raised it. Even today, in some States, whether it is the MPLAD or the MLA Fund, the execution of these programmes is being carried out by the DRDA. During the 16th Lok Sabha, several proposals were submitted by the Hon. Members well within the stipulated time, and though those proposals had been duly approved, the funds were not released by the Department of Statistics. Now, even though the 17th Lok Sabha is in place, the funds under the MPLAD for those Members of the 16th Lok Sabha have still not been disbursed. I would like to know what action is presently being taken in this regard.

Secondly, with regard to the existence of the DRDA, it has been observed that despite repeated follow-ups on the UC matter, the

proposals or utilisation certificates from the State Governments are not received on time, which leads to delays and prevents the timely completion of works. Although the amount allocated under the MPLAD is not very substantial, yet it often raises unnecessary questions. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government intends to develop any mechanism to address this issue, or whether the DRDA has no relevance in this regard. Even today, in those States where the DRDA continues to function, it remains responsible for the implementation of all MPLAD works. These two aspects appear to contradict each other. We want that, under the MPLAD scheme, there should be a proper system ensuring timely preparation of proposals, Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), implementation, submission of Utilisation Certificates (UCs), and release of the next instalments. Through you, Sir, I would like to seek information from the Hon. Minister about what mechanism the Government intends to establish for this purpose?

SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR: Hon. Speaker Sir, as far as the MPLAD fund is concerned, if there is any difficulty in the submission of Utilisation Certificates (UCs) to Delhi or in the timely release of funds, I will take up the matter with the concerned Ministry. But, as far as DRDA is concerned, I would like to state that even in places where the DRDA no longer exists, the work is progressing smoothly. The Union Government continues to allocate

funds for the functioning of DRDA, and we are presently evaluating its performance. However, it should not be assumed that the Union Government is closing down the DRDA. How much relevance does it still hold? Because as per the Ramachandran Committee Report, an expenditure of Rs. 12,000 crore was projected for it, but this proposal was not agreed by the Expenditure Committee, which is why the situation has arisen. At present, around 15,000 employees are associated with it, and we are providing funds for their salaries. Given the current circumstances, we must certainly reconsider its relevance, as about half the States are in favour of its merger, while others wish to continue its operation.

(Q. 223)

[English]

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity and I thank the Hon. Minister and congratulate her for giving a detailed answer.

Non-availability of skilled manpower for food processing is a big challenge. Industrial training institutions which are providing skill-based training and diploma courses are limited. There is a

requirement of exclusive food technology for skilling the nation and for bridging the gap in the food processing sector. Has the Government taken any step in this regard?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, although the answer is about cold chains, I would still like to tell the Hon. Member that under my Ministry there are two institutions. One is the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management (NIFTEM), the only one of its kind, which is in Kundli in Haryana; the other one is the Indian Institute of Food Processing Technology which is in Thanjavur in Tamil Nadu. Both these institutions are premier institutions where M. Tech, B. Tech. and Ph. D. courses are being run.

I am happy to say that all the students, who pass out, get 100 percent placement because of the kind of quality education which is being given over there. Along with this, there is also an Incubation Centre where training is provided. In fact, all the students, who are studying in these institutions, have to go for a village adoption programme in which each of them adopts a village so that what they are learning in the lab is also be practised on the ground. So, they get to know what the ground realities are. So, along with the Incubation Centres of which there is one in Bathinda and there is one in Assam, for skill development, there is a special package also under the Ministry of Skill Development where all

kinds of courses are being run in the various sectors of food processing technology.

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE: I would like to ask a question to the Hon. Minister. The Mega Food Park Scheme requires a minimum of 50 acres of land and it does not promote smaller or individual food processing and preservation unit. The Committee on Doubling of Farmers' Income, in its Report in August, 2017, recommended establishment of processing and value addition units at strategic levels. What steps have been taken by the Government to implement the recommendation of the Committee to expand the cold chain infrastructure?

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, the Hon. Member is correct that when our Government inherited this Ministry, there were only two schemes. One was the Mega Food Park Scheme which required 50 acres of land and another was the Cold Chain Scheme. But after seeing that acquiring 50 acres of land was a big problem, over the last five years, 7-8 schemes under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana have been brought. Sampada is to supplement agriculture, modernize food processing and decrease agri-wastes. I can happily tell this House that anybody, who has any kind of food cluster in his constituency, and wants to preserve or give value addition, under the Sampada scheme, from the smallest farmer to a Self-Help Group, from a farmer producer

organization to an entrepreneur, from a big industrialist to anybody, all of them can take advantage of this scheme. There are 5-7 schemes under this. Under the Mega Food Park Scheme, 50 acres of land is required for big people. Under the Mini Food Park Scheme or for the agro-processing cluster, only 10 acres of land is required. Also, we give a grant to people who want to set up units inside these food parks. That is how, the unit schemes are there. As the Hon. Member was saying there was nothing to encourage the units but we give a grant to people to put up units.

There is also a backward and forward linkage scheme where if a farmer wants to now start an agro-processing business, he can take a grant to link up. If a retailer now wants to start manufacturing and link it up with the farmer, he can also take a subsidy and work towards it. If there is a processor, who now wants to start growing and start selling, he can also do so. So, in the entire value chain, there is some scheme which is available for anybody who wants to promote food processing. They are all on the website, and I would be happy to assist you.

I would also like to tell this House that I think on Friday, from one o' clock to two o' clock, here in the Parliament House Annexe, my Ministry is holding a special session for the Parliamentarians regarding World Food India, 2019. In that, all the schemes are also going to be discussed. So, if there is any Member, who is interested

in value-adding to something which is being grown or which is getting wasted, he is most welcome to attend and most welcome to ask questions.

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT: Sir, in my Nandurbar constituency in Maharashtra, which is predominantly a tribal area, the people are engaged in farming activity. Most of the crops that they grow there are onion, chili, banana, papaya and custard apples. These are perishable items and due to lack of cold storage facility, the farmers are compelled to sell their produce at a very low price. Since setting up of cold storage involves a huge investment, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government will provide financial aid for setting up a cold storage facility in my Nandurbar constituency.

Also, I would like to ask another question.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask only one question.

[English]

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, I would like to assure the Member that we would be happy to assist in any way. As I mentioned in my answer setting up stand-alone cold storages is not part of the mandate of my Ministry; that is done by the Agriculture Ministry. In my Ministry, we assist in setting up of

cold-chain units. The aim of my Ministry is to create a cold chain grid throughout the country for seamless transfer of food from production to consumption, which means that there should be some farm-level infrastructure – a storage, a minimal processing unit, washing, cleaning, grading at the farm gate level and reefer vehicles to transport it. Even one can do some processing there. So, a grant is given for all these things. If anybody wants to apply, we would be happy to assist.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members are asking supplementary questions for the first time in the House.

[English]

SHRI GAUTHAM SIGAMANI PON: Thank you, Hon. Speaker, Sir. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to build a small-scale cold storage plant in Thalaivasal farmers' market which comes under my Kallakurichi constituency. It is the second largest farmers' market in Tamil Nadu. Around 2000 small farmers sell their produce here and the daily turnover is around Rs.40 lakh. If there is no such proposal, I request the Hon. Minister to consider this proposal.

I also request the Hon. Minister to build a cold storage plant with a capacity of 25 tonnes storage for the benefit of farmers in my constituency.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: I thank the Hon. Member that he has asked me his first question.

I would be happy to help him. As I said earlier, my Ministry does not build only cold storages but we build an entire chain. There is something for everybody. If you have got these farmers' organizations over there or as you said, you have a *mandi* in your constituency which sells many things, I would like to say that anybody is welcome to apply for these storage and processing facilities. The Ministry itself does not set up a unit. But when people apply for these facilities, we give them subsidies. If they are small farmers, we assist by handholding them in every way, make them into farmer-producer organizations, help them keep their books, make their DPR, and so on. We assist them in every way because the aim of the Ministry is to encourage food processing so that food can be saved, it does not go waste, farmers get better income, and inflation is under control, which is also better for the consumers as well.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ravneet Singh ji. Hon. Member, You usually ask lengthy questions; please put your question briefly. You are a farmer.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Hon. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Minister is from Punjab, and since you have given me the opportunity, I should make the most of it. I believe she would not mind though at times, she does get a little upset. As she has often visited Ludhiana. There is a Mega Food Park in Ladowal, spread over an area of 100 acres. Out of this, about 47 acres of land have been earmarked for common facilities, while 53 acres were meant for various companies to set up their factories. The facilities there are very good, there were several issues earlier, but [English] now they have been sorted out. [Translation] Through you, Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what steps can be taken to attract large companies to set up their units there. At present, only two big companies Godrej and Balaji Foods are operating in the Food park. This would greatly benefit Punjab, particularly the farmers, and promote diversification. We should take advantage of the Hon. Minister's leadership, it will be beneficial for Punjab.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to thank the Hon. Member and wish to assure him that I hold no grievance against him personally, however, I certainly do have one against his Government.

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not be upset with the Government, you are a Minister in the Union Government.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, my grievance is only because the farmers of Punjab truly need agro-processing and value addition facilities. When, after putting in immense effort, I get projects sanctioned and the State Government fails to move them forward for years together or extend any cooperation, naturally, there is reason for resentment. I have written as many as six letters to their Chief Minister regarding the Ladowal Mega Food Park, which the Hon. Member has just mentioned.

HON. SPEAKER: Please don't say their Chief Minister, refer to him as Chief Minister of Punjab. Your grievance is in the interest of development.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, I will certainly seek their help because the Ladowal Mega Food Park, which falls within his constituency, should have been completed last year. After the fuel supply was ensured, I sanctioned the Food Park and extended it my full support. ...*(Interruptions)* You will be surprised to know that the IQF machine for the Food Park has still not been installed, and even the tender has not been floated.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Since there is no representative of the Punjab Government present here, raising such an issue in this manner is not appropriate. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Even the transformer that was to be installed there has not been fitted yet. ...*(Interruptions)* This is the only Food Park where units have already been set up, but the inauguration has not taken place. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to request the State Government through the Hon. member that assistance should be extended by the State Government to us so that the Food Park may be inaugurated at the earliest. This will benefit lakhs of farmers and generate employment opportunities. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I would also like to add that our Ministry has sanctioned 42 projects worth Rs. 1,200 crore in Punjab. If the Hon. Members from Punjab propose more projects, I stand here gladly ready to sanction them and extend my full support. ...*(Interruptions)*

(Q. 224)

[English]

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU: Sir, I have gone through the detailed reply given by the Hon. Minister. It is really exhaustive and I thank the Hon. Minister for this detailed reply. In this regard, I would like to put a question about insurance.

Though 'Agriculture' is in the State List and not in the Concurrent List, the Hon. Prime Minister, through Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana, has come up with an insurance scheme where 50 per cent premium would be paid. In Andhra Pradesh, there were initiatives wherein the balance 50 percent is being paid by the State, in addition to what is paid by the Centre. The Ayushman Bharat has been showered by the Hon. Prime Minister on the kisans, who are the backbone. Is there any proposal to pay the full insurance premium to the farmer under something like Ayushman Kisan? It would be a good thing. Is there any proposal in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA: Hon. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Member has raised a question to highlight the problems faced by farmers. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was introduced in 2016 by Hon. Narendra Modi Ji with the noble intention of ensuring proper risk management for farmers. This scheme has been in

operation since 1985 and has undergone several modifications over time. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is presently being utilised for farmers risk management. Only yesterday, a meeting was held with the Agriculture Ministers of nearly 12 States and senior Agriculture Officers from more than 20 States. The meeting was chaired by the senior Minister, Hon. Shri Tomar Ji. In that meeting, opinions were sought from the Agriculture Ministers and officials on this subject. Your objective is that the entire premium should be suggested to be borne by the Union Government. Several such suggestions have also been made earlier by Agriculture Ministers of the concerned States, by many Hon. Members, and by Hon. Mohan Bhai Kundariya Ji in the previous rounds. Consultations are underway on all these matters. It has not yet been decided whether the Union Government will approve it in full, but a process to modify it is certainly under discussion.

[English]

SHRI RAGHU RAMA KRISHNA RAJU: Thank you so much, Mantriji.

Recently, the Government has increased the Minimum Support Price for 16 crops, which is a very welcome step. In this regard, M.S. Swaminathan Committee has given some recommendations, according to which in the formula adopted, the

labour input by the family of the farmer has also to be taken into consideration, which would further improve the Minimum Support Price as a remunerative price. This is a very good suggestion extended by Swaminathan Committee. Is the Government considering, in the interest of the farmer, the recommendation made by Dr. M.S. Swaminathan?

[Translation]

SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA: Hon. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Member has suggested that the value of the labour contributed by the farmer's family should be included in the total cost of cultivation. I am pleased to inform the House that, under the present system of cost evaluation, the labour value of the entire farmer's family has already been incorporated. This recommendation has been accepted.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE: Hon. Speaker Sir, according to a survey conducted in the State from which I come, it has been reported that eight farmers are committing suicide every day. The reply given by the Government today states that [English] I would like to quote the Government document. It is from the Government of Maharashtra's Economic Survey. You can verify it. In the reply it has been said – I know it is a State subject – "The Government has reoriented the agricultural sector by focusing on

the income-centric approach against the earlier production-centric approach. This focuses on achieving high productivity, reduced cost of cultivation."

My pointed question is this. With the petrol and diesel prices going up and nothing specific being there for this sector in the Budget, how are you going to reduce the cost of cultivation, increase the income of farmers and reduce farmers' suicides not just in Maharashtra though my State is highly drought affected?

Even if it is a State subject, which I am aware, what specific intervention is this Government doing? In the UPA regime, under the leadership of Hon. Manmohan Singh ji, Rs. 70,000 crore loan waiver was given. Do you intend to do something similar like this in the interest of my State of Maharashtra?

[Translation]

SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA: The Hon. Member has raised a very good question and has sought to know what steps are being taken by the present Government to reduce the cost. She also mentioned that a major debt waiver scheme was implemented by her Government during the regime of Dr. Manmohan Singh. We all are aware of that. We do not wish to make any comment on it. However, in response to this question, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that it is not our policy to waive interest for all

farmers who have taken loans. Instead, we have launched a scheme under which Rs. 6,000 is being transferred every year directly into the accounts of each farmer, benefiting farmers across the country. Under this initiative, Rs. 11,000 crore per year is being provided to farmers. I am pleased to inform the House that while some States had initially shown hesitation in implementing the scheme, as of yesterday, the Agriculture Ministers of all the States have expressed their satisfaction with it and have also started sending in their data.

Now, coming to his second main point, what has been done by this Government for cost reduction? When our visionary Prime Minister spoke about Double Farming, its foundation was based on four key pillars - [English] Scheme for cost reduction, scheme for risk mitigation, scheme for productivity, and scheme for right prices. [Translation] To reduce costs, manage risks, and ensure that farmers receive fair prices for their produce, we have implemented a comprehensive nationwide programme in the form of the Soil Health Card Scheme. Through this, farmers are able to use only the required quantity of fertilisers as per the needs of their soil. Our Government has made a provision to use the same fertiliser in a 100 percent neem-coated form. In earlier times, farmers had to face great hardship even resorting to standing in long queues and sometimes facing lathi charges, to obtain urea. Today, there is not a single complaint from anywhere in the country regarding the

demand for urea, every farmer is receiving it on time. The use of Neem-coated urea has also reduced the quantity required while helping to retain soil fertility for a longer period.

Secondly, under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, in line with the Hon. Prime Minister's vision of "Per Drop More Crop," we are providing assistance to promote micro-irrigation among farmers. [English] Mission for Organic and Value Chain Development for North-Eastern States, [Translation] particularly in our North-Eastern States, we are encouraging organic agriculture. Promoting organic farming also helps reduce the overall cost of cultivation. A scheme has been implemented by the Government to plant trees along every embankment. We are also promoting organic farming under the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana. When farmers adopt these schemes in their fields, it undoubtedly leads to a reduction in their cost of cultivation.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, out of the loan waiver of nearly Rs. 75,000 crore that had been announced, how many farmers actually received loan waiver? What discrepancies were pointed out in the audit report? In the year following the loan waiver, did the number of suicides increase or decrease? I would like to know this.

SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA: Hon. Speaker, although this does not directly relate to the issue of loan waiver, Shri Radha Mohan Singh ji has been my Senior Minister and I used to reply in the House under his guidance. What he has stated is correct, even in the years following the loan waiver, incidents of farmers suicides had increased. This was on record. I believe that the issue of farmers suicides should not be viewed through a political lens. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please do not respond to Chaudhary ji. You should reply only to Radha Mohan ji. I have not allowed you.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA: Sir, the audit had also mentioned that there were cases where the loans of individuals who were not even farmers had been waived.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker, the House and the farmers of this country need your protection. The reply is five pages long, and in those five pages, the question that has been asked, ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please wait for a minute. You may be a first-time Member in this House, but one does not stand up like this during Question Hour.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker Sir, the question relates to farmers suicides, yet in this five-page reply, not a single statistic has been provided.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you please ask your question.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Speaker, I am asking the question that how many farmers in the country have committed suicide, there is no mention of it in the reply. We want this information because the question concerns the control of farmers suicides, how will the House know whether the situation is improving or not? The Hon. Minister is withholding the actual number of suicides committed by the farmers in the country. Just now, he himself said that after the loan waiver during the previous UPA Government, the number of farmers suicides had increased then why is this not explained here? Today, the Union Government, in a five-page reply, is ignoring the suicides of the country's farmers and is not maintaining this data. There is a record of how much the Prime Minister has given to farmers, but there is no record of how many farmers have taken their own lives.

SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA: Hon. Speaker Sir, the reply we have given already contains this information, and all the data relating to suicides has been provided therein. After the year 2015, this data is published jointly by the Agriculture Department and the

Home Department. On the basis of the figures published by the Crime Records Bureau, we place the information before the House through the Agriculture Department. After 2015, the process of reconciliation with the States is still underway, and therefore, the data has not yet been received from the States. It has not been published. On the basis of the 2015 data, it had been mentioned that there was an increase in suicides.

(Q.225)

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Hon. Speaker, under the said department 563 depots and warehouses are operated by the Food Corporation of India, and 421 warehouses are functioning under the Central Warehousing Corporation. In total, 984 warehouses are functioning across the country. I am very pleased to state that you have brought the entire system of these warehouses under an online programme. For this, I convey my sincere thanks.

This will certainly help significantly in preventing leakages. I would like to know that while online monitoring will indeed curb leakages, but what efforts are being made in the country to preserve the quality of foodgrains stored in the depots in case they begin to lose their quality? What percentage of foodgrain becomes unfit for human consumption each year due to spoilage, and how is such spoiled foodgrain utilised?

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO: Hon. Speaker, the question raised by the Hon. Member, it is correct that, according to the figures as on 1 June 2019, we have 563 warehouses, out of which 532 are operational and 31 are not operational. We have 185 CWC warehouses, of which 144 are operational. The Hon. Member has asked how their maintenance is carried out. Through you, Sir, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that the Government makes

full arrangements for the maintenance of the foodgrain stored in our warehouses. At present, we have a stock of nearly 340 lakh thousand metric tonnes, and our storage capacity is about 400.83 lakh metric tonnes. As of today, not a single grain stored there has spoiled.

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN): Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked what measures have been taken in this regard. We have implemented five measures. First, CCTV cameras have been installed. Second, surprise inspections of the depots are conducted. Third, security staff have been deployed there, high-mast lights have been installed in the warehouse premises, and barbed-wire fencing has been put up. You will be pleased to know that the quantity of foodgrain getting damaged now is only to the extent of 0.1 to 0.2 percent. Therefore, it has become negligible. Earlier, such reports used to come frequently, but now these reports have stopped.

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Thank you, Hon. Minister. I would especially like to thank Hon. Modi ji, as well as you, for introducing an innovative system like ‘One Nation, One Ration Card’ in the country. I extend my heartfelt thanks to you for this. Along with this, I would like to submit before the Hon. Minister that my Parliamentary Constituency, Mandsour, is predominantly an

agricultural region where industrialisation has not yet reached. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that the farmers and traders of the region have shown interest in constructing warehouses. Will the Ministry consider any scheme under which these warehouses may be taken on rent and thereby provided protection by the Ministry?

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO: Hon. Speaker, our total storage capacity is about 400.81 lakh metric tonnes, and at present we have a stock of 340 lakh metric tonnes. Taken together, the total quantity of foodgrain procured across the country can be fully accommodated within our existing warehouses. Including the capacities of the CWC, SWC, PEG and FCI, we have sufficient warehouses to meet the requirement. If any further need arises, efforts will certainly be made to address it.

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR: Hon. Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the functioning of the FCI depots at Borivali and Panvel.

Sir, in February 2017, 275 workers from the Borivali depot were transferred to the Panvel depot, and contractual labour practices were introduced at the Borivali depot thereafter. After holding a meeting with the Hon. Minister on this matter, and after submitting a written representation, I had brought this issue to his

notice. However, the FCI officials were preoccupied with securing the contract, thinking about how they would obtain it and what share they would get from it and they did not agree. The Hon. Minister understood the concern, but he was unable to restrain the officials. At present, the capacity of the Panvel depot is 96 thousand metric tonnes, and its output capacity is 18 to 20 metric tonnes per month. After the transfer of these workers there, the total number of workers has now become 600. At this time, between 100 and 150 workers at the Panvel depot receive salaries without having any work. They were transferred there from the place where work actually existed. There is no work for them there, yet the FCI pays their salaries because they want a contract there. The capacity of the Borivali depot is 2 lakh 50 thousand metric tonnes, and its output is 50 to 60 metric tonnes per month. The contract labourers there are unable to complete the work on time, due to which a large amount of money is spent by the Borivali FCI officials in the form of overtime, and by the Railways in the form of demurrage charges, besides paying wages to the workers at Panvel who have no work. Therefore, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government will consider transferring back to the Borivali depot those workers who were shifted from Borivali to Panvel. This should also be done so that the officials vested interest in the contract arrangement comes to an end. These officials receive

money through outsourcing. Will strict action be taken against those responsible for causing such loss to the FCI? And will you bring back the workers transferred to Panvel and post them again at Borivali? This is my question to the Hon. Minister.

SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO: Hon. Speaker Sir, the Hon. Member should have raised this separately through a specific question. Nevertheless, since he has raised it, if this is indeed the information he has and he can write to us regarding the matter, I will provide him with all the details. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat now, you have already asked a very lengthy question.

Shri Girish Bhalchandra Bapat .

...(Interruptions)

SHRI GIRISH BHALCHANDRA BAPAT: Hon. Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister, Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, and Shri Danve Raosaheb Dadarao, because as the Minister of this Department in Maharashtra, I received excellent cooperation. When it comes to the issue of theft, you have indeed made several arrangements such as constructing boundary walls, installing CCTV cameras, and so on. A GPS system should also be installed because theft does not occur inside the warehouse, it occurs after the truck leaves the warehouse. If you adopt a GPS system, the State will receive extensive online information, the District Collector will also receive it, and if contractors payments are released only after GPS clearance, theft will be reduced significantly. I believe that if the Government pays greater attention to this and makes it mandatory, the possibility of reducing theft will be much higher.

SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN: Hon. Speaker, the view expressed by the Hon. Member is absolutely correct. As regards making the depots online, you will see that all the godowns of the CWC and the FCI have already been made 100 percent online. The difficulty,

however, is with the depots of the State Governments, among them, only seven States have their depots operating online. We want a coordination mechanism between the Union and the State Governments so that we may, from our office itself, monitor everything, anyone should be able to see from anywhere the details about where the foodgrain is moving from, where the truck is going, and in what manner it is going. For this, we have given a time-frame of six months. It will be completed by the first week of January. As far as the GPS system is concerned, consignments arrive both by rail and by trucks. We have said that within one month and three months at the very maximum, whether it is the Railways or the trucks, the GPS system must be implemented, so that complete transparency may be ensured.

(Q. 226)

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT: Hon. Speaker, the reply furnished by the Hon. Minister is satisfactory. Out of the 17,734 road projects sanctioned for Bihar, 15,860 have been completed. In Supaul as well, out of 224 road projects, 167 have been completed. For this, I extend my sincere thanks to the Hon. Minister. Sir, over the past 14 years, Bihar has witnessed all-round development under the leadership of Hon. Chief Minister Shri Nitish Kumar.

12.00 hrs

Lanes, drains and the roads connecting villages to the main roads have also been significantly expanded. Sir, Supaul falls in the Kosi region, which is prone to recurrent flooding. As a result, many roads have been damaged and there is a pressing need for their reconstruction. New roads need to be constructed in this area under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, for which a survey is required. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister how many roads in Supaul district have already undergone survey and DPR preparation for approval under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. If this has not yet been done, by when will it be completed? I would like to request the Hon. Minister to kindly give an assurance on this matter.

SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI: Hon. Speaker, today I would like to express my gratitude to my Cabinet Minister, who has given me the opportunity to answer. The Hon. Member himself has acknowledged that, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, out of the 17,734 road projects proposed from Bihar, 15,808 have been completed.

Hon. Speaker Sir, on this day, I would like to remember the revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji. I come from a village. In my time, there were no roads there, however, when Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji came to power, he launched the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and undertook the task of connecting villages. Therefore, while paying my respects to the revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to answer.

———————

HON. SPEAKER: I have received notices of adjournment motions from some Hon. Members on various matters. Although these issues are important, it is not necessary to disrupt today's proceedings for them. These matters may be raised on another occasion; therefore, I have not granted permission for any of the adjournment motions.

*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos.227 to 240

Unstarred Question Nos.2492 to 2721

———————

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

12.03 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers will be laid on the Table. Shri G. Kishan Reddy

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): Sir, on behalf of Shri Amit Shah, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

1. Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Volume I) for the year 2019-2020.

   [Placed in Library, See No. LT 137/17/19]

2. Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Home Affairs (Union Territories) (Volume II) for the year 2019-2020.

   [Placed in Library, See No. LT 138/17/19]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE; MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I lay on the Table a copy of

the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 139/17/19]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI MANSUKH L. MANDAVIYA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

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

   (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2017-18.

   (ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2017-18, along with Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 140/17/19]

3. A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Ahmedabad, for the year 2017-2018, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 141/17/19]

5. A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research, Guwahati, for the year 2016-2017, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 142/17/19]

7. A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Karnataka Antibiotics and Pharmaceuticals Limited and the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers, for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 143/17/19]

8. A copy of Notification No. G.S.R.1705(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 8th May, 2019 order indicating the supplies of urea to be made by domestic

manufacturers of urea to States and Union Territories during Kharif, 2019 under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodity Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 144/17/19]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker sir, I lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Andrew Yule and Company Limited and the Department of Heavy Industries, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 145/17/19]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited and the Department of Heavy Industries, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 146/17/19]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL): Hon. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Swami Vivekananda National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2017-2018, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Swami Vivekananda National Institute of Rehabilitation Training and Research, Cuttack, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 147/17/19]

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

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation and the Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 148/17/19]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 149/17/19]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DANVE RAOSAHEB DADARAO): Hon. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018 alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Food Corporation of India, New Delhi, for the year 2017-2018.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 150/17/19]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Central Warehousing Corporation and the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, for the year 2019-2020.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 151/17/19]

(4) A copy of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Removal of Difficulty) Order, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.1557(E) in Gazette of India dated 10th April, 2019 under sub-section (2) of Section 42 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 152/17/19]

(5) A copy of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Amendment) Rules, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.382(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th May, 2019 under Section 40 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 153/17/19]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table:-

1. (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 2017-18, alongwith Audited Accounts.

   (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Foundation for Communal Harmony, New Delhi, for the year 2017-18.

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

   [Placed in Library, See No. LT 154/17/19]

3. A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 23 of the Enemy

Property Act, 1968:-

(i) The Guidelines for disposal of Enemy Property (Amendment) Order, 2019 published in Notification No. G.S.R.201(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th March, 2019.

(ii) The Procedure and mechanism for Sale of Enemy Share Order, 2019 published in Notification No. G.S.R.885(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th February, 2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 155/17/19]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA): Hon. Speaker Sir, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table:

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of Gujarat State Seed Corporation Limited for the year 2017-2018.

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

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 156/17/19]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 4(d) of the Destructive Insects and Pests Act, 1914:-

(i) The Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (First Amendment) Order, 2019 published in Notification No. S.O. 941(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st February, 2019.

(ii) The Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Second Amendment) Order, 2019 published in Notification No. S.O. 1728(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2019.

(iii) The Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Third Amendment) Order, 2019 published in Notification No. S.O. 1817(E) in Gazette of India dated 24th May, 2019.

(iv) The Plant Quarantine (Regulation of Import into India) (Fourth Amendment) Order, 2019 published in Notification No. S.O. 1954(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th June, 2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 157/17/19]

(4) A copy of the Bureau of Indian Standards (Standards for Boric Acid) Order, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.1766(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th May, 2019 under sub-section (2) of Section 42 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 158/17/19]

(5) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.1767(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 17th May, 2019,

regarding inclusion of 25 insecticides in the Schedule to the Insecticides Act, 1968 under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 159/17/19]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING (DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN): Hon. Speaker Sir, I lay on the Table a copy of the Indian Veterinary Council (Procedure for recognition and derecognition of Veterinary Colleges and Veterinary Qualifications)(Amendment) Rules, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.197(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th March, 2019 under sub-section (3) of Section 66 of the Indian Veterinary Council Act, 1984.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 160/17/19]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): Sir, I beg to lay the on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Sashastra Seema Bal, Combatised Communication Service (Group ‘B’ and ‘C’ posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2019 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.74 in Gazette of India dated 11th March,

2019 under sub-section (3) of Section 155 of the Sashastra Seema Bal Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 161/17/19]

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 167 of the Assam Rifles Act, 2006:-

(i) The Assam Rifles Naib Subedar (Electrician Motor Vehicle) Group ‘B’ Combatised Post Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.201 in weekly Gazette of India dated 7th July, 2018.

(ii) The Assam Rifles (Group ‘C’ Combatised Posts) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.36 in weekly Gazette of India dated 2nd February, 2018.

(iii) The Assam Rifles, Naib Subedar (Genera Duty), Group ‘B’ Combatised Post Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.247 in weekly Gazette of India dated 11th August, 2018.

(iv) The Assam Rifles Civil Staff Group ‘B’ Posts Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.248 in weekly Gazette of India dated 11th August, 2018.

(v) The Assam Rifles (Para Medical Cadre) Group ‘C’ Non-Ministerial, combatised posts Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.273 in weekly Gazette of India dated 25th August, 2018.

(vi) The Assam Rifles Subedar Major Store Keeper Technical (Engineers), Group ‘B’ posts (combatised) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.203 in weekly Gazette of India dated 7th July, 2018.

(vii) The Assam Rifles Naib Subedar (Religious Teacher), Combatised post Recruitment Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.295 in weekly Gazette of India dated 15th September, 2018.

(viii) The Assam Rifles, Naib Subedar (Teacher), Group ‘B’ Combatised post Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.202 in weekly Gazette of India dated 7th July, 2018.

(ix) The Assam Rifles Warrant Officer (Radio Mechanic), Group ‘C’ Combatised post Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.264 in weekly Gazette of India dated 18th August, 2018.

(x) The Assam Rifles Subedar Major (Buildings and Roads) (Engineers) Group ‘B’ Post (Combatised) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.204 in weekly Gazette of India dated 7th July, 2018.

(xi) The Assam Rifles Para-Medical Staff (Pharmacist) Group ‘C’ Combatised Posts Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2018 published in Notification No. G.S.R.37 in weekly Gazette of India dated 2nd February, 2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 162/17/19]

(3) A copy of the Census (Amendment) Rules, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 576(E) in Gazette of India dated 20th June, 2018 under sub-section (3) of Section 18 of the Census Act, 1948.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 163/17/19]

(5) A copy of the National Institute of Disaster Management Employees (Recruitment and other Conditions of Service) Amendment Rules, 2018 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.25(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th January, 2019 under Section 77 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 164/17/19]

(6) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 141 of the Border Security Force Act, 1968:-

(i) The Ministry of Home Affairs, Border Security Force, (Combatised Stenographers Cadre), Group 'A' and Group 'B' Posts, Recruitment Rules, 2019 published in Notification No. G.S.R.118 in weekly Gazette of India dated 18th May, 2019

(ii) The Border Security Force, Combatised Assistant Sub-Inspector (Stenographer) and Head Constable (Ministerial) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2019 published in Notification No. G.S.R.75 in Gazette of India dated 30th January, 2019.

(iii) The Ministry of Home Affairs, Border Security Force, Para Veterinary Staff, Group 'B' and Group 'C' (Non-Gazetted) Posts (Combatised) Recruitment Rules, 2019 published in Notification No. G.S.R.147(E) in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2019.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 165/17/19]

_____

12.05 hrs

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

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

(i) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th July, 2019 agreed without any amendment to the Dentists (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 3rd July, 2019."

(ii) "In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 8th July, 2019 agreed without any amendment to the Aadhaar and Other Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2019 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4th July, 2019."

12.06 hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Status of implementation of the further recommendations/ observations proposed by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs in respect of the Paras categorized in Chapters III and IV of the 216th Report of the Committee on the 'The Cyclone Ockhi - its impact on Fishermen and Damage caused by it' pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): Sir, I lay on the Table, a statement regarding the status of implementation of recommendations/observations proposed by the Standing Committee on Home Affairs in respect of categorical paragraphs in Chapters III and IV of the 216th Report on 'Cyclone Ockhi - its impact on fishermen and damage caused thereto' relating to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

HON. SPEAKER: Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT166/17/19.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I had allowed you to speak during the Zero Hour yesterday.

Shri Harish Dwivedi .

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HARISH DWIVEDI (BASTI): Hon. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the Sant Ravidas Van Vihar Park, situated about one kilometre from the district headquarters of my Parliamentary Constituency, Basti (Uttar Pradesh), which was established in the year 1988. ...*(Interruptions)* From its very inception, this park has been a centre of attraction for the people of Basti and the surrounding areas. Earlier, it had facilities such as a beautiful children garden, lakes, fountains, swings, boating etc. ...*(Interruptions)* Owing to the presence of various species of vegetation and its location on the banks of the Kuwano river, visitors enjoyed a clean and pleasant environment here. However, Sir, over the past few years, this park has been struggling for its very existence. The entire park has fallen into a dilapidated condition.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I would like to request the Government to kindly undertake the necessary measures to restore this park to its original form and to develop it in a modern manner, keeping in view its importance. ...*(Interruptions)*

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

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Adhir ji, please take your seat. If you would like to speak on any matter during the Zero Hour, kindly submit it to me in writing. I have always allowed you to speak; even yesterday, I had fully allowed you, and the Government had also responded. If you would like to raise any issue in the Zero Hour, please give the subject in writing. I have even given you an opportunity out of turn.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I have already submitted it in writing.

HON. SPEAKER: You have not submitted anything in writing to speak during the Zero Hour.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, we have given an adjournment motion.

HON. SPEAKER: I have disallowed the adjournment motion. Please submit your request again in writing for the Zero Hour. I will consider it.

...(Interruptions)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Sir, a second opportunity cannot be given in the Zero Hour, this is the rule. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have given the reply.

Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey .

...(Interruptions)

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR DUBEY (KUSHI NAGAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during the Zero Hour.

Sir, the farmers of the Kushinagar Parliamentary Constituency depend on sugarcane cultivation. Earlier, I had raised the issue in this House that due to increasing production and the declining number of sugar mills, the sugarcane farmers are in deep distress. ...*(Interruptions)* For sugarcane farmers, apart from sugar mills, their main source for sustaining cultivation is irrigation. They receive irrigation facilities through the Main Western Gandak Canal. ...*(Interruptions)* I would like to draw your attention to the fact that both the banks of the Main Western Gandak Canal which is the primary source of irrigation for sugarcane farmers are broken

at several places, and the Rajbahas too are extremely minors that water does not reach from the head to the tail. ...*(Interruptions)* Apart from this, sugarcane farmers also face the problem of obtaining the sugarcane purchase slips, because due to the arbitrary functioning of certain officers and employees, a crisis of these slips regularly arises before the sugarcane farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* Our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Yogi Adityanath Maharaj, found that as long as the responsibility for issuing the sugarcane tickets rested with the mills, the exploitation of sugarcane farmers by the sugarcane mafia continued unhindered. ...*(Interruptions)* To put an end to this, Hon. Yogi Adityanath Maharaj, immediately upon assuming charge, shifted the responsibility of issuing the sugarcane tickets from the mills to the societies, for the convenience of the sugarcane farmers. ...*(Interruptions)* As a result, the economic exploitation of sugarcane farmers by the sugarcane mafia has come to a complete halt. ...(Interruptions)

Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that although sugarcane price payments are generally being made on time, some sugarcane farmers of our Kushinagar district are facing a particular crisis. ...*(Interruptions)* The Laxmiganj and Chitauni mills, which are presently closed, have no cases pending against them. Kindly take steps to restart these

mills and to set up an ethanol plant in Kushinagar district. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON.SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Vijay Kumar Dubey.

KUNWAR DANISH ALI (AMROHA): Hon. Speaker Sir, I have risen to raise a very important issue. ...*(Interruptions)*

Today, the manner in which democracy is under attack in the country is not hidden from anyone. We have all been elected to this House through the democratic process. If democracy in this country is destroyed by mob rule, it will be extremely unfortunate for the nation. ...*(Interruptions)* I am coming to the matter that I have submitted in writing. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not build a preface.

...*(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR DANISH ALI: I am asking the very same question. You should appreciate that the House is quiet. ...*(Interruptions)* Through you, Sir, I would like to ask the Government that in the manner in which mob lynching is taking place in various parts of the country, democracy is under attack. ...*(Interruptions)*

In 2018, the Supreme Court had directed that a law be framed to deal with mob lynching. I would like to ask the Government, the Deputy Leader of the Lok Sabha is present here ...*(Interruptions)* whether the Government intends to enact any law against mob lynching in compliance with the Supreme Court's order? Tabrez Ansari was murdered, and against that… ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Cosme Francisco Sardinha -- Not present.

SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM): Hon. Speaker, Sir, in Nagapattinam constituency, people are agitated over the long hours of train journey in the trains service from Thiruvarur to Karaikudi.

12.13 hrs

At this stage, Shri Hibi Eden, Dr. T Sumathy (A) Thamizhachi Thangapandian and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

To cover a distance of 140 kms., the train takes 6 to 8 hours. The delay is due to the 72 railway crossings, which have no gate-keepers. Before the train reaches the gate, the driver stops the train and the guard closes the gate. Once the train crosses the gate, the guard again opens the gate. This process is being done in all 72

gates. This unnecessarily wastes the valuable time of the passengers. Patients who are going to hospitals, students, and office-goers are the worst affected. So, the people in my constituency are very angry.

[Translation]

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI (SIKAR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to present my views on a very important matter. ... *(Interruptions)* There is a disease called Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy. It is a condition in which a child remains healthy for about ten years. ... *(Interruptions)* After that, the child's body parts begin to shrink. ... *(Interruptions)* By the age of 20, the child becomes completely bedridden. ... *(Interruptions)* No patient survives beyond the age of 25. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Sir, in India, there is an institution for the treatment of this disease, Indian Association for the Cultivation of Science, Jadavpur. This is the only institution working on this disease. ... *(Interruptions)* In the United States, an expenditure of two to three crore US dollars is incurred on this disease. ... *(Interruptions)* Our institution is working on it. ... *(Interruptions)*

My request to the Union Government is that, to save such patients, the Union Government should assist this institution in its research work so that such patients may benefit. ... *(Interruptions)*

I hope that the Union Government will pay attention to this matter. *... (Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki And Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 14 was left - Shri Nityanand Rai.

12.16 hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Committee on Official Language

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI NITYANAND RAI): Sir, on behalf of Shri Amit Shah, I beg to move:

> "That in pursuance of sub-section 2 of Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, twenty members from amongst themselves to be members of the Committee on Official Language to review the progress made in the use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union and submit a report to the President making recommendations thereon in accordance with sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the said Act."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is::

"That in pursuance of sub-section 2 of Section 4 of the Official Languages Act, 1963, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, twenty members from amongst themselves to be members of the Committee on Official Language to review the progress made in the use of Hindi for the official purposes of the Union and submit a report to the President making recommendations thereon in accordance with sub-section (3) of Section 4 of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

_____

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you shall not bring papers into the House. I am giving you a final warning.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No, this is not your right.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: If you bring papers into the House, I will take action against you.

...(Interruptions)

12.17 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Alleged engineering defection detrimental to the health of Parliamentary democracy

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, you may speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, as per the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, a Member cannot repeat the same matter in any form. Under Rule 197 sub-section (iv), “In case the number of members giving notices on a subject

that is admitted by the Speaker…", it cannot be repeated. Even according to *Kaul and Shakdher*, a matter which has already been discussed by the House during the same Session cannot be raised again through the Adjournment Motion or by any other motion. I want to clarify, Sir, they have already raised the issue and the Hon. Deputy Leader and Hon. Raksha Mantri has responded to it. As far as the Government at the Centre is concerned, we do not have any role as far as the Karnataka issue is concerned. This is because of Rahul Gandhi's call that this is happening in Karnataka. There are so many important Bills and important issues before the country which they can raise. I appeal to them not to disturb the House. This is the first Session of the House. Let them allow the House to run.

———————

[Translation]

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (BHARUCH): Hon. Speaker Sir, I am deeply grateful to you for allowing me to raise an issue of immense public importance, namely the large-scale sale of fake and adulterated milk in the country. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Sir, milk is something we use every day, and it is directly linked to our health. ... *(Interruptions)* Our Bharatiya

Janata Party's Government, under the Gokul Mission, is providing pure milk to the people of the country to bring a health revolution. ... *(Interruptions)* The Government is also promoting the dairy industry on a large scale, but it is equally important to curb the business of fake and adulterated milk. A few days ago, in an advisory sent by the World Health Organization to the Government, it was stated that if the production of adulterated milk in India is not stopped immediately, by the year 2025, 87 percent of India's population will fall prey to life-threatening diseases like cancer. Adulterated milk is produced using urea and dangerous chemicals. ... *(Interruptions)* People from big cities across the country and those associated with the dairy industry are involved in this business. Through you, I would like to request the Union Government, that the Government should provide for the strictest possible laws against such offenders and issue directions for stringent enforcement of the Food Safety Act.

Thank you. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya and Dr. Kirit P. Solanki are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava.

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR CHOUDHARY (KAIRANA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir. You have given me the opportunity to raise an important matter related to education. I have been elected from the Kairana Parliamentary Constituency. Our Shamli district is deprived of a Kendriya Vidyalaya. ... *(Interruptions)* It is the plan of the Government to establish Kendriya Vidyalayas at the district level. Children from our area have to go to neighbouring districts for their studies, especially those who wish to seek admission in a Kendriya Vidyalaya. Through you, I would like to make a strong demand before the Union Government that a Kendriya Vidyalaya be established in Shamli district of the Kairana region at the earliest. Thank you very much. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Pradeep Kumar Choudhary.

Please go back to your respective seats, I am giving a ruling.

12.22 hrs

[English]

At this stage, Shri Gaurav Gogoi and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, you have not been authorised to respond. Please take your seat. Hon. Members, notices for an Adjournment Motion had been given by you. I have disallowed your Adjournment Motion while giving my ruling on the Adjournment Motion. I have given every Hon. Member an opportunity to speak in this House, even when it was out of turn. On the subject you are raising, I would again like to say that we must uphold the dignity of this House at the highest level. This House belongs to everyone. This House is your House. Do not reduce it to sloganeering or displaying placards. My personal request to you is that you may engage in as much debate or dialogue within this House as you wish. I am also telling the Treasury Benches that they should respond to the questions that need to be answered. If all Hon. Members agree, there is a need to end the practice of placards and sloganeering inside this House.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat. Whatever subjects you would like to raise, I will allow you to speak on each of them, even out of turn. You may raise your issues. But my request is that the world watches this House, and this is your House.

You must uphold the dignity of your House. Do not bring placards here and turn this House into something like a municipal corporation or a municipal council. Adhir Ranjan ji, you may speak as much as you wish.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Danish Ali ji, I will also give you an opportunity to speak. Please do not speak now, kindly take your seat.

12.25 hrs

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER... Contd.

Re: Alleged engineering defection detrimental to the health of Parliamentary democracy

[Translation]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I understand your concern, and that is why, from the very first day till today, you would have seen that our party has consistently extended the cooperation. Sir, the productivity of the House is increasing today. Without our contribution, the productivity of the House could not have increased.

HON. SPEAKER: It is not increasing because of you alone, this House belongs to everyone.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: I am saying this only because I am also a part of the Opposition. Our objective is absolutely clear. It is our duty to keep the House functioning, to debate, to engage in dialogue, and to dispute and it is their duty to take decisions. We will raise issues, but taking decisions is their responsibility. They are in the Government, in position, and we are in the Opposition. We are performing our duty, and the Government should perform its duty. That is our expectation from them, nothing more. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I once again request you not to speak while seated and not to stand up and speak. When I have asked Hon. Adhir Ranjan Ji to speak, only he will speak. Please do not do this. Adhir Ranjan ji, you may speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, in this House, we had a highly influential and senior leader, whom I deeply admire, Shri Arun Jaitley Sahab. He used to say – [English] 'disruption is also a legitimate weapon for democracy.' [Translation] So what can we do, Sir? We too have learnt from our senior leaders. I would like to say that you are aware of what is happening in Karnataka. There are only two issues. Not only in Karnataka, this politics of poaching must stop. This poaching politics must end. Today it is Karnataka, tomorrow it may be Madhya Pradesh, if Legislators are undermined one by one, dismantled, and enticed with money, it is not right. MLAs leave the Raj Bhavan and find cars waiting for them. At the airport, a plane is ready. For their stay, a luxury hotel is arranged. People of the ruling party of this Government say openly that they are taking Karnataka now and will take Madhya Pradesh next. This poaching politics, is creating a threat to our democracy. It must stop, that is why we have come to the House. The common people of India have absolutely no trust in the policy or intent of the ruling party. Therefore, I would like to request the Government that, under

all circumstances, democracy must be protected. This poaching politics must stop. [English] Poaching politics should be stopped. ... *(Interruptions)* We are walking out.

12.28 hrs

At this stage, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and some other Hon. Members left the House.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The Deputy Leader of the House, Hon. Minister of Defence, Shri Rajnath Singh.

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Hon. Speaker Sir, you have shown generosity by allowing them to speak again on the matter that has already been raised in this very Session, but they have misused that generosity. ... *(Interruptions)* It is true that whatever has happened in Karnataka is entirely an internal matter of the Congress Party, but they are unable to manage their own house and are instead attempting to disturb this Lower House of Parliament. ... *(Interruptions)* I believe this cannot, under

any circumstances, be considered appropriate. That is all I would like to say. ... *(Interruptions)*

_____

SHRI MUKESH RAJPUT (FARRUKHABAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a pressing issue. Since the year 2014, when Hon. Shri Narendra Modi Ji became the Prime Minister, there have been unprecedented reforms in the field of education. Today, teachers are willing to teach, students are eager to learn, and parents too are contributing to the vision of 'Padhe India, Badhe India'. Despite these remarkable reforms in the education sector, private schools and colleges are still, every year, indulging in illegal collection from parents under the guise of building fees, charging 12 months fees for only 10 months of education and making minor changes in the syllabus to compel parents to purchase new sets of books, costing thousands of rupees. This places an unbearable financial burden on parents. According to an ASSOCHAM report, between 2005 and 2018, the fees of private schools have increased by 150 percent. The annual expenditure in schools has risen from Rs. 55,000 to nearly Rs. 1.5 lakh. Excessive school fees have become a serious problem for parents. Particularly in nursery and primary classes, exorbitant fees are being charged. Sometimes in the name of donations, at other times for bags, uniforms and shoes, parents are being compelled to pay arbitrary and unreasonable amounts.

Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development that there is a need to pay proper

attention to the private-sector schools so that parents are spared the additional expenditure involved in educating their children, and even the poor can afford to provide quality education to their children.

Sir, I would also like to make one more request that the children of teachers be educated in the same schools where they teach, so that every person's child may receive good-quality education. Thank you.

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

[English]

SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise an important matter pertaining to my constituency during *Zero Hour*.

I wish to draw the attention of the Government to a serious matter regarding the havoc played by sea erosion in the coastal belt of Kerala in the last few days, especially in my constituency. When I visited various areas of my Parliamentary constituency, namely, Ponnani, I witnessed heavy damages caused at different places due to sea erosion. Many people living in the coastal areas like Aliyar Palli, Marakkadavu, Murinjazhy, Puthuponnani, Azheekkal, Veliyumkod, Thannithura, Palpetty and Kappirikkad have evacuated their houses due to heavy damages caused in the area. Similarly, places in the coastal belt like Tanur and Parappanangadi is also under severe threat of erosion. The situation is no different in other coastal areas of the State as well.

Fishermen are not in a position to go for fishing and their life has become miserable. The State may be given financial support by the Government of India to meet the difficulties of the fishermen. The existing sea wall is not being maintained properly. New sea walls would have to be constructed and a proposal in this regard is pending with the Government of India. That proposal may be

considered at the earliest. The major complaint is that the very construction of the sea wall has not been done scientifically. The intervention of the Government in this regard is also very much necessary.

I would like to urge upon the Central Government to adopt new scientific and technological methods to control sea erosion. The sea wall has to be constructed on a war footing. The pending application of the State Government for construction of the sea wall has to be considered forthwith. I would like to appeal to the Government to take up this matter very seriously.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI B. B. PATIL (ZAHIRABAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, the town of Alampur in the State of Telangana falls in Jogulamba Gadwal district. Alampur is renowned for its temples. Most of the temples located here are very ancient and are famous for their architecture. A large number of these temples come under the Archaeological Survey of India. Among all the temples in Alampur, the Jogulamba Shakti Peeth**,** Jogulamba Devi Temple, and the Nava Brahma Temples are the most prominent. People believe that Goddess Jogulamba protects them and their homes from all evils. She is also worshipped to ward off Vastu-related defects. The Jogulamba Devi

Temple, also known as the Jogulamba Shakti Peeth, is the fifth among the eighteen Shakti Peethas of the Goddess Mahashakti. This temple stands on the banks of the Tungabhadra river, at the confluence of the Tungabhadra and Krishna rivers. It is also known as the Dakshina Kashi. This temple has also been mentioned in the Skanda Purana. Such a historic temple should be included under the PRASAD Scheme, and funds should be allocated for its development. Through you, this would be my request to the Hon. Minister.

SHRIMATI SANDHYA RAY (BHIND): Hon. Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the poor health facilities and lack of resources in the District Hospital in my Bhind Parliamentary Constituency, which are causing great hardship to patients.

Sir, more than 1600 patients visit the District Hospital every day, but due to the shortage of doctors and nurses, and the poor maintenance of machines and equipment, patients are facing great inconvenience. At present, the hospital has 300 beds, whereas 400 beds had been sanctioned during the BJP Government, however, the present Government of Madhya Pradesh has not yet sanctioned the required funds. A total of 39 posts for doctors had been sanctioned, but currently only 14 doctors are serving and 25 posts remain vacant. Similarly, 168 posts for nurses were sanctioned, but only

108 are in position, leaving a shortage of 60 nurses. There is also an acute shortage of advanced machines and equipment such as CT Scan, MRI, etc. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge that the difficulties being faced by patients be resolved at the earliest, so that the people of Bhind and its surrounding areas may avail themselves of better health facilities. Thank you for giving me the time and opportunity to speak.

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

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you very much. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the 30 percent forest cover. There was a time when there were dense forests, but due to unrestrained cutting of trees, these forests today have become barren and devoid of trees. Large quantities of head-load firewood are being cut under the pretext of ‘dry wood’ and sold in the markets. Although Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, under the Ujjwala Gas Yojana, has provided free LPG connections to 7 crore families. Despite this, the cutting of head-load firewood is still not being stopped. The region I come from lies on the border of Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. Earlier, there used to be very dense forests there. Out of those forests Majhgawan, Chithara, Bansa

Pahar, Waramafi, Manikpur, Markundi, Parasmaniya, Narohil today only palash and gulmehendi trees are left.

Through you, I would like to request the Union Government that those who are engaged in cutting head-load firewood should be identified, and they should be provided alternative employment under MGNREGA so that tree-planting work may begin in the forests. By identifying them, the full benefit of forest produce may also be ensured. As long as the cutting of head-load firewood continues to be permitted, the forests will keep depleting in this manner. At present, under the tree-planting programme initiated by Hon. Prime Minister Ji, they should be assigned the work of plantation in every forest area through MGNREGA. This is my humble request.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri R. K. Singh Patel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ganesh Singh.

SHRI PRATAPRAO PATIL CHIKHALIKAR (NANDED): Hon. Speaker Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency Nanded, the repair work of National Highway No. 61 has been progressing very slowly for the last two years. Due to this, traffic on the Barasgaon to Rahati road is disrupted and the public is facing immense difficulties.

Sir, my request to the Government is that the reconstruction work of this road be completed at the earliest and with greater speed.

DR. K.C. PATEL (VALSAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, my Parliamentary Constituency is Valsad. In Valsad and Navsari districts, we have an excellent mango crop. Nearly 20 percent of the country's mangoes are produced in our Gujarat districts of Valsad and Navsari. For the last two years, due to weather conditions, the mango crop has suffered heavy losses. Our farmers are not even able to recover the cost of pesticides and fertilisers. In the year 2015-16, the Government of Hon. Shri Narendra Bhai Modi had given Rs. 12 crore to Valsad district for crop loss, and that amount was deposited directly into the farmers accounts.

Therefore, my humble request to the Government is that a survey be conducted this year as well, and assistance be provided to the farmers of Navsari and Valsad districts for the losses suffered in the mango crop. I have one more request that our mango parks be included under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (HOSHANGABAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, thank you. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the continuously increasing workload in banks and the declining number of employees. Under

the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, digitalisation has expanded rapidly across the country, and accordingly, the burden on banks has also been rising, especially on the State Bank of India, which handles nearly 70 percent of the country's transactions. Through you, I would like to submit before the Government that every service, from pension payments to all financial transactions is now routed through banks due to Digital India. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the situation in the districts of Hoshangabad, Narsinghpur and Raisen in my Parliamentary Constituency, where the number of employees in all banks is steadily decreasing. ATMs are not being replenished regularly. People stand in long queues and, by the time their turn comes, either the server goes down or banking hours are over. Through you, I would like to request the Government to increase the number of employees in banks, considering the growing workload, so that the common man can get proper banking services and the objectives of the Government may also be effectively fulfilled.

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

SHRIMATI REKHA ARUN VERMA (DHAURAHRA): Hon. Speaker Sir, my request is that in district Lakhimpur-Kheri, where

three Assembly segments fall under my Dhaurahra Parliamentary Constituency, the Sharda river flows. Every year, due to the strong current of this river, soil erosion takes place, resulting in many villages losing road connectivity and thousands of acres of crops being destroyed. Similarly, the Gomti river also flows through my Parliamentary Constituency, but it has dried up. If the Sharda river is connected to the Gomti river, the northern region of Lakhimpur can be freed from the problem of floods. At the same time, with water flowing into the Gomti river, relief from drought will also be achieved, and water for ritual use will become available. The significance of the pilgrimage sites along the Gomti river will also increase. I would also like to inform that only 15 kilometres of excavation would be required to connect the Sharda river with the Gomti river from the origin point of the Gomti, Gomti Tal. This is my humble request. Thank you.

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

[English]

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): Sir, I would like to tell you about a serious issue that our farmers are facing in Kerala.

As per the answer given on the floor, last week, to our Hon. Member, Shri Anto Antony, more than 100 people were killed by animal attacks in Kerala. In my constituency, more than 30 people were killed.

Sir, in my constituency, there is more than 300 kilometres of forest boundary and more than 30,000 hectares of farmers' land which is now uncultivable due to frequent elephant attacks. There are so many preventive measures already taken by the Government, like the Project Tiger and the Project Elephant. It also provided funds for the restoration of natural water bodies and food sources within the forest area to minimise the human-animal conflicts.

Sir, I have five suggestions to prevent the animal attacks. Firstly, the large conversion of forest land by the forest department for commercial purpose, including the plantations like eucalyptus, teak etc. should be stopped. It is inducing the animals to go outside the forests.

Secondly, we should erect strong rail fencing. In my opinion, rail fencing is better. The solar fencing which is being used is totally ineffective.

Thirdly, we should give a proper compensation. That means, an effective compensation should be given to the victims.

Sir, I have another valid suggestion. The carrying capacity of forests must be scientifically assessed and steps must be taken to control the number of wild animals. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Cosme Francisco Caitano Sardinha.

Hon. Member, I have given you a chance to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA (SOUTH GOA): Sir, thank you, I have been given an opportunity to speak for the first time. *...(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the first time, you had walked out the last time, I have still given you the opportunity to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI FRANCISCO SARDINHA: Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

Through you, I want to bring to the notice of the Minister of Railways, a very long pending issue which was also raised by my predecessor in the 16th Lok Sabha.

There is one village called Chandor, which is connecting many small towns and villages. There is a railway line passing through

that side. Every now and then, whenever there is a passenger train or goods train crossing the line, the railway junction is closed. On either side, there is a queue of, maybe, 150 metres of cars and two-wheelers. So, I would like to bring to the notice of the Railway Minister to immediately take-up the construction of an over-bridge or an underpass so that people's hardships are brought to an end and they remember this Government forever.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri A.K.P Chinraj – Not Present

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT (RAJAHMUNDRY): Hon. Speaker Sir, I request the Central Government, through you, to provide free educational loans for the students belonging to SC, ST and OBCs. You know that they are all economically poor students. So, economically poor students cannot afford to pay exorbitant tuition fee and other fee for higher technical and medical courses. Therefore, they approach the nationalized banks and cooperative banks for the educational loans for which the banks charge exorbitant rate of interest. Students repay these loans after the completion of their courses, say after five years. The principal amount and interest amount thereon become burdensome. Therefore, I appeal to the Hon. Finance Minister, through this House, to provide free educational loans to the SC, ST, OBCs and economically backward students across the country, so that they can repay in easy instalments without feeling the pinch of interest.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I am calling all Hon. Members who have come to Parliament for the first time and are speaking for the first time. After that, I will give an opportunity to the senior Members.

[English]

SHRI ASIT KUMAR MAL (BOLPUR): Hon. Speaker Sir, I Shri Asit Kumar Mal first-time elected Member of Parliament from 41 Bolpur (SC) constituency. I convey my regards to you and I also convey my sincere love and respect to all the Members of the Parliament. I am highly obliged to you for giving me a chance to say something in Parliament. I would like to draw your kind attention to some problems of Visva-Bharati University at Santiniketan. Visva-Bharati University is one of the famous universities in India. Students come from native country and foreign countries to study here. But it is very unfortunate that Teachers' appointment has been closed for a long time. As a result, students are being deprived of proper education. Besides this, the appointment of non-teaching staff also has also been closed for 19 years. As a result, the laboratory is about to be closed.

My second point is, the admission fee has been increased four times and the price of admission form has been increased two times.

As a result, the poor and meritorious students are facing a great inconvenience.

My last point is, ...(*Interruptions*) this is the first time I am speaking. The Pearson Memorial Hospital was started for the treatment of the students for this University. But Hospital has been closed. At present, there is no doctor and no staff. Students are being deprived of regular and proper treatment. We are very lucky that Hon. Prime Minister is the Chancellor of this University. I would request the Hon. Prime Minister, through you, to please look into the matter personally and solve the problem as early as possible. Thank you Sir.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU (SITAMARHI): Hon. Speaker Sir, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak in this House for the first time. I would also like to express my gratitude to our Hon. Chief Minister Nitish Kumar Ji, to the Hon. Prime Minister, and to the Hon. Home Minister sitting here, whose blessings have enabled me to reach this House. Through you, I would also like to express my gratitude to the people of the entire Sitamarhi district, whose voice I represent today as I stand here and attempt to speak in this august House.

Hon. Speaker Sir, Sitamarhi, located on the Nepal border in Bihar, is the birthplace of Maa Sita, where she is believed to have manifested from the earth.

Sitamarhi is not even an inch lesser in significance than Ayodhya. Through you, my request to the Government is that the Sitamarhi site be accorded the same status as Ayodhya.

Sir, I would like to state that National Highway No. 104, which connects Ayodhya to Sitamarhi, runs from Chakia to Sitamarhi and from Sitamarhi to Sursand, and then onward to Janakpur Dham in Nepal. The condition of this road is extremely dilapidated. On this National Highway No. 104, there is a place called Kumma, where a diversion on the NH has existed for the last 40 years, as I have personally seen. By developing Sitamarhi, we can provide proper facilities to the tourists who come there. For this, railway connectivity is essential. The neighbouring airports at Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur are soon to be operational, and through you, I urge the Government that they be made functional at the earliest. Trains running from Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Raxaul should be extended up to Sitamarhi. Today, the increasing incidents of crime at the birthplace of Maa Sita are also a matter of concern.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sunil Kumar Pintu .

Shri Tirath Singh Rawat ji.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU: Sir, I am speaking for the first time. Kindly give me a little more time.

HON. SPEAKER: You may speak next time.

SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT (GARHWAL): Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour.

Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency, Pauri Garhwal, the National Institute of Technology (NIT) was established in the year 2009. Immediately after its establishment, 930 students applied and classes commenced there. Adjacent to the institute, in the Sumari area, 350 acres of land was made available by the villagers, and this land was registered in the name of NIT. Unfortunately, an incident occurred suddenly due to which the students had to leave. About 625 students were shifted from there to the Jaipur Institute. This created anger and a sense of agitation among the people. Even among those students, a sense of uncertainty regarding their future had arisen, and they too began to apprehend that their future might turn bleak or stand jeopardised. As a result, they were compelled to protest. The students there remain agitated even today, and an atmosphere of uncertainty continues to prevail.

Hon. Sir, the land is available there, the funds are available, and all other requirements are in place. Through you, I would like to request the Government of India and the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to give immediate attention to this matter and initiate the process for establishing the institution without delay. That is my humble submission. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Manjulata Mandal .

Hon. Members, Hon. Member is speaking in the House for the first time.

[English]

SHRIMATI MANJULATA MANDAL (BHADRAK): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am very much thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak in this august on a very important matter.

Sir my Constituency is Bhadrak, Odisha, and I am the first women Member of Parliament from there.

Construction of flyover/bridges at Bhadrak, Ranital, Markona and Bahanaga railway stations should be given priority. Public and passengers are facing a lot of problems because of traffic issues there.

Sir, I would again request the Hon. Railway Minister to give due attention to resolve the above issues relating to my Constituency. Thank you. Jai Odisha.

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL JEE THAKUR (DARBHANGA): Sir, I express my heartfelt gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak in this House for the first time.

Sir, I also convey my sincere thanks to our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, and to the Hon. Home Minister, Shri Amit Shah ji, for giving me the privilege to represent the sacred land of Mithila, the birthplace of Goddess Janki. Hon. Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that the Bihar Government has submitted a proposal to the Government of India for the establishment of an AIIMS on the 200-acre campus of DMCH, Darbhanga. The Government of India constituted a committee to examine the proposal and sought a detailed report. The report has pointed out certain discrepancies, all of which are rectifiable.

Hon. Speaker, this region is extremely backward. The people here face natural calamities such as floods and droughts every year. Through you, Sir, I would like to urge the Government of India to establish an AIIMS at Darbhanga so that the population of 22 districts of North Bihar and 14 districts of Nepal may benefit from it.

Hon. Speaker, the establishment of an AIIMS at Darbhanga will benefit nearly seven crore people, and it will also fulfil the long-standing demand of the Mithila region.

Thank you.

[English]

SHRI UTTAM KUMAR REDDY (NALGONDA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. I wish to convey the severe disappointment of the people of Telangana that the assurances given to the people of Telangana in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act have not been addressed either in the Speech of the President of India or in the Budget presented by the Finance Minister.

There have been specific assurances given to the State of Telangana when the State was created. A Railway Coach Factory was assured at Kazipet; a Steel Plant was assured at Bayyaram; and a Tribal University was assured in the Act. I just wish to bring one thing to the notice of the Government through you. Last year, Rs. 1 crore was sanctioned. Similarly, Rs. 1 crore is sanctioned this year also. Is it possible to establish a new Tribal University with just Rs. 2 crore? So, through you, I appeal to the Government – the Home Minister is here and it comes under their Ministry – that whatever

assurances were given to the State of Telangana at the time of its creation must be honoured. Thank you.

DR. (PROF.) MAHENDRA MUNJAPARA (SURENDRANAGAR): Respected Speaker, Shri Om Birla, Sir, first of all, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on an important issue in Lok Sabha. I am a practicing cardiologist at Wadhwan in Surendranagar. This is my Parliamentary Constituency. My city was previously known as Vardhmanpuri in the name of Lord Mahavir Swami who was the founder of Jain Sampradaya. Lord Mahavir Swami is known for non-violence. He stayed at my city while going to Palitana which is known for many Jain Temples.

Today, I speak here for our beloved defence personnel – Home Guards, State Police Force, SRPF, CRPF, BSF, Army, Air Force and Navy. We have been facing problems from some of our neighbouring countries for the last so many years. They are, both, notorious and anti-social in nature. They support and sponsor terrorist attacks as well as Naxalite attacks in some parts of our country. This anti-social activity may sometimes cause partial disability or permanent disability or death of our defence personnel. Recently, after the completion of General Elections, in my Constituency, I visited two young *shaheed* soldiers' families. Both

the families are not in a good socio-economic condition. Both the families were dependent on *shaheed* soldiers' income.

Therefore, today, as a responsible Indian citizen, I would like to discuss about something which is beneficial for their family members. In India we have so many bank accounts either in the PSU banks or private banks. I propose to the Government to deduct only Rs. 1 from each and every account whether it is a savings account or a current account at the end of every financial year. The amount so collected can be used to support the family members of the *shaheed* soldiers. This amount can be distributed, in an appropriate manner, according to morbidity and mortality of our defence personnel. This amount should be given in instalments to the family members of these martyrs so that their children can get better education and better lifestyle.

13.00 hrs

I would like to request the Hon. Speaker to discuss this topic on the floor of Lok Sabha. This may encourage more young people to join the Defence brigade.

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, at the outset, I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue pertaining to my constituency in the House. Through you, I would

like to draw the attention of the Government as well as the Hon. Minister to this issue.

As we all know, Bolangir belonged to the category of ‘KBK districts’ when it existed. It is a perennially drought-prone area. It is a backward area with less than three percent irrigation. We have the problem of mass migration. There is lack of infrastructure in every possible way.

My request to you is this. Patnagarh is one of the oldest sub-divisions in my Parliamentary constituency which comprises of three blocks and a Notified Area Council. It has a population of 3,57,762, out of which 47 percent of the population belongs to the Scheduled Caste and the Scheduled Tribe category according to the 2011 Census. A very high percentage of the population lives below the poverty line. Despite the fact that since 2018, Bolangir has been included in the Aspirational Districts Programme, this sub-division has only one Government-aided school which makes it very difficult to cater to the demands of the large populace. The poor people of this area are facing immense difficulty to provide quality education to their children for lack of opportunity and resources.

Through your good offices, I would request the Hon. HRD Minister to kindly consider the demand for establishment of a

Kendriya Vidyalaya in Patnagarh in Bolangir Parliamentary constituency.

Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members whose Zero Hour matters were selected through the lottery but who could not get an opportunity to speak due to any reason shall certainly be given an opportunity to speak. As soon as the House has time available, arrangements will be made for them to speak.

Our Parliamentary Affairs Minister and the Government also wish that all Hon. Members may speak. Everyone shall be given adequate opportunity to speak in this House.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till Fourteen of the Clock.

13.03 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned for Lunch till
Fourteen of the Clock.

———————

14.00 hrs

The Lok Sabha reassembled after lunch at One Minute past Fourteen of the Clock

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE -377*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today I am taking up matters under Rule 377. I request all Hon. Members, and I have also called the leaders of all parties and told them, that in the sittings of Parliament we shall now endeavour to ensure that the maximum possible time is given for Rule 377 so that Members may read out the statements they bring in writing, and the maximum number of new Members may place their matters before the House.

Today, due to the Budget discussion, I request all of you to place the matters admissible under Rule 377 on the Table of the House. Kindly place them on the Table of the House within 20 minutes.

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Regarding supply of surplus water from Tikri Minor canal of Suryu Nahar Pariyojana - Phase II to Aranga reservoir in Gonda Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI KIRTI VARDHAN SINGH (GONDA): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that in my Parliamentary Constituency, Gonda, there are three ancient natural reservoirs named Aranga, Parvati and Kodar. These reservoirs are interconnected through channels and together cover an area of about 6-7 thousand acres. Owing to these reservoirs, the groundwater level in that region used to remain stable, enabling thousands of farmers to irrigate their fields.

For the past several years, due to consistently low rainfall, these reservoirs are on the verge of drying up, resulting in a sharp decline in the groundwater level across thousands of acres. Consequently, farmers are facing severe problems in irrigation.

Sir, Tikri Minor canal of Suryu Nahar Pariyojana - Phase II, is situated around 200 metres away from the Aranga reservoir. If the surplus water of this canal is released into the Aranga lake, the water level in all three reservoirs would remain stable to some extent, thereby providing substantial relief to farmers in irrigating their fields.

(ii) Need to make Mahisagar River in Anand, Gujarat, pollution free

SHRI MITESH RAMESHBHAI PATEL (BAKABHAI) (ANAND): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the need for cleaning the polluted Mahisagar river located in my Parliamentary Constituency, Anand. This river, associated with ancient legends, is regarded as sacred, and people from our district as well as surrounding areas consider it a blessing to come from afar to bathe in it. Owing to religious sentiments, people are compelled to bathe in its polluted waters. Our Government is working with great dedication to clean the rivers of the country, yet all rivers have not been cleaned so far. One of them is the Mahisagar river of my region. As a result, the people living nearby are unable to obtain clean water. Due to this, the residents around the river are facing difficulties and there is growing public resentment. In my view, before this public resentment assumes a serious form, the cleaning of the Mahisagar river must begin without delay.

Therefore, in view of the prevalent public discontent, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Jal Shakti to kindly ensure that the cleaning of the Mahisagar river located in my Parliamentary Constituency is undertaken immediately, with high priority, so that the public resentment may be resolved and people may receive clean water.

(iii) Regarding setting up of Trauma Centre level-I at Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital attached with Kanpur Medical College, Uttar Pradesh

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE' (AKBARPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the G.S.V.M. Medical College, Kanpur Division, situated in my Parliamentary Constituency, Akbarpur, Uttar Pradesh. Eight districts (Kanpur Nagar, Kanpur Dehat, Farrukhabad, Kannauj, Etawah and Auraiya) fall under its jurisdiction. Besides these districts, patients from other adjoining and distant districts (Fatehpur, Jhansi, Mahoba, Unnao, Hardoi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Banda and Hamirpur) also come here for treatment.

A very large number of accident-related trauma patients come to Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital, which is affiliated with the Medical College, Kanpur. Since there is no Trauma Centre in more than fifteen districts surrounding Kanpur, all such patients are referred to G.S.V.M. Medical College. At present, a Level-2 Trauma Centre is being run along with the Emergency Department in the Medical College. However, due to the overwhelming number of patients, it has now become insufficient, and since there is no land available around the existing Trauma Centre, its expansion is not possible.

Level-1 Trauma Centre is not available in Kanpur, and the Trauma Centre located in Lucknow is at a distance of more than 100 kilometres. For the new Trauma Centre in the Medical College, Kanpur, the land identified is situated on GT Road. Kanpur Nagar is connected through six highways (GT Road NH 2), Agra Highway and the Kalpi-Jhansi Kanpur Road. Every day, patients injured in various road accidents come here for treatment. Neurosurgery Department and Cardiothoracic Department have already been established under the Medical College, and medical teachers have also been posted therein. The services of these super-speciality medical teachers can be utilised not only for academic purposes but also for the functioning of the Level-1 Trauma Centre, which would be difficult to ensure in other hospitals.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana, if a Level-1 Trauma Centre is established on the GT Road land available adjacent to the proposed Super Speciality Centre, it will prove to be highly beneficial for the people of this entire region. Moreover, once the Super Speciality Centre becomes operational, patients will be able to access all medical facilities at one single location.

Therefore, I would like to request that, keeping in view the above points and in the public interest, kindly ensure the establishment of a Level-1 Trauma Centre on the GT Road premises of Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital affiliated with the Medical College, Kanpur.

(iv) Need to declare Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project as project of national importance

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA (TONK-SAWAI MADHOPUR): The Bisalpur Dam has been constructed on the Banas river in Deoli Tehsil of Tonk district. The construction was completed in the year 1999 and the reservoir was filled to its full capacity for the first time in 2004.

At present, for several years, the inflow of water into the Bisalpur Dam has been decreasing. During the past 15 years, the dam has been filled to its full capacity only 4 times, that is, in 2004, 2006, 2014 and 2016. In the year 2010, the dam had almost completely dried up. In addition to this, the overflow water of the Bisalpur Dam has already been accounted for in the hydrology of the under-construction Isarda Dam located downstream of the Bisalpur Dam. In view of these circumstances, it is not possible to divert the overflow water of Bisalpur Dam into the Tordi Sagar.

According to the demand of the displaced families of the region and the public representatives, it has been proposed that under the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project, through which water from the State's rivers such as the Kalisindh and Chambal is to be supplied to the reservoirs of 13 districts (Jhalawar, Baran, Kota, Bundi, Tonk, Sawai Madhopur, Ajmer, Jaipur, Dausa, Dholpur, Karauli,

Alwar and Bharatpur), water should also be conveyed to the Tordi Sagar and Manshi Dams. The DPR of the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project, estimated to cost about Rs.40,451 crore, had already been submitted to the Central Water Commission, New Delhi, for the required approval during the tenure of the then BJP Government of the State. The project is proposed to be completed in 3 phases over a period of about 7 years.

The north-eastern component of the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project is an extremely important, life-sustaining project for the farmers of Tonk and Sawai Madhopur, as well as for the farmers of the other 11 districts. The Government of Rajasthan has also requested the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation to accord national status to this project.

(v) Need to set up Kendriya Vidyalayas in Santhal Pargana Region

[English]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Jharkhand is having two major regions, Santhal Pargana and Chhota Nagpur. No doubt, the spread of Naxalism is an indication of the sense of desperation and alienation that is sweeping over large sections of Jharkhand's Santhal Pargana region, which has been not only systematically marginalized but also cruelly exploited and dispossessed in its homeland. Keeping the socio-economic problem being faced by Santhal Pargana in mind where agriculture is only the main source of income, we see an urgent need of comprehensive plan of action where special emphasis on good and equal opportunity of employment and friendly educational system is needed to be given utmost importance.

Santhal Pargana districts Deoghar, Godda, Jamtara, Pakur, Sahibganj and Dumka count amongst the socially, educationally and economically backward districts of the country. A look at the statistics of health, literacy, education, income, etc, gives an appalling picture of the poor state of the people.

Jharkhand is a rich state of poor people. It possesses 40% of India's mineral resources, but the access to resources has made little

difference to the lives of ordinary people. Poverty and ignorance are still causes for low literacy rates, poor school attendance and large-scale drop outs.

I, therefore, draw the attention of the Government towards the need to set up three Kendriya Vidyalayas. An ideal location would be JARMUNDI (DUMKA), Deoghar and Mahagama (Godda) in the SANTHAL PARGANA Region. These locations are ideally suited for the purpose.

(vi) Need to expedite construction of Majhgay dam project in Madhya Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI VISHNU DUTT SHARMA (KHAJURAHO): There is a grave problem of drinking water and irrigation water in my Parliamentary Constituency, Khajuraho, and in the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh. The principal reason is the non-completion of the Majhgay Project. Under this project, a one-kilometre canal is to bring water from the Bariharpur Dam, constructed on the Ken river, into the Majhgay Dam. Although the land in question belongs to Madhya Pradesh and falls within my Parliamentary Constituency, administrative control lies with the Government of Uttar Pradesh, which has not granted approval. Furthermore, although the Ken river belongs to Madhya Pradesh, its waters are being fully utilised by Uttar Pradesh through the Rangawan and Bariharpur dams. If approval for this one-kilometre canal is granted, water will reach the Majhgay Dam, directly benefiting the people of hundreds of villages in Panna and other areas of my constituency by providing drinking water and irrigation. Thousands of acres of land will become irrigated, thereby assisting farmers in cultivation and improving their livelihood.

Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister to ensure that approval for the one-kilometre linking canal required for lifting water into the Majhgay Dam is obtained from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, and that the project is completed at the earliest so that the people of my region may receive its benefits.

(vii) Regarding delimitation of Assembly constituencies in Jammu & Kashmir

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): Under the Constitution of the State of Jammu and Kashmir, the delimitation of Legislative Assembly seats is required to be conducted every ten years. However, after 1995, the said delimitation was halted from 2002 to 2026 by an amendment to the Jammu and Kashmir Representation of the People Act, 1957, carried out by the then Chief Minister, Farooq Abdullah. As a result, delimitation has not taken place for nearly 24 years.

It is noteworthy that the Legislative Assembly of Jammu and Kashmir comprises a total of 111 seats. Elections, however, are held for only 87 seats. 24 seats are kept vacant for Pakistan-occupied Kashmir in accordance with Article 47 of the State Constitution. Moreover, although only 15.37 percent of the State's total area, namely the Valley, elects 46 Members, and although 11 percent of the Valley's population comprises Gujjar, Bakerwal and Gaddi tribes, not a single seat in the Valley is reserved for them. Hence, a new delimitation would not only ensure proper representation but would also have an impact on social balance.

I would like to urge the Union Government to amend the order of the then Government and ensure that a new delimitation is carried out and implemented prior to the forthcoming Legislative Assembly elections in Jammu and Kashmir.

(viii) Regarding appointments on compassionate ground

SHRI SATYADEV PACHAURI (KANPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to certain anomalies in the appointments made on compassionate grounds under the existing scheme of the Government of India. Under this scheme, if a Union Government employee dies unexpectedly during service, one member of the deceased employee's family is to be appointed for subsistence on compassionate grounds. For this purpose, a five percent quota for recruitment of dependants of deceased employees has been prescribed.

This provision has been in place since 1998. In the present context, however, it is becoming increasingly impractical and has proved unsuccessful in fulfilling its intended objectives, as appointments under the compassionate quota are not taking place, and the number of pending cases continues to rise with each passing day.

Therefore, I would lik to request that, in place of the existing five Percent quota for recruitment of dependants of deceased employees on compassionate grounds, the dependant of the deceased be mandatorily appointed within three months of the death of the employee.

(ix) Need to start flight services from Gondia Airport under UDAN Scheme

SHRI SUNIL BABURAO MENDHE (BHANDARA-GONDIA): The Gondia Airport was completed 9 years ago. It has a runway of 2290 metres and a fully developed terminal equipped with all passenger facilities, and it is capable of handling Airbus 320 aircraft. However, not a single commercial flight has commenced from this airport during the past nine years. Consequently, the people of Gondia, Aamgaon, Balaghat, Lanji, Bhandara, Dongargarh and Gadchiroli in the surrounding region continue to face inconvenience. Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation that, under the Union Government's UDAN scheme, regional connectivity be operationalised and at least 1-2 flights be commenced from this airport so that the people of the region may receive the intended benefit.

(x) Need to expedite electrification of Itarasi - Allahabad railway route

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): The Itarsi-Allahabad electrification project is an important undertaking. In 2014, under the leadership of Hon. Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Government allocated adequate funds for this project, as a result of which the electrification of the track from Itarsi to Katni has been completed within merely 4 years and train operations on this electrified section have already commenced.

The work on the Katni to Satna section and further beyond is still pending. Due to this, power reversal of trains has to be carried out at Katni Junction, resulting in considerable loss of time. Once this entire track is completed, not only will the punctuality of train services improve, but the Railways will also gain additional revenue.

Therefore, I would like to request to the Union Government to take the necessary steps to ensure that the remaining works under the Itarsi-Allahabad electrification project are completed within the prescribed timeframe.

(xi) Need to include Bhojpuri language in Eighth Schedule to the constitution

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ): We are all aware of the importance and indispensability of language as a medium of expression. It is for this reason that individuals everywhere strive for the development, promotion, dissemination and recognition of the languages spoken in their respective regions. Our country is home to numerous languages, and among these is the ancient language Bhojpuri. This language is spoken and understood by crores of people across several countries of the world and in many States within India. Despite being so ancient and spoken across a vast geographical expanse by such a large population, Bhojpuri has not yet been included in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution. For a very long time, numerous organisations and representatives have raised their voices, both within Parliament and outside, demanding its inclusion. Successive Governments in the past have repeatedly assured that the necessary steps would be taken soon for its inclusion in the Eighth Schedule. However, despite these assurances, Bhojpuri has still not been incorporated into the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Union Government to take expeditious steps to include Bhojpuri in the Eighth Schedule of the Constitution, so that the sentiments and faith of the crores of people who speak this language may be duly respected.

(xii) Regarding providing corpus fund for the creation of an SC/ST bank

[English]

DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJIBHAI SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD WEST): This Government has taken several steps to ensure the welfare of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in India. The Stand Up India Scheme allows SC/ST and women entrepreneurs to avail loans in the range of Rs.10 lath and I crore for setting up a new enterprise. Until 2016, the total number of entrepreneurs that have benefitted was 21,735 and the total amount sanctioned was Rs.4747.95 crore. Furthermore, the Ministry of MSME has launched an SC/ST Hub to provide professional support to SC/ST entrepreneurs and the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has created a Venture Capital Fund to promote entrepreneurship amongst the SC population, with a special focus on women. To supplement these efforts, I would like to request the Government to provide a corpus fund for the creation of an SC/ST Bank for Entrepreneurship Development amounting to Rs.10,000 crores.

(xiii) Need to provide rail link between Meerut and Panipat

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon. Speaker, Sir, Meerut, in Western Uttar Pradesh, and Panipat, in Haryana, are extremely important commercial and economic centres. However, no rail connectivity presently exists between Meerut and Panipat. Meerut is a major centre for handloom, sports goods, lighting equipment, gold jewellery manufacturing, as well as for the production of jaggery and sugar. Recognising the importance of connecting Meerut with a significant city like Panipat by rail, the Union Government had allocated Rs. 300 crore in the Railway Budget of 2017 for undertaking a survey. Rail connectivity between these two cities will accelerate the development not only of Meerut but also of Muzaffarnagar, Baghpat and Shamli in Uttar Pradesh, and Panipat and adjoining areas in Haryana.

Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government that the Ministry may kindly commence, at the earliest, the construction of the railway line between Meerut and Panipat.

(xiv) Need to declare Gandhi Ashram in Vaishali district, Bihar as National Heritage

SHRI AJAY NISHAD (MUZAFFARPUR): At a short distance from Hajipur Railway Station in Vaishali district stands the historic Gandhi Ashram, where Mahatma Gandhi used to visit during the days of the freedom movement. The Gandhi Ashram preserves within its precincts several historic moments associated with the freedom struggle and with the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi. Many memories of Bapu are linked to this Ashram. During the freedom movement, it served as a focal point of activities for numerous freedom fighters of Bihar. It was the place of work for great freedom fighters such as Jubba Sahni, Yogendra Shukla, Baikunth Shukla and Deep Babu. Today, this Gandhi Ashram suffers from governmental neglect, and both its movable and immovable properties have been encroached upon illegally. There is an urgent need to free the Ashram from the clutches of these encroachers.

I would like to request the Union Government to declare this Gandhi Ashram a national heritage site and to construct memorials in honour of Jubba Sahni, Yogendra Shukla, Baikunth Shukla and other freedom fighters.

(xv)Need to fill up backlog vacancies meant for SCs/STs in Central Government offices and Departments

SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE (MOHANLALGANJ): I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to a matter of great importance. A large number of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes are lying vacant in Central Government departments, semi-government organisations and State-level government departments. The non-filling of these backlog vacancies has created a sense of disappointment among members of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities. Many meritorious youths belonging to these communities remain unemployed and are compelled to idle away their time. If these vacant backlog posts are filled by eligible candidates from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities, lakhs of families will receive employment, and it will also send a positive message regarding the Government's commitment and sympathy towards these sections of society.

Therefore, I would like to urge that the Union Government, as well as the State Governments and all government and semi-government departments, be directed to immediately fill the

backlog vacancies reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

(xvi) Need to ensure Minimum wages Act is applicable to Tea Garden workers

[English]

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): In North Bengal — Darjeeling, Alipurduars, Jalpaiguri and Cooch Behar are dominated by Tea plantations, but the workers here are deprived of their basic wages. They are paid only Rs 176 per day, which is the lowest wage paid in the nation.

Minimum Wages Act is applicable across all sectors in Bengal, except in tea gardens. Despite being a highly skilled job, their salary is lower than the minimum wage for unskilled agricultural workers in the state.

Tea gardens are governed by the Plantation Labour Act of 1951, directly derived from the British feudal system that favours tea garden owners and denies Land Rights to workers. The owners can shutdown and reopen tea gardens without any accountability towards the workers.

Hence, I request this august house to make comprehensive changes to the PLA Act to reflect the realities of New India and ensure Minimum Wages Act is applied to tea gardens too.

(xvii) Regarding wild animals menace

ADV. DEAN KURIAKOSE (IDUKKI): The farmers of Idukki are facing destruction of crops caused by the wild animals. It has also been found in recent years that wild boar population is rising. Five people were killed this year due to the attack of wild elephants and twenty persons were injured. The total loss is estimated to be Rs.25 crore.

This is because of non-availability of food for wild animals within forest. Forests are being used for non-forest activities like teak and eucalyptus plantations, resulting in reduced food availability. The Forest Department should be responsible for keeping wild animals within the forest. If farmers are at a loss, they must be fully compensated for that loss within 48 hours. There must be adequate insurance coverage to cover for death. I urge upon the government to take necessary steps to prevent the attack of wild animals and adequate insurance coverage should be provided to the injured.

(xviii) Regarding implementation of POCSO Act

SHRI BENNY BEHANAN (CHALAKUDY): The POCSO Act, which provides for death penalty for aggravated sexual assault on children, making it gender neutral and introducing provisions against child pornography and for enhancing punishment for certain offences is aimed at discouraging the trend of child sexual abuse by acting as a deterrent. There is increasing concern in Kerala, that despite its special focus on children and specific child-friendly provisions, too many cases are piling up, and thousands are pending. All cases registered under POCSO Act in Kerala do not end up in convicting accused. Therefore, I request the government to take stringent measures to deter the rising trend of child sex abuse in the country by ensuring fair trial and make sure that all the pending cases specially in Kerala are disposed off urgently .

(xix) Regarding funds for AMU Kishanganj Campus, Bihar

DR. MOHAMMAD JAWED (KISHANGANJ): I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that an amount of Rs.137 crore was sanctioned for Aligarh, Muslim University, Kishanganj Campus, Bihar by UPA government, and till date only Rs.10 crore has been released. I, therefore, request that more funds are to be immediately released and more courses may be introduced. Further, entrance for various courses should have centres in Kishanganj, Bihar.

(xx) Need to provide better rail connectivity to Namakkal in Tamil Nadu

SHRI A. K. P. CHINRAJ (NAMAKKAL): My Namakkal parliamentary constituency is famous for poultry business and truck body building industry Namakkal district is considered as a major trucks hub in the country and it alone has about 110 units. The Namakkal-Tiruchengode belt accounts for over 150 of the units. A lot of raw materials like steel, timber and other materials come to Namakkal from various parts of the country and lot of food items and other essential things come from various parts of the country to meet the demands and shortages of the poultry industry.

At present, one weekly train Tuticorin to Okha express is running from Tuticorin via Karur-Erode-Salem. I request the Hon'ble Minister to divert this train route via Karur- Namakkal-Salem (instead of Erode) which will be more useful for the poultry industry and truck body building industry. Likewise, Nagarkoil to Mumbai express (No. 16339/16340) is running from Karur-Erode-Salem 04 days in a week. This train is also to be diverted via Namakkal (instead of Erode), so that the textile industry, poultry industry and truck body building industry will be benefitted and be developed. Further, a daytime intercity express may be introduced

from Karur-Namakkal-Salem-Chennai and vice versa for the convenience of the officer goers, businessmen. In addition to that, a full-fledged infrastructure facilities along with Escalator and Lift facilities may be provided in Namakkal Railway Station.

Hence, I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Railways to 'take necessary action immediately to fulfill the long pending demands of my Namakkal constituency people.

(xxi) Regarding transfer of Government assets to private hands

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM): The civil aviation sector in the country is in doldrums with the government refusing to intervene in the sector. The Jet Airways has been closed throwing twenty thousand employees out of work. It has now been referred to the National Company Law Tribunal, which may take a lot of time to resolve the problems. The government has stated that it intends to disinvest Air India, thus ending the government presence in the airlines sector. Three airports belonging to the Airport Authority of India are being leased out to the Adani group thus transferring government assets to private hands. I oppose the government's efforts to privatize the airline sector and also the government airports.

(xxii) Regarding varikapudisala Lift Irrigation Project in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI LAVU SRI KRISHNA DEVARAYALU (NARASARAOPET): The country gradually acknowledges the acute water crisis affecting our major cities and towns in recent weeks. But today I will highlight a historically prevalent and perennial drought that has plagued the plateaus of Palnadu in Andhra Pradesh.

It was in 1952 that this region, eternally challenged by hilly terrain and high temperatures, was declared drought prone. The same year, the Varikapudisala Lift Irrigation Scheme was deemed most essential to resolve the shortage of drinking and irrigation water in Guntur district, particularly in the mandals of Karampudi, Durgi, Veldurthi, Bollapally and Pullelacheruvu.

I regret to inform you that 67 years later, the scheme is yet to see the light of the day. In 2008, the then Chief Minister of United Andhra Pradesh had made herculean efforts for the scheme, beginning at Gangalakunta. However, successive State Governments had pulled the plug on the visionary idea. As a result, more than 4,50,000 people have been reeling under distress without drinking water. Hence, 1,20,000 acres of land remain uncultivated.

This summer, almost 30 lakes and other water streams dried up. The Water level in the Nagarjuna Sagar Project has seriously depleted. Borewells were dug to a depth of 1200 feet to but to no avail.

The people of Palnadu Region need full support of the Central Government to help lift Krishna River water to a mammoth height of 80 to 100 feet and impound it into the Vajralapadu lake. I request the Ministry of Jal Shakti to help harness this water resource by way of Jal Shakti Abhiyans with much needed Central funding.

The lake water is to be supplied to over 90 villages by a main pipeline of 7.5km running through 10 acres of forest land, but the acquisition of forest land has been a bone of contention in the region. I request the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to coordinate with the State Forest Department for clearance and certification to realize the Varikapudisala Lift Irrigation Project.

(xxiii) Regarding setting up of Post Office Passport Seva Kendra at Dombivali in Maharashtra

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Former Minister of External Affairs, in June 2017 had sanctioned a POPSK in my Constituency. After a lot of deliberation, it was found that the Post Office at MDC, Dombivali (E) would be the most suitable location for the opening of this POPSK. However, this post-office had only 200 Sq. Ft. of constructed space in place of 300 Sq. Ft. (as required under MSR) while several Sq. Ft. of space (about 1000 Sq. Ft.) is left open and unconstructed in the same premises. Moreover, this was the only post office in Dombivali which is functioning from the department building. Despite several follow ups, I couldn't get an amicable solution. I request the Hon'ble Minister of Communications to kindly permit construction of 500 sq. ft. structure at the said premises by using my MPLAD Fund and facilitate the opening of this POPSK at the earliest.

(xxiv) Regarding gauge conversion of railway lines between Banmankhi and Bihariganj in Bihar

[Translation]

SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV (MADHEPURA): Under the East Central Railway in the State of Bihar, the gauge conversion work on the Banmankhi-Bihariganj railway line, covering 28 kilometres, was sanctioned in the financial year 2014-15. A block for undertaking this construction work was imposed from 31 January 2016. The construction of the 16 kilometre stretch from Banmankhi to Barhara Kothi has been completed and train services have commenced on that section. However, the remaining 12 kilometre stretch from Barhara Kothi to Bihariganj is still incomplete. The construction of two bridges along this section is also progressing at a very slow pace**.** Completion of the gauge conversion up to Bihariganj will not only benefit Bihariganj as a major commercial centre but will also provide railway facilities to the entire sub-division.

I would like to request that the remaining gauge conversion work on the Banmankhi-Bihariganj section, covering the 12 kilometres from Barhara Kothi to Bihariganj, be completed at the earliest.

(xxv) Regarding setting up of Red Gram Board in Tandur region of Telangana

[English]

DR. G. RANJITH REDDY (CHEVELLA): Red Gram is the most important pulse in the country and its ability to produce high economic yields even if there is soil moisture deficit makes it vital crop in rainfed and dryland agriculture. With rich source of 23% protein, vitamins and minerals, Redgrarn has become an indispensable part of Indian meal and is also used as feed and fuel.

Redgram is grown in 2.25 lakh hectares in Telangana and is lifeline for the dryland farming community in Ranga Reddy district. With market preference for ‘Tandur Tur Dal’ and consistent demand for this particular ‘brand’ of Tur Dal in commodity markets, farmers are getting good price. Secondly, demand for Tandur Tur Dal is due to its unique taste, better cooking quality and enhanced keeping quality of cooked dal helps it to get even the GI tag.

Farmers, scientists, traders and public representatives have been requesting for setting up of Red Gram Board in Tandur as:

> its productivity in Tandur is 758 kg/ha — far higher than national average of *655* kg/ha.

> has immense potential for export. Tandur region is the biggest market for Redgram.

> getting support from Prof. Jayashankar Telangana State Agriculture University and from ICRISAT which has a mandate to conduct research on Redgram.

> helps in timely support to small and marginal farmers with credit, inputs, etc. and availability of processing plants.

In view of the above, I request Government of India to set up Redgram Board in Tandur at an early date.

(xxvi) Regarding providing financial assistance to farmers who were hard hit by cyclone Gaja

SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPATTINAM): In my Constituency, Nagapttinam, Thiruvarur, Thiruthuraipoondi, Muthupettai, etc., are yet to recover from cyclone Gaja. I would like to draw the attention to the Union Government to release more funds in the upcoming budget for the purpose. The Cavery water has not yet been released to Tamil Nadu so the farmers are suffering.

In fact, cyclone Gaja severely affected the crops, uprooted lakhs of coconut trees, teak trees, banana trees, destroyed the houses, killed people, displayed boats, uprooted thousands of electrical posts, cell phone towers, transformers etc. People faced untold suffering after the Cyclone Gaja wiped out everything from their houses. On the one hand the Cyclone destroyed the poor. On the other hand, it has made the rich and middle class poor overnight. Farmers are yet to receive funds from the government. The Central Government released a meagre amount which is not at all sufficient in comparison to the damages ravaged by Cyclone Gaja.

Hence, I request the Union Government to kindly provide the fund to the farmers immediately.

(xxvii) Need to put in place safety measures for Kollam bypass in Kerala

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): The Kollam bypass was commissioned on 15th January 2019. Required safety measures were not provided in the bypass. The bypass has become an accident prone area, 54 Accidents were reported within 5 months, 7 persons died and more than 100 including pedestrians sustained injury. 57 by-roads are connected to the 13 kilometer bypass. The development of bypass with service road and development of junction are necessary for avoiding accidents. If the safety measure are not provided the entire bypass will become a black spot. Land is available for development of bypass. Speed control is also required.

Hence, I urge upon the Government to initiate urgent action for providing safety measures in Kollam bypass and impose speed restriction as immediate solution and develop the Kollam bypass into four lane road with service road.

(xxviii) Need to establish a Tourism University in Parasnath Hills in Giridih Parliamentary Constituency and promote tourism in the region

[Translation]

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH CHOUDHARY (GIRIDIH): Parasnath (Madhuban), situated in Giridih district of Jharkhand, is a renowned and sacred place for the followers of the Jain faith. The Parasnath Hill is a heritage of our nation that connects modern India with its ancient civilisation. For the Jain community, Parasnath is not only the most significant pilgrimage site but is also an invaluable heritage linking India with the wider world. Due to the absence of proper circumambulation paths around Shikharji and the lack of other tourist facilities, Jain pilgrims coming from across the country and abroad face considerable difficulties in performing the parikrama and in offering prayers. There is a pressing need to develop this area as an attractive tourist destination.

In view of the longstanding demand of the local people, particularly the Jain community, and considering its religious importance, I would like to request that the Parasnath Hill be developed as a tourist destination and that a tourism university also be established there.

14.03 hrs

UNION BUDGET (2019-20)-GENERAL DISCUSSION ...

Contd.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Virendra Singh ji.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (BALLIA): Hon. Speaker, under the leadership of Narendra Bhai Modi, the Government formed for the second time has presented a budget that is as indigenous in spirit as swadeshi itself. I salute the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Finance Minister for presenting this budget.

Hon. Speaker, a crisis of trust had emerged in the political sphere, and for the first time this budget has made the nation realise that the Government of Narendra Bhai Modi is working to dispel this crisis of trust. When the Government was formed for the first time in 2014, the Hon. Prime Minister bowed before Parliament and resolved that this Government would be dedicated to the village, the poor, the farmer and the soldiers of our nation. During its five-year tenure, this Government instilled confidence in the hearts of the poor living in our villages. Earlier, the poor had to struggle even for a toilet. Today, when a poor family sees a toilet in front of their home, they feel that there is indeed a Government that cares for them and provides such basic amenities at their doorstep.

During the freedom movement, when the nation was fighting for independence under the leadership of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, and as the moment of independence approached, Gandhi ji reminded those engaged in the struggle that a truly free nation is one that is clean, healthy and self-reliant. In pursuit of this vision, Narendra Bhai Modi has worked with dedication. I bow to the sacred soil of Gujarat. Outside parliamentary politics, Gujarat gave the world Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, and no leader of his stature has emerged since. Within parliamentary politics, that same land has given us Narendra Bhai Modi, and no leader of comparable stature has arisen in parliamentary life either. I say this even while acknowledging the contributions of Indira Gandhi. Sardar Patel, however, was not allowed by some people to attain his due place. Please do not interrupt. ...*(Interruptions)* I have only just begun my remarks, and yet disturbances have already started. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, I shall address my remarks through you. Kindly also advise them not to speak directly in front of me. Confidence has been instilled in the minds of the poor. How did the crisis of trust in politics arise? A crisis of trust emerged in the parliamentary politics of our country because some would say one thing, do another, and something entirely different would be seen in reality. For the first time, confidence has arisen in the hearts of the farmers

of India. There is now a Government that does what it says, and what becomes visible is reflected in the outcome of the year 2019. We are justified in stating this. In parliamentary politics, opposing the Government is the strongest foundation of democracy. Democracy is strengthened only when there is a strong Opposition. However, the unfortunate reality today is that even the strength to oppose has diminished. It appears that we may ourselves have to nurture and create such strength.

Hon. Speaker, confidence has been restored in the minds of our farmers. Under the leadership of Narendra Bhai Modi, Parliament has enacted legislation to ensure remunerative prices for agricultural produce. For the first time, a Government in India has resolved to provide Rs. 6,000 annually to farmers directly into their bank accounts. Some say that this amount is inadequate, yet those who never extended even six paise to farmers are the very ones making such claims. The assessment must be properly understood. If, in the land records, one bigha of land, or even a kattha or biswa, stands in the names of ten brothers, then each of those ten brothers will receive Rs. 6,000. Adhir ji, you ought to appreciate what the analysis truly reflects. The fact is that if a landless farmer has, through his own hard labour, managed to purchase even one biswa of land, and he has six brothers, then his household will receive Rs. 36,000 annually. This is the correct analysis. You may calculate it

as fifteen rupees per day in wages, but I am a farmer myself, and I understand these realities. This is the first Government that has announced a subsidy for the farmers of India on manure prepared from cow dung. I would like to appeal to all Hon. Members that, since the Union Government has implemented this provision, they should ensure that it becomes truly beneficial in their respective Parliamentary Constituencies. Let there be no division when it comes to the cause of the farmer. This nation belongs to its farmers; it is an agrarian nation. Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar had said that the highest duty of a human being is to work for the welfare and assistance of others, for such conduct builds a prosperous nation. A farmer does not merely sustain himself; he feeds others as well. When movements in European countries declared that those who earn shall eat and those who loot shall be removed, India's own movement declared that we not only eat, we also feed others, and those who loot must indeed leave.

Hon. Speaker, the region I represent is one from which I earlier served three terms as a Member of Parliament from Bhadohi, and now, at the direction of my party, I represent Ballia. Hon. Mulayam Singh ji is present in the House; he knows Ballia well. It is the Parliamentary Constituency of former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar ji, and I have had the privilege of being elected from there this time. It is also the land of my birth. The village of Lok Nayak

Jay Prakash Narayan lies adjacent to mine. Ballia is a land of historic distinction. While the nation attained independence in 1947, my Ballia had risen in revolt and achieved freedom in 1942 itself. The farmers and labourers residing in its villages made profound sacrifices in the 1942 freedom movement for the independence of our country.

14.10 hrs (Shri A. Raja *in the Chair*)

Even today, the level of awareness, particularly political awareness, in that region is evident. My village and that of Jay Prakash Narayan ji are one and the same. Hon. Mulayam Singh ji has visited the area. The Hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs has also been there, as have many others. During his padyatra, Chandra Shekhar ji had envisioned the challenges ahead and had foreseen the grave issue of drinking water. He had said that it appeared that, in the future, wars might be fought over water. If anyone has truly understood this looming difficulty at the earliest, it is the Hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Bhai Modi. For the first time, the Union Government has accorded top priority to the task of water conservation. For three consecutive terms, I served as the Member of Parliament from Bhadohi. The 67-kilometre Morwa river had completely dried up. By working along its basin, through

voluntary labour contributed by myself and the officials, we were able to restore the flow of water. Even today, one can see water there to a depth of five feet. I also had ponds excavated in that region. The water contains pollution and arsenic, but if all Members in their respective constituencies take steps to excavate ponds and revive natural water channels, no water body will remain polluted. If the riverbeds are properly desilted and dug down to the sandy layer, water naturally rises again. I have witnessed this in practical application.

Hon. Chairperson, I have commenced work in Ballia. The Surha Tal is a world-renowned lake, and I shall begin its excavation this Saturday. There is a canal known as the Kathal Nala, which flows northward for six months and southward for six months; I shall have it excavated as well. In the Doaba region, there is the Bhagarh Nala. Ballia is situated between the Ghaghra, the Ganga and the Tamasa rivers. Ballia had risen in freedom even before 1942, during the Quit India Movement. Mahatma Gandhi did not visit the region frequently, whereas Subhas Chandra Bose visited it more often. Jay Prakash Narayan ji had familial ties, though distant, with Subhas Chandra Bose. In 1941-42, when Subhas Chandra Bose had been placed under house arrest by the British, he secretly came to Ballia and stayed with Jay Prakash Narayan ji. He worked among the farmers there. The result of that engagement was that, in

1942, Ballia showed the nation the path to independence. Ballia is the land of rebellion. Even its sages and seers possessed the spirit of resistance. It is the land of Bhrigu Baba, who, in anger, had struck the chest of Lord Vishnu. That same spirit of rebellion continues to inspire the people of Ballia. It was here that Subhas Chandra Bose, addressing a meeting at the Town Hall grounds, first declared, “Tum mujhe khoon do, main tumhe azadi dunga”, when he was serving as President of the Congress. How remarkable is destiny that the President of the world’s largest political party, Amit Bhai, also proclaimed on the soil of Ballia: “Give me your support, and I shall give you good governance.” This budget is the certificate of good governance. This budget is a document of good governance. It is a budget that embodies the support of the village, the poor and the farmer.

Hon. Chairperson, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia also served in this very Parliament. He had won his election by a small margin. Hon. Mulayam Singh ji is present here; he had overseen that election. Dr. Lohia had entered the House with a narrow victory, and those who now sit on that side used to sit here then. When Dr. Lohia rose to take his oath, they mocked him, asking by how many votes he had won. Dr. Lohia replied that he had won by twice as many votes as the number of Members they were. Their strength was around 336 or 340, and he had won by about 1200 votes. At that time, Indira

Gandhi used to sit there. It was in this very Parliament that Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had said: “Indira Gandhi, if you provide smokeless stoves to the women of India, and if you provide them toilets that ensure privacy, then for 25 years no one will be able to remove you from the office of the Prime Minister.”

These were the words of Dr. Lohia; one may consult the parliamentary records. Hon. Mulayam Singh ji would recall this. Who accomplished this task? No Prime Minister before had given smokeless stoves to women; no one had provided toilets ensuring privacy. After a very long time, a Prime Minister took upon himself the task of giving India’s mothers and sisters smokeless stoves and toilets that preserved their dignity, and that person is Narendra Bhai Modi. Therefore, I say this, if Hon. Mulayam Singh ji, and indeed all of you, uphold the words of Dr. Lohia, then Narendra Bhai Modi ought to remain Prime Minister for 25 years. It is for this reason that I regard Hon. Mulayam Singh ji as the true inheritor of Dr. Lohia’s legacy, because when the previous Lok Sabha concluded, in his valedictory remarks, our friend Hon. Mulayam Singh ji, and since he is a wrestler, I hold a deep affection for him, stood in this House and said that Narendra Bhai Modi had fulfilled the dreams of Dr. Lohia, and therefore he wished that Narendra Bhai Modi should return as Prime Minister. I salute him for that, and I consider him

the true successor to Lohia's ideals. But today, those who claim to follow Lohia's philosophy have strayed from his path.

Hon. Chairperson, perhaps you may not be aware that there is a famous elephant fair held in Bihar. However, the followers of Hon. Mulayam Singh ji created a situation whereby an elephant fair began to be held in Lucknow as well. There was a distinguished Member here, perhaps he has now left, who speaks a great deal. When he would purchase an elephant in Lucknow and proceed with it, by the time he reached Jaunpur he would receive a call informing him that he was no longer the owner of that elephant, and he would then return. Owing to your influence and efforts, the Sonpur fair seemed, for a time, to have reappeared in Lucknow. But the strength of the hard-earned labour of the poor caused that so-called elephant fair to collapse, and it shall collapse again in the future.

Hon. Chairperson, when funds are deposited into the accounts of farmers, when they receive remunerative prices for their produce, when the Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana connects villages to their fields, when the objective of power for all brings electricity to every village, and when Rs. 5 lakh is made available to the poor for medical treatment, the significance of these measures is deeply felt. I recently visited my constituency and distributed two thousand such cards. An elderly woman walked away holding her card as though she had received a draft of Rs. 5 lakh. She said that only one

who is the son of a poor mother can truly understand what this means. My eyes filled with emotion, and I said, “Bless you, Narendra Bhai Modi; you have understood the anguish and hardship of the poor.” In earlier times, people would lose their lives for want of medicine. Even while sitting in the Opposition, Hon. Members ought to acknowledge that, for the first time, the poor feel that there is a Government that listens to and understands the cries of their poverty. This feeling has arisen for the very first time. A nationwide campaign for water conservation is under way. From where does the money for all this come? A short while ago, Shashi Tharoor ji was speaking about farmers. Hon. Chairperson, when Shashi Tharoor ji was raising the issues of farmers, I was seated right here. In Bihar, there was a celebrated folk artist, Bhikhari Thakur, known for his folk songs; he also sang about foreigners. ...* *(Interruptions)*

* Not Recorded.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please sit down.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, you please address the Chair.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Are there no farmers represented in this Lok Sabha? Is it not the farmer who has elected us to this House? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No more interruptions please.

… (*Interruptions*)

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

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: I am not stopping you from building a physique like mine. If nature has made me this way, what can I do? I cannot hand it over to you. If someone chooses to make remarks about it, how am I responsible for that? God has given me

this build, and I cannot change that. You may ask Mulayam Singh ji; such strength comes only through great discipline, not by accident. You have come wearing a turban today and you look very dignified. I respect those who wear turbans, but do not imagine that I am intimidated by anyone because of it. A farmer does not fear anyone. ...*(Interruptions)* Now, please allow me to continue.

This is a budget that will enhance India's prosperity in the future. It is a budget that addresses the challenges of the present, and it will meet the challenges that arise in the times ahead. It also signals the rectification of the mistakes committed in the past.

Hon. Chairperson, I can affirm that this Government, committed to the village, the poor, the farmer and the soldiers of our nation, has restored trust among the people of India. I can further state that, under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister and the guidance of Shri Amit Shah, the Union Government has established a memorial at Sitab Diara, the native village of Jai Prakash Narayan. Hon. Mulayam Singh ji is also a member of its governing body. I extend an invitation to all Hon. Members to visit this memorial. I have the honour of serving as its Chairperson. At that site, inspired by the remarkable panchayat vision of Lok Nayak Jai Prakash Narayan, a Panchayat Dialogue Centre is being developed. A deliberative centre is being established to explore meaningful ways in which we may advance the prosperity of our

farmers. This is a national memorial being constructed in his village under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister. Therefore, I can say that the vision of India cherished by Lok Nayak Jayaprakash Narayan, the dream envisioned by former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar ji, and the ideals upheld by Hon. Dattopant Thengadi ji are being realised through this budget. This budget signals the emergence of such an India. It has instilled confidence in the minds of farmers. The income of farmers will certainly double by the year 2022. As a farmer myself, I can affirm that unless farmers have money in their pockets and purchasing power in their hands, the markets of Delhi, Mumbai and Chennai cannot flourish. It is evident from the presentation of this budget that the Government has recognised this truth. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of State for Finance. The budget ensures that a labourer is paid his rightful wages without delay, acknowledging that no monetary compensation can ever fully match the value of his hard work. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: If you were here, you would act differently, and if you were there, you would do something else.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your Party has given a long list of Hon. Members to speak. A lot of other Hon. Members have to speak further.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Therefore, in concluding my remarks, I may say:

"Kheton ko sanwaara to sanvarte khud bhi, faslon ko ubhaara to ubharte hue khud bhi,

fitrat ko nikhaara to nikharte hue khud bhi, nitya apne banaaye hue saanchon mein dhalenge,

hum zinda the, hum zinda hain, hum zinda rahenge."

(These lines highlight that as farmers improve their land, their crops, and themselves, they uplift their own lives. People shape their future through their daily efforts, and the farmer's resilience ensures that they have endured, continue to endure, and will endure in the future.)

It is for this reason that I say, and this has been recognised by the Hon. Prime Minister and the Ministry of Finance, that the one who lives with dignity is the farmer. Hence, the farmer, the soldier and the wrestler belong to one and the same fraternity. The

emerging India, under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi, gives us the sense for the first time that the Union Government is genuinely concerned about the six and a half lakh villages of this country, about the poor, and about the farmers. “During the 2019 elections, it was witnessed that the farmers living in the fields and farmyards themselves urged the people to go and cast their votes, saying that the candidate was one of their own and truly belonged among them.”

[English]

HON. CHAIRPESON: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: I conclude.

Through you, I would like to say to the Members of the Opposition that you may oppose; to oppose is democracy. It is this very opposition that gives strength to democracy. However, at the very least, on issues concerning the farmers and the villages of India, there must be unanimity. In my understanding, if we remain united on these matters, it will greatly assist in bringing prosperity to the farmers and the poor residing in our villages. I do not agree with the view that governance alone can achieve everything. Society too must rise to the occasion. ... *(Interruptions)* I shall conclude my remarks in a minute.

What I have understood in the context of Indian democracy is that governance, administration and society together can lead the nation towards prosperity. With these words, I conclude my submission.

[English]

SHRI NAMA NAGESWARA RAO (KHAMMAM): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Budget for 2019-2020, on behalf of our Party, TRS. I am also congratulating Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji for being the first South Indian woman to present the Union Budget in this august House. [Translation] Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman has her roots in Tamil Nadu and familial ties as a daughter-in-law in Telangana. *...(Interruptions)* She is, by marriage, a daughter-in-law of Andhra Pradesh and is associated with the Telugu community. *...(Interruptions)* We had assumed that if there were a Minister from those States in this House, she would give due attention to those States. However, the provisions kept in this Budget do not reflect the expectations one had for the development of the southern States. Further, if one looks at her speech, she first articulated the Government's vision in 10 points. I have limited time, therefore I am unable to read out those points.

She has raised ten points under the 'Vision of the Decade'. They intend to take the nation's economy to five trillion dollars. [English] India has a federal structure with distribution of powers between the Central Government and the State Governments. You take a look at how the powers are placed between the Central Government and the State Governments for the benefit of the

federal system. [Translation] This is very important. For the nation to progress, the State Governments must, in every manner, be brought together in cooperation. Shri Jayant Sinha is not present today. Yesterday, Shri Jayant Sinha focused on two or three major issues while speaking on the Budget. His primary focus was on the 'Ministry of Jal Shakti'. This is a newly constituted Ministry. I would like to quote one sentence from his remarks. [English] "This new *Mantralaya* will look at the management of our water resources and water supply in an integrated and holistic manner, and will work with the States to ensure 'Har Ghar Jal'." [Translation] He stated in this august House that, to ensure water reaches every household, the Union Government will work in coordination with the States. The initiative 'Har Ghar Jal' is of great significance; in Telugu, we refer to it as Intintiki Neellu. Telangana is the first State in India to have provided water to every home, and the Hon. Prime Minister had visited the State for its inauguration. The Hon. Prime Minister's speech of 7 August 2016, which lasted 36 minutes, deserves to be heard by Members across all parties. The work has been completed. This picture is of great significance. With regard to 'Har Ghar Jal', as has been stated, the Hon. Prime Minister had already ensured the provision of drinking water in Telangana. We had already undertaken this programme. At present, we are supplying water to no fewer than 23,968 habitations. We are

providing filtered water to every household. We lift water from the river, filter it and then supply it. We have installed water treatment plants. This is for the information of the entire House. To ensure water reaches every home, we have laid one lakh and five thousand kilometres of pipeline. In this manner, we have already commenced the supply of water to every household.

I state this because, after observing our project, the very same model is now being adopted across the country, which is indeed gratifying. NITI Aayog, after conducting its study, has recommended Rs. 24 thousand crore for this project. We had expected that, in this Budget, due justice would be accorded to Telangana and an appropriate allocation made. The young leader, Anurag ji, is present in the House. Through you, Hon. Speaker, I would like to submit that the project which the Union Government now proposes to implement nationally is already fully operational in Telangana. I would like to request that it be accorded the status of a National Project and be provided with the requisite funding. In the same manner, the second matter concerns the Rs. 6,000 assistance for farmers. Our colleague has also alluded to this issue. The Rs. 6,000 has not yet been deposited into the farmer's account. Ours is the first State Government in the country which has provided Rs. 10,000 per acre to every farmer. This scheme is called Rythu Bandhu. In this connection, I would like to submit that

Members from Maharashtra are also present in the House. Farmers from forty border villages of Maharashtra are saying that their villages should be merged with Telangana because here they receive water and each farmer receives Rs. 10,000. We also have the Aarogyasri scheme, whose coverage is greater than that of Ayushman Bharat. The Rythu Bima scheme has likewise been implemented by us in a different manner. Most importantly, there is the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project. Hyderabad is situated at a considerable height. Multiple lift stages are being used there to draw water from the Godavari River and lift it nearly 800 metres to provide irrigation to the farmers of Telangana. Along with this, a request has been made regarding the Kaleshwaram Project and the Centre has also conducted a study on it. This must certainly be considered. If both the State and the Union Government work together, only then will there be a chance to achieve the Five Trillion target in development. For this, special consideration should be extended. If we look at the GDP, we are leading. In the entire country, Telangana stands at 14.9 percent in terms of GDP growth. If the national average is 6.8 percent, we are progressing at nearly double the GDP rate. Therefore, special consideration should be extended. When our State was formed, several commitments were made in the Reorganisation Act and Bifurcation Act, such as railway projects, the Bayyaram Steel Plant, a coach factory, and

various other works that were to be given to us. These should also be duly considered. Similarly, in Balapur of Ranga Reddy district, there is a lift irrigation project. I also would like to refer to the speech delivered by the Prime Minister on the 7th. Everyone may see that speech on YouTube. I wished to present that before you, but we have limited time. In that, the Prime Minister has addressed that this State will progress significantly and that it will advance in every sector. Our request is that there is no provision for us in the Budget; this should also be looked into. Through you, I would like to urge the Government to include four-lane projects, railway development, the coach factory and other such matters.

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR (KAUSHAMBI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the Budget presented for the year 2019-20, which I would not call a Budget but rather the ledger of accounts, has been placed before us. You have given me the opportunity to speak on this ledger, for which I express my gratitude to you and to my national leadership. For the first time, by presenting the nation's earnings in the form of a ledger and detailed accounts, they have instilled a sense of pride across the country.

When the discussion on the Budget has been taking place, the Opposition has repeatedly raised one question, how will a Five Trillion economy be achieved, and how will these targets be met? The Opposition has forgotten that if Modi is there, then it is possible. This is no longer a sentiment confined only to our nation; it now resonates in every corner of the world. Whenever any global crisis arises, whenever any issue emerges, people across the world look towards our country's Hon. Prime Minister with great hope, believing that if anyone can provide a solution, it is only India's Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Bhai Modi. Therefore, the Members of the Opposition may note clearly that no subject in this country is impossible now. ...*(Interruptions)* If anyone has responded to Pulwama, it is we who have done so. ...*(Interruptions)* You are saying it correctly. ...*(Interruptions)*

After Independence, the revered Mahatma Gandhi had envisioned that the Congress should cease to exist in this country. Yet this did not happen for 70 years. It became possible only when a son of Gujarat, a leader, emerged. ...*(Interruptions)* The Congress has been rendered without dominance. Therefore, if Modi is there, then it is possible. The sooner you realise this, the better it will be for you. ... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, I am a student of Economics. I do not wish to delve deeply into the Budget or speak on its technical data. ...*(Interruptions)* There is still time for you to understand the situation. Your numbers are steadily diminishing. It is through our efforts that we have reached this position today.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No interruptions please. Hon. Member, you please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, when this country faced a crisis in the banking sector and when the Government changed, a list was prepared of all those defaulters who had taken money from the banks and were not repaying it. Those who were unable to return the money were placed under write off. The Opposition began spreading misinformation that the

Government had allowed this money to remain with the industrialists of the country. Anyone who knows even the basics of trade, anyone who understands Economics, is aware that the money written off has not been waived. A list of such accounts has been prepared and they have been identified so that these defaulters of the country's banks, these offenders of the nation, do not again receive money from the country's banking system.

Today, I extend my congratulations to the Hon. Minister, for through the efforts of the new Government, more than Rs. one lakh crore has been recovered from that amount. This became possible only when the Modi Government came to office in this country. Hence, 'Modi hai to mumkin hai'. Across the nation, 9.60 crore toilets have been constructed. Those eminent persons cannot appreciate the true worth of these toilets, nor can they understand their significance, for they are profoundly linked with the dignity and honour of women. We are elected from villages, from among the poor and the farmers. I would like to draw your attention to the fact that when the daughter of a poor household arrives at her marital home, uneducated, poor and unfamiliar with her surroundings, her concerns are not about which room she will be allotted for sleeping, what space she will be given to reside in or what food she will be offered. She bears only one fear and distress within her mind, that if she needs to relieve herself, whom shall she

approach. When the daughter of a poor household arrives at her marital home, uneducated, poor and unfamiliar with her surroundings, her concerns are not about which room she will be given to sleep in, what place she will be allotted to reside in or what food she will be provided. Rather, it is this anxiety, this sense of hesitation in a new environment where she knows no one, that weighs upon her. She does not yet know who is a relative, who is the mother-in-law, who is the aunt, who is the maternal grandmother, who is the maternal aunt or who is the paternal aunt, and this uncertainty only deepens her fear. If this fear has been removed from her heart and if she has been granted the dignity to live without such distress, it has been made possible under the leadership of the distinguished Prime Minister of this country, Hon. Narendra Bhai Modi.

Here, our colleagues from the TMC were questioning how a woman can be regarded as Narayani and how such empowerment could be achieved. I shall not speak about anyone else; I shall speak of myself. My mother brought us up by selling cow dung cakes, and the dreams she held were never dreams of owning a mansion or a motorcar. If she had any aspirations, they were only that the fundamental necessities of life should be fulfilled. She wished for a house as a basic necessity, a toilet as a basic necessity, clean fuel as a basic necessity, and that if anyone in the family were to fall ill,

they should not have to wander from place to place nor be compelled to seek alms for medical treatment.

I speak from my own experience. I spent my childhood living in poverty. When the need arose for even a minor operation, I saw my mother go from door to door, appealing to people for contributions. If she were alive today, she would have congratulated Modi Ji and bestowed her blessings, for no mother now would be compelled to wander from place to place seeking contributions for the treatment of her son or for the medical care of her family.

Sir, if you so direct, I shall submit my speech in writing. I have not even been able to complete my points in this short time.

Sir, there is not just one matter but many. Questions were raised that the Government has reduced the Budget allocated for the SCs and STs. This has not been examined properly. The Government has, in fact, increased the Budget for SCs and STs and has enhanced allocations in the field of education. Sir, I understand that you will be giving me limited time.

I would like to draw the attention of this House to an important matter. We are all aware that a large number of contractual workers are engaged across the country. When the process of privatisation of industries commenced in 1992, the practice of providing employment to the youth through outsourcing also began. I seek the

cooperation of the entire House, for the youth of this nation are today being exploited in the name of outsourcing by companies operated both by the State Governments and by the Union Government. Through this Budget, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister that the time has now come to establish a national policy on outsourcing, so that the exploitation of the youth of this country may be effectively prevented.

The Hon. Prime Minister had identified 115 Aspirational Districts in the country. Owing to the flawed policies of the previous Governments, numerous problems had arisen in these districts. By identifying these 115 districts, efforts were undertaken to bring them into the mainstream of development.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through this House, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that across the country there are not one but many districts which are devoid of industries. The youth in these districts are compelled to migrate. I would like to urge the Government and the Hon. Minister of Finance that such districts should be identified. After identifying them, due consideration should be given to how industries in those districts may be encouraged and strengthened. In this context, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has initiated the programme of One District, One Product, which has provided some convenience and relief.

However, even today people are still compelled to migrate in search of industry and trade.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, there is a very important matter. Just as the Government of India has undertaken the task of providing toilets, housing and electricity across the country, in the same manner the Government has formulated a plan to supply clean water through pipelines in all districts. For this, 256 districts across the nation have been identified, among which 1538 blocks have fallen into the dark zone. I congratulate the Hon. Minister on this initiative, for the sooner work is commenced on it, the sooner we shall be able to provide clean water to such districts and such blocks.

I once again congratulate the Hon. Minister that this Budget is all-encompassing, sensitive in its outreach and that there is no section of society, no region of this country that has been left untouched by it. Therefore, while supporting this Budget, I express my gratitude that the points we have raised will certainly be considered by the Government. The Opposition still has an opportunity to reflect a little; otherwise, if ‘Modi hai to mumkin hai’, and it appears to us that next time we shall reach that position. With these words, I conclude my remarks. Thank you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Before the Hon. Member Shri Ramchandra Paswan speaks, I have to make one announcement. Hon. Members who want to lay their written speeches on the Table of the House can do so. It will be treated as part of the proceedings of the House.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA PASWAN (SAMASTIPUR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Union Budget through you. I extend my thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister and to Amit Shah Ji for this Union Budget. Today, there is no section of society in the entire country that does not appreciate this Government, and there is no part of the nation where people do not consider this Budget as their own. In this great assembly, you have given me the opportunity to speak today.

Today, I am truly pleased that the remote and rural areas, including my own Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, which lies deep in the interior, have witnessed substantial improvement. Not merely today, but even in 1999, when I was first elected and the Government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji was in office, the challenges of that region were well known. My area forms part of Mithilanchal, the land of Mithila. I am fully aware of the difficulties that prevailed there, and I am pleased to note that under this Government many of those long-standing problems have been addressed to a significant extent.

In the year 1997, the National President of our Lok Janshakti Party, Ramvilas Paswan Ji, was the Minister of Railways. As Minister of Railways, he undertook the task of introducing several

important schemes. We extend our thanks to the Government of Narendra Modi Ji and also to Piyush Goyal Ji, for work has been carried out during their tenure and continues even now. However, the pace of progress is still not as swift as it ought to be. In the same manner, this Budget is one that focuses on farmers, and women too have been encouraged through the provisions of this Budget. Under the Jan Dhan Yojana, even when there is not a balance of Rs. five thousand in the accounts of women, a provision has been made enabling them to withdraw money, and there is also a provision for loans up to Rs. one lakh. The women who had long been deprived, who remained at home as though unemployed, now feel that there is someone in this country who thinks for them, that there is a Government that cares for them. That Government is the Government of Narendra Modi Ji. Among us are the youth, and their numbers are considerable. Through this Budget, opportunities for work and employment will be available to them, yet there is still a need to continue thinking for the youth. Today, we feel great happiness and we take immense pride in the NDA Government. The longstanding problem of electricity has been resolved to a great extent in our Bihar. Electricity has now reached nearly every household. There is scarcely a village where gas has not been made available. Our Government, through its various schemes, has ensured the supply of gas across villages. We come from a village

that had for years endured severe poverty. That poverty has not disappeared entirely, yet there has been substantial improvement. In earlier times, when our mothers and sisters would light the chulha by blowing on it, it caused them immense hardship. Today, that hardship is no longer their reality. Today, they remember not that struggle, but the Government of Narendra Modi Ji, through which they have received a gas connection. Today, the hardship they once faced in blowing the chulha has been greatly reduced. The provision of accessible toilets is something that villagers could never have imagined, nor could they have believed such facilities would ever reach them. Yet it is our Government that has taken upon itself the task of constructing these toilets. For this, we extend our thanks. They are indeed worthy of commendation. We, too, have been elected to place the concerns of these people before this great assembly, and we take pride in doing so. As I speak here today, the people of my constituency must be listening with satisfaction, knowing that the Government to which they entrusted their vote is working for their welfare, and that the leader they elected is thinking in their interest. We thank the Government for the Jal-Nal Yojana. This scheme has been introduced for the benefit of the nation. Particularly in our region of Bihar, the handpumps have dried up and people have been facing severe hardship.

15.00 hrs

They are facing an acute shortage of water. Therefore, we would like to submit that although the Government has planned to undertake this work on a first-priority basis, there is a need to accelerate its implementation. In our region, the absence of piped water is causing considerable difficulty to the people. They are undergoing great hardship.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I am speaking on behalf of my party. I also seek an opportunity to express our views. You are a senior Member, and I too have long experience in this House. I would like to place my points succinctly. The Government has committed itself to doubling the income of farmers, and for this I extend my thanks. Today, among the farmers, there is no sense of political affiliation, no division, no difference of sentiment. The farmers of this country repose complete faith in the Government, and we believe that with the strong mandate under which this Government is functioning and with which it has been elected, when it returns to office again, even the remaining Opposition benches will stand vacated. Therefore, I would like to state that under the Ayushman Bharat Yojana, the poor who earlier lost their lives in hospitals for want of medicines are now assured of treatment, for the Government has made provision for Rs. 5 lakh for their medical care. I thank the Government for this measure. Through you, I shall present my views briefly within the limited time at our disposal.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, when Ramvilas Paswan Ji was the Minister of Railways, the work on the Sakri-Hasan railway line had commenced. However, the work still remains incomplete, and therefore I would like to request that it be completed at the earliest. I shall also appeal to Gadkari Sahab that the many highway-related projects under his charge be expedited and completed soon. Thereafter, the work under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is also pending to a considerable extent. I am fully confident that our Government will ensure its early completion as well. There were many more points we wished to raise today, but limited time has been granted to me on behalf of our party. Nevertheless, I thank you, for this is the House, and in this House every single second holds great significance.

[English]

*__SHRI A. GANESHAMURTHI (ERODE):__ I Thank you for this opportunity to express my views on General Budget for the year 2019-20. Hon. Finance Minister called for giving priority to the Make in India programme similar to the Swadeshi Movement which gained momentum during the freedom struggle of our country. It is appreciable the way the Hon. Finance Minister made such budget announcements with a complete command over the language. Village, poor people, farmers found a mention in the Budget speech. But there is nothing to find solutions to the problems faced by them. They said that the nation has achieved a higher trajectory of economic growth due to the implementation of various schemes of the Government during the last 5 years. It was stated that the achievement of better economic growth due to the consistent efforts of the present Government has resulted in a huge victory for the BJP led Government in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. Hon. MPs, Hon. Ministers and the ruling side always made such claims whenever they got an opportunity to speak. If this is true, I want to ask them why they have failed miserably in all the Lok Sabha constituencies in Tamil Nadu. Even in the North Indian States only 45 percent of people have voted for

* English translation of the speech laid on the Table originally in Tamil.

BJP. In Tamil Nadu the DMK led coalition, which was against the BJP led coalition, got 50.35 percent of votes. This only proves that in fact your “One nation; One culture”, slogan has not been accepted by the people of Tamil Nadu. Moreover this is a result of the sufferings faced by the people of Tamil Nadu during the last 5 years of BJP rule at the Centre. In Tamil Nadu, all the industries are very much affected. In particular, textile and agriculture sectors are at the verge of destruction. Handicrafts, small and medium scale industries have lost their importance. Hon. Prime Minister has stated that the people should sacrifice something for the growth and development of our country. Hon Finance Minister while quoting the poem of Sangam Poet Pisiraandhaiyaar took pride by saying that levying of tax will not be like a trampled by an elephant into the agricultural field for want of food. I am afraid that in the name of India’s development Tamil Nadu should not become such an elephant trampled place. Thanjavur, which was once the rice granary of Chola kingdom, and other eastern Delta districts of Tamil Nadu have been declared as Hydrocarbon zone leading to destruction. In a region which fed the entire country, agriculture is in a dilapidated state. The southern part of Tamil Nadu is very much affected due to issues like Neutrino Observatory project and Sterlite copper factory. Using the mighty police force, the fertile farm lands are being acquired for laying of GAIL gas pipeline and IDPL oil

pipeline in the districts of Kongu region in the western part of Tamil Nadu. Farm land is also acquired for installation of high power electric poles of Power Grid corporation. Coconut trees and other useful trees in such farm lands, which are several years of age, are being destroyed. Houses of farmers are also acquired and demolished. The livelihood of farmers is affected. These schemes may be good for the progress of the country but they should not be implemented at the cost of lives of the people living there. The victims demand for implementation of such schemes by way of cabling along the highways or on an alternative route. This Budget is a big disappointment for Tamil Nadu. The Budget which is claimed to be pro-poor has no solutions for the problems faced by them. Farmers, who are affected due to non-availability of remunerative prices for their agricultural produce and increase in the cost of agricultural inputs, were having expectation from the new Government for waiving off their crop loans. But there is not even a waiver of interest part of these loans which has caused distress and disappointment to the ailing farmers. The announcement regarding encouragement to Zero Budget Agriculture has failed to explain as how the farmers will get help in this regard. Students who scored good marks in the State Syllabus of Tamil Nadu are also affected due to NEET. Even some students have committed suicide. Due to GST, Textile industry is very much

affected in different parts of Tamil Nadu particularly in Tiruppur, Erode and Coimbatore which is called as the Manchester of South India. While there are announcements for employment generation, there is also a mention of disinvestment of public shares of PSUs. There is nothing related to starting of new industries. After a long struggle for many years, Salem steel plant was established. Now its privatisation is not an acceptable one. The Government should give up its idea of privatising Salem steel plant. The water flow in all the important dams like Mettur dam, Bhavanisagar dam, Amaravathi dam, Mullaiperiyar dam, important for major irrigation and drinking water projects, is totally dependent on the neighbouring States. Even after the verdict of Hon. Supreme Court, the Union Government has failed in its duty to provide the rightful share of water that is due to Tamil Nadu. If that's the case, how can you justify other schemes that are being forcibly implemented in Tamil Nadu. The Unanimous resolutions passed by the State Legislature of Tamil Nadu on NEET and two-language policy were ignored by the Union Government. As the Union Government is trying to impose three-language policy and NEET on Tamil Nadu which makes us feel that it does not care about the importance of the State legislature. It is now absolutely necessary to change the west flowing rivers originating from theNilgiri hills, called as the Princess of hill stations of Tamil Nadu. By changing the direction

of these west flowing rivers to the east, water table can be improved and water related schemes can be implemented by the State Government benefittingmy constituency. I urge upon the Union Government to implement the long pending Moyaru-Pandiyaru Scheme which will fulfil the water needs of Coimbatore, Tiruppur, Erode and Salem districts of Tamil Nadu.

[*]**SHRI H. VASANTHAKUMAR (KANYAKUMARI):** I went through the proposals carefully, but I find nothing beneficial to the common man, women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and minorities. In fact, there are several proposals, which would place them in severe hardship. This budget is a visionless, directionless empty budget. The allocation for MNREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission, Scheme for Development of Scheduled Castes, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has been decreased considerably. The allocation for health is only 2.3% and for education it is only 3.4%. Now the Government wants to implement this National Health Scheme. I wonder how it can be implemented, as just 2.3% has been allocated? [English] I want to know from the Government why the allocation for MNREGA, the allocation for Scheduled castes, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has been reduced? What is the reason?

[Translation] This budget would aggravate inflation because the Cess on Petrol and Diesel has been increased. Already people are facing lot of difficulties due to increase in Petrol and Diesel, and above this, the Government has increased the Cess. The increase in the fuel prices would result in increase in the prices of other commodities and it would only lead to increase in inflation.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

There are several important tourist centers in the country, but Government has not allocated any money for development of those centers. I am disappointed to know that Kanyakumari, though an important tourist destination, has not been included in the 17 circuits for development. I request that Kanyakumari should also be included.

[English] Though a specific scheme has been formulated for the fishermen, but it does not contain the details and will the Government come out with the details? [Translation] I also demand that the pension facility given to retail traders should be extended to fishermen, and they should be given free housing facilities near the sea so as to enable them to earn their livelihood.

Kanyakumari is not connected by air although lakhs of people visit here every year. It should be connected to Tuticorin, Madurai and Chennai under UDAN Scheme.

I am really disappointed about no allocation to solve the water crisis in Tamil Nadu. There is no proposal for conversion of sea water into potable water for Tamil Nadu when the people are reeling under severe drought like situation in Tamil Nadu. The state Government is not doing anything to solve this crisis. I, therefore, demand that the Government should take immediate steps and direct the state Government to improve the water supply in the state.

Neyyar River Left Bank Canal will help to irrigate an area of 9200 acres in Vilavancode Taluk in Kanyakumari. In 2012 Tamil Nadu Government filed a petition against Kerala Government seeking uninterrupted water supply from Neyyar River, and the matter is now pending in Supreme Court. The Tamil Nadu Government has contended that the Neyyar is an Inter State River because a portion of the river's catchment area lies in the territory of Tamil Nadu. Tamil Nadu Government has not received water since 2004, which has caused serious hardship to the farming community. Previously, in 1999, the Kerala Government took a stand that Neyyar was not an Inter State River. However, in its own draft agreement, Kerala informed Tamil Nadu in 2010 that the water shall be supplied subject to realization of water charges and payment of distribution charges and making the agreement valid for five years to be renewed by mutual consent. The Supreme Court, in November 2016, had framed certain issues including whether the river can be classified as an inter-State river, and also whether the legal obligation is imposed on the Kerala Government to supply water from Neyyar to Kanyakumari under the States' Reorganization Act, 1956. The matter is pending in Supreme Court now. I request the Central Government to ensure water supply from Neyyar to Kanyakumari to help farmers in the district for irrigation purposes.

The party in power promised so many things before election. What about those promises? Have they been fulfilled? The Government has proposed to mop up 100 lakh crores for investment in infrastructure. But how is it possible without any proposal? The total budget is only 25 lakh crore. The Government is making empty promises.

What about income tax for the middle class? The Government has not done anything to alleviate the hardships faced by salaried class. I demand that the exemption should be increased upto 10 lakhs and the slabs should be reduced so that it does not increase beyond 20%.

The Government has plans for disinvestment. I am afraid that many of the public sector undertakings would be closed or sold to private parties. Will the public sector undertakings, which has led to the development of the nation will be out of the map of this country very soon? I urge upon the Government not to indulge in indiscriminate disinvestment.

I take this opportunity to draw the attention of the Government to the sale of Salem Steel Plant. I request to allocate funds for revamp of the plant and not to sell it.

Being a woman Finance Minister, has increased Customs Duty of Gold and precious metals. This would definitely affect middle

class population, who save their hard earned money in smaller sums for purchasing gold to be used at the time of marriage of their daughters. This will definitely create hardship for them. I demand that the hike should be withdrawn immediately and in fact it should be reduced to 5%.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharata Abhiyan, it is proposed to provide internet connectivity in every panchayat in the country. But, I am really sorry to say, Mr. Speaker Sir, that the telephone services in rural areas are very pathetic. The telephone and mobile services should be improved. Unless these are improved, there is no point in giving internet connectivity.

It is mentioned in the budget that more than 50% of India's urban population have been covered under the Swacch Bharat Scheme, but in my constituency Kanyakumari, there are not enough toilets and foreigners, who come in large numbers are facing difficulties for want of proper rest rooms. I demand that proper toilet facilities should be created in my constituency.

The Government proposes to introduce a New Education Policy. I demand that Hindi should not be made a compulsory language, especially for Tamil Nadu. The Government has proposed to create world class institutions. I am really disappointed to see none of our educational institutions do find a place in the top

ranks. How can they create world class institutions with just Rs.400 crores? The standard of education and infrastructure in our educational institutions should be considerably improved so that they can match with world class universities.

The Government has mentioned in the budget that under Ujjwala Yojana, 33 crore LED Bulbs have been distributed. I request for installation of LED Bulbs along the beach and the coastal areas in Kanyakumari to give a face lift.

Madam Finance Minister spoke about Nari Shakti in the budget. I want to know from the Hon'ble Finance Minister what specific provisions have been made for the women?

The budget for the defence is not sufficient. The major portion of the budget would go to meet the payments connected with the liabilities of the past purchases. There is no provision for new purchases. The security of the Government cannot be compromised by low budget. The Government should immediately increase the defence budget adequately so that there is no compromise on the security.

There are no specific proposals in respect of railways. The only proposal I point is launching of a massive programme of Railway Station Modernisation. I demand to know from the Minister whether Nagercoil and Kanyakumari have been included

for modernization considering the large tourist traffic. I also wish to speak on the adequate rail facilities. I hereby submit the following demands of the people of the constituency:-

Train No. 22657/58 TBM-NCJ SF Express runs weekly thrice. People are facing lot of difficulty to travel on Weekends Friday/Saturday from Chennai to Southern Districts like Madurai/Tirunelveli/Nagercoil due to the unavailability of 2265/58 TBM-NCJ SF Express. Kanyakumar Express & Ananthapuri Express which always runs with full capacity and it is not easy to get the tickets during the entire year. So we kindly request to consider this Weekend Additional Services with 5 days per week as same previously proposed.

We may also request you to operate a single trip to Veilankanni from Nagercoil using the incoming rake from Chennai on Friday to serve our long pending demand in addition.

Change the Terminal to Egmore for 22657/58 TBM-NCJ SF Express: People are facing lot of problem to reach Tambaram from inside city because of 22657/58 TBM-NCJ SF Express starts at Tambaram itself. Many Senior Citizens, Women (College Students/Working Women) and family with small children also suffer a lot after reaching Tambaram to go inside city especially also suffer a long after reaching Tambaram to go inside city

especially North Chennai. So, I request you to consider and operate train 22657/58 TBM-NCJ SF Express from Chennai Egmore. This train Primary Maintenance at Nagarcoil Junction if operated from Egmore will be more beneficial for entire Chennai people including North Chennai. Kanyakumari should be created as a new Railway Division. Late night train from Chennai-Egmore via Nagercoil to Trivandrum should be started. Basic amenities, like toilet, water facility, Passenger Lounge with WI-FI facility etc., should be provided at Nagercoil and Kanyakumari Railway Station. Level Cross 15-B in Vilavancode via Marthandam Railway Overbridge is required. Speed up the Doubling of railway track between Madurai to Kanyakumar and Tuticorrin to Kanyakumari. Madurai Sampark Kranti Exp.Train No. 12651/12652 may be extended upto Nagercoil. Tejas Express Train No.22672 and 22671 may be extended up to Nagercoil. Unreserved women coaches should be all trains running between Chennai-Kanyakumari. The world's largest form of mass religious tourism takes place in India at Kanyakumari, which attracts over 100 million pilgrims every year it is most important to connect all religious places through railways from Kanyakumari. Proposal to privatise railways should be withdrawn immediately.

This budget will not only create unemployment as it seeks to disinvestment, privatise public sector undertakings and allowing

huge FDI investment in vital sectors. Because of allowing FDI in Retail Sector our domestic traders will be affected. Already the traders are affected because of e-Commerce and complex GST procedures. Now I appeal to the Government to take a balanced view in allowing FDI especially in Retail Sector.

The Nation had huge expectations from this Government, but this Government has betrayed each and every section of the society including common man, workers, fishermen, farmers and minorities. To sum up, this budget is anti-people, and there is no provision anywhere in the budget to solve the day-to-day problems of the public. I appeal to the Government to revisit the provisions like increase in cess on petrol and diesel, gold and other items being used by the common man. This should be withdrawn immediately. The budget is making only empty promises and no road man for achieving the target.

Nagercoil Government Hospital may be converted as Super Specialty Hospital. A sports village at Kanniyakumari (Sports Authority of India) may be established. Immediate action may be taken to stop sea erosion. Air port at Swamithoppu, Kanniyakumari may be sanctioned. A Passport Office, a Central University and Cancer Institute may also be established in Kanniyakumari.

[*]**SHRI S.R. PARTHIBAN (SALEM):** Salem Steel Plant is a unit of Steel Authority of India Ltd which was established in the year 1981 to fulfil the dream of the people of Tamil Nadu for an integrated steel plant at Salem to promote the industrial development of the state and economic development of the region. The products of Salem steel plant known as Salem Stainless has earned international reputation for its quality and exported to more than 37 countries.

Salem Steel Plant is having very good infrastructure facilities and state-of-Art technology with an asset base of around Rs.15,000 Crores including 4000 acres of land. Around 3000 farmers parted with their precious agriculture lands for the sole purpose of establishing a Steel Plant under the PSU. This plant has generated around 2000 direct employment and 3000 indirect employment opportunities. The plant has contributed to the socio-economic development of the surrounding regions. Salem Steel Plant has contributed so for more than 2700 crores to the Government in the form of indirect taxes. This plant has also earned more than Rs.3000 crores as foreign exchange.

Salem Steel Plant workers and officers given their suggestions to uplift the factory from loss, i.e. setting up a new 120MW power

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

plant for the factories production with the investment of Rs.250 crore in the unutilized 1500 acres.

By supplying Salam Steel Plant's manufactured products for Railway Coach Factory to manufacture Stainless Steel Rail Coach and Carbon Steel Coach required by Indian Railways.

Removing taxes on Salem Steel Factory's products.

Waiving off the loan and interest amount of Rs.2000 Cr, which was taken for the expansion of SMS and CRM-II projects.

Setting up Special Economic Zone to manufacture allied products of Stainless Steel and Carbon Steel, which was proposed by the Former UPA Government.

The news of privatization of Salem Steel Plant has created a turbulent atmosphere among workers and the public. The name of the city "Salem" is called as "Steel City", because of this Salem Steel Plant. This Central Government must abandon the idea of privatizing the profit making Salem Steel Plant and hold the stake by Government itself. I request the Central Government. to allot adequate fund in this financial year for the expansion of the Salem Steel Plant to secure the welfare of workers.

[Translation]

[*]DR. (PROF.) KIRIT PREMJIBHAI SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD WEST): I am very grateful to you for allowing me to express my views on this important matter.

In the 2019 Lok Sabha elections, the resounding mandate once again bestowed upon our distinguished Prime Minister, Narendra Modi Ji, clearly reflects that the 130 crore citizens of this country have endorsed the decisions taken during his first term. This mandate further signifies that the foundation laid by Modi Ji for the creation of a New India has received the full approval of the people, who have placed their seal of confidence upon building a strong and rising edifice of India upon that foundation. Owing to this mandate, the democracy of our nation has been further strengthened, and Narendra Modi Ji has been affirmed as a leader of the people.

This Budget constitutes a strong foundation for the building of a New India. Accordingly, I offer my congratulations to India's first full-time woman Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, as well as to the Minister of State for Finance, Anurag Thakur Ji. Since the advent of Modi Ji's Government, India's economy has become one of the fastest advancing economies in the world. On

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

the global stage, India has ascended from being the 11th largest economy to the sixth.

Until the year 2014, India's economy stood at 1 billion US dollars. After the advent of the Modi Government in 2014, it rose to 1 trillion US dollars. What had not been achieved in the preceding 55 years was realised within merely 55 months of the Modi Government, during which the economy doubled. This is a testament to the success and strength of the Modi Government's economic stewardship. To envision grand aspirations and to possess the resolve and capacity to fulfil them is the defining characteristic of the Modi Government. It is in this spirit that Modi Ji has articulated the vision of a 5 trillion US dollar economy. I repose complete faith in Modi Ji and in this Government that we shall attain this objective by the year 2024.

I appreciate the concrete measures proposed in this Budget for achieving this target. Significant decisions have been taken to strengthen connectivity across the nation. By giving further impetus to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, its implementation will be accelerated, resulting in 97 percent connectivity. Connectivity infrastructure will be advanced through Industrial Corridors, Sagarmala, waterways, National Highways, ports and the UDAN scheme. Metro Rail projects and National Highways will be expanded, and in the next 5 years the construction of one lakh

twenty-five thousand kilometres of roads has been envisaged. In the Railways, an investment of Rs. 50 lakh crore has been proposed up to the year 2030, which will also include PPP participation. Power connectivity will be enhanced under the One Nation, One Grid initiative, through which electricity will be supplied to every part of the country. By the year 2022, every citizen will have a home, and through the construction of affordable housing, all will be assured a secure dwelling. The MSME sector will receive substantial support, and every small entrepreneur will be eligible for a loan of not less than Rs. one crore under the Interest Subvention Scheme. Under the Pradhan Mantri Karmayogi Maandhan Scheme, voluntary organisations contributing to nation-building will be provided access to capital from the market through the stock exchange. Foreign Direct Investment will be further encouraged, and FDI has already registered an increase of 6 percent. Foreign Direct Investment will be encouraged in the aviation, media and insurance sectors. Relaxation in FDI norms will also be provided for single-brand retail. A Global Investors' Meet will be organised to attract investment into India. The space sector, PSUs and the NFIF will be linked with ISRO. In rural India, following the path shown by Mahatma Gandhi, several decisions will be taken for the welfare of villages, the poor and the farmers. Under the Ujjwala Yojana, every household will receive a gas connection. Toilets will

be provided in every home, and under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, all will receive housing. A total of 1.95 crore houses will be constructed. Through the Saubhagya Yojana, electricity will reach every home. Under the Jal Shakti initiative, water will be supplied to every household. The income of farmers will be doubled by emphasising the scheme that transforms the annadata into an urjadata.

With regard to the SCs and STs, these communities have been brought under a comprehensive umbrella framework, and the Budget for the Scheduled Castes has been enhanced by 9 Percent. SC and ST youth have been extended benefits through the Stand-Up Scheme, which has been continued until the year 2025.

I would like to urge the Government that SC and ST youth, particularly women entrepreneurs, be provided an amount of Rs. ten thousand through the banks, and that they be afforded loans at low rates of interest without collateral. I also would like to convey my appreciation to the Government for the reforms in education and for the introduction of the new National Education Policy. This Budget lays the foundation for a five trillion US dollar economy. It will serve as the bedrock for the construction of a New India.

With these words, I express my support for this Budget and conclude my remarks.

[English]

*__SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYNAGAR):__ The Union Government has so very proudly announced that the Indian Economy will reach 3 trillion US Dollars by end of FY 20 and thereby overtake UK. But before the Government uses this as another banner for inflating its ever-growing balloon of public brainwashing propaganda, I want to post a fact which this Government has so conveniently overlooked.

In 2018 India overtook France as the 6th largest economy in the world at 2.6 trillion US Dollars. But was this Government does not tell its people is that France being a country of a mere 65 million people was generating a GDP of 2.58 trillion US Dollars, while India, the home of continent sized population of 1.3 billion is housed by a 2.6 trillion US Dollars economy. And soon this figure will surpass that of UK, a country with 66 million people, and again when India inevitably passes this mere feat of overtaking another Eurpean country with a smaller set of people, the real picture will never be brought to light and the headlines will keep fooling the common man.

So, what is it that really matters to the public of our country? While the headlines of being part of the 5th largest economy in the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

world will give him a hollow sense of pride, at the end of the day he will ask what is my benefit in this? What is my purchasing power? Why hasn't it gone up to the desired level?

India will become the 5th largest economy in the world in terms of nominal GDP, it is currently 3rd behind USA and China in terms of GDP calculated by purchasing power parity (PPP) at around 9.45 trillion US Dollars. But, all these rankings are meaningless because time and again this Government has skipped the real question: can India move out of the low-middle income countries category? This can happen only when the average annual individual income of a citizen is comfortably above $4500. This is when a country is labelled as a middle-income country. The current annual per capita income of India in exchange rate terms is still shy of $2000 and about $7200 in PPP terms. India ranks between 140 and 155 globally under the 2 parameters. Claiming the feat of reaching the 6th and 5th in the foreseeable future) position among global economies to be a remarkable feat, there is no mention in the budget or the economic survey as to how this Government plans on crossing the $4500 plus per capita income mark to make India a middle-income country. To reach the target of becoming a 5 trillion US$ economy, which is something one would say taking on more than it can chew, the Indian economy needs to grow steadily at a rate of 8% annually whereas trends a different picture and a sudden

jump of 1% that too maintaining it over a decade is highly unlikely. Now if we presume this Government works miracles somehow (again an unlikely prospect), this rate of growth will bring the per capita income up to a level of $4000 keeping India a low income and a developing country, whereas our BRICS counterparts Brazil and South Africa have been there for more than 2 decades. Our Finance Minister said that this budget has been made keeping a 10 year agenda in mind-it's quite shambolic that there is no mention of any initiative to make India a middle-income country by 2030 which is an actual status and this also begs the question that will this Government not once again brainwash its people before the 2024 elections with hollow headlines while the poor man suffers? As a footnote to this I would like to question this Government which pats its back so much on its foresight. While the Government makes claims at reaching the level of developed economies like USA and China within the next decade, exactly how will it become a high-income country with the individual holding over $12500 as an average yearly income when it doesn't even have a plan to reach middle income status?

One basic promise laid out in this budget is that savings drives investment which in turns drives growth. If we stick to what this survey believes, i.e. savings is the foremost factor that drives growth, supplemented with empirical evidence from across the

world, a crash in savings rate from 38% in 2008 to 30% now should ring alarm bells. So, is the Government oblivious to this and if not, what are its policies to reverse this trend? Economic Survey 2018-19 gives no answer.

Coming to another important issue to which the Government has not yielded any fruitful result but was used as a fake promise to come into power in 2014-job creation. Our Prime Minister promised 1 crore jobs every year, requiring 8.4 lakh jobs every month. The Government couldn't achieve even 5 lakhs. But why would this scenario stop the Government from making more false promises? It persists on our country's so called "demographic dividend", emphasizing that currently 50% of Indians is of working age (between 20-59 years) and by 2040 it will be 60%. While all this is true, I want to ask the Government how can a working age population without jobs be considered and not the core ingredient in the Government's recipe for social disaster?

The Government also sheds ample spotlight on the importance of data as a public good. While the Government claims that digitization has led to an exponential decline in the cost of collecting, collating, storage and dissemination of data, which if considered true, why does the Government hide inconvenient data, like the current state of joblessness which is at its highest in the past 45 years? Why has there been no revelation of the "Dirty Dozen",

the biggest most bankrupt companies in India. The survey has no mention of any of these. Instead of giving acknowledgement to the outrageous joblessness in India, the Government ever so conveniently and predictably tries to cover its tracks by falling back on the increasing number of employees Provident Fund (EPFO) accounts, which makes a very fragile case for rising employment as EPFO account holders are formal employees constituting less than 3% of the workforce. This is how the Government masks and covers up its shortcomings, like a top-notch con artist would,. Let's consider the Government to be a surgeon and the Indian economy to be its ailing patient and the Indian population the family members of the patient. What this surgeon is doing is that it is not giving the patient its required treatment, instead giving it a make up on the outside while the primary organs are deteriorating on the inside and also fooling its family members by showing the exterior which doesn't show the real picture, telling them it's all well and good, before it's too late for them to see that what the actual situation is.

Now, I would like to put forward some concerns and questions regarding how this Government wishes to reach the target of making India 5 trillion US Dollars economy by 2024. GDP: Consumption + private investment + Government expenditure + exports – imports. What are the possibilities of favourable movements across these aspects over the next 5 years?

Consumption is ebbing, reflected in lower GST collections and indicators such as a decline in car sales. Real estate is experiencing a slump. That means construction, a sector with a significant multiplier impact on economic growth is not generating the income that would spur consumption. The budget announced ambitious targets for construction of affordable housing. Given the government's inability to meets its targets, we cannot expect this sector to drive breakthrough growth.

The Survey gives a clarion call for private investment. However, private sector investment has been on the decline too; no animal spirits, and banks are unwilling to lend. On top of that the NBFC crisis has aggravated the credit crunch. FDI is decelerating as well, despite India's growth rate being higher than other major economies.

The MSME sector still aches from the impact of demonetization and hurried implementation of GST. The Budget's proposals for MSMEs will not jump start their accelerated growth, keeping job creation slow and unemployment around its 45 year high. Lesser jobs means lower consumption, which in turn, means lower growth.

Government investments can have a big impact on growth. However, the budget only announced, formation of a committee to

investigate how to raise and invest the Rs.100 trillion in infrastructure that the BJP promised in its manifesto. From where will be Government get this amount of money? One announced option was to raise funds from brownfield projects. That means that old roads will possibly become tolled roads. This government's track record on disinvestment is not remarkable. Exports have sunk to a 14 year low as a percentage of GDP and are unlikely to get an upgrade, considering global conditions. The Trump-triggered tariff wars put a cap on the possibilities of substantial gains from export markets. India has fallen behind in markets where it once had a comparative advantage, e.g. textiles, where Bangladesh is ahead of us significantly. Export-focused Make in India is an optical illusion, unless the US-China trade war results in the US sourcing more from India.

On the import side, India still depends on petroleum products. Low oil prices have been a boon over the 5 years. However, US Iran tensions can disrupt the peace. India is also importing electronic components at an unstoppable pace and is unlikely to shift to local manufacturing in the near future. Thus, the present scenario with the factors which drive GDP growth is very pessimistic. Will there be a miracle over the next few years to help us leapfrog? Highly unlikely. One possibility is, if our youth workforce becomes the world's workforce. The Budget declared that it would bring new

programmes to skill youth for foreign employment. So, it’s back to brain drain and remittances. But, given that the Government is unskilled at skilling it is hard to get people’s hopes up.

So, yes, we will reach $5 trillion. Just not under Modi 2.0.

15.03 hrs (Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi *in the Chair*)

SHRI NANDKUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN (KHANDWA): Thank you, Hon. Chairperson. The Budget of the Modi Government is one that will give the nation a lofty ascent. The Budget presented by our Minister of Finance, who has been the country's first woman Finance Minister, has generated a sense of confidence and aspiration across the nation. The manner in which the people of this country have placed their trust in Modi Ji is reflected in this Budget, which stands true to that trust. A Budget contains provisions of both income and expenditure. It is important to know from where the revenue is obtained, but even more important is to know on whom it is spent and to whom the resources are allocated. Through this Budget, I can state that it has been firmly established in independent India that the Modi Government is a Government for the villages, the poor and the farmers. Every kind of provision has been made in this Budget to realise the dreams of the poor. This House is witness to the pain and hardship endured by the women living in our villages, who cooked food on mud stoves. Providing seven crore LPG gas connections is an exceptional milestone for the country. The Modi Government has set a target of providing eight crore gas connections free of cost in the coming period. This is a major

campaign undertaken by Modi Ji, by the Modi Government, for the rural mothers and sisters, and for the women of poor households across the nation.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, the Modi Government has given shape to the dream of the poor to have a proper home. The poor residing in villages are being provided Rs. one lakh fifty thousand for the construction of a pucca house. This entire House is witness to what earlier Governments offered and to the nature of the houses that were constructed then. Under the Indira Awas scheme, houses were indeed sanctioned, but the amount provided was meagre. Such houses would collapse in a single spell of rain, and a strong gust of wind would carry away their tin roofs. Today, however, the Modi Government, by granting Rs. one lakh fifty thousand for rural housing, has enabled the poor to realise their aspiration of owning a permanent dwelling. A wealthy person cannot truly comprehend the worth of such a home. Ask the poor man living in a fragile hut what the true value of such a house is. That poor man, who has no means to construct a home, would, during the rains, buy a sheet of plastic from the market and spread it over his dwelling to shield himself from the downpour. Today, the Modi Government has brought joy into the courtyards of crores of such poor families by providing them with pucca houses. The immense support accorded to this Government stems from the work carried out over the past

five years, wherein the Government has pursued measures grounded in social responsibility. A system has been developed whereby the benefits of its schemes are delivered directly to the poor.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, this country has also seen a time when the pension sent from Delhi for the poor was distributed manually by the village secretary or the sarpanch, and even out of the poor man's three hundred rupees, one hundred rupees would be siphoned away. Today, however, through DBT, every rupee released by the Government of India reaches directly to the beneficiary. The intermediaries have disappeared, the middlemen have been eliminated, because the Modi Government has created a system through which the money is transferred straight into the pocket of the poor. As a result, the poor today has faith that there is someone in Delhi who stands as their guardian, someone who will not permit anyone to lay unlawful hands on the resources meant for them.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, in the sphere of social development, many Governments have been formed in this country and various experiments must have been undertaken to raise the standard of living of our people, and those efforts may well have been commendable. Yet, the Modi Government has made determined and focused efforts to elevate the social standard of

living and to improve the life of the common man. Under the Shram Yogi Pension Yojana, the labourer who supports his family through his hard work contributes a modest amount, and upon attaining the age of 60 years, the Narendra Modi Government has introduced a scheme that grants him a lifelong pension of Rs. 3000 per month.

To date, nearly 30 lakh workers have been enrolled under this scheme. Today, farmers across the country are being provided Rs. 6,000 under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. Modi ji has also launched a Kisan Pension Scheme for marginal and small farmers. Under this scheme, farmers up to the age of 40 years can enrol. Once they attain the age of 60 years, they will receive a pension of Rs. 3,000 per month for the rest of their lives. This Kisan Pension Scheme has been launched by the Union Government. This is true social commitment. This is a genuine effort to raise the standard of living of the people.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, the interests of every section, from farmers and labourers to small traders, have been duly considered. The Modi Government has provided that traders with an annual turnover of up to Rs. one crore fifty lakh will receive direct benefits under the Karmayogi Pension Yojana. By creating the Jal Shakti Ministry, the Government has undertaken the task of addressing how underground water storage may be augmented, for today,

groundwater recharge is decreasing while its withdrawal is steadily increasing.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I have only just risen to speak.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Chauhan Sahab, you were allotted ten minutes, but you have already spoken for 12 to 14 minutes.

SHRI NANDAKUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN: Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I request that I be given a little more time.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wind up your remarks. Other Members also need to speak, so you are requested to conclude.

SHRI NANDAKUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN: Hon. Chairperson, Madam, by establishing the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the Government has resolved to formulate an action plan for water conservation. In Mann Ki Baat, Modi Ji gave a message to the nation, urging that we must together consider how to conserve water so that the country may be safeguarded from a future water crisis, and he called upon society to join in this endeavour. Along with this, he has also made provision under this scheme to ensure the supply of water to every household. I extend my warm congratulations to the Hon. Minister of Finance and to the Prime Minister of the country. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have offered your congratulations.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI NANDAKUMAR SINGH CHAUHAN: Hon. Chairperson, Madam, the Opposition, without cause, even criticises the good works undertaken. I would like to appeal to them that the elections are now over. In the national interest, the good work being carried out should be acknowledged, and this entire House should stand united with the Government, moving step by step in support of these efforts. Today, the nation is progressing with remarkable speed. Our economy is the fastest-growing economy in the world. We have advanced from the 11th position to the 6th position globally. ...*(Interruptions)* These are the achievements of this Government. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Prime Minister and to the Hon. Minister of Finance.

[*]**SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT (VADODARA):** I express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and to this august House. I have been given the opportunity to express my views in support of this developmental General Budget for the current financial year presented to the nation by the country's first full-time woman Finance Minister, Hon. Shrimati Nirmala Ji.

At the outset, I would like to extend my special felicitations to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Ji, because after a long span of 49 years, you have presented the Budget as a woman Finance Minister.

This Union Budget is particularly special and historic because, after 71 years of independent India, this integrated Budget has been presented in the House under the title "Budget".

While addressing the Joint Sitting of Parliament, His Excellency the President made special mention in his Address that in this Lok Sabha election, 61 crore voters of the country exercised their franchise, thereby enhancing the identity and dignity of India, the world's largest democracy, at the global level.

With the blessings and mandate of these crores of voters, our Government, reconstituted with a full majority, has reflected in this Budget that the present Government is a transparent Government

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

dedicated to villages, the poor, the middle class, farmers and the youth. This Government has taken bold decisions such as “Demonetisation” and “GST”. Even amidst countless allegations and opposition by the Hon. Opposition, the growth rate of our country has remained strong.

After the five years since 2014, our nation has become a 2.7 trillion-dollar economy. At present, we are the world’s sixth-largest economy, and by the end of the year our economy will be 3 trillion dollars. Our target is for the nation’s economy to reach 5 trillion dollars, which demonstrates that the intention, policies, plans, projects and programmes of the present Union Government are effective in taking the country in the right direction for economic and all-round development. This integrated Budget will infuse new progress, new energy and new strength into all important sectors of the nation.

The industrial, trade and commerce sector, which possesses the capability to provide development, employment and stability to the nation, has been strengthened through reforms such as improvements in the turnover limit for corporate tax. Two years have been completed since the implementation of GST. With 48 lakh new registrations, this legislation has sought to expand extensive access to trade and industry, and the recapitalisation of

banks has broadened the credit framework; this too has been included in the Budget.

Along with One Rank One Pension and the concept of One Nation One Election, the idea of One Nation One Grid has been introduced for the energy sector. Similar to mobile number portability, preparations are underway to enable transactions from one bank account number to any other bank.

India is an agriculture-oriented country. The Government is moving forward in its efforts to transform the nation's food providers into energy providers and to make farmers self-reliant. There is a commitment to double farmers' income by 2022. Even today, the true India resides in its villages. To ensure employment and basic infrastructure not only in cities but also in villages, certain necessary provisions have been made in this Budget, such as the target to electrify every village and provide housing for all by 2022, the proposal to provide 1.95 crore houses, and the construction of 30,000 kilometres of roads in villages using green technology.

To further enhance efficiency, accountability and complete transparency within the governance and administrative framework of the nation, the digital payment system shall be promoted. In order to encourage innovation, an "Innovation Fund" has been

established for secondary education in approximately 3,500 educationally backward talukas across the country.

The Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has now been oriented and dedicated specifically towards women. Under the guiding slogan "Nari Tu Narayani", provision has been made for the availability of loans up to Rs. 1 lakh under the PM Mudra Yojana. The Budget also proposes an increase in FDI across several sectors. Prospects for enhanced FDI in aviation, media, animation and insurance are presently under consideration, including a proposal for allowing 100 percent FDI in the insurance sector.

The basic structure and foundational infrastructure of our vast nation possess the capability to enhance the efficiency and productivity of various governmental and non-governmental systems. At the same time, such infrastructure brings improvement in the standard of living of the general populace. With this objective at the forefront, a forward-looking plan has been formulated in this Budget for the development of Smart Cities, railways, roads, national highways, metro rail, coastal regions, the development of airports on the PPP model, and the advancement of shipping and transport sectors. Efforts are underway to facilitate an investment of Rs. 100 lakh crore in the country's infrastructure.

The vision of our Hon. Prime Minister encompasses not only “Swachh Bharat” but also “Swasth Bharat” and “Jal Shakti”. Along with a clean, healthy and educated society, water constitutes the greatest asset for nation-building. Under the guiding principle of “Har Ghar Jal-Har Ghar Nal”, the Ministry of Jal Shakti has been created for the first time in the history of the Government. The Government will extend pension benefits to three crore small traders and shopkeepers. They will receive this benefit under the Pradhan Mantri Karmayogi Maandhan Yojana. We remain committed to a progressive India through an educated India. Therefore, a new National Education Policy shall be introduced. There is a proposal to establish a National Research Foundation. A skill development scheme shall be launched for one crore students. India shall be developed as a hub of higher education.

Within this Budget, under financial management competency, prudent fiscal administration has been ensured through the optimal utilisation of resources. India’s foreign debt has declined to less than 5 percent. Our Government has been constituted to honour the honest citizen. For the prosperity and welfare of every honest citizen of the nation, and for the protection of their interests and their better future, a plan has been framed under tax reforms to promote savings and development. In conclusion, this integrated General Budget fulfils public aspirations. This Budget, which is

comprehensive, widely acceptable and fully inclusive, is beneficial to the common people, to rural citizens, to youth, to farmers and to all sections of society.

This balanced, progressive and transparent Budget, which provides new momentum to the economy, deserves the highest commendation. I extend my profound felicitations to the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, to the Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, and to our present Union Government for presenting such a Budget. I express my complete support for this integrated Union Budget 2019.

[*]**SHRI MITESH PATEL (BAKABHAI) (ANAND):** If one undertakes an overview of this Budget, it becomes clearly evident that it reflects the spirit of "a check on the wealthy, relief for the middle class, and inclusion of the poor", for resources drawn from the affluent are being directed towards villages, the poor and the farmers. This makes it abundantly clear that the Government is moving towards eliminating the economic disparity prevailing in society. For this, I express my gratitude to our Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Bhai Modi Ji, and to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji. This Budget may rightly be described as one that fulfils public aspirations.

In 2014, when our Government presented its first Budget, the focus was placed on reforms, meaning that even then the emphasis was on advancing the interests of the poor. In this Budget as well, efforts have been made to convey the message that concessions shall be extended to the poor while higher taxes shall be imposed upon the wealthy. The Government has indicated its intention to proceed with the formula that has already yielded success. The Government has demonstrated its resolve to undertake significant initiatives without attempting to disrupt the existing administrative framework. Greater focus has been placed on those schemes that

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

have been readily embraced by the poor. The target for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana has been enhanced, and a declaration has been made to provide electricity to every household. The “Har Ghar Jal” scheme forms an important component of this endeavour, and the pension scheme too has been expanded. All these measures clearly affirm that this Government is steadfastly oriented towards the welfare of the poor and that every decision is taken with their interests foremost in consideration.

The principal emphasis of the Government’s Budget is upon mobilising resources by collecting tax from the economically stronger sections and generating capital through disinvestment, and thereafter deploying these resources for schemes aimed at the welfare of the general populace. To address unemployment, the Government has resolved to invest Rs. 100 lakh crore over the next five years for the upgradation of national infrastructure. The schemes associated with this initiative shall contribute significantly towards reducing the disparity between rural and urban regions. Through this Budget, the Government shall also consider simplifying avenues of investment for Non-Resident Indians with the objective of augmenting overall investment. The Government is contemplating the introduction of several programmes for the modernisation of railway stations, for which investment shall be undertaken through the PPP model. Through the new National

Education Policy, the Government shall endeavour to attract foreign students. In pursuit of a cleaner environment, the Government is reducing GST rates to promote the adoption of electric vehicles and, concurrently, intends to provide income-tax incentives for the same.

In this Budget, reference has been made to Bharatmala, Sagarmala and to the provision of accessible roads with a view to reducing the distance between villages and cities. Under Bharatmala, an extensive network of roads is being developed across the country. Through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 1 lakh 25 thousand kilometres of roads shall be upgraded. Budgetary support of Rs. 80,250 crore has been allocated to the Ministry of Transport for the year 2019-20.

In the Government's Budget, villages, the poor and farmers stand at the very centre of every initiative and scheme. By the year 2022, every rural household shall have an electricity connection and access to clean, fuel-based cooking facilities, and every individual shall possess a home of their own. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the 1.95 crore houses to be constructed by 2022 shall be provided to the beneficiaries, and these dwellings shall be equipped with essential amenities such as cooking gas, electricity and sanitation facilities.

By the year 2024, our Government is endeavouring to ensure the provision of clean and adequate drinking water to every household.

The Government has decided to extend pension benefits to 3 crore small traders. In addition to this, a provision has been made for granting loans within 59 minutes to small and medium industries, thereby facilitating their growth and advancement.

Furthermore, the Government is undertaking efforts for the establishment of 10,000 new Farmer Producer Organisations within five years; emphasising zero-budget farming so that farmers' income may be doubled; reducing dependence on imports of pulses and strengthening self-reliance in oilseed production; promoting the agro-industry; preparing 75,000 skilled agri-entrepreneurs; introducing the PPP model for promoting agri-business; and creating an enabling environment wherein farmers do not remain dependent solely on agricultural markets but are able to obtain fair value for their produce. All these measures are being undertaken by the Government in the interest of farmers.

For the villages, our Government has formulated plans to ensure, through the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the provision of water in every household by 2022; to provide every home with electricity, toilets and gas connections; to construct 1.25 lakh kilometres of

roads under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana within five years; and to upgrade those roads which connect villages to markets.

In conclusion, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Finance Minister to certain demands made by the common people of my Parliamentary Constituency.

GST should be removed from the principal food grains consumed by the general public, including branded pulses and rice, so that the common man may obtain essential food items at affordable prices.

The Mahi-Sagar river, located within my Parliamentary Constituency, should be cleaned so that the people may have access to clean water.

The construction of the new railway line from Tarapur to Arnej, which has already been under consideration of the Government and for which 5-6 surveys have been conducted, should be completed.

[English]

SHRIMATI PRENEET KAUR (PATIALA): Thank you, Madam Chairperson, for giving me this opportunity. Before I comment on the Budget 2019, I wish to congratulate, through you, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman for being the first full-time lady Finance Minister.

More than a battle of genders, a woman, at the helm of finance, should also, hopefully, help in balancing the home budgets of the poor who continue to face deficits of far greater proportions, and having no recourse to fulfil their empty stomachs even with the borrowed funds that the Governments are able to access on a need basis.

Madam Chairperson, we all know that Budget is essentially a statement of income and expenditure. However, over the years, it also reflects a statement of intent and direction of change. A strong mandate – like the Ruling Benches got this year – further provides that added comfort and confidence to take measures for a much faster trajectory of growth.

When I think of some of the pathbreaking Budgets in the last three decades, three Budgets come to my mind. The first on the list is the historic Budget presented by Dr. Manmohan Singh*ji* in 1991.

It changed India for ever by dismantling avoidable controls and lowering of tariffs.

The next on my list is what is still known as the Dream Budget, presented by Mr. Chidambaram in 1997. No one expected that the tax rates would be lowered so drastically and yet the revenues would be increased.

Lastly, the Budget of 2004 that made our country take huge strides to transform health, education and social justice. All these Budgets came from coalition Governments and they were all followed by long periods of high growth and the periods that are now acknowledged as the golden periods of Indian economy.

Budget 2019-20 will be dealing with nearly Rs. 28 lakh crore of money. Seen in parts, there are bound to be areas that please a section here or there. Politics is also an art of the possible and lately of projection. I do not wish to find faults with individual doles here or there as long as they are backed by funds and are finally delivered to the promised sections.

My concerns are at three levels. The first is a series of announcements that are not backed by fund allocations. The most serious concern is the outlay on Defence and more particularly on Defence acquisitions. This will perhaps be the first time that a Finance Minister has failed to make an announcement on the issues

of Defence in the Budget Speech. I would have liked to believe that her immediately previous position as Minister, In-charge of Defence, would have given her enough insights into the need for quick upgradation of the Defence capabilities. The total outlay of Defence capital is up by a meagre 10 percent. Adjusted for inflation, it means that we are spending less than even last year even while the threat perception presented to the nation just a few months back was an entirely different story.

Expenditure in Animal Husbandry and Dairying is lower than last year by about 11 percent. This is when we are talking of increasing and doubling farmers' income in three years. Expenditure in MSMEs, another high priority area, is up by a meagre seven percent. No wonder jobs remain non-existent. Expenditure in the power sector is up by less than two percent. Expenditure in Electronics and IT Ministry, where we are talking about`Digital India', is up by just four percent.

It is evident that with the slowing down of the economy and falling revenues, people of India are merely being given headlines which are likely to be replaced by new headlines in future, even while the economy is crying out for help.

Let me now come to the second area, which concerns all States and where I feel the Central Government is literally committing a

fraud on the States. As per the 14th Finance Commission, States are entitled to a share of 42 percent of the Central Taxes. Taxes collected as surcharges and cesses are not meant to be a part of the divisible pool. For decades, a delicate balance has been maintained in collecting money for exceptional needs as surcharges and cesses. This balance has been seriously breached and in recent years, this Budget has taken it to a new level. The entire increase in tax on petroleum and diesel this year will go to the Centre alone. This has been budgeted to give a revenue of Rs. 1,27,019 crore in 2019-20. The massive increase in surcharge on the super rich will go to the Centre alone.

From a meagre Rs. 15,000 crore of surcharges on personal income in 2017-18, the Centre is hoping to collect a mammoth Rs. 61,000 crore in 2019-20. The figures in the case of corporate tax are up from Rs. 37,000 crore in 2017-18 to Rs. 1,09,000 crore. In the eyes of the States, the Central Government is their superrich. The Budget proposes to tax them at 42 percent and the share of the States is being reduced from the promised 42 percent to almost 30 percent.

So, let me clarify that these are not doles from the Centre. They are very much legitimate State taxes, which are collected centrally, and meant to be given to the States as per healthy conventions established over the years. If all this money is going to be kept by the Centre, the deficits of the States are going to grow higher.

I come from a State where the fiscal situation is extremely precarious. The Budget is making our life doubly difficult. I suggest that instead of raising money as surcharges and cesses, it should be collected as the main tax itself. This would make, at least, Rs. 2 lakh crore available for sharing with the States.

The Budget wishes to spend a never before amount of Rs. 100 lakh core on infrastructure in the next five years. Available resources are being shown as close to Rs. 1 lakh and Rs. 1.5 lakh crore per annum. Rest of the money of more than Rs. 90 lakh crore is meant to come from sources that are unknown at this stage.

The existing ratio of external borrowings of five percent is planned to be tripled. At another front, the RBI reserves are proposed to be depleted even while there is bickering at the top echelons of the Bank on the prudence of parting with the money.

The disinvestment target of more than Rs. 1,00,000 crore is proposed as if everything is for ready sale.

We are now delicately placed where GDP has slowed down to 5.8 percent in the previous quarter. Exports are stagnant for five years in real terms. Unemployment rate has doubled and investment climate is falling. We are facing an unprecedented volatility in global situations.

Our GST could be in the Guinness Book of records to be the most amended law in the last two years. We have enough indicators of the economy faltering. We have undone everything that the three best Budgets, I mentioned, tried to do. We are pushing the dirt of the Central fiscal deficit to the doorsteps of our States, and these are hardly the signs of a good Budget.

Madam, I am going to conclude, now. Headlines do not produce results by themselves. They have to be backed by actions that make everyone take note of India as a land of opportunity and efficient delivery. I would say that the Budget has failed to rise to the challenge despite no pressure from coalition politics.

With these words, I sit down with my fingers crossed and thank you for giving me the time to speak.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI):** While supporting the Budget for 2019-20, I place the following demands for my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, Lakhimpur Kheri: A prompt survey should be conducted and construction initiated for the proposed new railway line from Palia to Nighasan to Belrayan. The proposed new heritage train should be commenced. National Highways No. 730 and 731 should be completed at the earliest, and the SH Belrayan-Panwari road (SH No. 21) should be accorded the status of a National Highway, along with the construction of a bridge at Pachpedhi Ghat on the said route. The proposed Medical College and two hospitals of one hundred beds each, to be established at Nighasan and Palia respectively, should be approved and budgetary allocation made so that construction may be completed promptly. The new two-hundred-bed Maternal and Child Health Hospital, which has been constructed with Central funding, should be brought into operation at the earliest. Construction of the Krishi Vigyan Kendra and the Kendriya Vidyalaya should be completed without delay. All villages should be connected through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Arrangements should be made to ensure that all eligible persons

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

receive a pucca house, toilet, electricity, LPG connection and clean drinking water. A women's school should be established in every block, and a stadium should likewise be constructed in every block. A food processing unit should be set up in my district.

Once again, I support the Budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister of the Government of India and extend my thanks.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL (SIRSA): Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I express my deep gratitude to you for granting me time to speak. I would like to extend my felicitations to India's first woman Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, to Shri Anurag Thakur Ji, and to all the bureaucrats on their team who worked on this superlative Budget. A short while ago, our Hon. Member, Shrimati Preneet Kaur Ji, was presenting a picture as though everything in the Budget had collapsed entirely, as if everything is shattered, and that India now stands at such a juncture that it is uncertain what may happen next. However, I would like to submit that during the past five years, our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, has demonstrated in action the vision of Reform, Perform and Transform. During the first five years, reforms were essential because, as you are aware, the wounds of the past seventy years had become deep and old. When an old wound persists for a long period, it must first be thoroughly cleansed, and the process of cleansing is painful. But once it is properly dressed, the wound heals swiftly. This was precisely the condition of our nation, and we have all experienced it. In the past 5 years, we have effectively applied proper bandages to the wounds of 70 years. I would like to say this for our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji:

"Hazaaron saal Nargis apni benooree par roti hai,

badi mushkil se hota hai chaman mein deedavar paida."

(The verse praises the emergence of an exceptional leader, suggesting that such a person is a rare blessing who appears only once in many generations.)

Our Government and our Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, have introduced a series of reforms, and I wish to enumerate them one by one. When we speak of finances, the question often arises as to where the money will come from. You would have observed that during the previous Governments of the Congress Party, whether it pertained to old-age pensions, scholarships, LPG gas connections or any form of subsidy, the funds were effectively locked within a system. I would submit that there existed a network of middlemen, and significant amounts of money were lost through such channels. You may appreciate that crores of rupees have been saved as a consequence of corrective measures. You may also consider that in the year 2014, our economy stood at 1.85 trillion dollars, and between 2014 and 2019 it rose to 2.7 trillion dollars, reflecting an increase of nearly 1 trillion dollars. It is with this very objective that we proceed. In the next five years, we shall make our economy a 5 trillion-dollar economy, and we shall indeed accomplish this target. As our Hon. Member Sonkar Ji has said, “Modi hai to mumkin hai.” When one’s intentions are honest and clear, nothing is difficult.

Now I shall explain, one by one, how this Government, under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister and our Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, has taken into consideration matters ranging from outer space to the very depths of the earth. We have stated that our space programmes, including Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan and satellite programmes, shall be advanced through collaboration between New Space India Limited and ISRO under the PPP model.

Thereafter, we speak of a transformation upon the earth, namely the building of physical and social infrastructure and connectivity. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 30 thousand kilometres of roads shall be constructed using green technology, wherein waste plastic shall be utilised. Never before was it conceived how waste plastic could be put to such effective use. There is also a plan to upgrade 1 lakh 25 thousand kilometres of roads in the next five years. We also refer to Bharatmala Phase 2. At one time, our Hon. Lalu Ji, who is not present in the House today, had stated with regard to Bihar that roads would be constructed to a certain standard. It is our Government which has demonstrated the fulfilment of such commitments in action. The forward planning of our Government envisions that passenger amenities shall be provided at 1,700 locations along highways. These are matters that must be communicated earnestly to the

general public. Out of these 1,700 locations, 180 shall be completed within the next 2 years.

Hon. Madam, I represent the Sirsa Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency. If you observe National Highway 10 from Delhi to Dabwali, you will be astonished to note that a journey which at one time required seven to eight hours can today be completed within four to four and a half hours. Such an excellent National Highway has been constructed there.

Now I turn to the “Udaan” scheme, through which our Government is extending air connectivity to smaller towns. Our Hon. Minister has made provisions so that even those of modest means may travel by air, thereby creating a bridge between rural and urban India. You may recall that Shri Shashi Tharoor Ji was speaking about farmers. He is a highly respected and senior Member of this House. Yet he appears to forget that there was a time when he described passengers travelling in the economy class of aeroplanes as the “cattle class”. Perhaps he overlooked the fact that it is indeed this so-called “cattle class” which sends him to Parliament. Remarks of this nature are made from time to time by our Hon. Members. An Hon. Member from Telangana was speaking earlier, asserting that Telangana has achieved remarkable progress. I would respectfully submit that if they possess surplus water or any other surplus resources, why do they not extend

assistance to neighbouring States such as Andhra Pradesh, for: “Ya Devi Sarvabhuteshu, Sarva Bhutena Sansthita, Namastasyai Namastasyai Namastasyai Namo Namah.” We shall progress only by supporting one another; no individual or State can advance through criticism alone. I would like to say to him that it is commendable that good work has been done in Telangana. Indeed, it is for that reason that they secured victory and formed their Government. Likewise, it is because of the work accomplished by our Government from 2014 to 2019, and the performance delivered during those years, that our Government has returned with such a decisive mandate and the Bharatiya Janata Party has once again formed the Government.

If I turn to the Metro Rail Project, 657 kilometres of metro rail are now operational. You may further note that the Government is introducing the concept of One Nation One Card. These initiatives, though they may appear modest, are of great importance to the middle class, and it is necessary that they be communicated to them, for our Hon. Minister of Finance is constrained by the time limits of her address and cannot elaborate upon every measure in detail. The National Common Mobility Card has been introduced. As is the practice in several advanced countries, this single card shall serve multiple functions. It may be used for travel by bus, for the payment of toll tax, for parking charges, and for retail shopping.

Moreover, the card shall also serve for the withdrawal of money. Thus, a seamless and unified system of mobility and transactions is being created for citizens across the nation.

Under the Sagarmala Projects, waterways shall be developed, and improved infrastructure shall be created. This will facilitate external trade, and, alongside it, an efficient inland waterway system shall become available for internal trade as well. This shall provide relief from congestion on roads and railways.

If any good work was undertaken by the Congress Government in the past, we duly acknowledge and appreciate it. Hon. Chairperson, Madam, you reside in Delhi and would recall the severe pollution that once prevailed in the city. However, after the introduction of CNG, the residents of Delhi experienced considerable relief. In a similar manner, if we initiate a cargo transport system through waterways, we shall obtain an effective and pollution-free mode of transportation.

If I speak of villages, the poor and farmers, you may observe schemes such as the Ujjwala Yojana, the Saubhagya Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. If we consider all these schemes collectively, you will see what we are providing to a single individual. We are giving him a proper house to live in, a toilet, electricity, an LPG gas connection and clean drinking water. You

may reflect upon the fact that a poor person could never have imagined having all these amenities, and yet all of them are now being made available to him at the same time.

If I speak about farmers, in my region crores of rupees have been deposited into the accounts of farmers under the Crop Insurance Scheme. During the Congress Government, cheques of two or two and a half rupees used to be issued. Farmers are astonished that our Government is providing such substantial assistance and that such amounts are being credited to their accounts. They can scarcely believe it. The area from which I come is an agricultural region.

“Kisi ki muskurahaton pe ho nisaar,

Kisi ka dard mil sake to le udhaar,

Kisi ke vaaste ho tere dil mein pyaar,

Jeena isi ka naam hai.”

(A true leader devotes himself to the welfare of others, eases their hardships, and works with compassion and love for the people.)

This is what our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, has demonstrated through his actions.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now please conclude your remarks.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL: Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I am speaking for the first time.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I had enquired, and they informed me that you have already spoken in Zero Hour.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL: Madam, in Zero Hour one is scarcely permitted even a full minute to speak.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If all Hon. Members agree, then Madam may be given two more minutes.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL: A woman holds charge of the Ministry of Finance, a woman adorns the Chair, and a woman is speaking here; therefore, you will have to listen for a while. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, if I speak of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, 1,592 blocks are critically over-exploited, and these include 256 districts. I wish to state this because 18 districts of Haryana also fall within this category. Yesterday, our Hon. Sukhbir Badal Ji was speaking on this matter, and he had referred to it.

[English]

*....*Today is Hon. Member Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal Ji's birthday. His wife is sitting here. I request her to kindly convey my best wishes to Shri Sukhbir Singh Badal Ji.*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have no difficulty; perhaps others may have an issue. There is no notice for Punjabi, therefore there may be a problem. I have no difficulty in understanding it.

SUSHRI SUNITA DUGGAL: The problem of water is a matter of serious concern. Therefore, we wish to emphasise this, and you may also observe what provisions our Ministry of Finance has made for it: the creation of local infrastructure for source sustainability, which includes rainwater harvesting, groundwater recharge and the management of household wastewater for reuse in agriculture. There is the Jal Jeevan Mission, under which both the Central and State Governments shall together undertake supply management across the country, covering both demand and supply aspects.

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to submit that, as I observe in the villages, I was earlier an officer in the Income Tax Department. Influenced by our Hon. Prime Minister, I resigned from my service in 2014 and entered in poltics. I would like to state that when I visit

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

the villages, there is a small place near us called Narwana, and in one of its colonies water flows openly without control. Until a proper management system is established, such conditions will persist. To address this, our Government has formulated a plan to initiate demand and supply side management of water at the local level. This is extremely necessary. Those who have surplus water do not appreciate its value, whereas those who do not have it struggle for every single drop.

If I speak similarly of cleanliness, you may observe that on 2 October 2014, the Hon. Prime Minister launched the Swachhata Abhiyan, and within five years he has undertaken remarkable work in the sphere of cleanliness. In this regard, on 2 October 2019, our "Gandhipedia" is also to be launched, as the Hon. Prime Minister has informed us. If I now speak of youth, the National Research Foundation is an excellent initiative being introduced to promote research. Earlier, among the 200 world-class institutions, our country did not find a place. Now, there are three such institutions in which our name appears: two IITs and one ICSR in Bengaluru.

If we then speak of Khelo India, you may observe that under this initiative a National Sports Education Board has been established. ...*(Interruptions)* I shall conclude my remarks within a minute. I merely wish to state that our Government has worked comprehensively in the spheres of water, land and space, and our

Hon. Minister of Finance has also addressed every aspect with diligence. I would now like to recite the Shanti Mantra that has been invoked:

"Om dyauh kranti antariksha kranti,

Prithvi kranti apah kranti oshadhayah kranti;

Vanaspatayah kranti, visve devah kranti,

Brahma kranti, sarva kranti, kranti eva kranti,

Sa ma kranti redhi.

Om kranti, kranti, kranti."

(Just as the mantra calls for progress in every realm, the Government's initiatives aim to bring comprehensive development across all sectors, water, land, infrastructure, space, governance and public welfare.)

With these words, I conclude my speech and thank you very much.

[English]

SHRI A. RAJA (NILGIRIS): Thank you Madam Chairperson for giving me this opportunity to comment upon the Budget.

First of all, as a student of Dravidian school of thought, I have to congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister on becoming the first exclusive full-fledged woman Finance Minister of this country.

At the same time, with all my due respects to the Hon. Finance Minister, let me say that I am not able to appreciate the Budget which was presented by her. What is the vision of the Government? You presented the Budget. But what are all the contemplations given in the Budget, what are all the assurances given in the Budget in order to fulfil them, there is no roadmap at all. I read the President's Address. I read *The Economic Survey* which was enunciated by the Chief Economic Advisor. In a triangular manner you are appraising the three documents, namely *The Economic Survey*, the President's Address and the Budget Speech. A lot of assurances were given with huge sound but there is no light at all. I can specifically say that there is no roadmap at all as to how you are going to fulfil what are all the assurances that have been given in the Budget documents.

Secondly, there is a big anguish over the Budget document from my side because I have listened to 15 Budget Speeches in this

House as a Member of Parliament, as a Minister of State and as a Cabinet Minister, but I have not come across such a Budget where the central axis itself is fundamentally, drastically and destructively changed. How? This country is agrarian-economy oriented country, but this Government believes that the real wealth creators are the corporates. Where do you have to create the taxation and other resources for the Budget? It must be from the domestic investment; it must be from the agriculture; and it must be from the domestic industry. But this Government exclusively relies upon the foreign investment. They believe that the corporate world in this country can create wealth for our people and our country. It is fundamentally wrong. I will come to these points one by one.

Madam Chairperson, I charge that until and unless this mindset is going to change, this Budget will not give any single deliverance in this country in the near future. For example, I can tell you that this Budget wants to rely upon two components – FDI and FPI. They have extended a lot of concessions to FPI. Now, I come to FDI. What they are claiming is that the present economic scenario of this country is of three trillion dollars and they want to make it five trillion dollars within five years. For that, they are almost exclusively relying upon the FDI. In the Budget itself, it has been claimed that there is going to be an inflow of 68 billion dollars in this country, In order to achieve the target of five trillion dollars,

they are exclusively relying upon the FDI, but compared to five trillion dollars, which this country wants to achieve, 68 billion dollars come to only two percent. The entire Budget is relying upon this two percent and they want to project before the country and this Parliament that they are going to achieve five trillion dollars target. Where is the roadmap? Where is the plausible approach? It is not there at all.

The Finance Minister quoted during her Budget Speech Pisirandaiyar and Purananuru. Pisirandaiyar gave a very valid and valuable advice to King Pandiyan. I read the verses again and again. That is about the mode of collection of tax. What we are worrying about is means of collection of tax – where it has to be obtained from, where people have to be left out and where people have to be taxed. That is not relevant. Of course, I am entitled to correct the Hon. Minister by saying the correct Tamil version in Thirukural. What does Thiruvalluvar say? He says,

"Iyatralum Eetalum Kaathalum Kaaththa

Vaguthalum Valla Tharasu".

It is the king who should do this – produce, acquire, conserve and dispense. With all my sincerity, I can tell that this Budget

miserably fails on these four counts. I will demonstrate it one by one.

Before speaking about that, I may be permitted to say something about allotment to Tamil Nadu Government because Tamil Nadu Government is almost your Government. You are running from here as *de jure* Government the Government of Tamil Nadu. The Government is already completely ... *(Not recorded)* In spite of that, you are running the Government.

It is alright, but I want to say that between the intermit Budget and the full Budget presented on 5th July, there is a decrease of Rs. 7,424 crore in Tamil Nadu's share of tax. Additionally, its GST portion of Rs. 7,214 crore has yet to be released. They are in your alliance. You wanted to accommodate them in the Cabinet itself. Is it fair on your part to treat Tamil Nadu Government like this? Not at all. We are weeping, though we are not in power.

Another thing is, I am really surprised, that the Budget Speech does not disclose for the first time in India – I have been in the Parliament for more than 15 to 18 years – total revenue, total expenditure, fiscal deficit and additional revenue mobilisation. On the contrary, the Finance Minister suggests, 'Go to the document and read'. There is a convention. Is it fair on the part of the Minister to say that? There is acute water scarcity throughout the country.

There is no single word about this drought. Then, Prime Minister made a long statement about jobs. Even your election manifesto says that you are going to create 10 crore jobs. With all sincerity I would like to tell you the word 'job' is missing in this document. Is it the way to present the Budget?

Then coming to the mode of taxation, you are claiming that for those companies which have a turnover of Rs. 400 crore, the tax will be reduced from 30 percent to 25 percent. Then the Minister herself is saying that by this scheme 93.30 percent of the companies will be covered. So, what is left out? Only 0.7 percent of the companies has been left out. In other words, I can say the entire corporate world has been given substantial tax concession without any accountability to this country. What does it mean? It is not a matter of pride.

Coming to the disinvestment, what does the Budget document say? …(*Interruptions*) I will just need three or four minutes. I have some very important points to make. …(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Raja, you have already exceeded your time. So, please conclude within two more minutes.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A. RAJA: Please give me three or four minutes. …(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is an Hon. Member who wants to speak from your Party.

SHRI A. RAJA: ... * But I am exclusively confining myself to the boundaries of the Budget.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Raja, if you want to seek time, it is one thing. Please take your words back. It will not go on record. Others will also have the same opinion about you. Let us not use these words.

SHRI A. RAJA: I will abide by your order.

The fiscal deficit is 3.3 percent. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): The National Flag on the top of the Parliament is damaged. It should be replaced.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We take note of that.

SHRI A. RAJA: Madam Chairperson, the time spent on this conversation may kindly be deducted.

The Government wants to reduce the fiscal deficit to 3.3 percent of the GDP through non-tax revenues, including disinvestments since your tax revenue is not good. You are not able to collect revenue. To reduce the fiscal deficit to 3.3 percent of the

* Not recorded.

GDP, you want to have investments from abroad. This is not good to the economy.

There is not a single word about the debt that was written off. I have been told that Rs. 5.55 lakh crore have been written off owed by the defaulters. Rs. 5.55 lakh crore have been written off to the benefit of corporate people. But for loans taken by the middle class by way of education loan, loans taken by Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, OBCs to the extent of Rs. 10,000 or Rs. 1 lakh or Rs. 2 lakh, their properties are being attached. But on the other hand, Rs. 5.55 lakh crore have been written off for the corporates. What is the justification?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Raja, it has been more than eleven minutes.

SHRI A. RAJA: I will just take one or two minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: One more minute and that is it.

SHRI A. RAJA: Finally, I would like to say ours is an agrarian economy. You want to paint a rosy picture to the world by saying that Rs. 75,000 crore has been allotted to agriculture. When I heard it from the mouth of the Finance Minister, I, as the son of a farmer, was also happy. But going through the document, I found that this Rs. 75,000 crore is not for waiving the loan; it is not for promoting agricultural research; it is not for stabilising the market; it is not for setting up godowns and cold storages; it is not for rural connectivity; and it is not for Minimum Support Price.

The purpose of giving individually to the farmers, to those who are having lands or those who are landless is that you want to get the political mileage by giving Rs.6,000 to each and everyone and you want to bring everything under the head, 'agriculture'. Is it not a dubious step? …(*Interruptions*) Madam, I am just concluding. Please give me one minute.

With folded hands, I want to advise my young colleague. …(*Interruptions*). This Government came to power not because of its performance. You promised that black money will be returned to India. It has not been done. Your promised ten crore jobs. It has not been done at all. You promised double digit GDP. It did not happen at all. Then, for what purpose did you come here?

Some people are thinking that this is a Hindutva or religious-oriented phenomenon. I do not believe this. This Government came to power because you projected that you are the only saviour/chowkidar who could protect this country. I can say that ultimately what has happened is there is slow-down in growth, rise in unemployment, rise in NPAs in the banks etc. Rural distress is the real face of this Government.

[Translation] I want to quote one sentence from our mentor, Shri C.N. Annadurai *alias* Anna which he said in the Rajya Sabha about the performance of the Government, "Democracy is distorted, socialism is emaciated, nationality is misinterpreted." The same is applicable to you. Thank you.

[Translation]

*__SHRIMATI REKHA ARUN VERMA (DHAURAHRA):__ Our Government presented its first Budget of the second term and of the 17th Lok Sabha in this House on 5 July 2019. It is a Budget for the common man. I extend my thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, to her colleagues, and to our beloved Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, for this Budget. In this Budget, the Government has ensured harmony not only among all sections of society but also among all small and large industries.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has departed from a long-standing practice and, in accordance with Indian tradition, presented the Budget in this House not in a briefcase but in a cloth packet bearing the Ashoka emblem. This reflects positive thinking and is a commendable step.

A principal feature of the Budget is that the Government has proposed to liberalise the rules for Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the media, aviation, insurance and single-brand retail sectors, and has announced significant benefits across four major areas of FDI. In the last financial year, the country received 64.37 billion dollars in FDI, which is six percent higher than the previous financial year.

* Speech was laid on the table.

Our NDA Government, with a view to advancing the nation and making it more capable, shall engage in consultations with stakeholders to open the aviation, media, AVCG (Animation, Visual Effects, Gaming and Comics) and insurance sectors for additional FDI. The principal objective of our Government is to make the country a preferred destination for FDI. Our Government has placed emphasis on increasing foreign investment in single-brand retail and has proposed the organisation of a Global Investment Meet every year in the country. In the coming days, our Government shall simplify the KYC norms for foreign portfolio investors.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has emphasised “Nari se Narayani” in her first Budget. Henceforth, schemes shall operate under the leadership of women. Under the Mudra Scheme, women shall be provided loans of up to Rs. 1 lakh. She has also announced that every verified woman member of a Self-Help Group having a Jan Dhan account shall be given an overdraft facility of Rs. 5,000.

In this Budget, several major announcements have been made for small industries. Small entrepreneurs shall now be able to obtain loans of up to Rs. 1 crore within merely 59 seconds. This is a commendable initiative of the Government.

The Government has taken special care of villages, the poor and farmers in the Budget. By 2022, every rural household shall receive a gas and electricity connection. Affordable houses shall be constructed on PSU lands. Earlier, constructing a house required 314 days, but now the same shall be completed in only 114 days. The Budget also speaks of transforming the food provider into the energy provider, and includes a plan to prepare 75 thousand new entrepreneurs in agriculture-related rural industries.

The Government has announced a pension scheme for small and medium retail shopkeepers in the Budget. Approximately 3 crore shopkeepers shall benefit from this. Under this scheme, shopkeepers with a turnover of up to Rs. 1.5 crore shall receive the benefit. The pension shall be provided through bank accounts and Aadhaar cards.

Earlier, the Government received Rs. 6.38 lakh crore through direct taxes, but in 2018-19 the direct tax collection increased by 78 percent to Rs. 11.37 lakh crore. Encouraged by this, the Government announced a major concession in corporate tax. Companies with a turnover of Rs. 400 crore shall now pay 25 percent tax; earlier, this provision applied only to companies with a turnover of up to Rs. 250 crore.

The Government has further simplified the process of filing Income Tax Returns. In the absence of a PAN card, one may now file an Income Tax Return using an Aadhaar card.

Villages, the poor and farmers are at the centre of the Government's policies. In recent years, there has been remarkable acceleration in the growth of the economy. In 2014, the country's economy stood at 1.85 trillion dollars, which increased to 2.7 trillion dollars in 2019, and in the next five years it is projected to reach 10 trillion dollars.

To achieve this target, there must be substantial investment in infrastructure, advancement of the digital economy, creation of employment and fulfilment of the hopes, trust and aspirations of citizens.

To enhance connectivity across all regions, the Government has set a target to upgrade the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana to its third phase. Thus far, 97 percent of villages have been connected by all-weather roads, and the Government has set a goal to connect the remaining villages within this year. On the occasion of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, 1.5 crore houses have been constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Between 2019-20 and 2021-22, the target is to construct 1.95 crore houses.

In the Budget, the Government has announced the imposition of one rupee excise duty on petrol and diesel, and the GST rate on electric vehicles has been reduced from 12 percent to 5 percent. This may cause some inconvenience initially, but in the times ahead all of us shall benefit from it, and it will yield long-term results. Vehicles shall become cheaper in the future. Defence products that are not manufactured within the country shall remain exempt from customs duty.

To provide relief to the middle class, our Government has announced a tax rebate of up to Rs. 3.5 lakh on houses priced up to Rs. 45 lakh, along with tax concessions on housing loans. Earlier, only a tax rebate of up to Rs. 2 lakh was available on the interest paid on home loans for the purchase of a house. In this manner, the middle class shall be able to save up to Rs. 1.5 lakh in tax. Under a home loan of 15 years' duration, the beneficiary shall gain up to Rs. 7 lakh.

Our Government is also considering the introduction of a new law or regulation concerning the financial relations between landlords and tenants. Under this proposed framework, the financial relations and rights of both landlord and tenant shall be freshly defined. This shall curb arbitrary increases in rent, undue restrictions, and other difficulties faced by tenants. At the same

time, the rights of landlords shall also be safeguarded under this law.

In this Budget, due consideration has been accorded to villages, the poor and farmers. The Government has also announced the introduction of a new Education Policy, which shall be of significant benefit to the youth. A skill development scheme shall be implemented for one crore students, and to attract foreign students to pursue education in India, the Study in India programme shall be launched. A provision of Rs. 400 crore has been made for premier institutions, and the establishment of a National Research Foundation has likewise been proposed.

Taken as a whole, this is a Budget that addresses the needs of all sections of society, including traders and industries. I express my gratitude for having been afforded the opportunity to present my views on this Budget.

[English]

[*]**SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN (TIRUPPUR):** Madam, I thank you for this opportunity. I will speak in Tamil.

At the outset I want to say that although this Budget was presented as the one for development, it is not a pro-people Budget. This Budget talks high of FDI and seeks the welfare of Indian Corporates. I can cite an example to prove that this Budget is not in the interest of the common man. Corporate tax which was 30 percent during the Congress regime has been reduced to 25 percent during the rule of the present Government led by Shri Modi. At the same time, the cost of sugar distributed through ration shops under Public Distribution System was increased from Rs13.50 per kg to Rs 25 per kg. Sugar price meant for poor has been increased whereas the tax on the Corporates has been reduced. The vision and mission of the present Government is not to ensure the welfare of the Indians but to ensure the welfare of the Corporates and to increase the FDI. That's why they have done this. In a similar way, they do call it as development. Where is development? [English] As mentioned by Hon. MP Shri A. Raja, 59 percent of the population of our nation is fully dependant on agriculture. What have you done for agricultural development? Bank loans worth 5 lakh Crore will

[*] English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

be waived in order to benefit the Corporates and whereas Crop loans of farmers worth 1 Crore and 80 lakhs will never be waived. Meanwhile the Government says it will provide Rs. 6,000 per annum to each farmer. But only it lets the farmer starve throughout his life. How can you term the present Government as the Government of the people? Similarly, not only farmers, farm labourers are also leaving the villages. There is a population explosion in the urban areas. Villages are becoming empty. Due to urbanisation, the rural economy is totally shattered and is in shambles. This is the prevailing condition under the present Government led by Shri Modi. That's why the people are vacating villages. Similarly, never before during the last 45 years, unemployment problem is on the rise in India. How can you call this as development? As many as 5,60,000 Micro Small and Medium Enterprises have been closed. Approximately 6 Crore people went jobless. You promised to create 2 Crore employment every year. This was the assurance given by the present Government last year. The assurances provided in the present Budget is also of similar nature. Agricultural land is being acquired for installation of high power electric poles. No proper legal procedure is being followed for such far, land acquisition. The farms land in the Cauvery delta region is also acquired mindlessly

for exploration of hydro-carbons. What happened in Salem.…(interruptions)...

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is taking notes. It is a collective responsibility. The other Minister is here. …Please conclude. Your time is up.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: I will conclude in 3 minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is a collective responsibility. Hon Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is here..... Let him complete. Sir, please wind up.

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: I will conclude in 3 minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your time is already up.

[*]**SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN:** This Government wants to go for disinvestment of shares of all the PSUs, established during the period of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. All the assets of our country are being put on sale. This Government calls this as development. Education and health care facilities are still difficult to reach the poor people of this country. Privatisation has done the maximum damage.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Baalu, I have already extended the time by 2 minutes and it is one person who has come from one party.

[*] English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

Accordingly, the time has to be allotted. I have given you ample time.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): A discussion is underway on such an important Budget, yet the Hon. Minister of Finance is not present in the House.

[English]

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Please listen to me. …(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is taking notes.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is a collective responsibility. The other Ministers are here.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please conclude as your time is up.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Parliamentary Affairs Minister is here.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please allow him to conclude his speech.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Madam, I will conclude within three minutes. …(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your time is already up.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The next speaker is Shri Sisir Kumar Adhikari.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K. SUBBARAYAN: Madam, kindly give me two more minutes to speak, and I will conclude my speech. …(*Interruptions*)

SHRI T. R. BAALU (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Please give him some more time to speak. …(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Baalu, I have already extended his time by two minutes.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time has to be allocated accordingly. His time has already been extended.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T. R. BAALU: He is speaking about the issues being faced by Tamil Nadu. …(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I know, but the time has already been extended.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The next speaker to speak is Shri Sisir Kumar Adhikari.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI (KANTHI): Madam, it was announced that the current Budget is laying a 10-year roadmap of the economy. A dream projection of making India a $5 trillion economy by 2024-25 is shown by the Government. In its own admission, India's GDP must grow at a rate of 8 percent per annum to achieve the target. Like a typical totalitarian Government, it is shifting goal posts and changing its projections just to fool the people.

Now, after completion of five years in the Government, no Minister or Government document is talking about achieving a double-digit growth. Now, the new buzzword is $5 trillion economy. Even the former Economic Adviser of the Government -- who wrote about achieving double-digit growth -- is now admitting that real GDP growth was merely 4.5 percent during the last five years. Does this Government think that it can announce anything and get away without providing any evidence?

If you ask any person in the street or in the locality of the country or anywhere else, there will be a uniform answer that lack of employment is the biggest concern of the country, especially, among the youth.

16.00 hrs

India is a country of young people. We find failure of the Government to generate employment. Rather we find a concerted effort on the part of the Government is made to take away employment of the people through whimsical action like demonetization, which has created a grave situation where unemployment has reached a 45 year high as per Government's own statistics. This Government had tried very hard to suppress the NSSO data before the election. In fact, they discredited their own officials who were involved in preparing the NSSO Report. Have we seen any acknowledgement of the fact of highest unemployment in the last 45 years in the Budget speech? The answer is a big no.

In the entire Budget speech, there is only one paragraph – paragraph 47 – where some definite number of employment to be generated by Government action has been provided. It says that the Schedule of Fund for Upgradation and Regeneration of Traditional Industries (SFURTI) should enable 50,000 artisans to join economic value chain. Further, the Schedule contemplates to set up 80 Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs) and 20 Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) in 2019-20 to develop 75,000 skilled entrepreneurs in agro-rural industry sector. Even if we accept these figures as gospel truth, only 1,25,000 employment may be

generated in a best case scenario. In a country of a population 130 crore, is it a figure even worth mentioning?

Time and again this Government has shifted goalposts, manipulated figures, suppressed independent evaluation, and cast aspersion on independent economists and thinkers. Institutions have been attacked; their independence undermined; and any voice of dissent muzzled in the name of nationalism.

Even the Reserve Bank of India that always maintained the highest standard of independent decision making was not spared. In the last five years, we have seen two of the RBI Governors were forced to move out of the RBI. Recently, a Deputy Governor, who consistently opposed Government interference in RBI matters, left prematurely before completion of his term. What message does this Government wants to convey to the nation and to the world?

Coming back to data and figures, this Government's reliability has hit the rock bottom. Many times, the GDP growth rate figures were revised retrospectively to show that things were well despite the world wide acknowledgement that Indian economy has been passing through a serious downturn. The Government cannot fool everybody all the time. One of the major areas of concern is the figure of fiscal deficit. This time, *The Economic Survey* and the Union Budget Speech portray very different pictures.

I would like to draw attention of this august House to Chapter-2, Volume-II of the Economic Survey which was tabled in this House one day before the Budget Speech.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI: Table 1 of the Chapter shows that revenue receipts as a percentage of GDP is 8.2 percent. In Medium Term Fiscal Policy-cum-Fiscal Policy Strategy Statement of the Union Budget (page 12), the total revenue receipts for Budget Estimates 2019-20 as a percentage of GDP has been shown as 9.3 percent.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sisir ji, the time has already been extended. Please conclude. I have told you three times. Just put your last word.

SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI: What magic has been done in one day that the revenue receipts of the Government increased by 1.1 percent of the GDP? I demand a thorough probe into the fudging of numbers in the Union Budget.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He has many papers left. Please conclude, Sisir ji, in last one line.

SHRI SISIR KUMAR ADHIKARI: Madam, I will conclude in one minute. I oppose the move of disinvestment of forty-four PSUs. I have serious objection on this issue.

The prices of petroleum products have been raised. This move should be withdrawn. *Kaju* import has now gone up from 40 percent to 70 percent because of which, at least, one crore *kaju* workers will be unemployed.

[*]**SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA):** Thank you for allowing me to express my views on general budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman ji for the year 2019-20. I would like to congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister for his able guidance to present a pro-people and pro-development budget with visionary programs to take the country on the path of rapid development.

Hon'ble Finance Minister referred to the 12th century's social reformer, philosopher and icon of Karnataka, Basaveshwara and his teachings in the budget speech. She quoted very significant message of Basaveshwara the "Kayaka (work) and Dasoha (Giving)."

At the outset I welcome the Union Government's decision to constitute a separate ministry for animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries. I congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister for taking such a bold step to boost the fishermen to contribute more for the progress of the fisheries sector.

As we are aware agriculture is the back bone of our economy. Understanding the fact the NDA Government has come up with various programs for the development of agriculture. For example "Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, 'Dairy Processing Infrastructure Development Fund', Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

Yojana, etc., Our NDA Government is committed to doubling the income of farmers' income by 2022. To ensure remunerative price to the farmers for their produce, the agriculture mandis are being connected online. So far, agricultural commodities valued at about Rs.36 thousand crore have been traded on e-NAM portal.

The Union budget has given more emphasis on social welfare schemes, such as Rs.5000/- bank overdraft facility to women members of Self Helf Groups (SHG). The budget has increased the allocations for women by 10% for the Scheduled Castes by 30% and for Scheduled Tribes by 25%.

Infrastructure remains its pride of place amongst the Government's priorities. The Government has allocated Rs.1 lakh and 5 thousand cores for infrastructure development. In the Financial sectors there several noteworthy proposals were announced by the hon'ble Finance Minister in her budget.

In view of the enormous potential and importance of the fishery sector, the Union Government has taken several measures for the welfare of fishermen and fishery sector. In the union budget the hon'ble Finance Minister announced "The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY). I congratulate the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Finance Minister for this initiative. Under this a robust fisheries management framework will be

established to address critical gaps in the value chain, including infrastructure, modernization traceability, production, productivity, post-harvest management and quality control.

Widening of annual turnover from Rs.250 crores to 400 crores will reduce tax liabilities for a large number of companies and boost the confidence among the players. Moreover this initiative will crack down on nefarious activities. It will also help to bridge the gap of corporate tax with ASEAN countries.

I would like to mention that the union Government has taken a significant step with a view to provide social security net for Small and Marginal Farmers (SMF) as they have minimal or no savings to provide for old age and to support them in the event of consequent loss of livelihood, the Government has decided to implement another new Central Sector Scheme for providing old age pension to these farmers. Under this Scheme, a minimum fixed pension of Rs.3000/- will be provided to the eligible small and marginal farmers, subject to certain exclusion clauses, on attaining the age of 60 years. The scheme aims to cover around 5 crore beneficiaries in the first three years. It would be a voluntary and contributory pension scheme, with entry age of 18 to 40 years. The Government has approved a budgetary provision of Rs.10774.50 crore for the scheme till March 2022.

[Translation]

COL. (RETD) RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (JAIPUR RURAL): Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I first extend my gratitude to you for granting me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Budget for 2019.

Madam, ordinarily a Budget is merely a statement of the nation's income and expenditure; however, the Budget of 2019 is of an entirely different character. When I hear the Opposition benches enumerate what they perceive as shortcomings of this Budget, I feel it necessary to present its true essence. This Budget encapsulates the spirit of all the Government's schemes and provides a robust foundation for development. For us, the Budget is not merely a leather-bound document; this time it has been presented imbued with Indian cultural ethos. It reflects the aspirations of our nation and delineates the pathway for our collective future. During the past five years, the work undertaken by the Government of India under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has been witnessed by the entire nation, along with the exemplary manner in which it has been executed. Over these years, many have observed that high expectations were created, and some even asserted that such expectations could never be fulfilled. It is a matter of regret that in so strong a nation, numerous Budgets were presented in earlier decades, yet no one

aspired to set standards as elevated as these. We not only set high expectations but achieved them, thereby earning the trust of the entire nation. We secured that trust by adhering steadfastly to one guiding principle: to place the interest of the country above all else. "Country comes first, always and every time."

If we reflect upon the past several decades and consider why India lagged on various global parameters, can it be said that there was any deficiency in our capability? Was there any shortage of resources? Was there any lack of knowledge?

16.09 hrs (Shri Rajendra Agrawal *in the Chair*)

Certainly not. If any shortcoming existed, it was in the will and resolve of the leaders who were entrusted with guiding India.

There was a shortfall in their commitment and a shortfall in their vision; however, the past five years have transformed all of this. The public witnessed the work of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, appreciated it, and placed their trust in him. Now that such a substantial mandate has been received, it is imperative that we take the nation to new heights. India is the youngest nation in the world, and naturally there shall be new hopes and new aspirations. If I state plainly what this Budget represents, it is that the objective of the Modi Government through the Budget of 2019 is to lay the foundation of a New India. The vision of the Modi

Government is to build a five trillion-dollar economy by the year 2024.

Many speakers from the Opposition have asked where revenue shall be generated from and where the resources shall come from. They have spoken of fiscal deficit. In my view, the most essential elements are willpower and commitment. I would express it thus:

"Beshak saadhan kam hain, lekin hum ummeed jaga lenge,
bekari, berozgaari ko koson door bhaga lenge.
Agar Sindhu mein ghor prabhanjan uthte hain to uthne do,
hum himmat ki patwaar se kashti paar laga denge."

(Here, the Member is emphasising that willpower, commitment and courage are stronger than material constraints, and that with firm leadership the country can overcome every obstacle and achieve its goals.)

The most essential and fundamental requirements for a person to live a dignified life have been accorded priority by us. We have provided roads to every village. We have resolved to provide water to every household, and have set a target that this shall be achieved by the year 2024. We shall ensure the delivery of electricity to every home. By 2022, every individual shall have a house, and every person's health shall be improved. After several decades, we have begun to work upon basic goals. This is the first Government that

sets targets for itself and announces them publicly. It achieves those targets even before the stipulated date. If you observe the Ujjwala Yojana, you will note that we provided five crore connections even before the target date. Such is this Government that once a target is achieved, it sets a new and higher one. This is a Government that gets things done. Today, India's economy is the fastest growing economy in the world. [English] We were the 11th largest economy in the world in 2013. In mere five years we have taken it from the 11th largest to the 6th largest in the world. While doing this, we have also kept in mind the regulations by which the Budget has to be put across to the House. We have maintained the discipline mentioned in the FRBM Act 2003. The Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003 says that you must take into consideration the fiscal deficit, the current account deficit and the government debt. We have taken that into account and we have maintained the discipline.

[Translation]

When we speak of the current account deficit, the simple question is how much money is coming into India and how much is going out. We have made every effort to ensure that more funds flow into the country. Foreign Direct Investment has reached 64 billion dollars in 2018-19, the highest so far. Why is FDI at its highest level?

Sir, the simple fact is that when financial institutions or businessmen from across the world invest their money, they do so for one principal reason: they know that their investment in India shall remain secure. They know that the Government here is stable, the growth rate is high, and the Government's policies are investor-friendly. Infrastructure is being developed. There is ease of doing business and ease of living. India is an emerging economy in which the world wishes to invest. We have further liberalised FDI. We have opened it for the media sector and for animation. Today, the youth of India are deeply engaged in animation, visual effects, gaming and comics, and we have opened Foreign Direct Investment for these sectors. We have opened it in single-brand retail. We have opened it for the insurance sector. As a result, the highest inflow of funds from abroad has taken place. In addition, we have created opportunities for the introduction of electric vehicles. When a strong Government takes a decision, the industry immediately follows that path. A few days ago, while reading the newspaper, I noted that a major car manufacturer has announced that within two years a fully electric car shall be available in India.

This is the strength of India. I would like to quote an African author. I refer to an African author because that too is a rising and developing region. He has written: "Prayers do not build good infrastructure. They do not develop countries; they do not improve

poor health systems or education systems. God has placed man in charge of all.” If I express this in Hindi, it means that infrastructure cannot be developed by prayers alone, nor can a country be developed merely through prayers. They cannot improve the healthcare system or the education system, for God has entrusted human beings with that responsibility. The 130 crore people of this nation have recognised that individual and have elected him to Parliament as our leader. This is the strength of this Government, that whatever it resolves to do, it accomplishes. The past five years were often described by us as a trailer. By now even the Opposition must have memorised the comparison of what was achieved in sixty years and what was achieved in sixty months. I shall not take up the time of the House by repeating it, but in every direction work has progressed with great speed. When Rs. 100 lakh crore is being spent on infrastructure, a new hope arises, for wherever infrastructure is created, development naturally begins to follow.

Sir, wherever roads begin to be built, development naturally follows. Wherever houses, airports, aeroplanes and railways reach, growth begins to take place on its own. I woul like to quote former President of the United States, John F. Kennedy. When speaking of roads, he had said: “American roads are not good because America is rich, but America is rich because American roads are good.” Today we can state with great pride that in rural India we have

already constructed one and a half lakh kilometres of roads, and we have now set a target of constructing an additional 1 lakh 25 thousand kilometres of roads over the next five years. For this purpose, we have earmarked Rs. 80 thousand crore separately.

Sir, when I was pursuing shooting, I had the opportunity to visit the United States. In their villages, instead of road names, one would see the letters FM followed by a number. I asked my friend what FM meant. He informed me that FM stood for Farm to Market. What a remarkable idea it is. When Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji's Government introduced the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in India, it was inspired by this very concept: that when farms are connected to mandis or to cities, development begins automatically. We initiated this mission then, and today we have set a target to construct 1 lakh 25 thousand kilometres of roads. Ours is the third-largest aviation market in the world. We have also developed 100 airports.

Sir, work is presently underway to determine how inland waterways can be utilised more effectively. Water transportation is the most economical mode of transport, and efforts in this direction are progressing steadily. To upgrade the railways, work is being undertaken through the PPP model. Gas grids, power grids, water grids, I-ways and regional airports are all being developed in a planned and integrated manner. The Hon. Prime Minister had

remarked in Silicon Valley that India requires I-ways even more than highways. Today, every citizen carries a mobile phone with internet access, placing the instruments of governance virtually in the hands of the people, thereby ensuring transparency. I am pleased to state that whereas in the past sixty years fibre-optic cables had been laid in only 60 gram panchayats, today they have been installed in nearly one lakh panchayats. In the same way, during the past five years we have achieved our housing targets, and have now set a fresh target of constructing two crore houses. The Hon. Finance Minister had informed us that in 2015 the construction of a rural house required 314 days, whereas by 2019 the same is being completed in only 214 days. The Opposition has repeatedly asked from where the requisite funds shall be obtained. I submit that true leadership lies in mobilising the very resources required to build essential infrastructure. For the first time, we have initiated a process to offer long-term bonds, including those to be issued overseas. In addition, a Credit Guarantee Enhancement Corporation has been established. FIIs have been permitted to invest directly in the debt sector. We were speaking of MSMEs.

Just now Raju Sahab was speaking about MSMEs, although he has since left. A very large section of India’s population is connected with MSMEs. To promote this sector, we have begun providing interest subsidies. For this purpose, Rs. 350 crore has

been allocated. Moreover, the Government of India recognises that the work of NGOs and the social sector is extremely important in advancing and developing the nation. For NGOs and for social enterprises, a stock exchange is being established for the first time. If you undertake good work, you shall be visible on this stock exchange, and raising funds shall become easier. We have promoted start-ups, and for Make in India we have waived customs duties.

If you look at the rural sector, we aim to establish 10 thousand Farmer Producer Organisations so that economic scalability may be achieved. If there is a tractor, all may share the same tractor. If produce is to be transported to the mandi, it can be carried using a single shared resource, enabling farmers to work collectively and reduce costs.

There has been discussion on 'Zero Budget Farming'. Here, Shri Shashi Tharoor Ji stated that he does not understand it. He said he cannot comprehend 'Zero Budget Farming'. How would he understand it? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Sir, he is referring to a Member of Parliament who is not present in the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please be seated. I too know the rules.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If anything objectionable is stated, it shall be removed from the record. Please be seated.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now sum up, please.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please be seated. What rule are you referring to?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI HIBI EDEN (ERNAKULAM): As per Rule 352, a Member while speaking shall not make a personal reference by way of making an allegation.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is no allegation. Everyone knows the rules.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HIBI EDEN: Here in this Session itself, Dr. Shashi Tharoor's name was previously used by a very senior and learned Member.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No allegation has been levelled.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Rajyavardhan Ji, you may continue.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If there is any allegation, the name shall be expunged, and if there is none, the name may continue.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sougata Babu, please be seated. Kindly respect the authority of the Chair. You are a very senior Member. Please be seated.

... (Interruptions)

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE: Sir, I am referring only to the Members who are present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Madam Preneet Kaur Ji is seated here. She also spoke on the subject of GST. ...*(Interruptions)* She said that if anything is eligible for the Guinness World Records, it is GST, because of the repeated changes made to it. ...*(Interruptions)* But this is precisely the strength of this Government, that it listens to the people. ...*(Interruptions)* Changes were made every month. ...*(Interruptions)* This was the first time GST was introduced. ...*(Interruptions)* It is on record that in countries where GST was

introduced, the Government fell; yet in our country, when GST was introduced, our Government returned to this House with an even stronger mandate. ...*(Interruptions)* This is the strength of this Government, that it listens to the people. ...*(Interruptions)* Whenever there is any shortcoming, this Government never hesitates to rectify it. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, as you have rung the bell, I shall not take any more time and will conclude my remarks here.

“Dalit, kisan, mazdoor hamaara aadhaar hai,

Alpsankhyak aur mahilaon ke hiton se pyaar hai,

Har ek parivaar jud raha hai desh ke vision se,

Ab Bharat ka har nagrik Modi sarkar hai.”

(The verse emphasises inclusive growth, unified purpose and the shared responsibility of Government and citizens in shaping the nation’s future.)

[English]

*__SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):__ Firstly, I congratulate Hon'ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman for being the 1st Women after Smt. Indira ji to present the budget in the Parliament. Although I must say the maiden budget that was presented on Friday of Narendra Modi 2.0 Government in Lok Sabha further destroys the already destroyed economy during the last five years. Unfortunately BJP/Modi 2.0 again lost the opportunity to be bold on economic reformers. The expectations from the budget were that of a bold reformist budget. However, it turned out to be an incremental budget at best. There was nothing outstanding about the First Union Budget and moreover I was most surprised to see that the Finance Minister didn't mention the fiscal deficit target even once.

It was an incremental Budget. No bold steps. No visionary things. May be, I should call it a supplementary Budget.

What has the Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, with $500 billion under her control to spend, done to put the 5th largest economy on the road to becoming a $5 trillion-economy in the next 5 years? Precious little. Barring the noise, there is nothing in the numbers or nuances of the budget that will help achieve the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

ambitious target set out by the Prime Minister. It is a business-as-usual budget at best, and an advertorial budget at worst.

BJP does not have clear economic way path and strategy to revive economy. Only goal to become Big Power by importing huge war planes, equipment, arms ammunition on name of modernizing military force. The economy and the position of poor and middle class become more miserable due to high GST, costlier petrol, diesel, resulting in cyclic rise in all prices.

For an economy that is undeniably in slowdown mode, it does come as a surprise that the first Budget for the Modi 2.0 Government has eschewed any sort of pump priming, instead preferring to leave that job of stepping up investment to the private sector a very high disinvestment target, including that of Air India. At a time when even Jet is not finding a buyer, I am not sure how will they find buyer for Air India!

This year's Budget speech was the first I have seen that, in my memory, has no paragraphs on the fiscal situation which along with the tax proposals, is at the core of any Budget. The Budget statement has to first and foremost be a statement of the accounts of the Government.

The revenue projections are unrealistic. With an expected real growth of 7 percent and inflation being contained within a 3-5

percent band, nominal GDP growth would be 10-12 percent. The revenue projections imply an elasticity of more than two which is not likely to be realized. Clearly the Rs 1.67 trillion short-fall in the provisional actual of revenue in 2018-19 has not been taken into account. In all probability, the end of the year will see the same jugglery with the subsidy payment that we saw this year to keep the deficit figure on target. The real deficit is more likely to be closer to 4 percent that the 3.3 percent indicated in the budget. Payment delays have become one of the instruments through which the reported fiscal deficit is kept under control.

Paragraph 103 of the Budget speech is brief but marks a major shift in Government fiscal policy. It proposes that the sovereign Government of India borrow from foreigners to finance its expenditures. I have grave concerns about this proposal on grounds of economic security and sovereignty, and about the macroeconomic consequences. Perhaps it is due to this tight fiscal situation that the FM mentioned the possibility of borrowing directly from foreign investors. This is a red line that India has never crossed, despite many temptations thrown in by foreign investment bankers. Even during the balance of payment crisis of 1991, or the taper-tantrum-induced panic of 2013, the Government did not cave in. It pledged gold as collateral, or attracted dollar deposits by non-resident Indians, by sweetening the returns. We have even had

dollar bonds floated by the State Bank of India to fend off the effects of the post-Pokhran sanctions. These bonds were seen as quasi-sovereign, but not quite what is being contemplated now. It is a dangerous idea for many reasons. First, it exposes the Government ’s liabilities to currency fluctuations, which can do wild. Second it can affect domestic interest rates, much like offshore speculative rupee-dollar trading can adversely affect onshore volatility. Interest rate volatility is much worse than in currency. Third, and most importantly, it lets the Government off the hook. If domestic fiscal manoeuverability is tight, it affects interest rates because of the crowding-out phenomenon. But a market-linked price of Government borrowing also acts as a disciplining device. It there is a safety valve, then the Government just quietly borrows from foreigners in dollars, at a rate which is higher than what prevails in London or New York for sovereigns. Thus, the Government incurs a higher cost through currency risk too. More worryingly, it may also cannibalize the foreign investment that is anyway coming in as foreign portfolio investment into domestic rupee-denominated Government bonds. So, we hope that the Finance Minister thinks twice before floating dollar bonds. There are other ways to increase the pool of domestic savings–like, by selling (demat) gold bonds more aggressively, or giving higher incentives for contractual savings.

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT (RAJAHMUNDRY): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak, in this august House, on the Union Budget. Sir, this is my maiden speech.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, this is the Hon. Member's maiden address; kindly allow him to speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: At the outset, I would like to congratulate the first woman Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, for outstandingly presenting the maiden Budget of the Government for more than two hours without sipping a drop of water.

We welcome the aspirations and the vision of our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, to restructure and develop the concept of New India. Under his dynamic leadership, we are confident enough that our country will achieve $ five trillion economy. We are also proud that our Hon. Prime Minister has set our great nation on the global pedestal.

The people of Andhra Pradesh are completely disappointed with this Union Budget. Our people anxiously waited for a

favourable announcement from the Government of India, the Hon. Finance Minister, but we are left in deep despair. I would like to say that promises are like clouds. When they are fulfilled, it touches our soul like rain.

[Translation]

I would also like to mention this in Hindi:

"Ye vaade jo hote hain, baadal jaise hote
hain,
Aur jab ye vaade nibhaye jaate hain,
To ye barsaat ke roop mein aate hain."

(The verse highlights that true value lies not in making promises, but in honouring them, for fulfilled promises bring tangible progress and relief, much like rain nourishes the earth.)

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through you, I would like to respectfully remind the Union Government [English] that in the year 2014, the Prime Minister candidate, Shri Narendra Modi, at the time of his election campaign, made a promise at the foothills of Lord Tirupati Balaji that when the NDA Government will come to power the bifurcated Andhra Pradesh will be given Special Category Status. But that promise is yet to be fulfilled. The then Prime Minister, Shri Manmohan Singh, made a promise on the floor of the Parliament that bifurcated Andhra Pradesh will be given

Special Category Status. The then senior BJP Leader and now the Vice-President of the country had also demanded the UPA Government to give Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh for ten years. None of the promises made by the leaders has been fulfilled. We are left in vain and neglected. Therefore, the majority of the people of united Andhra Pradesh opposed the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. The people were wretched in a political foul play.

Sir, for the past 70 years, Andhra Pradesh is considered to be a very rich State as far as the agriculture sector is concerned. The people of Andhra Pradesh invested huge amounts in building the great Hyderabad. They thought that their investments would be safe, but all the infrastructure, industries and IT companies went to Telangana State.

The UPA Government divided Andhra Pradesh unscientifically for their political gains and left us in the lurch. The NDA Government also left Andhra Pradesh high and dry.

Our Hon. Chief Minister, Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddy Garu supports every move of the Hon. Prime Minister. I would like to say that the Budget has maintained focus on infrastructural development. There is a vision of ‘one nation one grid’ for electricity. Similar is the plan for gas grids, water grids, highways,

and regional airports. This is indeed ambitious and would be transformational.

I welcome the decision to reduce corporate tax by 25 percent for the companies with a turnover of Rs.400 crore. The proposal to improve the railway infrastructure through Public-Private Partnership model is well advised. Almost Rs.50 lakh crore investment would be required over the years for this purpose. We welcome Bharat Mala with an investment of Rs.80250 crore to build 1,25,000 kilometres of village roads. It is a good initiative for transportation and its maintenance by the Government. The introduction of loan of Rs.1 crore for MSME would be a great relief to the small business. Making easier accessibility of processing loans through single portal is also a welcome thing.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: Sir, this is my maiden speech.

The Hon. Finance Minister has proposed further consolidation of the Centre's holding in PSUs both in the financial and non-financial sectors. We also welcome the National Research Foundation. Some institutions of higher learning were set up in Andhra Pradesh under the AP Reorganization Act, but they are yet to have their own buildings, infrastructure and the funds are not flowing by. They are trickling drip-by-drip.

The Hon. Member, our Olympic shooter who won the silver medal, was quoting that our economy is the 6th largest in the world. But I would like to mention here the National Sports Education Board. The Government committed to expand 'Khelo India' theme. In 2016 Olympics, India had achieved only two medals and ranked 64th. We do not want to take a dig on it because your Government had come two years before the Olympics. I would like to know whether you have any roadmap for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. Can India win gold medals? Can India be in the top ten in this coming Olympics?

The prices of petroleum products have been increased. This will be a great deficit to *aam aadmi*. Hon. Prime Minister was talking about 'one nation, one election'; 'one nation, one card' and 'one nation, one grid'. Why can we not have 'one nation, one tax'? Why do you not bring petroleum products under GST? We are buying crude oil at cheaper prices than before.

Sir, coming to our State, we are in a crisis; we do not even have enough funds to pay salaries to employees. We are in a huge crisis. My leader and our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Y S Jaganmohan Reddy Garu always says `*Devudu Unnadu'*, which means God is there and God is great. We, the people of Andhra Pradesh honour our God; love our people and defend our country. The State of Andhra Pradesh is the mother to our soul.

Therefore, I urge upon the Hon. Prime Minister to take care of the State of Andhra Pradesh by caressing and nurturing it with love and compassion. I humbly submit to the Hon. Prime Minister not to see the State of Andhra Pradesh with the prism of …(*Interruptions*) The people of Andhra Pradesh rejected him in the General and State Elections of 2019 and TDP is in deep crisis ever since the party was established.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Do not mention names. The name shall be expunged. You are new; you must learn.

[English]

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: Our State is in deep crisis ... * Therefore, with deep respect YSRCP wants to put the demands of our State before this august House through you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ram Mohan Naidu.

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: Sir, I am concluding. I will take one minute.

I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister to sanction special category status to the State of Andhra Pradesh without any further delay. The Government may kindly implement the

* Not recorded.

provisions of Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014 in the right spirit. The Government may also allocate funds to wipe out the deficit Budget by timely release of funds. As the State is reeling under severe financial crisis, I would like to request the Central Government to show big brother's faith towards its younger brother.

Sir, our State of Andhra Pradesh is having 13 districts. I would like to request the Hon. Prime Minister and the Government of India to sanction 13 major industries in these 13 districts in this Budget. The Government should consider setting up the All India Institute of Medical Sciences at Mangalgiri which is there in the capital area; the coastal corridor from Vizag to Chennai; a steep plant in Kadapa; a petro-chemical industry in Visakhapatnam; and Dugarajapatnam port in Nellore which have all been promised in the State Reorganization Act. The Government may also consider setting up an Aqua Park in West Godavari. More than 50 percent of seafood is produced ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your party has other Members as well. Please make your concluding remarks.

[English]

SHRI MARGANI BHARAT: Sir, I will just conclude. The Hon. Prime Minister has really coined a great slogan `*Sabka sath, sabka vikas aur sabka bishwas'*. But how come the Hon. Prime Minister justify this when we are left alone. Are we not an integral part of Hindustan*? ... (Interruptions)*

Thank you …(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

... (Interruptions)[*]

[*] Not recorded.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** I extend my felicitations to our visionary Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, under whose leadership the country's first woman Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, and her team have presented a historic Budget for the people, in which due consideration has been given to every section of society as well as to all important matters.

I do not wish to inundate the House with the figures contained in the Budget, as my capable colleagues have already discussed them in great detail. I extend my profound thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance and her team for this Budget, which is in the national interest and is oriented towards development. In this Budget, efforts have been made to simplify the tax system, and the provision of tax relief on interest for housing loans is a commendable step. This shall further strengthen the middle class.

In this Budget, alongside fundamental necessities such as education, electricity, gas, roads and housing, special emphasis has also been placed on Artificial Intelligence, space research, electric mobility and the solar sector, with a view to further strengthening the nation.

[*] Speech was laid on the table.

In the previous term, through the Jan Dhan Yojana, the world's largest financial inclusion programme was successfully completed. Under Ayushman Bharat, the world's largest health scheme providing a health protection cover to the poor, millions of underprivileged citizens are receiving free medical treatment. Advancing the cause of women's empowerment, our Government has implemented the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign, and under the Ujjwala Yojana has distributed 7 crore LPG connections across the country, benefitting rural women in particular. To ensure equal rights for every sister and daughter in the country, our Government is also working to eliminate harmful practices such as Triple Talaq and Nikah Halala.

It is a matter of pride for all citizens that India, which was ranked 142nd in the Ease of Doing Business index in 2017, now stands at the 77th position. Rapid progress is being made to establish India as a global manufacturing hub, and a new industrial policy is soon to be introduced. The Government now aims to place India among the top 50 countries of the world. I have full confidence that under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, we shall achieve this target very soon.

It is true that the assurance of good governance reduces corruption. The BJP-led Government at the Centre has adopted a stringent policy of zero tolerance against corruption. During the 16th Lok Sabha, when I served as Minister of State for Corporate Affairs, we employed Artificial Intelligence alongside human interface and, through the campaign launched against black money, cancelled the registration of 3 lakh 50 thousand shell and suspicious companies. Through Direct Benefit Transfer, the entire amount now reaches the beneficiary directly, eliminating the role of middlemen and thereby reducing corruption. The entire team of the CBI also deserves commendation for its role in this effort.

The previous NDA Government fulfilled its promise by removing more than 1,500 obsolete and redundant laws that had long hindered the goals of good governance and ease of doing business. In the last 66 years, only 1,301 old and obsolete laws had been removed.

In the Budget, the Hon. Prime Minister has highlighted major schemes related to providing employment to the youth through Skill Development, as well as initiatives such as Make in India and Made in India. He has also spoken about key river-linking projects. Through river-linking schemes, more than 70 percent of the rural population shall be provided with water for drinking and irrigation purposes. Our Prime Minister is placing strong emphasis on

transforming India from an import-dependent nation into an export-oriented one.

Our Government, having fulfilled the basic needs of the citizens, is now advancing with the resolve of building a strong, secure, prosperous and inclusive India, guided by the motto of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas. The goals set by this Government are significant, because the Government of the Bharatiya Janata Party possesses the determination to accomplish them. There are many objectives, but I would like to outline a few key ones: farmers' incomes shall be doubled; every poor household shall have a pucca roof; every poor family shall have access to clean cooking fuel; every poor household shall have an electricity connection; every poor citizen shall be free from open defecation; every poor person shall have access to medical facilities; every village shall be connected by roads; and the flow of the Ganga shall remain uninterrupted.

For the economic upliftment of farmers, we must think beyond Minimum Support Price and crop insurance. Our Government has initiated work on several new schemes, the most significant being the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, the pension scheme for farmers, direct linkage of farmers with markets, creation of additional sources of income based on farm activities, agricultural

modernisation, rural storage schemes and the establishment of Farmer Producer Organisations.

For the youth, our Government is committed to ensuring their effective participation in the building of a New India. To this end, measures have been taken ranging from skill development to financial support for start-ups and self-employment, along with an increase in seats and scholarship amounts in higher education. A provision of 10 percent reservation has also been made for economically weaker sections among the general category. To promote research in higher educational institutions, the National Research Foundation is being established. To nurture the talent of children, the Pradhan Mantri Innovative Learning Programme has been initiated, which is a unique effort in itself. To cultivate interest in technology among schoolchildren, the Atal Innovation Mission and Atal Tinkering Labs are being established.

With the objective of giving priority to health in life, and to promote awareness of sports and provide appropriate opportunities to sporting talent, our Government launched the Khelo India programme. I am confident that this scheme shall not remain confined to large cities but shall reach every village in the country. In the same spirit, India’s efforts to secure international recognition for Yoga have been successful, and the country has become increasingly aware of health and well-being. Today, new

employment opportunities are emerging within the field of Yoga, both in India and abroad.

My suggestion is that a special skill development plan should be formulated for the agriculture sector. Technical knowledge and skill development for the use of modern equipment in agriculture shall be a challenge in the coming years, and the Government must take steps to address it.

In accordance with the Bharatiya Janata Party's election manifesto, under the Jal Jeevan Mission our Government is preparing a plan to supply piped water to every household, from which the general public shall greatly benefit. Just as the nation embraced the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the entire country shall stand with him in the resolve he has undertaken for water conservation in New India.

There is much that our fellow citizens can learn from the tribal communities, who lead lives harmonious with nature. To ensure an inclusive and sensitive framework for their development, our Government is considering the establishment of Eklavya Model Residential Schools to provide tribal youth living in forested areas with facilities ranging from education to livelihood opportunities. I would like to request that one such school be established in the Pali

Parliamentary Constituency, which is a predominantly tribal area, so that the tribal youth of this region may also be integrated into the process of development.

On the basis of all these schemes, the nation shall progress steadily and attain stability in its rate of development.

In conclusion, I am grateful for having been given the opportunity to express my views on the Budget. This is a transformative Budget that shall strengthen the country's economy. With these words, I extend my full support to the Budget.

[English]

[*]**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SADANAND SULE (BARAMATI):** Sale of passenger cars has shrunk for a third straight month in June 2019 mainly because of high interest rates and rising automobile prices. This slump in consumption is reflected in decline in passenger vehicle sales by 19% in June, 20.5% fall in May and 17% decline in April, 2019. Consumer sentiments are unfavourable because of high interest rate on loans for consumer products. This low demand from consumers has led the manufacturing sector to lose its momentum, fuelling the slowing down of output and employment growth.

Indian economy is showing signs of slowdown in the past few months, manufacturing and core sector growth slowed in May 2019. Goods and service tax collections dipped below Rs. 1 lakh crore in June 2019, for the first time in the past few months. India’s GDP growth slowed to a five year low to 6.8% in FY 2019. The eight core sectors of industry also grew at a slower rate of 5.1& in May, 2019 compared to 6.3% in April.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

Tax Revenue

I. GST tax revenue	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budgetary Estimates (BE)	2018-19 Revised Estimate (RE)	2019-20 Budgetary Estimate
Rs. in crore	4,42,562	7,43,900	6,43,900	6,63,343

Though Rs.7,43,900 crore was projected to be collected in form of tax revenue from GST, actual collection in 2018/19 (RE) was just Rs. 6,43,900 crore, which fell short by one lakh crore. In BE 2019-20, the tax revenue through GST is revised downwards to be at Rs. 6,63,343 crore. This puts in question the efficiency of GST implementation and its ability to raise tax revenue as expected. The Centre must specify to the House, the reasons for shortfall of one lakh crore in GST revenue collection, and the problems it is facing in smooth implementation of GST.

II. GST tax revenue	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budgetary Estimates (BE)	2018-19 Revised Estimate (RE)	2019-20 Budgetary Estimate
Rs. In crore	2,03,262	6,03,900	5,03,900	5,26,000

The complete shortfall of Rs. one lakh crore in GST tax revenue came from CGST ie. though Rs. 6,03,900 crore was projected to be collected in the form of tax revenue from GST, actual collection in 2018-19 (RE) was just Rs. 5,03,900 crore. Centre is visibly facing issues in implementing and collecting revenue from CGST.

Contrary to the claims of increased tax revenue after GST, the revenue from indirect taxes as a % of GDP fell to 5.3% in 2017-18 from 5.6% in 2016-17. It is projected to fall again to 5.3% in 2019-20 from 5.6% in 2016-17. How can the Centre claim efficiency of GST, when indirect tax revenue as a % of GDP is actually declining in post GST years?

In 2019-20 budget, the Centre has slashed the funds for developing national industrial corridors from Rs.1,97 crore in 2018-19 to Rs. 850 crore in 2019-20. As for the MSMEs, they have

witnessed fall in their economic activity and loss of employment following GST and demonetization. Despite these shortcomings, the Central Government has failed to take measures to encourage them. For example, the Standing Committee on Industry on MSMEs noted the failure of central public sector enterprises to comply with the 20% procurement norm from MSMEs. In 2015-16 more than 50% of the Central Public Sector Undertakings (CPSUs) did not achieve the procurement target and in the preceding years also, only 32% and 40% of the CPSUs achieved the target procurement. I request the Ministry to provide clarification on the steps taken by the Ministry to ensure the compliance of CPSUs with the procurement target, and action is taken against the CPSUs which do not comply with the public procurement policy.

Money from the price stabilisation fund is utilised to counter the price fluctuations of agricultural produce. But in 2018-19 only Rs. 1,500 crore was allocated to this fund compared to Rs. 3,500 crore in 2017-18. Also the budget allocated for 2019-20 of Rs. 2,000 crore in way less than actual expenditure on stabilizing prices of Rs. 3,500 crore in 2017-18.

The MSP prices approved by the Centre are way lower than those recommended by the Maharashtra state Government in 2017-18 and 2018-19. For example, MSP for long staple cotton approved by the Centre for 2018-19 is Rs.5450 per quintal, which is much

lower than the State recommended price of Rs.7272 per quintal. I urge the Centre to calculate MSP using the more comprehensive C2 formula, to ensure considerable returns and income to farmers.

In 2019/20, the budget allocated for food subsidy through decentralized procurement under National Food Security Act of Rs. 33,000 crore, is 13% less than subsidy disbursed in 2017-18 of Rs. 38,000 crore. This fall in food subsidy through decentralized procurement, is in spite of the increased devolution of food grain procurement responsibility to the States, and the Centre encouraging decentralized procurement of food grains by the States.

Under crop insurance, total number of farmers covered under crop insurance declined from 5.7 crore to 4.8 crore between 2016-17 to 2017-18. In Maharashtra the % of cropped area insured reduced from 38% to 27% between 2015-16 to 2017-18. Under PMFBY, if a loanee farmer is eligible for insurance claims, then the claim amount is deposited into their loan account. Thus many a time their claim amount goes in repayment of their loan and income loss due to crop loss remains a burden. Also under PMFBY, the information on crop damage assessment (Called Crop Cutting Experiments) is not in the public domain.

There are three important stakeholders in crop insurance the state, centre and farmers all with conflicting interests. Crop insurance model followed in India is based on the model adopted in developed countries, where nearly all (100%) of the cropped area is insured. Whereas in India as on 2017-18, only 25% of the gross cropped area is insured. Hence we need an independent regulatory body to propose alternate suitable model for India and settle all crop insurance related claims.

Rural Development

III. MGNREGA outlay	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budgetary Estimates (BE)	2018-19 Revised Estimate (RE)	2019-20 Budgetary Estimate
Rs. in crore	55,166	55,000	61,084	60,000

[Translation] Budget allocated for MGNREGA in 2019-20 of Rs. 60,000 crore. is less than last year's expenditure of Rs. 61.084 crore. There is lack of work/employment under MGNREGA in drought hit regions of Maharashtra. I urge the Centre to release

sufficient funds to drought hit states, so that the States can provide more work in these areas.

IV. PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budgetary Estimates (BE)	2018-19 Revised Estimate (RE)	2019-20 Budgetary Estimate
Rs. in crore	6,613	9,429	8,251	9,682

In 2018/19, compared to the budgetary allocation of Rs.9,429 crore, only Rs.8,251 crore was spent on improving irrigation under PMKSY. Despite this under spending, 2019-20 budgetary allocation is increased to Rs. 9,682 crore.

The delays in irrigation projects have debilitating effect on farmers' lives. According to the CAG, there has been an overall cost escalation of 2341 percent to major irrigation projects due to delays, making them dependent on monsoons. As the CAG pointed out, the irregularities in the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme were because of financial and implementation indiscipline.

V. National Rural Drinking Water Mission	2018-19 Budgetary Estimates (BE)	2018-19 Revised Estimate (RE)	2019-20 Budgetary Estimate
Rs. in crore	7,000	5,500	10,001

In 2018-19, compared to the budgetary allocation of Rs. 7,000 crore, only Rs.5,500 crore was spent on improving access to drinking water in rural areas. Despite this shortfall in spending, the 2019/20 budgetary allocation in increased to Rs. 10,001 crore.

Swachh Bharat Mission

VI. Swachh Bharat Mission	2017-18 Actual	2019-20 Budgetary Estimate
Rs. in crore	19,427	12,644

Funds allocated to Swachh Bharat Mission in 2019-20 fell by 35% to Rs. 12,644 crore, compared to spending of Rs. 19,427 crore in 2017-18.There are also discrepancies in the data on actual

number of toilet constructions under this Mission. While the Government data on toilet construction indicates that nearly 98% of the Indian households have access to toilets, study by Research Institute for Compassionate Economics (RICE) says otherwise. According to this study, nearly 44% of the rural population in Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan defecate in the open. These three states of UP, MP and Rajasthan are either fully or largely ODF as per the Government data, which is evidently incorrect.

Also, the toilets constructed are without proper underground drainage. Research suggests that of toilets build with Government support in the above four states, only 42% were found to be twin-pit latrines. The recommendation of making toilets for safe and sustainable waste management must be considered immediately by the Government .

VII. PM Gram Sadak Yojana	2018-19 Budgetary Estimates (BE)	2018-19 Revised Estimate (RE)	2019-20 Budgetary Estimate
Rs. in crore	19,000	15,500	19,000

The actual expenditure of Rs. 15,500 crore in 2018/19 (RE) fell short of the budgetary allocation of Rs. 19,000 crore. Also, the BE for 2019/20 is the same as last year at Rs. 19,000 crore.

Urban Development

VIII. PM Awas Yojana	2018-19 Budgetary Estimates (BE)	2019-20 Budgetary Estimate
Rs. in crore	25,505	25,853

Budgetary allocation for this 'housing for all' scheme is less than allocation in 2018-19. The number of houses constructed under Awas Yojana is way below the target number of houses set by the Government i.e. construction of houses fell short of the target. As per the data on houses constructed in rural areas under PM Awas Yojana (Gramin), in an unstarred question, the Government has replied stating that, a total of 18,21,867 houses (as on 05.02.2018) were constructed in 2017-18, against the target of 75,88,618. As per unstarred question no. 750 answered on 17.12.2018, total number of houses constructed under PM Awas Yojana Gramin was 19,89,677 units which is less than the target of 32,24,378 units for 2017-18.

A high proportion of loans disbursed under PMMY are shishu loans of marginal loan amounts. As per the data released by the Ministry, of the total loans sanctioned under Prime Minister Mudra Yojana (PMMY), 92.89% were less than Rs. 50,000 (Classified as Shishu loans) in 2015-16. In 2017-18 without much improvement, 88.65% of Mudra loans disbursed were less than Rs. 50,000. The Prime Minister himself has announced in May, 2018 that Rs. 6 lakh crore was disbursed to 12 crore beneficiaries. This would mean that on an average Rs. 50,000 amount of loan was disbursed per beneficiary for starting small scale business.

Also, as of August 2018, these Shishu loans (which constitute 90% of the loan accounts) amount to only 44.44% of total loan amount disbursed – which mean nearly 56% of the loan amount went to just 10% of loan accounts. Centre must clarify on the reasons for such disparity in loan amounts disbursed under PMMY.

In the state of Maharashtra also, Shishu loans constitute mere 40% of total loan amount sanctioned in the State. Thus nearly 90% of beneficiaries are getting only 40% of loan amount. In addition to this variance in distribution of loan amount, the increasing cost of inputs, makes it difficult to start a micro enterprise. Hence I request the Government to increase the limit of Shishu loans to Rs. 1 lakh and sanction higher average loan per beneficiary, to better enable them to open and operate successful micro enterprises.

In 2019-20, the budget allocated to provide LPG connections to poor households is Rs. 2,724 crore, which is 15% less than Rs. 3,200 crore spent on LPG connections to poor in 2018-19. A particular household might be opting for wood as source of fuel because of its affordability and LPG seeming relatively costlier. Just by giving the household free connection and not subsidizing the future use of LPG cylinders, the high prevalence of usage of wood in rural India is not addressed. For example, data shows that there are very less number of Ujjwala beneficiaries returning for refills of cylinders. While the national average refill consumption of LPG cylinders is 7.7 cylinders per annum, for Ujjwala beneficiaries only 4 cylinders have been recorded to have consumed in 2016-17. Though the Government may have succeeded in providing subsidized LPG connections, how can it ensure that the households opt for LPG, when it is not subsidising refill of LPG cylinders?

In India citizens face an increasing out-of-pocket healthcare expenditure. As per latest National Health Account estimates, 67% of the total health expenditure comes from households pockets. Every year nearly 7% of the population is pushed below the poverty line because of this health expenditure.

In the past few months since its implementation, PM Jan Aarogya Yojana is facing a number of implementation problems.

There has been a recorded delay in the release of funds to the State to reimburse the premium amount paid to the hospital by the State. Also, less funds have been allocated to the scheme compared to the amount requested by the Scheme's implementation agency, which is the National Health Agency.

The capacity of Ayushman Bharat to check the out-of-pocket expenditure is limited, because the outpatient expenditure, which forms a major part of out of pocket expenditure of citizens, is left out of insurance cover under Ayushman Bharat. Insurance cover under PM Jan Aarogya Yojana is limited to only inpatient care. As per healthcare statistics, more than 55% of the out of pocket expenditure on health care is spent on outpatient care. By including outpatient care in insurance cover, many ailments can be treated at their initial stages, as people tend to delay their visit to hospital citing high cost of outpatient care. Hence I urge the Centre to provide insured outpatient care inclusive of diagnostics and medicines. Single rate card provision under Ayushman Bharat-single rate (price) for similar medical procedure across the country fails to take into account, heterogeneity in healthcare prices across the country. According to the latest round of NSSO survey, average hospitalization rates vary significantly across the country.

Finally, under Ayushman Bharat, medical procedure list is prepared centrally, being the same for all states. This approach does

not consider that the healthcare needs are different for different states. Hence same medical procedure for entire country would not be suboptimal. Research has recognized there are inherent inequalities in causes of disease burden across states. Hence healthcare interventions must be customized to the associated risk factors and causes. I recommend that the Centre could ask the States to prepare their own medical procedure and corresponding rates.

Government must consider opening of Jan Aushadi stores in mental health care institutions and ensure the availability of medicines related to mental health at these Aushadi centres. Standing Committee on Health on functioning of AIIMS in six cities of Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh, observed shortcomings in infrastructure here. There is 48% of sanctioned faculty posts were vacant in above six AIIMS; and 60% vacancy in non-faculty post here- resulting in overburdening of faculty doctors and skewed doctor; patient ratio. Operation theatres were found to be non functional with no provision for medical gas pipelines and sewer lines for operation theatres. During its study visit to AIIMS, Jodhpur, the panel did not find a single modular operation theatre (OT) functioning.

Public Accounts Committee in its report has commended that the Labour Ministry should approach the Health Ministry to take over ESIC hospitals and develop them on the lines of AIIMS. To

overcome infrastructure deficiencies in the short term, the Centre can consider this suggestion.

Indian is facing demographic dividend – which millions of youth enter labour force annually. Over 90% of workforces are employed in informal sector-which means neither job security nor social security. National Career Portal managed to match only 7,07,000 jobs in 2016-17, which is jobs for just 1.8% of the 39.1 million people registered with it. Parliament's Estimated Committee has also highlighted this. The number of job seekers registered and number of them actually placed through Employment Exchange from 2016 (2016, 2017, 2018) is not maintained.

The Government has claimed an increase in the jobs, based on the Employees Provident Fund Organization (EPFO) data. The questionability of reaching conclusions on employment based on EPFO data, was also raised by the panel appointed by the Prime Minister's Office. Panel headed by former chief Statistician TCA Anant recommended that the EPFO payroll data needed significant changes- by bringing the data in tune with the National Industrial Classification (NIC) standards. When the PMO appointed panel itself has pointed out the vulnerability of EPFO payroll data and questioned its reliability, how can the Government refer to it to claim an increase in jobs?

Unemployability of youth- According to the Niti Aayog's report of Strategy for New India @75, about 53% of graduates of Indian higher educational institutions are not employable. Also, only 5.4% of the Indian work force underwent skill training, compared to 75% in Germany and 96% in South Korea. Hence to increase their employability, there is need to have skilling and training centres for youth. I request the Centre to make changes in the higher education curriculum so that the focus is on imparting job skills and application of bookish knowledge, instead of rote learning and giving priority to grades. Curriculum must be changed so that students must be encouraged to think, question and innovate; instead of just reproducing theory.

Social Justice and Empowerment

IX. Schemes for development of SCs	2017-18 Actual	2018-19 Budgetary Estimates (BE)	2018-19 Revised Estimate (RE)	2019-20 Budgetary Estimate
Rs. in crore	5,061	5,183	7,609	5,445

Budget allocated for development of Scheduled Castes in 2019-20 of Rs. 5,445 crore is less than last year's expenditure of Rs. 7,609 crore.

Renke Commission report made a case for grouping these denotified tribes (like Pardhis or Takari of Maharashtra) into a separate category under a Third Schedule. Commission recommended for separate categorization so that the benefits of reservations in Government jobs and education can be extended to them. In its report, the commission has noted that entire communities were branded as criminals under the colonial rule through enforcement of the Criminal Tribes Act, 1871, and are stigmatized since then. Idate Commission report recommended that they be given legal and constitutional safeguards and protection under Atrocities Act.

On lines of the above reports, I request the Centre to consider amending the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Order to include Dhargars in the Scheduled Tribes list and provide reservation to Pardhis/Takari of Maharashtra. The Maharashtra Government has recognized the backwardness of Lingayat community when it included 10 sub-castes of lingayats into OBC category, but left out other sub-castes which are equally backward. The entire Lingayat community to be included in the Other

Backward Caste (OBC) category and be made eligible for reservation jobs in Government and education.

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): Hon. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Union Budget of 2019.

First of all, like every Member has done, on behalf of the Telugu Desam Party, I would like to congratulate Hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, for being the first exclusive Finance Minister to present the grand Budget for this country. We also respect the position she is in right now. We have also elected her as a Rajya Sabha Member from Andhra Pradesh. So, it means a lot to us that she has presented a full-fledged Budget.

Other than this, the rest of the points that I am going to make are very disappointing on the part of the Central Government, looking the way that they have presented the Budget.

First of all, whenever a Budget is to be presented, it is preceded by the President's Address. After the President's Address, *The Economic Survey* will be released. The President's Address gives the vision of the Central Government. It shows the direction in which it is supposed to proceed. Then *The Economic Survey* comes in, which depicts the strategy on how to go about the vision. Then comes the Budget. The Budget gives out the numbers, the allocations on strengthening the path that the Government wants to

take on achieving its strategy and its vision. But it is missing this time. It has totally gone out of convention. What is very disappointing is that, in the Budget Speech, there are no numbers at all. It has just words in it. It was just like an extension of the President's Address itself. This is not the convention just in the history of our country but it is there in other countries as well. The convention of the Budget is that it has to be supported by proper numbers.

Now, there is a leading confusion because of non-mentioning of numbers. When it was pointed out to the Hon. Finance Minister, she has clarified that we have to look into the books. We did as she said. We looked into the books but then it was more confusing. In the books, especially *The Economic Survey* and the Budget, there have been discrepancies in numbers.

For example, I would start by mentioning the discrepancy between the Budget allocations and the actual figures for Central expenditure and revenue which is contained in *The Economic Survey*. Also, there has been a dubious representation of the nominal GDP. In some places, the numbers are presented from the same Financial Department. At one place, it is mentioned as 12 percent and in the other place, it is mentioned as 11 percent. If we take the inflation rate as four percent, the real GDP amounts to eight percent in one case and seven percent in the other case. Which is

right and which is wrong? What is to be believed? This is the kind of confusion that is arising from the documents that have been presented through the Budget.

I would like to provide another example. According to the actual figures of receipts and expenditure, when it was asked to the Hon. Finance Minister, she mentioned that the fiscal deficit was 3.3 percent. But it is stated in the Revised Estimates that Rs.10,963 crore amounts to 3.45 percent. Figures about fiscal deficit are different, figures about GDP are different. This kind of discrepancies in numbers is leading to a lot of confusion. So, we cannot really understand what the Budget is actually saying.

There have been talks about five trillion dollars economy. That is not the solution for everything. That is not the solution especially for the ground level problems that we are facing today.

One of the problems that we are facing today is unemployment. One of them is job crisis. There are many similar problems because of which the people of the country are facing huge difficulties. I would like to mention some points regarding unemployment crisis.

Again, I would like to stress that the numbers that have been presented through the Budget are not right and there are many discrepancies.

There are other points which are to be taken up on priority. Our Hon. Member from YSRCP also spoke about them. He spoke about the rights of Andhra Pradesh. You have been a witness of how we have been fighting for our rights for the last five years. These are the rights which have been promised to us on this very floor of the House and Parliament.

One of them is the special status for Andhra Pradesh. Then we have other issues like Railway Zone, funds for building our new capital, Amaravati and funds for Polavaram and backward districts. My district, Srikakulam, was supposed to receive a special grant. That also has not been granted.

On deficit budget, what we were stating to the Central Government was Rs. 16,000 crores and what they have stated to us was Rs. 4000 crore. At that point of time, we thought that they had something against the TDP or the State Government of Andhra Pradesh and that is why, they were mixing up the numbers. But now, we have seen that they are doing this with the whole country itself. All numbers are being misjudged; all numbers are being fudged. Even regarding the Report of the NSSO on unemployment, they said that it was a draft Report. But after the elections, they have released it which said that unemployment is at the highest in the country in 45 years.

Then, they did not release the suicide data of the farmers since 2015. I wanted to do some research on the agricultural crisis. I wanted to see how many suicides are happening across the country. But no report has been published since 2015. So, there is a serious concern regarding the data which is coming out from the Central Government. There is a lot of confusion, especially there seems to be no statistical integrity with this Government, and that is what we are questioning today.

Now, I come back to AP rights. I have already mentioned about the special status. Now, all eyes are on the YSRCP because they have won with a huge mandate. What he is saying is right in the sense that we have come down to three. But we are not in a crisis. I again want to mention that TDP is not in a crisis. We take this as an opportunity to come back. But today, they have won with a huge mandate of having 22 Members in this House. Now, all eyes are on them. How are they going to achieve the special status?

I would like to pose this question to the Central Government also because we are listening through various mouths, especially, from the Hon. Prime Minister Sir, Hon. Home Minister Sir and also the Hon. Finance Minister. They are all saying that the special category status cannot be granted. So, we also want to see how the YSRCP, which has convinced the people that they are going to achieve the special category status, is going to achieve it. You tell

the people of Andhra Pradesh how you are going to achieve this. We will be very happy if we are getting the special category status. You have also seen how we have fought for it.

The other point is this. This Government does not have any right to speak about cooperative federalism. I am sorry to say this. But we also have proof right now. This Government speaks about cooperative federalism. I also want to give an example. Even after repetitive demand for the rights of Andhra Pradesh, what they have done today is this. The GIFT City has been proposed in Gujarat. You know about Gujarat. Many of the Members present here also know that it is supposed to be the model State. Why is it so? [Translation] It is because Narendra Modi*ji*, our Hon. Prime Minister, has been the Chief Minister of Gujarat for four times. Whenever the development of this country had been talked about, Gujarat was taken as an example. So, it was one of the leading and the most developed States in this country, and to such a State, even today, you are extending your favouritism by granting special tax benefits in a bid to boost investments at the International Finance Service Centre near Gujarat International Finance Tec-City. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, please grant me four minutes. I will complete my speech.

Sir, now, we are a divided State. You know what financial crisis Andhra Pradesh has been facing. We are not just demanding

for something out in the open. Whatever we have been asking are our rights. But now, Gujarat has been favoured in such a way that it is being given tax benefits, it is being given additional budget. But if we talk about a State like Andhra Pradesh, how can we compete with the States like Gujarat tomorrow if everything will go to Gujarat? There is no way that this Government can use cooperative federalism. This is totally cooperative favouritism that is being done to only BJP-ruled States.

I will come back to the issue of five trillion dollars economy. This is being provided as an example, as a solution to all the problems that the country is facing today. If our economy, today, is 2.7 trillion dollars, we are expecting it to grow to 5 trillion dollars in five years. I am not being a pessimist. Everybody here knows that I am very optimistic. I am saying this because whenever someone questions anything said by the Hon. Prime Minister*ji*, he says that he is a professional pessimist. I am not trying to be a pessimist. I am just being a maths student. If today's 2.8 trillion-dollar economy has to be 5 trillion-dollar economy in five years, our GDP has to grow, at least, at 10 percent but we are saying that the GDP is going to grow at 8 percent. Even that is also debatable because somewhere it says 7 percent. Nothing is to be believed. What is going on in this country with the numbers is that nothing is to be believed. In five

years, you want it to be 5 trillion dollars. In 2025, you will want it to be even more.…(*Interruptions*)

Now I come to the most important point. Being a young Member, I have to talk about the unemployment situation in this country. 'Make in India' is a failure. Other than that, 'Mudra Yojana' is also a failure. About 53 percent of Mudra loans are NPAs today. At least, Rs. 22,000 crore are depicted as non-performing assets under the 'Mudra Yojana'.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your remarks.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM): I will say 'Make in India' is a failure. A lot of people might debate with me but I will keep saying that until the hard facts are placed on the Table.…(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

DR. NISHIKANT DUBEY: (GODDA): Hon. Chairperson, this is the allegation. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Yes, Sir, I am putting an allegation.…(*Interruptions*) I am putting the allegation

on the Central Government.…(*Interruptions*) I will keep putting this allegation.…(*Interruptions*) I will keep saying that ‘Make in India’ is a failure.…(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please be seated.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please allow the reply to be given.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU: Sir, I am just concluding.…(*Interruptions*) Nishikant*ji*, please let me finish.…(*Interruptions*) Sir, they are taking away my time.…(*Interruptions*)`Make in India’ is a failure until the Central Government proves it is not that. They have to place hard facts on the table. …(*Interruptions*) They have to display to the country how many companies have come through `Make in India’; how many jobs have come through `Make in India’; how many people are employed through `Make in India’. Until a special report is released under `Make in India’, I cannot say it is a hit; it is a failure. …(*Interruptions*). They have to come out with straight facts. Whenever the youth is asking for employment, they will question back to the youth: `Are you national or anti-national?’ Whenever they ask for jobs, they will ask: `Are you for Pulwama or are you

for Balakot?' They pose all these questions. …([Translation] *Interruptions*). They divert their mind from unemployment. They bring all other things into the mind of the young people. …(*Interruptions*). You can divert these issues for some time, maybe for the elections, but it will come back and it will grip your neck. That is why, I am warning you that unemployment is a major problem. …(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please be seated, you please sit down.

Shri, Varun Gandhi ji.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, nothing is going on record.

…(Interruptions)[*]

[Translation]

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI (PILIBHIT): Sir, should I start? Sir, let him finish in a minute. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Naidu Ji, your time is over; please take your seat.

[*] Not recorded.

...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Varun Ji, only your microphone is on; everyone else's is off.

...(Interruptions)

[*]**SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI):** Under the leadership of our popular Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of Finance has presented the Union Budget for 2019-20, and I express my support for it. Whenever a Union Budget is presented in the country, it is the common man who watches it most closely. This Budget is a forward-looking one that shall ensure socio-economic transformation. Through public participation, it envisions the creation of a New India. With the principle of minimum government–maximum governance, it places emphasis on strengthening healthcare services, social empowerment, employment generation and, in particular, promoting entrepreneurship among women. This shall accelerate the nation's development.

When the nation's economy grows, the facilities available to the poor also expand. From laying the foundation of a New India to creating a pollution-free environment, from carrying Digital India to every sector of the economy to the beginning of Gaganyaan, Chandrayaan and other space missions, the vision of these initiatives is reflected in this Budget.

[*] Speech was laid on the table.

This Budget embodies Mahatma Gandhi Ji's ideals of cleanliness, poverty alleviation, the upliftment of farmers in villages and the creation of employment opportunities in rural areas.

The Budget expresses the intent to double farmers' incomes by 2022 and to significantly expand infrastructure in agriculture and allied sectors. To enhance farmers' incomes, emphasis is now being placed on increasing oilseed productivity after pulses, increasing the number of food processing units and promoting fisheries. In this financial year, 10 new farmer producer centres are to be opened. Infrastructure for milk procurement shall be strengthened, agricultural entrepreneurs shall be trained, farmers' access to e-mandis shall be expanded, and provisions for farmers' pension and assistance of Rs. 6,000 per year shall continue. The efforts of our Government on these multiple fronts shall be effectively advanced through this Budget.

A budgetary provision of Rs. 62,659 crore has been proposed for the health sector. This is the first time that the nation's health budget for the common citizen has crossed the figure of Rs. 60,000 crore.

The allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana, Ayushman Bharat, has been increased from Rs. 2,400 crore to Rs. 6,400 crore, and under Ayushman Bharat, 55 crore people in the

country are being provided health insurance cover of Rs. 5 lakh per year free of cost. Measures have also been taken in this Budget to ensure that an even greater number of people may be brought under this insurance coverage.

The budget for AYUSH has likewise been increased from Rs. 1,692 crore to Rs. 1,939 crore, enabling a larger number of citizens to benefit from AYUSH systems of medicine and creating greater employment opportunities for the youth. This is indeed commendable.

In this Union Budget, adequate arrangements have been made to expand the road transport and highway network. In the five years following Independence, 20 percent of the country's roads have been constructed; for this, I extend my thanks to Shri Gadkari Ji.

The industry has warmly welcomed the reduction in GST rates for electric vehicles, the interest concessions and the commitment of Rs. 10,000 crore for FAME 2.

The Budget has addressed the concerns of financial markets. Provision has been made for an additional Rs. 70,000 crore for recapitalisation of public sector banks. The Government is endeavouring to bring public sector banks into a stronger position during the current financial year. The Budget has helped allay the concerns of financial markets. Taken as a whole, the Budget shall

accelerate the growth of the economy and presents an excellent balance between expectations and aspirations.

In the Budget, the eight ambitious schemes of the Hon. Prime Minister, through which the nation's future shall be transformed, have been highlighted. On the one hand, under the Ujjwala and Saubhagya Yojanas, every household shall be provided gas and electricity connections by 2022; on the other hand, a roadmap has been set to address the water crisis by 2024, ensuring water through every tap. Under the next phase of the Swachh Bharat Mission, solid waste management shall be undertaken in every village. Alongside this, under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, an increasing number of houses are being constructed in both rural and urban areas so that the dream of a home for all may be fulfilled. This is one of the principal features of the Budget.

In this Budget, the Government has demonstrated complete dedication to villages, the poor, farmers, youth, women, national welfare and economic development. I extend my full support to this Budget.

[English]

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: Sir, I rise to support the Union Budget. …(*Interruptions*). I rise to support the Union Budget in letter and spirit. I want to put my observations forthwith. …(*Interruptions*).

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your allotted time has concluded. [English] Nothing is going on record.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: The Budget has always been a consultative process. …(*Interruptions*). [Translation] Sir, we are not engaged in any impropriety. ...*(Interruptions)* Kindly obtain clarification from them. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Ponnuswami ji, why are you standing? Please take your seat. [English] Nothing is going on record.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: The Budget has always been a consultative process. …(*Interruptions*). Sir, I cannot speak like this. …(*Interruptions*). I am sorry. …(*Interruptions*).

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Naidu Ji, nothing is going on record. You are an experienced Member of Parliament. Once your allotted time has concluded, you should take your seat on your own. You were given time on four occasions. Please be seated. Naidu Ji, you are a very senior MP now. Galla Sahab, you also please take your seat. Naini Sahab, you also please be seated. Varun Ji, you may speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI FEROZE VARUN GANDHI: The Budget has always been a consultative process and whether it is industry leaders, whether they are experts, whether they are social scientists, important voices have cooperated in the presentation of this document.

Sir, seventy-two countries, all over the world, are indulging in participatory budgeting today, which basically means that citizens prevent their Governments from unilaterally putting forth a Budget and they present their civil policy preferences and priorities to negotiate local budget allocations.

I was recently in Brazil and I was in the city of Porto Alegre, which is supposedly the best governed city in the world where neighbourhood assembly's community organisers work with participants to identify proposals for capital investment.

My question is this. Can the Government initiate a new kind of budgetary process slowly with pilot projects expanding forth where we share our economic and financial position with certain sections, with delegates who have been elected by community organisers, from several parts of the country, and then offer them a forum for some kind of public demand? Is it possible? It is because I think that the Government's budgetary spending would be more closely tied to actual needs. Were that to happen, it would make the Budget more representative and accountable.

My next point is on wage inequality, which remains a serious obstacle towards social and inclusive growth. In *India Today*, I was looking at the fact that we were the first developing country in the world to put the Minimum Wages Act in 1948. But till date, there is no directive to the Minimum Wage Act. If, for instance, we look at the fact that 30 percent of workers are not really protected by the law in any manner, it is a fact that there is no provision in the Minimum Wage Act, 1948 to cover all workers. If we go deeper into this, there is a scheduled employment and a scheduled job category. Scheduled employment is a sector including tea plantation, mining etc. Scheduled employment refers to a job type for unskilled workers. Now, in the State of Mizoram, there are only three scheduled employments whereas in the State of Assam, there are 102 scheduled employments. Does that mean that in the State

of Mizoram, people are only doing three kinds of work? It is something for us to think about.

There is a significant variation in the minimum wage rates. In Delhi, it is Rs. 538 and in Nagaland, it is only Rs. 115. Assuming that the costs of living etc., are different, even then, the range difference between highest and lowest minimum wage rate in a given State is wide. In Kerala, it is Rs. 905 and in Nagaland, it is only Rs. 16, which means whatever kind of job you do in Nagaland, the minimum wage rate is only just Rs. 16. How do you standardise this?

My request to the Government is that we declare a national floor level minimum wage rate and incorporate it into the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 through revision because this will make it statutory; it will act as a benchmark for increasing minimum wage; and it will give workers rights to agitate and protect their demands at will.

Can we have a universal basic income in our country? I would quote two studies of SEWA that were done in Dindori and Alirajpur in Madhya Pradesh where it showed that in the 62 villages that were taken, 90 percent of them escaped informal debt by becoming producers – whether it is of cloth, whether it is of *kulhars*, whether it is of milk etc. Some unconditional basic income has served to

reduce child labour, to produce sustainable increases in income and to reduce informal debt from moneylenders, which is a vicious trap that we all know about.

The British Economic Gazette says that in the time of *Rajas* and *Maharajas* in 1925, one percent of India owned 25 percent of India's wealth. Today, one percent of India owns 73 percent of national wealth; and the poorest minimum wage labourer will take 941 years to achieve what a top executive earns in one year.

While I wanted to discuss compensatory afforestation, I congratulate the Government on the success of UJALA Yojana, which has entailed distribution of 35 crore LEDs. But I would like to add: can we replicate the same model for solar stores and battery chargers?

17.00 hrs

There are millions of people who are living off-the-grid electricity today. It will prove a major boost to them, both, in terms of light and fuel. It will also reduce our LPG burden, etc.

When we talk of afforestation, the environmental laws are old. About 90 percent environmental laws were made before 1947, the ones we are carrying on with. They are confusing. Many of them contradict each other. Can we have the best minds in our country who sit and write one law for the forest, wild life and the forest

people. Another set of best minds can write a codified law for the environment which is increasingly becoming an urban issue today. Can we have an institutional restructuring? The forest in India accounts for 21 percent but the Forest Service is demoralised and in decline. The working mechanism of the Forest Service must be similar to the Army or to the police in terms of training and new methodology. We can have specialisations for wild life tourism or protection and it must be a specialised service. You can not have a forestry service official working in the passport office or in the RTO. It does not make any sense to me.

Sir, when we talk about financial independence, in the CAMPA (Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority) the Supreme Court has collected Rs. 54,000 crore today in terms of what we call NPVs, which is, net present value of forests that have been used for non-forestry purposes. Today, all of this is lying with an *ad hoc* CAMPA Authority. Not a single penny has been spent. If we can, once again, bring the best minds into this and do a National Afforestation Programme together, I think, there would be a lot of value-add in this.

17.02 hrs (Dr.(Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki *in the Chair*)

The wildlife towns need to be boosted. The Ranthambore National Park in Sawai Madhopur had zero revenue before 1985.

Today, it has a revenue of about Rs. 500 crore a year. It is just one district. If we look at Bharatpur, Chandrapur, Chikmagalur, Jabalpur, etc., across the country, can we not convert these into model green towns and mix them with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan to put the best waste cycling processes in these towns and, of course, by tourism in that?

Sir, we need a National Employment Policy to lay out the kind of good quality jobs that the Government seeks to generate through investment and skilling methods. We may have a roadmap for these quality jobs with tax incentives of entrepreneurs and reduced regulatory burdens. The statistics is this. It costs Rs. 26 lakh to create one steel job in the country and it also costs Rs. 1 lakh to create nine textile jobs in the country. What we should be investing in is very clear to me. Look at the facts of employment guarantee. Europe was almost completely bankrupt in 2013. Countries like Greece had 60 percent unemployment; Italy had 50 percent; and Spain had 45 percent unemployment. In Europe, they spend € 3.5 billion for putting an employment guarantee scheme where they said: “We will do three things: Either we will pay for your further education till you get skilled or whatever skill you have, according to that, we will give you a job or we will give you an apprenticeship according to which you can get a job later.” [English] Can we do the same thing? Can we create a National Employment Grid? If a

construction company in Patna needs 300 welders, can we not create a National Employment Grid where welders from Bhubaneshwar go and work there? I mean, we need, now, to start thinking of big solutions.

I want to end by talking about agriculture. It is true that the MSP hike is and fixed at 50 percent over A2+FL cost of production. It is a good step for Kharif crop of 2018-19. However, the Economic Survey itself says that only 29 percent of crops are sold at MSP. Can we do two things? Can we introduce a landmark legislative intervention on Right to Sell at MSP? If we do this, I think, it will save a lot of lives. Consistently over the last 10 years, I read reports that over 20 percent of farmers, particularly in areas like Bundelkhand etc. are not aware of MSP etc. Can we do something about that?

I just want to end with two points. One is, we have spent a lot of time talking about water. But we reward States for behaviour that is not the best practice. Madhya Pradesh has got double the water footprint for wheat of Uttar Pradesh. Punjab has got double the water footprint for paddy of the next State which have procurement. But we do maximum procurement for these crops from these States. Can we work with these States and the farmers to try and institute a different kind of aligned cropping process?

I just want to end by saying two things. There is a lot of talk about organic agriculture. Firstly, the decreased capacity of farm produce for organic agriculture has to be dealt with; otherwise nobody is going to do it. Second is the increase in the cost of base nutrients when compared to NPK fertilizer; you need three times the amount of organic manure than for an inorganic farming. How do we deal with this? Lastly, for the rural population, to escape money lending, we need penetration of formal credit through rural finance corporations.

I want to end by just saying that this is a Government which, I believe, believes in emphatic social transformation rather than incrementalism. Together, let us build a new India. I hope that with this Budget, we start a new pathway.

Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI DILESHWAR KAMAIT (SUPAUL): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I express my sincere thanks to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Union Budget.

Sir, this is a balanced Budget. It shall contribute to the prosperity of farmers and assist the poor in leading a life of dignity. This Budget serves the interests of all sections of society and shall play an important role in the building of a New India. It reflects the Hon. Prime Minister's vision of making the nation prosperous. This new Budget has generated a renewed sense of hope across the country. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, and the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, for adopting the Bihar model of "Ghar-Ghar Bijli" and implementing it successfully. In this Budget, the Union Government is also set to implement the development model of the Hon. Chief Minister of Bihar, Shri Nitish Kumar Ji, under the Saat Nischay Yojana, which includes providing tap water to every household and equipping every locality with improved road connectivity.

Sir, the NDA Government in Bihar, under the leadership of the Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar Ji, has consistently spoken of development with justice. The Union Government under the

leadership of Hon. Shri Narendra Modi Ji speaks of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas. Both convey the same intent. Bihar is the heart of India; therefore, the development of Bihar is essential for India, and the development of India is essential for Bihar. For Bihar to progress continuously, it is imperative that the State be freed permanently from floods and other disasters.

Sir, I come from the Kosi region of Bihar, where the devastation caused by floods must be endured more than anywhere else. The development of agriculture and industry in Bihar is as essential as it is in other States of the country. This Budget is one that shall strengthen the Indian economy. India has now joined the ranks of the six largest economies in the world.

Sir, several announcements made in the Union Budget shall greatly benefit Bihar. The Budget for rural roads has been increased from Rs. 15.5 thousand crore last year to Rs. 19 thousand crore. The number of rural roads in Bihar has increased. Provision has been made to grant a loan of Rs. 1 lakh to one woman from each Self-Help Group. The number of Self-Help Groups in Bihar is considerably high. Allocations under MGNREGA have also been increased. Bihar has long held the demand for being accorded Special Category Status. Should this demand be fulfilled, Bihar shall attain the status of other developed States.

Sir, in this Budget, a provision of Rs. 47,997.91 crore has been made under the heads of construction of new railway lines and gauge conversion. In the Supaul Parliamentary Constituency, which is a border region, three projects of strategic importance remain pending: the gauge conversion from Saharsa to Forbesganj; the construction of the new line from Supaul to Araria to Galgalia; and the work from Sakri to Saraigarh. The completion of these pending works is extremely necessary in the public interest.

Therefore, I would like request that the requisite funds under this head be allocated so that these pending projects may be completed at the earliest, enabling the development of the backward regions of the country. In conclusion, I express my support for this Budget and extend my thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister for presenting this Union Budget.

[English]

SHRI B. B. PATIL (ZAHIRABAD): Sir, first of all, I would like to thank Shri KCR Sir, the Chief Minister of Telangana, and my Zahirabad constituency people who gave me this opportunity.

Coming to the financial sector, providing Rs.70,000 crore for the bank capitalisation is welcome. What is needed is more effective implementation of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (IBC) provisions. In spite of the strict time limits imposed by the IBC, many cases are taking more time for resolution. This would defeat the very purpose of IBC. More efforts need to be put into early recovery of Non-Performing Assets. While there is a downward trend of NPAs, the Government cannot keep on using tax payers' money to subsidise the inefficient allocation of credit decisions of Public Sector Banks. By reducing the Government ownership of the banks to less than 51 percent, the market forces would be allowed a greater play in weeding out poor performing banks. Further, re-capitalisation of banks cannot go on forever and a strict outer time limit should be provided beyond which no further infusion would be done.

As the Hon. Minister emphasised on the teachings of Lord Basveshwara, the social reformer, in particular on the principles of 'Kayakave Kailasa' and 'Dasoha'. Kayakave Kailasa means work

is worship and Dasoha refers to giving back to the society. The schemes like Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, Stand-Up India Scheme, giving up of LPG subsidy and other pension schemes are welcome as they will not only help the human dignity and self-esteem to go up but also work for the wellness of the society.

Coming to rural economy, formation of 10,000 new farmer producer organizations is a welcome move. What is most needed on the marketing side is a more effective implementation of MSP system by extending the procurement by Central agencies to more crops and expanded coverage. Taking up cold storage and godown infrastructure on a massive scale would enhance capital investments in rural areas. In Telangana, we have effectively utilised warehousing infrastructure fund of NABARD and have increased the godown capacity by eight times in four years.

Setting up of 100 new clusters for traditional industries and 80 livelihood business incubators and 20 technology business incubators are welcome measures for rural artisans and rural entrepreneurs.

Expansion of Swachh Bharat Mission to undertake sustainable solid waste management in every village is welcome but there seems to be not sufficient Budget outlays for this.

The Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana to address the critical gaps in value chain is welcome. In Telangana, we have taken up similar measures to increase the production and productivity of freshwater fish. With the completion of Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project, which is claimed as the world's largest multi-stage and multi-purpose lift irrigation scheme, estimated cost is more than Rs.80,000 crore, the State now will have some of the largest reservoirs in the country. It delivers two TMC of water per day and it is working to increase the fish production in these reservoirs. The project is intended to irrigate over 45 lakh acres of new and existing *ayacut.* It is providing drinking water to Hyderabad and villages *en route* and supplying 16 TMC of water for industrial needs. But here I would also like to request and state that though the cost of the mega project, Kaleshwaram had been met from borrowing by the Kaleshwaram Corporation but the debt servicing burden has been huge.

Hence, I would like to request the Hon. Minister and the Government of India to grant national status to Kaleshwaram Project and also release additional funds so that the debt burden of the State can be eased. NITI Aayog has also recommended special assistance of Rs. 19,205 crore to Mission Bhagirathi intended to supply piped drinking water to every household and Rs. 5,000 crore to Mission Kakatiya which is meant to restore over 45,000 tanks in

the State. I also seek an assistance of Rs. 50 crore to each of the backward districts as promised under the AP Reorganization Act and that the package should be extended to all districts of the State as the erstwhile nine districts have been divided into 32 districts.

Pradhan Mantri Karamyogi Maandhan Scheme aimed at providing pension benefits to three crore retail traders and shopkeepers is a welcome move. It is requested to increase the budgetary allocation to national social assistance programme where a measly Rs. 200 per month is being provided to old-age persons, that too only to around 6.67 lakh persons in Telangana. The State with its own resources provides Rs. 2,016 per month to all old-age persons and Rs. 3,016 per month to all differently-abled persons, in all benefitting 47.88 lakh persons. The State outlay for the scheme is Rs. 11,843 crore *per annum*, out of which only Rs. 203 crores are received from Government of India. To provide security to old-age people, this amount may be enhanced to at least Rs. 1,000 crore.

Now, I come to the new India to be built on cooperative federalism. Upgradation of 1,25,000 kilometres of roads under PMGSY is a welcome move. The Government of India is insisting that the funds released under PMGSY are transferred into the bank account of the executing agency. This is leading to avoidable idling of resources in bank accounts and is against the basic principles of prudent public finances. This matter may please be looked into.

Providing 1.95 crore houses under PM Awas Yojana is a welcome measure, but the insistence on using only beneficiaries from SECC data is creating a hurdle for the States to access these funds. This condition may be relaxed as Telangana has taken up a massive 2-BHK programme to provide dignity and privacy even to the poorest Indians.

There are a number of positive measures which have been announced in the Budget, which would propel India towards being a five trillion dollar economy by 2024. While all these are necessary, certain fundamental reforms which require major engagements with the States, in the area of factor markets, such as land, labour, credit, agriculture, services such as education and healthcare, are missing. While the fiscal maths and the growth assumptions made appear to be optimistic, we urge the Government of India to encourage States like Telangana, the youngest and dynamic State of the country, so that the nation can progress in the true spirit of cooperative federalism.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR):** Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, India is becoming the sixth-largest economy in the world. In the past 55 years, the Indian economy accumulated 1,000 dollars, whereas the NDA Government, within just five years, has added 1,000 billion dollars to the Indian economy. Today, the country's economy stands at 2,700 billion dollars. This year it shall reach 3,000 billion dollars, which clearly demonstrates that the economic processes in India are changing rapidly. By 2024, we are determined to make the Indian economy the world's third-largest. At that time, India shall be counted among the world's top three economies; every Indian shall receive honour, and we shall feel proud as Indians. The principal reason for India's rapid progress in the global economic sphere is the presence of a Bharatiya Janata Party Government in India. To confer respect upon women and to recognise their strength, the idea of women's empowerment was conceived and pursued with sincerity, as a result of which, for the first time, 78 women are representing various Parliamentary Constituencies in the Lok Sabha, a record achievement.

[*] Speech was laid on the table.

The Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, has introduced several welfare schemes for women in this Budget. Through the Mudra Yojana, women may obtain loans of up to Rs. 1 lakh, and may avail an overdraft facility of Rs. 5 thousand from their Jan Dhan accounts. In this Budget, the Nari Tu Narayani scheme has been launched, which shall enhance women's participation in the administrative and political spheres of India, and this Budget shall also take commendable steps towards the expansion of women's Self-Help Groups. Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the progress and empowerment of women have advanced in an unprecedented manner. For this, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon. Prime Minister and to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji.

The Union Budget for 2019-20 seeks to reduce the disparity between the rich and the poor. By imposing taxes on the wealthy and directing the revenue so collected towards resolving the housing problems of the poor, providing relief in medical treatment in rural areas through Ayushman Bharat, and extending urban-level facilities to rural India, this Budget presents a fiscal policy akin to that of Chanakya. Whenever the income of the nation increases, the income of the poor also rises and their living conditions improve. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon. Prime Minister,

Shri Narendra Modi Ji, and his team for bringing India from the 11th position five years ago to the position of the sixth-largest economy in the world.

In 2014, when the Hon. Shri Narendra Modi Ji assumed office as Prime Minister and launched the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, several measures were undertaken to free India from open defecation. A massive number of toilets were constructed in villages. Imagine the earlier situation, when women living in rural India had to wait for sunset merely to relieve themselves.

We are all aware of the condition of rural healthcare today. Across the country, Primary Health Centres, Sub-Centres and District Hospitals face an acute shortage of doctors. Patients are unable to obtain essential medicines, and they are compelled to spend thousands of rupees on diagnostic tests. If a member of the family suffers from a serious illness, people are often forced to sell their ancestral land. Moreover, the high fees charged by doctors in urban areas further worsen the already fragile economic condition of poor and rural households. Our Government has recognised this distress and has therefore been consistently increasing the allocation for the health sector each year. In the present Budget as well, the health outlay has been enhanced by 19 percent, with Rs. 62,659 crore allocated to address the nation's healthcare needs. This amount shall support Ayushman Bharat, the Urban Health Mission

and the Health and Wellness Centres. Furthermore, an additional Rs. 600 crore has been provided to strengthen treatment facilities in the AIIMS hospitals across the country.

Our Government has studied the nation's housing challenges with due diligence. In this Budget, access to bank credit for the housing sector has been further facilitated, and the relief available on interest payments has been enhanced. Consequently, the long-cherished aspiration of the poor and the middle class to own a home is now approaching fulfilment. Importantly, these shall not merely be four walls; each dwelling shall include electricity, potable water, a functional kitchen and sanitary facilities. The present Government has resolved to construct 1 crore 95 lakh houses within two years. This shall ensure that families residing in both urban and rural areas have a secure roof over their heads, providing protection throughout the year. At present, nearly 55 percent of the population in urban areas lives in rented accommodation. To address this, the Government has announced in this Budget a tax exemption of Rs. 3.5 lakh for houses valued up to Rs. 45 lakh. Previously, this exemption stood at Rs. 2 lakh. Thus, an additional benefit of Rs. 1.5 lakh has been granted. For this significant relief, I extend my sincere thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance.

The import of petroleum products has been exerting a significant adverse impact on the national economy, with billions

of rupees in foreign exchange being expended annually. It is estimated that in 2018-19 alone, we spent Rs. 9 lakh crore of foreign exchange on such imports. To address this challenge, our Government has proposed a substantial push towards electric mobility. To reduce the consumption of petrol and diesel, a surcharge of 2.50 paise on petrol and 2.30 paise on diesel has been introduced. Concurrently, to promote the adoption of electric vehicles, income tax concessions have been provided, along with an interest rebate of Rs. 1.5 lakh on bank loans taken for their purchase. These measures have been consciously undertaken to diminish the country's growing dependence on imported petroleum products.

A few years ago, our NDA Government articulated the vision of a New India, and today we are advancing firmly in that direction. The very character of this Budget is to lay the foundation for the creation of a New India. We are aware that in ancient times India held great eminence in every sphere. Whether in the field of art or in the realm of spirituality, India's name was invoked with pride. The NDA Government is committed to restoring India to its former stature, and for this purpose it is engaged in building the nation's basic infrastructure.

The financial proposals presented by the Hon. Finance Minister for 2019-20 shall contribute to the building of a New India,

in which Indian industry shall be strengthened, investment shall be encouraged and the aspirations of women, youth and the poor shall be fulfilled. By creating an environment of social and economic welfare, the goal of building a prosperous India shall be achieved, which shall represent the nation's long-term and sustainable future.

I come from Sheohar, which is one of the least developed areas of Bihar. Ten years ago, Sheohar had almost nothing and looked like empty, unused land. But today, owing to the policies of the Union Government, my Parliamentary Constituency has witnessed substantial advancement in its social, economic and educational development. For this, I express my gratitude to the Union Government.

I express my support for the Budget.

"Manzilein aur lakshya bade ziddi hote hain,

haasil kahaan naseeb se hote hain;

par wahaan toofaan bhi haar jaate hain

jahaan kashtiyan zid par hoti hain."

(The Member is emphasising that the Government's strong will and determination shall enable it to achieve ambitious national goals despite any challenges.)

[*]**SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE (LATUR):** At the outset, I convey my gratitude to you for affording me the opportunity to express my views on this important subject. The Budget presented by the nation's first full-time woman Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, constitutes a significant step towards realising the vision of a New India. In this Budget, the Government has undertaken comprehensive measures to empower the poor, farmers, Dalits, the distressed, the exploited and the marginalised. The Hon. Prime Minister has rightly described it as a dream budget for the nation. It is a Budget that shall usher in socio-economic transformation across the country. I therefore extend my wholehearted support to this Budget.

It is a matter of great pride that our economy is presently the sixth-largest in the world and shall reach 3 trillion dollars by the end of this year. There is no doubt that in the coming five years our Government shall achieve the target of a 5 trillion-dollar economy. Moreover, the Government has made every effort to keep the fiscal deficit within reasonable limits. Despite the substantial allocations required for various welfare schemes, restricting the fiscal deficit to 3.7 percent is indeed a commendable step. This shall neither lead to excessive monetary expansion nor cause inflation to rise.

[*] Speech was laid on the table.

The Budget has taken into account the aspirations of all sections of society, particularly farmers, youth, women and the poor, and it is poised to fulfil these aspirations in the future. Its central focus is on villages, the poor and farmers. In this Budget, the Government has resolved to take several new measures in the interest of rural communities, the poor and the farming sector, through which the social and economic development of rural areas shall be achieved. The objective of the Budget is to create strong citizens for a strong nation. Roads shall be constructed to link villages with markets. Traditional industries shall be promoted, and traditional artisans shall be connected with international markets so that their incomes may increase. By 2022, every individual shall be provided a house. Small shopkeepers shall be given loans within 59 minutes, and retail traders shall be provided pensions.

The most significant feature of this Budget is the provision for pure drinking water for every citizen. Without people's participation, water conservation cannot be achieved; it must arise from public consciousness. Just as the Swachh Bharat Mission transformed sanitation, the Har Ghar Jal campaign shall equip the nation to confront the water crisis. To ensure drinking water supply in all rural households, the Government has resolved that under the policy of Har Ghar Nal, Har Ghar Jal, work shall be undertaken on priority to achieve this goal by 2024. To implement this mission,

1,500 blocks have already been identified for priority water-supply interventions, which reflects the Government's commitment to accomplishing this monumental task.

My Latur Parliamentary Constituency has been suffering from severe drought for the past decade. In Latur city, water is supplied only once in 15 days, and the condition in the surrounding villages is even more distressing. Children who should be attending school are compelled instead to spend the entire day fetching water from distant places to meet their household needs. Despite the earnest efforts of the Government of Maharashtra, the drinking water requirements of the common public are still not being adequately met.

I am not aware whether Latur has been included among the 1,500 regions identified by the Government on a priority basis for drinking water supply. However, I would like to urge the Government to ensure, under the policy of Har Ghar Nal, Har Ghar Jal, that adequate drinking water supply is provided on priority to all rural and urban areas of Latur, so that the people there may be relieved of their persistent water crisis.

The important river of Latur is the Manjari River. Due to environmental degradation, it has completely dried up. Its conservation and rejuvenation are urgently required so that the

problems of irrigation and drinking water in the region may be resolved on a permanent basis. I would like to request the Government to take immediate steps for its conservation and rejuvenation.

Latur district is known for the production of pulses, particularly high-quality tur dal, as well as for the production of oilseeds, and related processing industries are also located there. However, as a consequence of the devastation wrought by the 1993 earthquake and the severe droughts experienced over the past 10 years, the local economy has been gravely impaired, resulting in the migration of numerous industries and families from the region. I would like to urge the Government to take immediate steps to revive the economy of this area so that new employment opportunities may be created and the migration of industries and people from Latur may be halted.

Our Hon. Minister of Finance deserves special commendation for having given particular attention to women in this Budget. Measures such as providing an overdraft facility of Rs. 5,000 in women's Jan Dhan bank accounts, extending loans of up to Rs. 1 lakh to women under the Mudra Yojana, and granting interest subsidies to Self-Help Groups shall undoubtedly promote women's entrepreneurship.

Our Indian Railways requires an investment of Rs. 50,000 crore. The decision of the Government to adopt the PPP model to ensure the availability of this investment is indeed a commendable step. This approach shall not only enable the Government to achieve its target of laying 300 kilometres of track in the current financial year, but shall also assist in the modernisation of the Railways, particularly railway stations.

Latur city is not connected by rail to various major cities of the country. Only one or two passenger trains pass through the area, and even these do not operate at timings convenient for travellers, due to which they are not being utilised effectively. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to introduce new passenger trains from Latur city to various major cities across the country.

During the year 2018-19, the Railway Board granted permission to conduct a survey for laying a railway line from Latur Road to Nanded. The survey has since been completed, and the report has been submitted to the Railway Board. However, the Railway Board has not yet accorded its final approval to this project. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to grant expeditious approval to the aforesaid project and to ensure that it is completed on a priority basis.

Similarly, in the year 2018-19, the Railways had granted permission to conduct a survey for laying a railway line between Osmanabad and Aurangabad via Beed. The Central Railway has, however, not yet completed this survey. The construction of the aforesaid railway lines shall greatly facilitate the socio-economic development of the Marathwada region of Maharashtra. It shall also contribute to the industrial development of this backward region. Moreover, this railway line shall provide the shortest alternative route between the northern and southern parts of the country, and the introduction of new trains on this route shall help connect Maharashtra's tourist and pilgrimage destinations. I would like to urge the Government to ensure that the survey work is completed and that the laying of this railway line is commenced at the earliest, so that the social, economic and industrial development of this region may be secured.

The main focus of this Budget is the farmer. In commemoration of the 75th anniversary of our nation's Independence, the objectives of doubling farmers' incomes, transforming our food providers into energy providers, and establishing 10,000 Farmer Producer Organisations, together with the Government's other committed initiatives in this regard, shall undoubtedly contribute towards making the lives of our farmers significantly easier.

This Budget embodies the aspirations of the people. I am confident that it shall further strengthen our entrepreneurs. It accords due consideration to villages and to the poor. It shall enhance the quality of education and enable citizens to benefit from Artificial Intelligence, satellite technology and advances in the space sector. It also provides measures aimed at ensuring ease of living for every citizen. It is a green Budget, with strong emphasis on the solar sector and on environmental protection. In the past five years, the nation has been imbued with renewed self-confidence, and the daily lives of ordinary citizens have become easier despite many challenges. Advancing further along this path, the Budget opens new avenues of opportunity for our youth. It is a Budget that seeks to fulfil the dreams and resolve of the people and to build a New India. Its emphasis on clean energy and cashless transactions represents a step firmly in the right direction.

I once again extend my congratulations to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, and her team for presenting a progressive Budget for the nation, one that shall ensure all-round development. Through this Budget, comprehensive measures shall be undertaken to empower the poor, farmers, Dalits, the oppressed, the deprived and the distressed. I not only hope but firmly believe that this Budget shall assist in bringing prosperity to our farmers and dignity to the lives of the poor. It shall reward the

hard work of the middle class and strengthen Indian entrepreneurs. In the truest sense, this is a Budget of hope and empowerment. In the coming 5 years, this very empowerment shall serve as the nation's powerhouse of development, and it shall provide the strength necessary to realise the dream of a five trillion-dollar economy.

With these words, I once again extend my support to this visionary Budget, which lays out an inclusive blueprint for advancing our citizens along the path of development and innovation.

SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you, first and foremost, for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Union Budget. Hon. Chairperson, I also extend my heartfelt thanks and congratulations to the Prime Minister, the Finance Minister, the Minister of State for Finance and the entire Cabinet.

Sir, this is indeed a Budget dedicated to the development of villages, the underprivileged, farmers, labourers, youth, and women, and its impact is already clearly evident at the ground level. This has been evident from 2014 to 2019. When the name of Narendra Modi emerged as the Prime Ministerial candidate in 2014, a new hope arose in the hearts of the people, that we would finally be freed from a Government under which widespread corruption prevailed across the country. The people hoped that Narendra Modi would come as a capable administrator and lead the nation. After 2014, when the elections of 2019 were held, the people were filled with confidence that Narendra Modi had fully lived up to their expectations and had come forward once again to lead the country. The results of the 2019 Lok Sabha elections clearly reflected this faith. The people firmly believe that the welfare of villages, the poor, farmers and labourers shall continue under the leadership of Narendra Modi Ji.

Sir, the small matters that no one ever noticed, such as the construction of izzat ghars (toilets) in the villages, were addressed. We all come from rural areas. We have witnessed and felt the suffering and hardship of women. They would wait until dusk or darkness to go for defecation, and as a result, they would often contract several illnesses. We are grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister, who launched a nationwide mission for the construction of toilets as a campaign. Today, crores of households are being equipped with toilets. Women in rural areas no longer have to wait until evening; they now have access to the toilets whenever required. Today, arrangements for piped water supply to every household are being made separately. A dedicated Ministry of Jal Shakti has been established. The Hon. Prime Minister has ensured that villagers, the poor, farmers and labourers too have access to tap water and clean drinking water. If only such foresight had prevailed earlier. Had those who assumed power after Independence truly thought about the welfare of villagers, the poor, farmers and labourers, then perhaps today Narendra Modi Ji would have been able to carry that work even further and extend its coverage.

Sir, yet no one had previously cared to think along these lines. Whether it pertains to road development or the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, today a target of constructing 1,25,000 new roads has been set. Even in rural areas, an extensive network of

roads is now visibly taking shape. Through these road projects, villages are being linked to major thoroughfares, thereby ensuring improved facilities for transportation. Be it connectivity in general, the expansion of rail services, the development of air routes or the strengthening of inland waterways, dedicated provisions have been made for all these sectors in the national Budget. These initiatives will undoubtedly yield significant benefit to the people.

The Budget that has been presented before the nation through this august House will, in the coming days, usher in a transformative phase of development. It will significantly accelerate progress, and our villages will witness substantial advancement. The commitment to provide housing for all, an idea which had scarcely been envisaged earlier, is now being realised on the ground. Crores of our citizens have already received homes, and by the year 2022, it is the resolve of the Government that every household in the country shall have a roof over its head. The Government has initiated truly pathbreaking measures, including the doubling of farmers' income. With regard to the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi, as referred to by Hon. Members earlier, the provision of Rs. 6,000 annually in the bank accounts of farmers represents a significant step. Earlier, this scheme had several restrictions and layered eligibility criteria; all such limitations have

now been removed. Every individual engaged in agriculture, every cultivator, will receive Rs. 6,000 directly into his account.

During the elections, people mocked this scheme when it was introduced. People were trivialising it as merely seventeen rupees per day. But one should go and ask that farmer who does not have even a single rupee in hand. Today, even if he receives two thousand rupees, it brings him relief. Those who own tractors and engage in cultivation, those who supply fertilisers and seeds, are all assured because they know that the amount sanctioned under the scheme by Shri Narendra Modi will reach the farmers' accounts, and the farmers will in turn make their payments. As a result, farmers have moved ahead with confidence in their agricultural activities. The Hon. Prime Minister has also established a separate Ministry for Animal Husbandry and entrusted it to a distinguished leader who, even when given responsibility for this sector at the State level, had carried out exemplary work. Animal husbandry shall prove to be a milestone in doubling farmers' income, whether through fisheries, poultry or other associated activities. The Hon. Prime Minister has taken effective steps in all these areas, and their benefits are now reaching the people. A separate Ministry of Skill Development has been created. By equipping our youth with skills and linking them to employment, many individuals are no longer merely job seekers but have become job providers. Through Mudra

loans, they receive credit from banks and are establishing enterprises capable of generating employment. They are providing work to the farmers and youth of our villages, and these communities are reaping the benefits.

The beneficiaries of the Ujjwala Yojana, the women of our rural households, could scarcely have imagined that they would one day cook on smokeless stoves. Neither they nor their families had ever imagined that they would one day enjoy freshly prepared rotis and vegetables without being enveloped in smoke. Today, through the Ujjwala Yojana, the Hon. Prime Minister has ensured that this facility reaches their homes.

I now turn to Ayushman Bharat. It is a well-established fact that, each year, more than six crore people would fall from the Above Poverty Line into the Below Poverty Line owing to medical expenses. By providing every family with medical coverage of five lakh rupees, the Government has made access to healthcare substantially easier.

Hon. Chairperson, for bringing such a transformative Budget, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of Finance, and the Government.

[English]

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR (TIRUVALLUR): Hon. Chairman Sir, I rise in this august House to register my views on the present Budget as well as the performance of the Government in the last five years. Before going on to the topic, I sincerely thank Madam Sonia Gandhi Ji and Rahul Gandhiji for enabling me to enter this House and to make this presentation. …(*Interruptions*). Not only that, Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Congress President and Sonia Gandhiji have also made me to function as National Secretary of the Indian National Congress for 15 long years. I also thank the people of my constituency who have poured their votes to me and helped me to win by a margin of 3.6 lakh votes to enter this House.

I was a bit hesitant in the beginning to make a speech or intervene in the debate. I found on the day of oath taking itself that there was a certain kind of unfriendly and non-congenial atmosphere. Therefore, I thought that I should watch for a while and learn what to do and then rise to speak.

This is my first speech. I have a word for my friends on the other side. I wish you all the best. I wish all the best for all the Members in this House particularly the Members of the ruling party for having come with a vast mandate and for having a brute majority. On some occasions, it has been exhibited in this House.

You have every reason to be jubilant, enjoy your victory and pursue your views. At the same time, you should also learn to be humble, magnanimous, liberal and, all the more, democratic as this is the Temple of Democracy.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, coming to the Budget, it reads more like a prospectus of a company. Many of the Members, particularly the DMK Member, Shri Raja and also Shri Naidu of Telugu Desam Party mentioned about the Budget. They have said enough about the gaps or inadequacies in the Budget. When the Budget is presented, at the end of it, one comes to know about the size of the Budget, for example, what is the total revenue, what is the total expenditure, whether it is a deficit budget or a surplus budget, wherefrom the funds are going to come etc. But none of these were mentioned by the Finance Minister in the Budget. When we want to know about these things, when asked for these, the reply from the Minister is to see the documents given. There is a large volume of papers where every detail is given, and one can see these things from these papers. But it is humanly impossible to read all the documents that are given. It is just not possible. It is difficult to go through all the papers and get the things.

Anyway, I would like to start with the past performance of this Government. The BJP fought the elections in 2014 on the issue of development, but what had happened to that development now? In

2019, when you went to the people, you did not talk about development and employment. You have no strength to talk about it. You were rather ashamed to talk about employment for the people in this country. You had said that you would generate 10 crore jobs whereas I would say that you have not even reached a figure of crore.

You have also stated that you would eradicate black money, and you will bring that black money from abroad and deposit Rs. 15 lakh in each family account. None of you have talked about it in the last elections. I would say in this Hall that you have no courage to open your mouth. As regards the Rs. 15 lakh deposit in each account, many people in my Constituency have voted for you because if there are three bank accounts, then Rs. 45 lakh would come into their account. You have totally cheated the people of this country. So, you cannot open your mouth on this subject.

As regards the agriculturists, you had said that the Minimum Support Price (MSP) would be 1.5 times the cost of production i.e. 50 percent profit, and you have cheated the agriculturists and you did not talk about it in this election. Nobody from you dared to talk about it. Further, why this time no promise about price rise to be brought down or commodity prices and oil prices to come down within 100 days? There is no mention about the petrol prices in your

campaigning anywhere. The largest bank scam in the form of demonetization has taken place in this country already.

Finally, I thought about why you have not spoken about it. …(*Interruptions*)

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

… (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: Sir, I am speaking for the first time in the House. …(*Interruptions*) Finally, you have developed Balakot and Pulwama incidents for the election. These are the main things that you have done for votes to win. The Hon. MoS, Finance is sitting over here. He knows that the Government aims to reach the $5 trillion economy. How are you going to do $5 trillion economy? I do not know about it. The minimum thing to understand here -- for those people who know a little bit of finance -- is that your track record is very bad. The GDP was coming down from 8.2 percent to 7.2 percent to 6.8 percent, which is the current GDP in percentage. …([Translation] *Interruptions*) In this situation, it is impossible for you to achieve 8 percent. I wish you should achieve it. I very much wish that this country should achieve $5 trillion economy, but it is just not going to be possible.

As regards demonetization, you do it and I am not coming in the way if it is for the good of the people. Demonetization is the single largest scam conceived and implemented in this country.

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

… (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: Sir, please give me some time.

This Government has slept on this issue. They had brought demonetization, but when they withdrew 2,326 crore pieces of Rs. 500 and Rs. 1,000 denomination notes, then to print similar number of notes of Rs. 500 and Rs. 2,000 you would require eight months. But you have bluffed the people to the core and you have said that in 50 days you would achieve demonetization; everything will be over; the country will be back to normal; and black money will be brought from abroad. What a scandal it is? …(*Interruptions*)

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

… (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: Sir, is it not the largest scam in the country ever? …(*Interruptions*)

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

… (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: Sir, I have not even spoken for five minutes. As I question the Government you are stopping me. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, your time is already exceeded. Please conclude now.

… (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: Sir, please give me five minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, I cannot give you five minutes. You should conclude by mentioning a few more sentences.

… (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: What is the situation of unemployment in this country? When we left power in 2014, the unemployment rate was only 2.2 percent. Today, the unemployment rate is the largest in 45 years, and the unemployment figure is close to 8.3 percent. You have let down the people so badly.

What is the agricultural growth? The agricultural growth, when we left power, was 3.8 percent.

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

… (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: Today, it is a paltry 2.8 percent. …(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly conclude now, otherwise I would be compelled to call the name of the next speaker.

… (*Interruptions*)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: Further, they have been claiming all the credit for the schemes that we have implemented.

You said that you have done 100 percent electrification. Who has done it? Sir, 90 percent of electrification was done in September, 2014. …(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Can you conclude your speech in few sentences?

... (Interruptions)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: They are taking credit for it ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Bhagwanth Khuba ji.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA (BIDAR): Hon. Sir, you have given me an opportunity to speak on the Budget in the Seventeenth Lok Sabha. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Excuse me. Let him conclude his speech in one or two sentences.

... (Interruptions)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: Sir, allow me to say a few words about my constituency. I come from a constituency which is having a coastal area. It has the seafront. It needs a seafront creek to be built for the ships to sail in and out. I would request the Hon. Minister to note this. The Government is coming up with a very large port at Kattupalli, which would affect the entire environment. It is also hazardous to local economy. There would be a huge scale displacement of fishing colonies. The party which is coming over here is close to the Government and may bend the rules. Please safeguard the people and the environment. There is a company called Hindustan Motors in my Constituency, which has been sold. Employees of this company are not taken care of. Sir, 17 places have been recently declared as national tourist places by the Government ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Put your demands please.

... (Interruptions)

DR. K. JAYAKUMAR: Kanyakumari has to be added to the list of national tourist places. When Winston Churchill, the Prime Minister of England, was travelling, press people have asked him

as to who is the best politician. Winston Churchill has answered, “the one who makes tall promises to the people, go to them, and win the elections.” *... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

... (Interruptions)

*Not recorded.

[*]**DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN):** I am grateful that you allowed me to present my views on the 1st budget discussion of our Government in the 17th Lok Sabha – which off-late is being referred to as MODI TWO POINT O. 'MODI TWO POINT O' is an exhilarating combination of experience, modern ideas, rationale and out of the box thinking. With more than 50% of the MPs in this MODI TWO POINT O; being first time MPs and a little over 14% being women MPs – it is a landmark in history, we've created. This Government is effervescing with new ideas and opinions with practical and pragmatic approach to problem solving. A simple reason for this approach of 'ours' is our deep rooted connect with the soil – which was missing in the 'air-conditioned office decisions' taken in the former few Government s. Possibly that is why – every policy or framework decision we take under the able leadership of our "Ironchested Prime Minister – Shri Narendra Ji Modi", it automatically transcends into a mass movement, a revolution and a huge success.

This maiden budget presented by our Finance Minister, Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman Ji is unique in many senses. She is India's first 'full-time woman Finance Minister' to have presented this budget. While Smt. Indra Gandhi Ji did also hold this post for a brief period

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

(in 1970-71), she held this Ministry only as an additional charge while being the Prime Minister of India. So I take this opportunity to congratulate Nirmala Sitharaman Ji for this feat; and hope you continue illuminating unchartered paths for billions of 'better halved forces' of this country; who until the last few decades were limited only to the vestibules of their households. While you presented your first Union Budget –'Amul the milk brand known for its catchy adverts' paid a memorable tribute to you by calling you 'Revolution-naari' in it's graphical poster.

When our former Finance Minister Shri Piyush Goyal Ji presented the Interim Budget in February this year, it was termed as 'a pre-election, populist budget' by many. There was a widespread speculation, even belief – in the adversarial coterie that it is a 'time-being' thing and the nation will be laden with huge impositions post Lok Sabha polls. I am glad to share 'today', that our Government presented a well-balanced Union Budget aimed at boosting infrastructure and foreign investment. When our economy is showing signs of slowdown; this budget will lead to investment, growth and economic development leading to the welfare of the farmers, the downtrodden and the poor and also the middle class of the country. Taking a pragmatic approach, we announced no changes in personal income tax rates however only levied some additional surcharge on the super-rich. We sought to spur growth

with reduction in corporate tax, sops to housing sector, startups and electric vehicles. Now the digital payments will be cheaper, we will launch an ATM-like one Nation One Card for pan-India travel and a new model rental laws will be unveiled to boost affordable housing.

Our Finance Minister – while presenting the Budget, asserted that women play a significant role in improving the financial status of rural India. Quoting Swami Vivekananda, she said that "Naari Tu Narayani is the country's tradition", adding that there are no chances of welfare in the world until the "condition of women is improved." She also made several announcements catering to women, so as to empower women financially; one woman in every self-help group will be made eligible for a loan of Rs. 1 lakh under the MUDRA scheme. She proposed to expand the women self help groups (SHGs) interest subvention programme to all districts, and said, "For every verified woman SHG member, having a Jan Dhan Bank account, an overdraft of Rs. 5,000 will be allowed.

The Union Budget envisages a total outlay of Rs. 27,86,349 crores. Out of this, Rs. 4,31,010.79 crore has been earmarked as an allocation towards our Defence forces – those who sacrifice their family and their life safeguarding us and our territory. This accounts for 15.47% of the total Central Government expenditure for the year 2019-20. However, 'Sir' there are factions who believe that the

Capital Allocation for our Defence forces is not adequate to modernize the armed forces. I must bring it to their notice and on record – that Defence forces are our national priority and the allocations made in the Union Budget is an increase of 6.87% over revised estimates of Rs. 2.98 lakh crore given in 2018-19. Also our Government has exempted the import of defence equipment not manufactured in India from basic customs duty.

We as a country manage the fourth largest railway network in the world. Railways was always a subject of the Union Government and the private partnership was barely limited to catering and housekeeping to a certain degree. With this budget proposal – soon we will be able to travel in trains that are manufactured with private sector world-class technology! With a strong emphasis on need for private investment in Indian Railways, our Finance Minister spoke of unleashing the PPP (Public-Private Partnership) for faster development of railway infrastructure including rolling stock. We are working very hard on our Dedicated Freight Corridors which will decongest our railway network for faster movement of trains. Also, Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) will be encouraged for the suburban railway network development. This will go a long way in easing the difficulties faced by several millions of daily commuters in Mumbai and its suburban train routes. Private sector investment in Indian Railways was a long felt need. I am happy to note that it

was registered in this budget and a Rs. 50 lakh crore investment target till 2030 is set. Indian Railways passengers can look forward to faster, more punctual and most importantly safer trains with Railway Budget 2019 that is focused on safety and modernization of railway infrastructure. Indian Railways is also chalking out an ambitious plan to eliminate all unmanned level crossings in the coming years, with an eye on safety.

India has a large network of water bodies in the form of rivers, lakes, cannels and backwaters. These long waterways can provide a sustainable and economic mode of transport across the country which is un-harnessed (to a greater degree) till now as compared to other countries in the world. I am pleased to note that our Finance Minister did also mention in her budget speech about the need for promoting inland waterways. This will help in reducing pressure on Indian Railways and also the roadways to a greater extent, particularly in the coastal cities like Mumbai and those on the Ganges basin.

Agrarian agony is nothing new to this country. Budget after budget, our farmers keep looking towards our Government for a respectable reception. I am glad ‘the budget presented by our Finance Minster did adequately need the twin objectives of growth and inclusiveness’. This budget has been presented with a 10-year

vision in mind. This budget is for a New India and has a roadmap to transform the agriculture sector of our country.

When the agenda of doubling of farmers' income is being pursued, a fresh slew of measures through this Budget will only firm up the prospects of agriculture and rural development sectors. The crux of this Budget is 'sustainability' in every aspect, be it agriculture practices or economic viability. Announcement of formation of 10,000 new FPOs over the next five years is a step towards the same. With this, the economies of scale can be harnessed to achieve the goal of doubling farmer's income by reduction in input costs and assuring better price realizations by the farmers for their output.

Through the 'Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana' our Government will give confidence ot those who are in fisheries sector, to enhance their income with better fisheries management, infrastructure creation, increasing production and productivity, improved post-harvest management and bringing economic viability of the sector. As the Government want to extend the parameters of ease-of-doing business and ease-of-living to the rural areas too, the emphasis of 'Goan, Garib and Kisan' will see the uplift of rural lives of farmers and the poor, equally. The Government has shown that every person having potential to bring economic revolution will be given an equal opportunity.

Under Prahan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, a road network of 1.25 lakh km will bring more villages to rural markets. Enhancing the prospects of agripreneurs, the ASPIRE scheme will create 50,000 skilled rural entrepreneurs, especially in the rural agriculture sector. To expand the income sources of our farmers, there is a proposal to enable them to take up power generation activities on their field to transform the Annadata to an Urjadata. In the dairy sector, cooperatives will be encouraged to create infrastructure for cattle field management, milk production, processing and marketing. For relieving farmers from uncertain prospects, the States will be urged in implement e-NAM mechanism for better operations under the APMC Act. Going back to the basics, our Finance Minister rightly said, 'It is the need of the hour, particularly when the issues of climate change and depleting natural resources are engulfing the sector'. The concept of zero-budget farming, which some farmers have exemplarily proved to be viable, will boost the confidence of our farmers. With conventional means, the farmers will be able to enhance their income levels by keeping the input costs under control. The goal of "Har Ghar Jal" by 2024 shows the sensitivity of our Government to the issue of water availability and its scarcity, equally. Striking a balance between the demand and supply of clean water, we can see a robust infrastructure being

created for tackling ground-water recharge, rain water harvesting, etc.

Now I would like Hon'ble speaker Sir to draw the attention towards the condition of declining Healthcare in this country. India's spend on the public health and care is estimated only at about 1.4 percent its GDP. This is a thoroughly discouraging figure when compared to what the other BRICS countries are spending. Even smaller countries like Sri-Lanka, Pakistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Bangladesh spend more on their healthcare systems. It is no less than irony that we spend close to 2.5% of our GDP on Defence and for military purposes however just spend 1.4% on our healthcare. Where in entities like that on IMA wants our GDP spend to stand at 5% - our national health policy commits to spending just 2.5% of it's GDP – far too low. Although our Finance Minister presented a well-balanced budget last Friday, I am a little disappointed that there was hardly any mention of healthcare in her maiden budget speech. It just had a passing reference to the sector citing 'a healthy society would remain an area of attention for the Government attributing to factors like Ayushman Bharat and well-nourished children and women.'

Allocation to the health sector has jumped 15.4% to Rs. 62,659.12 crore for FY20, compared to previous year's revised budget. Unlike last time, when allocation for the National Rural

Health Mission (NRHM) fell, this year, it was increased to Rs. 27,039 crores. The 7.11% raise however – I believe, may not be enough to better rural health infrastructure. The Government 's own economic survey said rural health infra needs urgent attention. 60% of primary health centres (PHCs) in India have only one doctor while about 5% have none, and only 20% of existing PHCs fulfill Indian Public Health Standards norms, according to the Survey tabled July 4. There is an acute shortage of Human resource in these peripheral health institutions, the Survey added. Allocation for the National Urban Health Mission has gone up to Rs. 950 crore from Rs. 875 crore previously. The fact that tertiary care programmes have been at the centre stage of policy making was also reflected in this year's budget. The allocation to these programmes saw an increase of 60% from the previous year's revised estimates. This is the highest increase among all component of the health sector's budget. In a way, it confirms that while it is primary care which needs the utmost attention, tertiary care gets the most.

One of the important components where the allocation has diminished is upgrade of district hospitals to medical colleges. Against the revised estimates of last year, a reduction to the tune of 36% has happened, with the component being allocated Rs, 2,000 crore this year. This is significant because the Government recently announced it would convert another 75 district colleges to medical

colleges and hospitals. The allocation to 'Upgradation/Strengthening of Nursing Services (Auxiliary Nurse Midwives (ANMS)/General Nurse Midwives (GNMs)' has also gone down from Rs. 66 crore (2018-19 BE) to Rs. 64 crore (2019-20 RE). Another important department in the health sector is the Department of Health Research. Its allocation has gone up to Rs. 1,900 crore (2019-20 BE), an increase of 9% as compared to last year's revised estimates.

We are a home to almost 18% of the world population with the surface area share of just 2%. (of the world). It being a developing economy, increased urbanization, rapid deforestation, little or no check on pollution levels, it's geographical position (making it more prone to tropical diseases) coupled with equally dense population; it is but natural, that the health condition of this country could not be the best. Rising cost of health and care services and shortage of enough doctors and medical centres makes the problem all the more gruesome. So although 'sustainability' has largely remained at the center-stage of this Budget; with the ever – falling state of healthcare of our country we are way far from being a satisfactorily competent health & care nation.

Summarizing I must say that except for the healthcare – the budget presented by the Hon'ble Finance Minister last Friday, was indeed a citizen friendly, development friendly and future oriented

budget – as described by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Ji Modi and perfectly encapsulates his vision of New India. So I request the Government to look into the health care issues and make necessary budget allocation so that the nation becomes a healthy state.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRI RAJENDRA DHEDYA GAVIT (PALGHAR):** I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, and to the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, for presenting, within such a short span of the formation of the NDA-2 Government, a Budget that has far exceeded our expectations and is profoundly welfare-oriented and nation-centric. In this Budget, due attention has not only been accorded to the welfare of the country's rural population, agriculture, basic infrastructure and the weaker sections, but the resolve displayed to make India a five trillion dollar economy within the next five years is highly commendable. The fact that our nation shall become a three trillion dollar economy by the end of this year brings immense joy to all of us.

The resolve displayed in this Budget to provide a home for every citizen by 2022 is a matter of immense pride for the nation. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Awas Yojana, nearly two crore houses shall be constructed within the next three years. It is particularly encouraging that these dwellings will be furnished with essential amenities such as electricity, toilets and gas connections.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

Furthermore, the Budget's provision for the rehabilitation and upgradation of 1.25 lakh kilometres of rural roads over the next five years, at an expenditure of Rs. eighty thousand crore, will generate substantial employment opportunities in rural India. At a time when the nation requires enhanced avenues for livelihood, I am confident that the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, will significantly augment employment generation. Equally noteworthy are the measures directed at the housing sector, which constitutes a major pillar of the national economy. The additional tax relief of Rs. one lakh fifty thousand on bank loans for houses priced up to Rs. 45 lakh will serve as a strong incentive for prospective homebuyers. I firmly believe that this will herald a renewed housing revolution across the country.

The emphasis laid in this Budget on establishing connectivity of every kind across the nation is indeed worthy of high appreciation. Rail, road, waterways and air transport, along with initiatives such as the Sagarmala and Bharatmala projects, shall, in my view, become milestones in the development of the country's basic infrastructure. I would like to congratulate the Modi Government repeatedly for having consistently kept inflation under control. Furthermore, I am confident that this Budget will lead to a significant rise in employment opportunities.

Thirdly, through e-governance and the use of Aadhaar-based systems, this Government has made every possible effort to curb corruption. However, I would like to submit that all implementing agencies and the bureaucracy responsible for executing these schemes must be made far more vigilant, responsive and sensitive to the needs of the people. In many parts of the country, public servants do not act as servants of the people but, regrettably, conduct themselves as if they are doing the public a favour. A public representative cannot monitor their functioning at every hour of the day. We must transform the bureaucracy into a truly people-serving entity, for only then will the schemes of the Government reach the citizens directly and without any leakage.

I am greatly pleased that the fisheries sector has been accorded high priority by the Narendra Modi Government. The manner in which the Government has integrated animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries to constitute a separate Ministry, and the initiative taken in this Budget to establish a new management framework for the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, is indeed commendable. I belong to the fisher community and am well aware of its fundamental challenges. For this scheme to benefit the fisher community to the fullest, it is essential that the agencies and officials responsible for its implementation are not only honest but also sensitive to the needs of the people. It is equally important that

the fisher community is provided with accurate information regarding their entitlements, proper training, and timely redressal of their difficulties. I would like to submit that the financial assistance extended under the fisheries scheme through banks and cooperative institutions must be entirely free from corruption. Across the country, activities related to fish production, conservation, transportation, cold storage and marketing must also be safeguarded against all forms of risk and insecurity. My second request is that a new and improved insurance scheme be introduced for the crores of members of the fisher community. My third request is that, just as domestic and international consumption of other agricultural products such as dairy items is promoted, similar efforts must be undertaken to enhance the domestic and export demand for fish and fish products through smart marketing. I would also suggest that a new scheme be introduced for the processing of fish products.

I welcome the provision in this Budget aimed at increasing the cultivation of bamboo and sakhua, that is, bamboo and timber, in the tribal and forested regions of our country. The vision of the Modi Government, which recognises that a farmer is not merely a provider of food but can also become a provider of energy, is both far-sighted and compelling. I fully endorse this perspective. Bamboo is rightly regarded as green gold, while sakhua is a durable and valuable timber species. Therefore, I would like to urge the

Government to ensure extensive plantation of these species across all tribal regions, to provide all necessary support for their growth and maintenance, and to ensure that the Forest Department exercises full and effective supervision over these initiatives.

I would like to request the Government to include, under its ASPIRE scheme, which imparts entrepreneurial skills to rural youth, a greater number of members of the fisher community, and to ensure that more of our tribal brothers are also brought within its ambit. I now would like to refer to the provisions made in this Budget for tribal development. I am pleased that an allocation of approximately Rs. 6,815 crore has been made for tribal welfare, which is 15 Percent higher than the Rs. 6,000 crore allocated in the previous financial year. However, the provision for the education of tribal children this year remains almost the same as last year's allocation of Rs. 1,953 crore. I submit that the Modi Government should accord the highest priority to the education and skill development of tribal children. It is our considered view that not all tribal communities are able to derive equal benefit from the reservation available in employment. This is because the levels of education among various tribal groups are not uniform. This disparity, which exists across the country, must be addressed at the earliest. Although tribal populations reside in many parts of the nation, their concentration is highest in the States of Madhya

Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Odisha, Jharkhand and Assam. I would like to urge the Governments of tribal-majority States to work in close coordination with the Union Government to ensure integrated and accelerated development of our tribal communities.

[*]**SHRI RAJAN BABURAO VICHARE (THANE):** I extend my appreciation to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, for presenting a Budget that has been welcomed by all sections of society.

In the Budget, the inclusion of fisheries and fisher communities within the agricultural framework is an important initiative of the Government, and I wholeheartedly welcome it. I request the Government that, in my Parliamentary Constituency of Thane, under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana, an amount of Rs. 44 crore had been sanctioned by the Government for the construction of jetties for fishing activities by the Fisheries Department at Uttan Patan and Uttan Bhatodi in Bhayandar district. However, due to delays by the concerned department, that amount was returned. Subsequently, on 27 June 2019, the Fisheries Department once again submitted a proposal to NABARD seeking Rs. 47 crore for this work. I would like to urge that this request be approved at the earliest.

The target of constructing 135 kilometres of roads per day, as outlined in the Budget, is commendable and the Government deserves appreciation for it. In my Parliamentary Constituency of Thane, the important project of the Gaimukh-Bhiwandi Coastal

[*] Speech was laid on the table.

Road, to be undertaken by the Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA), has seen a delay of more than ten years. As a result, its cost has escalated from Rs. 400 crore to Rs. 1,200 crore. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to kindly ensure that adequate funds are made available at the earliest so that work on this important project may commence without further delay.

The Budget mentions that a PPP model for railway station modernisation shall be launched. In my Parliamentary Constituency lies the historic Thane Railway Station, from where the first train in India ran between Bori Bunder and Thane on 16 April 1853, a journey that took place nearly 164 years ago. Approximately 7 to 8 lakh passengers commute through this station every day, and after Mumbai, Thane Railway Station generates daily revenue of nearly Rs. 50 lakh for Central Railway. Therefore, through you, I would like to request that the Hon. Minister of Railways kindly accord Thane Railway Station the status of a world-class station and ensure the provision of additional facilities for passengers. Furthermore, the old building situated at Thane Railway Station has deteriorated severely and is at risk of collapse at any time. I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Railways, through you, to arrange for the construction of a new, well-equipped building in place of the dilapidated structure.

I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Railways to the Airoli-Kalwa link project, a 2-kilometre stretch located in my Parliamentary Constituency of Thane. The foundation stone for this project was laid on 10 December 2016 by our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. However, even after more than three years, the second phase of the work has not yet commenced. I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Railways to kindly ensure that this work is started at the earliest. Furthermore, approval has already been granted for the construction of a new Thane Station on the land of the mental hospital situated between Thane and Mulund, and the requisite funds have also been deposited. I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Railways to ensure that the work on this project is expedited and completed without delay.

I also request the Hon. Minister of Railways to give due attention to the railway projects relating to Thane–Navi Mumbai (Central and Harbour lines) and Mira Road–Bhayandar (Western Railway) in my Parliamentary Constituency, and to consider the introduction of as many 15-coach local services as possible, as well as providing stoppages for long-distance trains at Bhayandar Station.

The Government has included metro rail projects under the PPP model and has approved 300 kilometres of new metro lines,

which I warmly welcome. At the same time, I would like to urge the Government to commence metro rail services in my Parliamentary Constituency of Thane at the earliest. The Union Government has already taken the initiative in this regard by proposing a metro line from Ghatkopar to Kasarvadavli (Thane), and the Thane Municipal Corporation has reserved land for the car shed. The DPR for the Gaimukh-Shivaji Chowk metro line has been submitted by the MMRDA to the Government of Maharashtra, but a decision from the State Government is still awaited. Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Urban Development to kindly ensure, keeping in view the growing population and rapid development in Thane, that metro services in my Parliamentary Constituency are commenced without delay.

I have been consistently requesting the Government for several years to accord approval and provide funds for the proposal relating to inland water transport, National Waterway-53, in my Parliamentary Constituency of Thane. I express my heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to the then Hon. Minister of Shipping, Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji, and to the present Hon. Minister of Shipping, Shri Mansukhbhai Mandaviya, for having assured that funds for this project will be made available soon. I once again would like to urge the Government to commence this work at the earliest.

I would like to request the Government to expedite the work on the international airport proposed in Navi Mumbai, which falls within my Parliamentary Constituency of Thane, and to ensure that a Passport Office is established in Mira Bhayandar at the earliest. In conclusion, I would like to submit that any announcement made by the Government in the Budget regarding railway development in the State of Maharashtra, or any funds allocated for such projects, should be followed by commencement of work within at least one year, so that all projects may be completed in a timely manner.

I extend my support to this Budget and express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Minister of Railways, offering them my best wishes for the future.

[English]

*__SHRI S. GNANATHIRAVIAM (TIRUNELVELI):__ Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to present my views on the 2019 Union Budget. It is with deepest regret that the budget having set of announcements of this Government a way forward of the people of the country. The budget reflects complete disregard for the genuine concerns, hopes and aspirations of the people of our country who have given a fresh mandate to this Government . But the Government has offering disappointment to the mandate of the people of India that the Government has received.

In the history of the country this is the first budget where allocations are not mentioned. There was no indication of comprehensive or a roadmap to get that vision. Our economy was not even considered and mentioned in the budget speech and GDP growth rate.

The economic survey projected 7% GDP growth in the upcoming fiscal year, the growth rate did not pick up 7.5%, how the PM will achieve the target of $5 trillion economy by the end of 2024-25. Our current growth rate is 205 points lower than what is projected. The GDP of a country will grow, if the contribution is on the basis of investment, manufacturing, consumption and exports.

* Speech was laid on the table.

Our manufacturing and services sectors are hit by 68% from the previous year. So, where does the Government expect the investment comes from. The Government must concentrate and improve consumption so the people will buy the product we make. Otherwise it is waste to invest and make something the people cannot buy. According to the auto market the sale declined by 20.6% and two wheeler by 17.3% in the year 2019.

Now the decline indicates the union budget has neither shown nor provided a roadmap on how it will turn around. No relief has given on direct taxation in the budget. There is an additional income tax deduction limit of 1.5 lakh but the imported house building materials are on the higher tax. The cost of cultivation has gone up but, earnings have fallen every year, there is no provision in the budget. The Fasal Bima Yojana has fallen from 58 million farmers to 55 million farmers.

There is no budget provision for fisherman in my Constituency Tirunelveli, Periyathalai Georgiapuram, Kooduthalai, Kooddapanai, Uvari. Koothankuli, Thomaiyarpuram, Indinthakari, Panjal and Perumanal Koottapuli are the 10 villages where about 50,000 people’s main activity is fishing and they are using the country boat traditionally. To avoid the fisherman conflict, the Government should set up a Coast Guard Police at the coastal area of Tirunelveli. The Government announced a separate Ministry as

promised it in its 2014 manifesto, but now, they have given just a department.

The source of livelihood for nearly 4 million fishermen is questionable. Most of the fishing communities are vulnerable groups. To put graoyn in the seashore to avoid soil erosion. They live below the poverty line, a separate Ministry could have solved their daily problems. Unemployed youth in urban areas are increased rapidly, there are no successful schemes for the youth employment.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA (BIDAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I express my heartfelt thanks to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the seventeenth day of the first Session of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha. I also extend my gratitude to the leadership under whom I have been elected for the second time, and I sincerely thank our most revered Shri Narendra Modi Ji, who always thinks of the welfare of the nation. I further thank the 175.5 lakh electors of my region who have enabled me to stand here and speak today.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the address delivered by Shri Narendra Modi Ji in the Central Hall on 20 May 2014 still resonates in my ears. Modi Ji had said that his Government is dedicated to farmers, that his Government is dedicated to women, that his Government is dedicated to the poor, and that his Government is dedicated to the deprived, the downtrodden and the backward sections of society. It is in this very spirit that the Hon. Minister of Finance has presented the Budget. It is a far-sighted and transformative Budget, framed in accordance with the objectives and sentiments articulated by Modi Ji. For this, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, and to the Hon. Minister in State, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, this Budget makes a reference to Vishwaguru Basaveshwara Ji. In the 12th century, Vishwaguru Basaveshwara Ji ushered in a profound social, educational and economic transformation. The Government led by Shri Narendra Modi is guided by the principles of ‘kayaka ve kailasa’, ‘kayaka’ and ‘dasoha’ propounded by Basaveshwara Ji. In the 12th century, great honour was accorded to the karmayogi under the doctrine of kayaka. It is said that in his kingdom there were many who gave, yet none who needed to beg. Such a system was known as a welfare state. The Hon. Minister of Finance has set the target of making India a five trillion dollar economy. I am confident that within the next five years we shall certainly attain this target. In 2014, our economy was valued at 1.85 trillion dollars. Within five years, by 2019, it grew to nearly three trillion dollars. Therefore, it is entirely feasible that in the next five years we shall reach the five trillion dollar mark. When Modi Ji is there, it is possible. Modi Ji has faith in the strength of this nation’s 130 crore citizens. He believes in their capability, their hard work and their willpower. I therefore firmly believe that, in the coming five years, India shall indeed become a five trillion dollar economy.

In the 16th Lok Sabha, and now again in the 17th Lok Sabha, members of the Opposition often say that Modi Ji made big promises during the 2014 election. It is now being asserted that

there is a disparity between his words and his deeds. Modi Ji is merely adept at marketing. I would like to tell the Members of the Opposition that Modi Ji did not sell dreams; he inspired the people with dreams and fulfilled those dreams within five years. It takes a broad and courageous vision to show such dreams to the nation, and such a vision belongs only to our leader, Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Whatever this Government under Modi Ji stated, it has accomplished even more within five years. I shall not speak for the entire country, but I shall certainly speak for my own Parliamentary Constituency. During the tenure of UPA-2, only 40,000 toilets were constructed in my region. In the past five years, nearly 2,40,000 toilets have been built in my Lok Sabha Constituency of Bidar. Furthermore, under the scheme providing free gas connections to poor women, 1,85,000 women in my Constituency have received gas connections. Under the Mudra Yojana, 1,25,000 young men and women in my Constituency have received Mudra loans amounting to nearly Rs. 458 crore. Under Ayushman Bharat, we have distributed cards to approximately 2 lakh 35,000 poor citizens, and around 25,000 people have already availed themselves of its benefits. Therefore, I would like to say to the Members of the Opposition, particularly the Members of the Congress Party, that there is no difference between our words and our actions. We have accomplished more than what we promised. This is a fact that ought

to be understood, and I would like to place this clearly before the House.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, there is one matter that causes me profound distress, and I earnestly appeal to you to grant me relief from it. The Members of the Opposition continue to spread unfounded allegations, both within this House and outside it, regarding the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and the Minimum Support Price. Since the introduction of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana in 2016-17 up to 2018-19, my Lok Sabha Constituency of Bidar has stood first in the entire country. This leadership has been reflected not only in enrolment but also in actual beneficiary coverage. In the years 2018 and 2019 alone, 1,85,000 farmers enrolled under this scheme. ...*(Interruptions)* In total, 2,56,000 farmers have registered. ...*(Interruptions)* Due to drought this year, 1,29,903 farmers in my region are receiving compensation amounting to Rs. 126 crore. Further, under the Minimum Support Price programme anchored by the Union Government for crops such as urad, moong, soybean, jowar and various paddy varieties, at least one and a half lakh farmers in my region derive benefit every year. I extend a sincere invitation to all Hon. Members of the Opposition to visit my Constituency of Bidar, where nearly two lakh farmers have already benefitted. ...*(Interruptions)* I shall arrange a gathering of farmers for your

interaction. I would like to urge the Opposition to kindly accept this invitation. …*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your submission.

SHRI BHAGWANTH KHUBA: Hon. Chairperson, the new Budget envisions a New India. It outlines roads for every village, tap water for every household, electricity for every home, housing for every poor family, irrigation facilities for farmers and many such transformative initiatives.

I would like to present an illustration regarding the Congress Party, which governed this country for 60 years. Let me give an example, the Congress governed this country for 60 years. Consider another illustration, a 125-year-old wall on which a tree happened to grow naturally. Yet Congress claims that it was their achievement, that they made it happen. No one planted a seed on that wall, no one watered it, no one cared for it, and still the tree grew on its own. In the same way, Congress was not responsible for the nation's progress; rather, it had become an obstacle to India's development. For this reason, the people chose to reject the Congress in 2019.…*(Interruptions)*

I would like to remind the Congress and the Members of the Opposition of a saying by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji:

Chhote mann se koi bada nahin hota,

Toote mann se koi khada nahin hota.

(These lines highlight big achievements require big thinking and a strong, unbroken spirit.)

With this understanding, I would like to urge the Opposition to extend their cooperation with a positive outlook in the coming five years. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA (NAGINA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Union Budget. I also extend my thanks to the Hon. President of the Bahujan Samaj Party, Shrimati Mayawati Ji, former Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, who has given me the opportunity to serve in this House. 25 percent of the population of our country comprises members of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, yet the Budget makes very limited provision for their welfare. This Government speaks of SCs and STs and also accuses others of misleading them, but through you, I would like to submit that adequate budgetary provisions must be made for their upliftment.

This Government has been formed for a second time. Previous Governments had implemented several schemes in the name of the revered Baba Saheb Ambedkar, but this Government has discontinued many of those schemes associated with Baba Saheb Ambedkar. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Chairperson, even libraries established in his name have been shut down. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat. Only the remarks of the Hon. Member will go on record.

... (Interruptions)...[*]

[*] Not recorded.

SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA: A library established in the revered name of Baba Saheb Ambedkar has also been closed by this Government. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, the Budget makes mention of the poor, the villages and the farmers. Today, however, the condition of the villages has deteriorated severely. People are migrating from rural areas to the cities. Villages will prosper only when development reaches them, when there is a proper supply of electricity, when adequate security is ensured, when medical facilities are available, when quality education is provided and when employment opportunities are created. The Government has stated that it will work for the upliftment of the poor. For the upliftment of the poor, the revered Baba Saheb Ambedkar had said that only when people become educated, when they attain learning, will the nation become strong. Baba Saheb taught that education is a source of immense power that gives strength and courage, empowers a person to speak up boldly and stand fearlessly for what is right. I would like to urge the Government to promote educational development in the villages.

Hon. Chairperson, the Government has stated that it is advancing towards strengthening education. I would like to draw attention to the condition in my Parliamentary Constituency, Nagina. Five Government schools have been constructed there, and nearly two years have passed since their completion. The

Government Girls' School in Tehsil Dhampur was completed almost two and a half years ago. The Minority Government Girls' School in Mukarpuri is the second. The third, the Government Girls' School, is in Nansavali. Additionally, a Girls' Polytechnic School in Mukarpur has also been constructed, yet it has not commenced functioning to this day. Your Government makes grand declarations regarding progress in the field of education, but at the ground level, in my Constituency of Nagina, four fully constructed school buildings remain unused, and the Government is not providing education there. I would like to urge that the functioning of these institutions be commenced at the earliest.

Sir, just as the Government has stated that a nation whose farmers are strong will itself prosper, our country is known as an agrarian nation. The Government claims to have ensured payment to sugarcane farmers. *...(Interruptions)* The Government further states that it has initiated the payment of interest on the arrears of sugarcane farmers. However, in Uttar Pradesh, the arrears due to the farmers have still not been paid by the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You should conclude your remarks.

SHRI GIRISH CHANDRA: Sir, if the Government truly wishes to strengthen the farmer, then agricultural equipment such as

tractors, hand pumps and other implements must be made more affordable. If the farmer receives electricity at high rates and diesel is also expensive, how can the farmer’s income be doubled? If you indeed wish to make the farmers of this country strong, then I submit that agriculture must be linked to industry. The day agriculture is accorded the status of an industry, the farmers of this nation will truly become strong.

[English]

*__SHRI K. NAVASKANI (RAMANATHAPURAM):__ Hon. Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me this Opportunity to speak on General Budget for the year 2019-20.

I represent Ramanathapuram parliamentary constituency of Tamil Nadu in this august House. I belong to the Indian Union Muslim League, IUML the leaders of which took active participation in the freedom struggle and were instrumental in the framing of our Indian Constitution. DMK leader *Thalapathi* Thiru M.K. Stalin floated a secular alliance in Tamil Nadu and IUML was an ally. Under the able guidance of DMK leader Thalapathi M.K. Stalin this grand alliance achieved a spectacular victory in the recently concluded Lok Sabha elections. I wholeheartedly thank the DMK leader *Thalapathi* M. K. Stalin, the national leader of IUML Thiru K.M. Kader Mohideen, the IUML parliamentary party leader Thiru P. Kunhalikutty the voters of my Ramanathapuram parliamentary constituency and the party workers of IUML for this opportunity.*

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I have never been a Member of Legislative Assembly. I have been directly elected to Lok Sabha for the first time. Tamil Nadu is facing acute water shortage and the

---

… English translation of this part of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

State Government is not taking any steps to solve this crisis. I want to know how much money has been allocated by the Central Government to solve this crisis. The Government says that Har Ghar Jal Scheme would be implemented by 2024, but that is five years away from now. What about today? People are facing difficulties now. I request the Government to take urgent steps on war footing and issue instructions to the State Government to solve this crisis.

The Government has formulated a scheme called Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for the welfare of fishermen, but no specific proposal has been mentioned under the scheme. I want to know from the Government whether this scheme would cover fishing equipments, boats, insurance cover, health facilities for the fishermen and also GPS-fitted boats in case they lose their way during fishing. The Government should come out with specific proposals under the Scheme. I also want to know whether the housing facilities at subsidized rates would be constructed for fishermen.

There is no provision for agriculturists and minorities in this Budget. There is no mention about scholarships, increase in scholarships for students belonging to Muslim community or increasing the allocation for minorities or setting up of camps of

Aligarh Muslim University at different locations where there is a huge concentration of Muslim population.

Post-Matric Scholarship for Minorities declined to 28.3 percent. The National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation Fund declined to 64 percent. The Maulana Azad Education Fund declined to 28 percent.

There is no mention about protection of minorities. The incidents of assaults on minorities are increasing day by day. Has the Government allocated any funds or given any financial assistance for the improvement Waqf Boards? I am really disappointed.

I request the Government to allocate funds for the education of girls belonging to Muslim community by appropriation of money earmarked for Haj subsidy, which has now been withdrawn.

17.59 hrs (Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

I represent Ramanathapuram Lok Sabha constituency which has the longest coastline in Tamil Nadu and where around 200 villages consist of mainly fishermen. The fisheries sector could not find new hopes in the Union Budget 2019 despite the announcement of a new scheme, Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana. While the Budget says it will address critical gaps in the value chain, including infrastructure, modernisation, traceability, production,

productivity, post-harvest management and quality control, I think it can bring no substantial change in the life of fishermen. The Budget has not addressed any of their long-standing grievances. One of the major demands, that is, GST cut on fishing equipment, was totally ignored. Subsidy on kerosene and diesel also received no attention. Since fishing community is vulnerable to natural calamities including cyclones, they should be allowed to get relief from the National Disaster Relief Fund. None of their demands were met in the Budget. It is my request to also include fishermen in loan waiver scheme, just like farmers.

18.00 hrs

The Finance Minister mentioned in her speech about fisheries framework development, possibly under the new Department of Fisheries created recently, but again there are no details. The allocation for Blue Revolution has dropped by about 15 percent from BE of 2018-19.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Union Budget discussion is under way. If it is the sense of the House, and with the consent of the House, we may sit for a longer duration and complete the entire discussion on the Budget. It would be preferable, therefore, to extend the sitting of the House until 10 p.m. …*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: All of you may indicate until what time the House should be extended.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, it may be extended until 10 p.m. ...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF FISHERIES, ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, AND DAIRYING (SHRI GIRIRAJ SINGH): Sir, arrangements for dinner may also be made. …*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Minister, I have not permitted you to speak.

…*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, you may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, you may take the sense of the House regarding the maximum time. If you extend the sitting until 10 p.m., there is no problem.

HON. SPEAKER: For now, the sitting of the House is extended until 9 p.m.; thereafter, we shall consider further extension.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): What about the dinner?

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister of Parliamentary Affairs will arrange your dinner.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K. NAVASKANI: Sir, in spite of the devastation recent years has seen due to floods and other disasters, allocations have dropped 31 percent for infrastructure for disaster management.

There is also reduction in fund allocation for MGNREGA. It has actually dropped from RE of 2018-19. This certainly needs to

be increased. The funding, to the Employment Guarantee Scheme, saw a 1.7 percent decrease.

The overall Budget of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation, now part of the new Ministry of Jal Shakti, has seen a drop from Rs.22,357 crore in BE of 2018-19 to Rs.20,016 crore in BE of 2019-20.

I would now like to talk about the UDAN Scheme. The Government says with great pride that UDAN Scheme is successful. My constituency Ramanathapuram is a pilgrim and tourist destination. Lakhs of people are visiting every year. Has the Government any plan to set up an Airport at Rameswaram so that it could be connected to Madurai, Chennai and Tuticorin under the UDAN Scheme?

In this Budget, there is no scheme for poor. There is no scheme for women, minorities, and middle-class people. For whom has this Budget been prepared? Is it for corporates alone? I once again reiterate that this Budget is anti-poor, anti-public, anti-common man, anti-minorities, and anti-workers. With these words, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY (KENDRAPARA): Thank you Hon. Speaker, Sir. The Union Budget 2019-20 is a platform which would provide the nation a roadmap for the future growth and development. In this Union Budget, there has been some attempt made in providing a medium and long-term vision to the nation. My Party, Biju Janata Dal, my Leader, Shri Naveen Patnaik and myself, welcome this Union Budget but the point, that specific budgetary allocations not being made, raises a pertinent question on the vision turning into reality.

In terms of Odisha, there are several justified demands that have been raised time and again by the Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik. He has specified one aspect, which is to provide more funds to a State like Odisha since we are prone to natural calamities. Geographically, we are located in such a manner that almost every year we are bound to face natural calamity, be it recent Fani, Hudhud, Titli, Phailin or any super-cyclone, flood or drought. So all this calls for a strong measure to increase funds inflow to a State like Odisha. It needs special attention and therefore a special focus State status. Nothing of this measure was seen in this Budget. In a federal lacking structure, special attention for Odisha does not augur well.

In terms of allocation for railway projects, while the allocation might have come in, the railway projects in Odisha are lagging,

whether it is the Khurda-Bolangir line and whether it is rail connectivity to Phulbani, which is still pending since 1980 or the Haridaspur-Paradip line of my own constituency, Kendrapara. It is very unfortunate because it is getting delayed everyday.

Recently, the Hon. Chief Minister had a review meeting and we are trying our best to sort out whatever land acquisition things are left out. We will commission the railway lines by September this year, but we request the Hon. Finance Minister and the Government that the railway lines like Koraput- Malkangiri and Koraput-Nabarangpur lines are yet to start work in the real sense. While the State Government is providing free land and bearing 50 percent of the construction cost, these projects being not started is extremely sad.

Sir, levying of additional tax on petrol and diesel is yet another step in taxing the middle class and the poor. instead of that, if more focus was provided to generate revenue, it would have been better. levying tax duty on newsprint is another step towards almost eliminating the newspaper industry altogether. on the contrary, the government should rather come up with special packages for the print media, be it small, be it medium, and be it large. though it might be a fact that the country is heading towards digitalization, we cannot deny the reality of our nation, *i.e.*, it is still a practise in every house of India Every morning when we wake up before we

go to work, we read the newspaper. so, i urge upon the government to think about the tax that has been levied on newsprint.

As regards States, there has not been good news. The imposition of cess and surcharges by the Central Government is going to put a dent on the potential of the State which is not appropriate. While this Budget while tries to paint a picture of a grand vision, lack of appropriate backing by resources and budgetary allocations in the Budget are going to be the major hindrances to the overall implementation of the Budget. There are certain things which I want to mention here.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You are speaking very well.

[English]

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: Sir, thank you. It is for the very first time I got an opportunity of speaking on Budget in the Lok Sabha in my life.

I wish the Union Government would have enhanced the quantum of assistance to farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Yojana at par with our KALIA Yojana in Odisha where landless labourers and sharecroppers should also have been included in its fold. It is a request to the Government if they can include landless

labourers and sharecroppers, then it will be a great thing for farmers.

Under Mission Shakti in Odisha, 70 lakh women and seven lakh SHGs have been empowered. The brightest example is here in the Lok Sabha. You only mentioned her name a few days back, my Hon. colleague, Shrimati Pramila Bisoyi Maa -- we call her mother – who has empowered 70 lakh women in Odisha by her hard work and by the help of the State Government.

Under Mamata Yojana, 40 lakh women have benefited. After its grand success, the NDA-1, came up with a National Maternity Scheme, which is almost same to that. Out of 130 crores of population in India, 50 percent are women which is perhaps 65 crores. We have to empower 65 crore women by bringing up such kind of schemes so that the nation grows faster and in a better way.

We all know how important education is. In the beginning, the Odisha Government and the Central Government together thought of making Adarsh Vidyalayas to give proper education and qualitative education to the students on whom the nation depends and who are the future of the nation. In the beginning, the Central Government assisted with some money. There was a proposal of 314 Model Schools in 314 blocks.

The Central Government provided funds in the beginning but all of a sudden they stopped providing funds for this. I would like to request the Central Government, through you, if they could support the State Government so that these Adarsh Vidyalayas could give proper education to students, then it would be a great thing, or else this Government should accept that education is not their priority.

On the question of Health and hygiene, I would like to submit that to provide good health services, both the Central and the State Government of Odisha should join hands. The Government decided to set up six medical colleges in the State – four of them have already been set up and are functional, 2 are ready to be functional. But the Central Government has done the same thing like they did in the other scheme. In the first phase, they released some money and the State has been waiting a long time to get the rest of the money to have these colleges functioning in a proper way.

On rural roads under the *Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana*, the Government has awarded the State of Odisha not once but twice for showing good performance. In the last ten years, under the leadership of our Hon. Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik ji, the State has completed construction of 41000 kilometres of roads. In the first place, the scheme was 100 percent financially supported by the Central Government, now the ratio is 60:40 which is actually

50:50 because the State Government has to bear the administrative cost also. So, allocation of adequate funds under the scheme is needed to support the efforts of the State in this regard.

Sir, the final point, with your permission, I would like to make in Odiya language.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): Hon. Member, you have not given notice to speak in Odiya. No interpretation is available.

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: I have given. No translation? No problem, then I will speak in English.

Sir, my friend Shri Anurag Singh Thakur has said something to me and he wants to listen to me and so it would be a pleasure for me to speak in English and make him understand.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I request Hon. Members not to engage in conversations amongst themselves.

[English]

SHRI ANUBHAV MOHANTY: In the General Elections 2019, BJP had committed, through its election manifesto, committed to

the people of Odisha they would honour Kuria as the cultural capital of India if they came. The other point was about the *Rath Yatra* and then the General Budget came, but till now, I am surprised to find that 17 iconic places have been identified from amongst 12 States ... *(Interruptions)*

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I express my deep gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to present my views on the Budget for the year 2019-2020. I would like to begin with a couplet:

"Zindagi ki asli udaan abhi baaki hai,

zindagi ke kai imtihaan abhi baaki hain.

Abhi to naapi hai mutthi bhar zameen humne,

abhi to saara desh Congress-mukt karna baaki hai."

(The speaker suggests that their true progress lies ahead, with many challenges still to face. What has been achieved so far is only a small beginning, while the larger goal, politically, to make the entire country Congress-free, remains unfulfilled.)

The first full Budget of the 17th Lok Sabha is an inclusive and multipurpose Budget dedicated to the youth, the poor, farmers, the oppressed, the deprived, the Dalits and women. This Budget will serve as a milestone in realising the vision of New India. For this inclusive and welfare-oriented Budget, I extend my heartfelt thanks to our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Bhai Modi, to the Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, and to our young Minister, Shri Anurag Thakur.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, our Government, embodying the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas, has framed every provision of this Budget with the village, the poor and the farmer at its core. Whether it is the rural citizen deprived of basic amenities due to poverty, the farmer facing economic hardship, or our brothers and sisters residing in forested regions, the Budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister has been crafted with the objective of ensuring their holistic development.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, it is a matter of great satisfaction for us that India has now surpassed France to become the world's sixth-largest economy. Five years ago, when our Government assumed office, the country was ranked eleventh. After Independence, it took 55 years for our economy to reach two trillion dollars, yet under our Government, one trillion dollars has been added in merely five years, bringing us close to becoming a three-trillion-dollar economy. In the next five years, under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, it is our goal to cross the five-trillion-dollar mark.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the soul of India resides in its villages, and whatever our Government undertakes is formulated with the village, the poor and the farmer at the core. This Budget, too, has been prepared keeping these priorities in mind. Through the Ujjwala Yojana, our Government has provided LPG connections to more than seven crore families. It is our commitment that by the

year 2022, every rural household in the country will have access to electricity and clean cooking facilities. It is the dream of our Hon. Prime Minister that by 2022 every citizen should have a home of their own. To realise this objective, housing has been assured for all under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. In the last five years, 1.56 crore rural houses have been completed, and a target of constructing 1.95 crore additional houses has been set for the coming period.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, although every section of society is affected by the Union Budget, it is the common citizen who holds the greatest expectations from it. In keeping with these expectations, the Government has demonstrated its commitment by announcing that annual income up to Rs. five lakh shall be tax-free. The GST law has been liberalised to spare people unnecessary hardship. Income tax returns may now be filed using the Aadhaar card in addition to the PAN card.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 30 thousand kilometres of roads have been constructed using green technology, thereby reducing transportation costs. Under the Bharatmala Project, approximately 35 thousand kilometres of national highways will be constructed or upgraded by the year 2022. In the third phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 1 lakh 25 thousand kilometres of roads will be constructed over the next five years at a cost of Rs. 80,250 crore.

Sir, under the UDAN Scheme, air travel facilities have now reached smaller towns, enabling ordinary citizens to avail themselves of the benefits of air travel. It is a matter of great satisfaction for all of us that even those who once wore only slippers on their feet are today travelling by aeroplane. This was a dream and a commitment of our Prime Minister. In the 21st century, one of the greatest challenges before us is the growing water crisis. The need of the hour is that, just as seriousness was shown in implementing the Swachh Bharat Mission, equal seriousness must now be shown in every village across the nation towards water conservation. When our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, more than one-and-a-half lakh check dams were constructed across the State, along with lakhs of farm ponds. These measures helped recharge groundwater levels in Gujarat. With the same resolve, we are now celebrating the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. When we celebrate the 75th year of India's Independence in 2022, farmers' incomes will have doubled, the poor will have their own homes, every poor household will have an electricity connection, access to clean cooking fuel, and freedom from the compulsion of open defecation. All poor families will have access to medical facilities. Every village will be connected by roads, and the Ganga will flow uninterrupted and clean. Every household will be associated with cleanliness, and

every village will be aligned with this mission. I can say with complete confidence that this Budget will make the nation prosperous. It will empower the poor and the youth, and it will accelerate the progress of the middle class. In conclusion, I would like to recite a couplet:

"Kaamyab log apne faisle se duniya ko jhuka dete hain,

aur nakaamyab log duniya se daskar apna isteefa dekar, apne faisle badal dete hain."

(Successful individuals stand by their decisions and shape the world accordingly, whereas those who falter, out of fear of prevailing circumstances, withdraw and alter their decisions.)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I would request all of you to conclude your speeches after the first bell. It does not please me to have to ring the second bell for any Hon. Member. There are still 40 Hon. Members who wish to speak. Everyone in the House must have an opportunity.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Do you wish to speak?

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You will be permitted.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Hon. Speaker Sir, I shall say something that will make you pleased. *...(Interruptions)*

[English]

ADV. A. M. ARIFF (ALAPPUZHA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget 2019, presented by the Hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman*ji*.

I am happy to say that we are lucky to have two full Budgets – the pre-election Budget and the post-election Budget within a span of five months. The first Budget – the pre-election Budget – was for gaining votes, and the second one was for punishing those people who voted for this Government. I shall come to this point later.

First of all, I appreciate our Hon. Finance Minister for successfully articulating the anti-people Budget 2019 through her excellent rhetoric skill. I am sorry to say this. With all due respect to the Finance Minister, I want to say that this Budget is only a financial statement and nothing more than that, as rightly spoken by Mr. Naidu, the Hon. Member who spoke earlier.

There is no wonder that the pre-election Budget was glittering with tall claims and promises. It was all about handouts and welfare plans for farmers, labourers, small businessmen, and people at the lowest end of the taxpayer base. But the post-election Budget presented by Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman*ji* made a studied silence

on all these promises. It is deeply disappointing to say that apart from the sweet and hollow promises, both the Budgets are nothing but an eye-wash to cover the real burning problems of our country.

One of the marked features of this Budget is its vagueness. There is no clear description or geographical indication of the projects to be implemented, for example, projects such as industrial corridors, dedicated freight corridors, Bharatmala, Sagarmala, Jal Marg Vikas, UDAN Scheme, tourist destinations, etc. There is no mention as to when and where these projects are going to be implemented. The selection of the projects is made by the Ministry concerned depending upon their own interest.

My second point is this. I request all the Hon. Members of the august House to open their eyes and see what is the rank of India. India has been ranked at 103rd position among 119 countries on the Global Hunger Index. About 27.5 percent of India's population was identified as multi-dimensional poverty and about 8.6 percent of the country's people lived in extreme poverty according to the 2018 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI).

According to the recent Report of UNDP, 365 million people are living in poverty in our country. I repeat, 365 million people are living in poverty in our country. At the same time, the Government is talking about 3 trillion-dollar and 5 trillion-dollar economy.

These figures are also with the Government. Anybody can get these figures – the poverty index of UN – while searching on Google. They are hiding these figures from the common people. We forget that GDP is just one number that cannot even encompass everything as an economy means. A five trillion-dollar economy cannot be expected to end all our economic woes unless it is accompanied by job growth, equality of opportunity, and better health and education.

It is important not only to worry about achieving this short-sighted goal but also worry about how we would want the $5 trillion economy to look like. Who would be the real beneficiaries of this $5 trillion economy? Some Hon. Members also asked about it yesterday.

When the BJP-led National Democratic Alliance, the NDA, came to power in 2014, the GDP growth rate was 7.4 percent. In 2015, the GDP growth rate was 8.2 percent. However there was a dip in the GDP growth rate in 2016 and 2017. It was 7.1 percent in 2016 and 6.7 percent in 2017. This decline in GDP was due to demonetization shock and the quick introduction of GST.

Taking a cue from past experience, it is typical of Modi Government to sell dreams to the poor. They are only dreams. Again, the landless farmers and agricultural workers are excluded from this Budget. Rupees ten lakh crore of corporate debts have

been written off while only 10 percent of farmers gain from loan waivers. The Government is standing with whom: farmers or corporates?

Coming to disinvestment, it is not ‘Make in India’, it is ‘Selling India’. They are buying MLAs from different States. That is why, in the morning in the House, the Opposition staged a protest against the buying MLA programme of the Ruling party. The Modi Government desires to sell our PSUs. The 235 Public Sector Undertakings that were once the commanding heights of Indian economy still account for about 20 percent of the GDP and 15 percent of stock market capitalisation through 50 listed firms. Please do not forget that they have helped us to withstand the threats of the latest global economic crises.

Look at the conditions of our farmers. India is facing the worst agricultural crisis in its known history. Around four lakh farmers have committed suicide since 1995. Declaration of Minimum Support Price for cash crops is the only way out to save the farmers from committing suicide. But there is no clear indication in this regard in the Budget.

I would also request the Government to constitute a Debt Relief Commission for Kerala farmers. The first UPA Government with the support of Left parties, started the NREGA with the vision

of giving 100 days of employment for everyone. It was the largest and most ambitious social security and public work programme in the world. In the last Budget, i.e., the pre-election Budget of the NDA, the Government allotted Rs. 61,084 crore for MGNREGA. After the new Government came to power, it was revised to Rs. 60,000 crore. There was a shortfall of Rs. 1,084 crore.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri N.K. Premachandran.

ADV. A.M. ARIF: Sir, I am concluding within two minutes. I am a new Member.

Sir, 100 days guarantee work for everyone has come to 46 days only. The wages and allotment of works need to be increased.

I am sorry to say that Kerala's traditional sectors are being ignored by this Government. Coir workers, cashew workers, fishermen, bamboo workers, rubber planters are all away from this Budget. There are no new schemes for them. The Kerala Government sought the help from the Central Government on fixing the minimum price of Rs. 200 for rubber. But what was done by this Government on this crisis?

The long pending demand of Kerala is the establishment of AIIMS in the State. The State Government had already acquired the required land for this project but this Budget has turned its back to the Keralite's dream. There is no specific allocation for the

improvement and development of the National Institute of Virology at Alappuzha in my Constituency, which is very important considering the viral diseases like Nipah, which has been reported two times.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri N.K. Premachandran.

ADV. A.M. ARIF: Sir, I am just concluding.

This Budget, where existing allocations to the States have been reduced, is silent about many long pending demands of Kerala. Kerala has been a historically neglected region for railway. The insufficient funds earmarked for new lanes, gauge conversion, doubling of lanes and electrification, act as a major impediment for development of railways in the State of Kerala. The long standing demands of the State for more trains from important cities, a separate railway zone, track doubling and electrification has not been met yet. After the departure of Intercity Express from morning, there is no train till evening. Similarly, the demand for development of Adarsh Stations at Alappuzha, Cherthala and Mararikulam has not been met.

The State of Kerala has acquired 235 acres of land for the Kozhikode factory. Even after laying the foundation stone before six years, nothing has been done on that land.

Therefore, the Union Budget for 2019 is an eye-wash of the Modi Government through manipulated and inflated data. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now only the record of Shri N. K. Premachandran will be taken. Nothing else will go on record.

. ... *(Interruptions)*[*]

[*] Not recorded.

[English]

[*]**SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWAR (DAVANGERE):** Hon. Speaker, Sir, for the first time a women Finance Minister has presented a full-fledged budget. I wholeheartedly welcome this as it gives a proper direction to build a New India.

The budget has not made any populist announcements. It gives priority to create infrastructure and economic reforms. It is a realistic budget presented by Hon. Finance Minister. She has wisely tried to teach how to catch fish, instead of offering fish to the hungry. Tap water for drinking by 2024, 1.95 crore houses built under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana by 2022, every rural household getting electricity and cooking gas connection, 1.25 lakh kilometres of rural roads to be built in 3rd Phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and so many public welfare programmes have been announced by Hon. Finance minister. As a whole, she has won the hearts and minds of women, farmers, labours, small entrepreneurs, and youths of the country. The budget contains everything to make India a 5 trillion-dollar economy.

I represent Davanagere Lok Sabha constituency of Karnataka, which is in the middle of the State. According to Nanjundappa Report, my constituency has more backward taluks, which are

[*] English translation of the speech laid on the Table originally in Kannada.

facing water scarcity and many other problems. The groundwater level has depleted as there is no water in lakes and ponds. There is no water in the borewells even at a depth of 1,000 feet. In some places water is contaminated with high fluoride and is not safe for drinking.

Even though the river Tungabhadra passes through my constituency for 70 kilometres, there is acute shortage of water. All the lakes should be filled with water by lifting it from river Tungabhadra. It will solve the problem of water shortage and also recharge the groundwater. The coalition government in the state is surviving on ventilator. It is unable to release its share of grant to the drinking water projects. It has not even forwarded the proposals of drinking water projects to the Union government. For the people, the State Government is non-existent. Therefore, I request the Central Government to take special care for the state of Karnataka particularly backward constituencies like Davanagere.

In the year 2017-18, the then Hon. Finance Minister had announced one medical college and a hospital each for three Lok Sabha constituencies. Medical education is a distant pipedream dream for a backward constituency like ours. So, a government medical college and hospital should be set up to fill the vacuum.

There is a long pending demand of the people of central Karnataka for a Central Agriculture University with research facilities. The required land and other basic infrastructure are available in Davanagere.Hence, I request you to consider the important demands of my Parliamentary constituency while presenting supplementary demands for grants.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Speaker, Sir, for affording me this opportunity to speak on the Budget for the year 2019-20.

Millions of common people in the country were very eager and anxious for the Budget. They were having huge expectations from the Budget of the NDA-II Government. It is because this Government has come back to power with a comfortable majority. It is quite unfortunate to note that the Finance Minister, in her first Budget, has totally failed in fulfilling the aspirations of the people of the country who have voted this Government.

I am opposing the Budget proposals or the contents of the Budget on the following grounds. Most of the Hon. Members have already spoken about the opaqueness of the Budget. The Budget of 2019-20 is insipid, opaque, and lacking transparency. What is the Budget? It is a Constitutional obligation on the part of the Government to present the Annual Financial Statement of the Government. The Government is made accountable to the people of India through Parliament. Article 112 and Article 119 are very specific. According to Article 112 of the Constitution, it is the Annual Financial Statement of the estimated receipts and expenditure of the Government of India for the Financial Year. Article 119 deals with the laws and regulations to be followed. Unfortunately, in this Budget Speech, both these things are missing.

Article 112 and Article 119 are not being complied with because the Budget does not speak about the macroeconomic factors. If you know the macroeconomic factors, then only you will be able to understand the fiscal status of the economy of our country. What about the macroeconomic factors like fiscal deficit or revenue deficit? What is the inflation? What is the current account deficit? What is the GDP of the country? Without mentioning the growth of GDP or without having the fiscal deficit or revenue deficit or current account deficit, nothing will be known. What kind of Budget Speech is this? [Translation] You are just complying the Constitutional obligation. Yes, I do agree. This is a live-telecast from the Parliament. Crores and crores of people are watching us.

The citizens of this country are having the right to know about the fiscal deficit of the country. Hon. Arun Jaitley ji, the former Finance Minister, we are having a lot of respect for him, had made a statement outside the House: “Yes, definitely, Budget is only a policy statement.” He said: “Yes, definitely, Budget is an Annual Financial Statement coupled with the policy.” First you put the figures. What is the total GDP growth? What is the revenue earning? What is the revenue receipt? What is the revenue expenditure? Then, you can make the policy and give directions. Then, you can say that these are the policy initiatives by which we

can address the fiscal deficit. This is the way by which the Budget is being presented. That is the convention of the House.

You are merely saying that Corporate Tax has been reduced from 30 percent to 25 percent. When you are extending the benefit of Corporate Tax exemption from 30 percent to 25 percent, which is extended upto Rs. 400 crore, the House wants to knowwhat is the revenue loss. It is being shielded. It is not disclosed in the Budget.

Similarly, there is a hike in the prices of petrol and diesel. What is therevenue earning due to this hike? You are taxing the super-rich. It is okay. How much are you going to earn by taxing the super-rich?

The Parliament has the right and the people of the country have the democratic right to know the facts and figures, the fiscal status, the fiscal condition and the state of affairs of the economy of our country. Unfortunately, the Budget Speech does not mention anything about macro-economic terms. This means the Government wants to shield so many things from the general public of this country. That is why, it has not been spelt out in the Budget Speech and it has been included and incorporated in the documents which have been annexed to the main Speech or the Budget Speech.

My second point is regarding the unrealistic dream of the Finance Minister and the Hon. Prime Minister, that is, becoming a

five trillion-dollar economy. Most of the Members have already said, in 2014, the size of the economy was US$ 1.8 trillion. In 2019, it was US$ 2.7 trillion. Now, for moving from US$ 2.7 trillion to US$ three trillion, you have to have an economic growth of 11.11 percent. An economic growth of 11.11 percent is required. I do accept that for GDP growth, the domestic, geographical earnings will only be included and external borrowings and external earnings will not be included. Even then, 11.11 percent of economic growth is required so as to have a three trillion-dollar economy in the country in the current financial year, which means, it is impossible. If it is possible, let the Hon. Finance Minister tell us.

What is the GDP growth rate? During the last financial year, it was 6.8 percent, which is the lowest in the last decade. The highest GDP growth of 8.2 percent was there in 2016-17. Now it has come down to 6.8 percent. The Government and *The Economic Survey* expect that economic growth will be seven percent. When *The Economic Survey*talks about seven percent economic growth, how are we able to achieve the US$ three-trillion economy as well as USD five-trillion size of the economy by 2025 and US$ 10-trillion economy by 2032? I would like to know from the Hon. Finance Minister how you are going to achieve those figures.

Coming to the Economic Survey, it speaks about ‘blue sky thinking’ which means an uninhibited approach to achieve the goal.

If you see the fiscal deficit, it is 3.4 percent in The Economic Survey but the Government is anticipating 3.4 percent fiscal deficit. How? Rs. 6,000 crore will be achieved by means of having efficiency in the consolidation of finance.

The overall unemployment rate is 6.1 percent; it has not been addressed in the Budget. The allocation in the case of MGNREGA has been reduced.

There is a very recent observation from the most famous economist in the country. Anurag Singh Thakur ji, I would like to draw your attention that three days after the presentation of the Budget – I am seeking protection from the Hon. Speaker also – it has been found that there is Rs. 2 lakh crore 'fiscal hole' in India's financial accounts. The anomaly was first picked up by Mr. Rathin Roy, a Member of the Prime Minister's Economic Advisory Council. In the *Business Standard*, he has written an article that he studied both *The Economic Survey*and the Budget Estimates and the Revenue Estimates for 2018-19 and it has been seen that in the Revised Estimates, the revenue earnings as per the Budget is Rs. 17.3 lakh crore in 2018-19. As far as *The Economic Survey* is concerned, it is Rs. 15.6 lakh crore, that means a shortfall of Rs. 1.7 lakh crore. There is a discrepancy in the Economic Survey as well as in the Budget.

The Government spending was shown in the Budget at Rs. 24.6 lakh crore. In *The Economic Survey*, it is only Rs. 23.1 lakh crore. Another big amount of shortfall is also there. This is the position. Jayati Ghosh, the famous economist of JNU has also said like this. I am not sure whether it is correct or not; I am stating it from the Press reports. If the observation which I have made is correct or if the Press reports are correct, there is only one way: to take back the Budget and come with a fresh Budget.

That is the only means by which this issue can be resolved. Such a shortfall is there in the Budget.

So, I conclude by saying that the Budget for the year 2019-20 is full of fury and sound and poems in Tamil, Sanskrit, Hindi and Urdu but it signifies nothing. Hence, I oppose the Budget proposals for the year 2019-20. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Sir, thank you very much. It is my good fortune that you are presiding over the Chair today. What I am about to say, I am certain that even if no one else in this House understands it, you will certainly understand it. After my speech, this august House will be compelled to reflect upon whether Muslims in India have ever been appeased, or whether, in fact, they have been systematically held back.

Sir, in this Budget, I would like to speak about the Ministry of Minority Affairs. The allocation that has been made for the Ministry, particularly for the Pre-Matric, Post-Matric and Merit-cum-Means Scholarships for minorities, requires serious attention. You are aware that the literacy rate among Muslims in this country is the lowest, it stands at 68.5 percent, whereas the national literacy rate is 82.14 percent. At present, in our beloved nation, the enrolment of Muslim boys and girls in schools is 3 crore 33 lakh, which constitutes 13 percent of the total. However, when these 3 crore 33 lakh children reach higher education, the Ministry of Human Resource Development's own data (AISHE) shows that only around 17 lakh Muslim boys and girls enter higher education. You may observe that from 3 crore 33 lakh children studying from Class I to Class XII, the number drops to merely 17 lakh by the time they reach higher education, this is only 4.9 percent. Furthermore,

the 2011 Census itself states that among Muslims, only 2.5 percent attain a graduation degree. Out of every 100 Muslim children, merely 7 are able to acquire a matriculation certificate. Only 16 percent of Muslims receive primary education. These facts were highlighted by the Kundu Committee, whose report is with the Government.

Sir, the per capita daily consumption of Muslims is only Rs. 32.67. Their per capita income is also the lowest. In light of these stark realities, I would like to place before this House the full extent of this deprivation. What does this Government do? It reduces the allocation for Pre-Matric Scholarships by Rs. 49 crore; the Post-Matric Scholarships by Rs. 5 crore; and the Merit-cum-Means Scholarships by Rs. 35 crore. Minority students who pursue education abroad by taking educational loans have had their subsidy cut by Rs. 15 crore. The Maulana Azad Foundation, which provides the Hazrat Mahal Scholarship to girl students, has seen a reduction of Rs. 34 crore. Sir, your Minister had given an assurance that scholarships would be extended to one crore minority students every year. Yet, in this Budget, the target allocation has been reduced by Rs. 88 crore. As a result, 35 lakh 60 thousand minority students will not receive their scholarships this year.

Through you, Sir, I would like to urge the Government that, based on the data I have presented, the allocation for scholarships under the Ministry of Minority Affairs must be increased to at least Rs. 6,000 crore, as nearly 85 lakh minority students are deprived of scholarships every year.

Sir, I would like to place another matter before you. The Haj subsidy has been abolished. The Government had assured us that the Rs. 500 crore saved from this subsidy would be utilised for the education of Muslim children. Yet today, what is the actual allocation for Haj? It stands at merely Rs. 89 crore. The Rs. 400 crore that were previously spent in our name have effectively disappeared. Where have these funds gone? Why have they not been redirected towards our educational advancement as promised?

Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Government to consider this with seriousness. You hail from a land distinguished for its rich legacy of learning and enlightenment. Why does the Government not establish 500 residential schools for minorities across the country so that this deep-seated educational backwardness may finally be addressed? You speak of creating a 5 trillion dollar economy; indeed, I would wish for it to become a ten trillion dollar economy. But if 14 percent of the Muslim population is kept educationally marginalised through deliberate neglect, how will such aspirations ever be fulfilled?

Sir, with these remarks, I conclude.

Sir, the RBI has set a target that 15 percent of Priority Sector Lending should go to minorities, yet you have even stopped publishing these figures. Your Ministry of Finance has discontinued releasing this data. Minorities, particularly Muslims, are not receiving Priority Sector Lending at all. Under the Ministry of Personnel, until 2015, data was published every year indicating how many minorities were being recruited into Central Government services. You have stopped releasing that data since 2015. Why are you doing this, and what is the reason behind it?

Let me now turn to the issue of the Chabahar Port. The Taliban is gaining ground in Afghanistan, and the United States is engaged in negotiations with them in Doha. In such a situation, you have reduced the budgetary allocation from Rs.145 crore to merely Rs.40-45 crore. How, then, are we expected to sustain trade with Afghanistan? How are we to counter the growing influence of the Taliban? Your policy in this regard is entirely unclear to us. The development of the Chabahar Port has effectively come to a standstill. Your aversion to the press and to scholarly works has, regrettably, only emboldened these forces further.

Sir, with regard to the Self-Employment Scheme for Manual Scavengers, I do acknowledge and congratulate the Government for increasing the allocation from Rs.30 crore to Rs.110 crore. However, it must also be noted that last year even 30 percent of the allotted budget remained unutilised. Every five days, a Dalit loses his life while engaged in manual scavenging. I would like to know what concrete measures you are taking for their protection and rehabilitation. Furthermore, for the Scheduled Castes, under the Education Development Scheme, you have reduced the allocation by Rs. 2,610 crore. You repeatedly profess great concern and affection for Dalits, yet when the time comes to act upon that commitment, you cut Rs. 2,610 crore from their scholarship scheme. What manner of concern is this? Sir, a couplet comes to mind when I hear that one crore Muslims will not receive scholarships, and allocations for Dalits have also been reduced. Ghalib said it well:

“Tere vaade par jiye hum, to yeh jaan jhooth jaana;

ke khushi se mar na jaate, agar aitbaar hota.”

(These lines highlight that people carried on by holding onto the Government’s promises, despite knowing they were unlikely to be fulfilled. Had they truly believed those promises, the resulting joy would have been overwhelming.)

Sir, another poet has aptly described this Government:

"Ghazab kiya tere vaade par aitbaar kiya,

tamaam raat qayaamat ka intezaar kiya."

(These lines convey disappointment, saying people survived on promises they doubted would ever be fulfilled. Had those promises been genuine, the joy and relief would have been immense.)

What, indeed, is the Government doing? Sir, the budget of every Ministry has been increased, except that of Minority Welfare. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Finance why anti-dumping duties are not being imposed to protect the powerloom industry in Bhiwandi, in Solapur in Maharashtra, and in Vellore in Tamil Nadu. These powerloom units require adequate yarn. They are closing down; they are being devastated. Why does the Government not impose anti-dumping duties? It is because you seek to safeguard the interests of an individual residing in a prominent high-rise in Bombay. If the Government truly intends to stand with the poor, then it must impose anti-dumping duty and save the powerloom industry. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, I shall conclude my remarks briefly. There is no mention of the Rs. 30 thousand crore allocated for fertiliser subsidy. The commitment to doubling farmers' income has been entirely

forgotten. The outstanding dues of the Food Corporation of India amount to Rs. 1 crore 85 lakh. As for zero-budget farming, unless you reform the fertiliser subsidy regime, ...*(Interruptions)* In conclusion, I would like to state this. I come from the State of Telangana, where our Chief Minister has constructed what may be called the Taj Mahal of the present era. The Kaleshwaram Project that has been built there is a remarkable achievement. I would like to request Shri Anurag Singh Thakur to visit and see it for himself. After witnessing the scale of the work undertaken, he will also agree that it deserves to be accorded national status.

Sir, through you, I would like to convey to the Government that although you make many promises regarding Muslims, the truth has now become evident. You have reduced the allocations for scholarships. This is not Sabka Vishwas; rather, you have betrayed the trust of the Muslim community. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, please do not engage in private conversations. Both of you are senior Members.

ہے قسمتی خوش میری یہ شکریہ، بہت سر،بہت:(حیدرآباد) اویسی اسدالدین جناب مجھے ہوں، رہا جا کہنے بات جو میں ہیں۔ بیٹھیں پر کرسی صدرِ اس آپ آج کہ گے سمجھیں ضرور آپ یقیناً تو سمجھے نہ کوئی اگر میں ایوان اس کہ ہے یقین جائے ہو مجبور پر سوچنے کو بات اس ایوان بعد کے ہونے مکمل تقریر میری اور طریقے بند منصوبہ ایک یا گئی کی خوشامد کی مسلمانوں میں ہندوستان کیا گاکہ گیا۔ رکھا پیچھے کو ان سے

گاکہ چاہوں کرنا بات میں بارے کے بہبود اقلیتی وزارتِ میں بجٹ اس سر، کے اقلیتوں سے طور خاص ہے گیا دیا بجٹ یہ جو کو بہبود اقلیتی وزارتِ ہے، گیا دیا بجٹ جو کو اسکالرشِپ مینس کم میرٹ اور میٹرک پوسٹ پری۔میٹرک، ہے۔ کم سے سب میں ملک اس تناسب کا خواندگی کی مسلمانوں کہ ہیں جانتے آپ آج ہے۔ فیصد 82.14 وہ ہے تناسب کا خواندگی جو میں ملک فیصدہے۔ 68.5 یہ میں اسکول کا طالبات اور طلبہ بچیاں، اور بچے مسلمان میں عزیز وطنِ ہمارے کروڑ 3 یہ جب ہے، ہوتا فیصدی 13 کر ملا کل جو ہے، لاکھ 33 کروڑ 3 اینرولمنٹ وسائل انسانی فروغِ وزارتِ خود تو ہیں جاتے میں ایجوکیشن ہائر بچے لاکھ 33 اور بچے مسلمان قریب کے لاکھ 17 صرف کہ ہے ڈاٹا کا (اے۔آئی۔ایس۔ایچ۔ای۔) پہلے بچے لاکھ 33 کروڑ 3 کہ دیکھئے آپ ہیں۔ جاتے میں ایجوکیشن ہائر بچیاں ہو لاکھ 17 یہ آتے آتے تک ایجوکیشن ہائر اور تک جماعت بارہویں سے جماعت مسلمانوں کہ ہے کہتا یہ سینسس کا 2011 خود ہے۔ فیصدر 4.9 صرف یہ ہیں۔ جاتے صرف سے میں 100 ہے۔ فیصد 2.5 وہ ہیں کرتے حاصل ڈِگری گریجویشن جو میں پرائمری صرف مسلمان فیصد 16 ہیں کرتے حاصل ڈگری کی میٹریکولیشن بچے 7 پاس کے سرکار رپورٹ کی جس ہے، کہا نے کمیٹی کنڈو یہ ہیں، کرتے حاصل تعلیم ہے۔

ہے۔ پیسے 67 روپئے 32دن فی کنزمپشن کیپِٹا پر کی مسلمانوں سر، اس کر رکھ سامنے کو تمام اس اب ہے، سےکم سب انکم کیپِٹا پر کی مسلمانوں ہے؟ کرتی کیا سرکار یہ ہوں۔ رہا رکھ سامنے کے آپ کو داستان کی بربادی اسکالرشپ میٹرک پوسٹ گئی۔ دی کر کمی کی کروڑ 49 میں اسکالرشپ پری۔میٹرک دئے کر کم روپئے کروڑ 35 میں میرٹ۔کم۔مینس گئی، دی کر کمی کی کروڑ 5 میں ان ہیں، رہے کر حاصل تعلیم لیکر لون کر جا باہر سے ملک بچے اقلیتی جو گئے۔ بچیوں جو فائونڈیشن، آزاد مولانا گئے، دئے کر کم روپئے کروڑ 15 میں سبسڈی کی روپئے کروڑ 34 نے آپ میں اس ہے، دیتا اسکالرشپ محل حضرت کو طالبات کو، کروڑ 1 سال ہر ہم کہ تھا کیا وعدہ نے کےمنتری آپ کہ بتائیے آپ اب دئے۔ کر کم میں کےبجٹ آپ لیکن، گے۔ دیں اسکالرشپ نہیں بھی کو مائینوریٹیز کو، مسلمانوں 60 لاکھ 35 دئے، کر کم روپئے کروڑ 88 نے آپ میں اس ہے، ٹارگیٹ جو کا آپ سال اس بھی وہ ہیں، ملتے لون جو کے اسکالرشپ کو طالبات اور طلبہ اقلیتی ہزار گے۔ ملیں نہیں

اعداد جو نے میں کہ ہے یہ مطالبہ سے حکومت اس ذریعہ کے آپ میرا سر، وزارتِ کم سے کم کہ ہوں کرتا مطالبہ میں پر بنیاد کی اس ہیں کئے پیش شمار و ہر کیونکہ چاہئے، ہونا روپئے کروڑ ہزار 6 بجٹ کا اسکالرشپ کے بہبود اقلیتی ہیں جاتے ہو محروم سے اسکالرشپ بچے لاکھ 85 کے اقلیتوں سال

گئی، ہو ختم سبسڈی حج ہوں۔ رہا رکھ چیز اور ایک سامنے کے آپ میں سر، مسلم اسے گے، بچیں روپئے کروڑ 500 جو کے سبسڈی حج کہ تھا کہا نے آپ صرف یہ ہے؟ کیا بجٹ کا حج کا آپ پر گے۔ کریں استعمال لئے کے تعلیم کی بچوں پر نام ہمارے جو لئے۔ کھا روپئے کروڑ 400 ہمارے نے آپ ہے۔ روپئے کروڑ 89 دیتے؟ نہیں کیوں اسے آپ گئے؟ کہاں روپئے کروڑ 400 وہ تھا، ہوتا استعمال

سر ایسی آپ کہ ہوں کرتا مطالبہ ذریعہ کے آپ سے حکومت میں سر، اسپیکر پورے آپ نہیں کیوں ہیں۔ کرتے روشن شمع کی علم پر جہاں ہیں آتے سے زمین لئے، کھو اسکول ریسیڈینشیل 500 لئے کے اقلیتوں لئے کے مائینوریٹیز میں ملک کی ڈالر ٹریلین 5 آپ سکے۔ ہو خاتمہ کا اس ہے پسماندگی تعلیمی جو یہ تاکہ جائے، ہو کی ڈالر ٹریلین 10 یہ کہ گا کہوں تو میں ہیں، کرتے بات کی ایکونومی پسماندہ سے طریقے بند منصوبہ پر طور تعلیمی کو مسلمانوں فیصدی 14 آپ مگر ہوں رہا کر ختم بات اپنی میں سر، ہوگا؟ کیسے وہ پھر گےتو رکھیں --

فیصدی 15 میں لینڈنگ سیکٹر پرائیوریٹی ہےکہ ٹارگیٹ کا آر۔بی۔آئی۔ سر، منسٹری فائننس کی آپ ہے۔ دیا کر بند دینا بھی فیگر نے آپ لیکن ملے، کو اقلیتوں نہیں ہی لینڈنگ میں سیکٹر پرائیوریٹی کو مسلمانوں ہے۔ دیا کر بند دینا فیگر نے دیا ڈاٹا یہ سال ہر تک 2015 سال تحت کے پرسنل آف منسٹری کو اقلیتوں ہے۔ ملتی نے آپ ہے۔ رہی مل نوکری میں حکومت مرکزی کو مائینوریٹیز کتنے کہ تھا جاتا کیا کی اس آخر ہیں، رہے کر کیوں یہ آپ ہے۔ دیا کر بند کو اس سے 2015 سال ہے۔ وجہ

دوحہ امریکہ ہے۔ رہا آ طالبان میں افغانستان آئیے۔ پر بہارپورٹ چا آپ اب 40-45 کو اس کرکے کم بجٹ کا روپئے کروڑ 145 آپ ہے۔ رہا کر بات کر بیٹھ میں طالبان ہم کیسے گے، کریں ٹرید سے افغانستان کیسی ہم ہیں۔ دئیے کر روپئے کروڑ بہار چا .ہے آتا نہیں میں سمجھ ہمیں وہ ہے؟ کیا پالیسی کی آپ گے، روکیں کو کتابات ہے، دُشمنی اتنی کو آپ سے اخبارات ہے۔ گیا ہو ختم اب ڈیولپمنٹ کا پورٹ ہے۔ گئی بڑھ ہمت کی اس ہےکہ دُشمنی اتنی کو آپ سے

میں یقیناً ہے، لئے اسکوینزرکے مینول جو اسکیم ایمپلائمنٹ سیلف سر، روپئے کروڑ 110کر بڑھا سے روپئے کروڑ 30 کہ اس نے آپ کہ ہوں دیتا مبارکباد

میں دن پانچ ہر ہوا۔ نہیں استعمال بھی فیصدی 30 سال پچھلے مگر ہے۔ دیا کر کیا آپ لئے کے اس ہے، ہوتی موت کی اس ہے، جاتا مارا دلت اسکیونزرمیں مینول ڈیولپمنٹ ایجوکیشنل جو لئے کے کاسٹ شیڈیولڈ ہوں۔ چاہتا جاننا میں ہیں؟ رہے کر سے دلتوں آپ آخر ہے۔ دیا کم روپئے کروڑ 2610 نے آپ بھی میں اس ہے، اسکیم اسکیم اسکالرشِپ کے ان آپ تو ہیں، کرتے محبت جب پھر ہیں، کرتے محبت اتنی مجھے یہاں ہے۔ محبت کیا کی آپ لئے کے ان دئے۔ کر کم روپئے کروڑ 2610 میں کم کو دلتوں نہیں، شِپ اسکالر کو مسلمانوں کروڑ ایک کہ ہے گیا آ یاد شعر ایک کہ تھا کہا اچھا نے غالب تو نہیں، ..

جانا جھوٹ جان تویہ ہم جئے پر وعدے تیرے

ہوتا اعتبار اگر جاتے نہ مر سے خوشی کہ

وعدے تیرے کیا غضب کہا اچھا لئے کے حکومت اس نے شاعر ایک سر،
کیا انتظار کا قیامت رات تمام کیا اعتبار پے

ویلفیر مائینوریٹی سوائے گیا، بڑھ بجٹ کا منسٹری ہر ہیں، رہے کر کیا آپ بھِونڈی انڈسٹری پاورلوم کہ ہوں چاہتا جاننا سے صاحب منسٹر فائننس میں کے۔ کیوں ڈمپِنگ اینٹی آپ میں ویلور کے ناڈو تمل اور میں مہاراشٹر پور شولا میں، ہیں، رہی ہو بند وہ ہے۔ ضرورت کی یارن کو انڈسٹریز پاورلوم ہیں؟ان نکالتے نہیں کیونکہ نکالتےہیں؟ نہیں کیوں آپ نا۔ نکالئے ڈمپِنگ اینٹی آپ ارے ہیں۔ رہی ہو برباد نہیں لئے کے بچانے کو اس ہے، رہتا شخص جو میں عمارت بڑی ایک کی ممبئی اور نکالئے ڈمپِنگ اینٹی یہ تو ہیں، چاہتے دینا ساتھ کا غریبوں آپ اگر ہیں۔ نکالتے بچائیے کو انڈسٹری پاورلوم ۔ (مداخلت)..

کروڑ ہزار 30 کے سبسڈی کی کھاد ہوں۔ رہا کر ختم جلدی بات اپنی میں سر بھول آپ بات کی کرنے دوگنا آپ کو انکم کی ہےضلعات نہیں ذکر کوئی کا روپئے لاکھ پچیس کروڑ ایک ہے بقایاجات جو کا انڈیا آف کارپوریشن فوڈ ہیں۔ گئے ہی نہیں تبدیلی میں سبسڈی فرٹیلائزر آپ تک جب میں فارمِنگ بجٹ زیرو ہے۔ روپئے ہوں، آتا سے ریاست جس میں ہوں چاہتا کہنا میں میں، آخر ...(مداخلت) گا لائیے کیا تعمیر محل کاتاج دور موجودہ نے اعلیٰ وزیرِ ہمارے پر وہاں ہے۔ تیلنگانہ وہ آپ کبھی گاکہ کہوں سے صاحب انوراگ میں ، کیا تعمیر پروجیکٹ کالیشور جو ہے۔ ہوا کام کیا جائیےکہ کر دیکھ اسے آپ دیکھئے۔ اسے اور دیکھئے اسے اور آئیے چاہئیے۔ ملنا اسٹیٹس نیشنل کو اس لئے اس ہے،

بارے کے مسلمانوں آپ کہ ہے گزارش سے حکومت ذریعہ کے آپ میری سر، اسکالرشِپ نے آپ گئی۔ ہو عیاں حقیقت کی آپ لیکن ہیں، رہے کر وعدے بہت میں ساتھ کے مسلمانوں نے آپ بلکہ نہیں وِشواس کا سب دئے۔ کر کم پیسے کے شکریہ .. ہے کیا گھات وِشواس

[Translation]

SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT (GARHWAL): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you and express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget.

18.49 hrs (Shri N.K. Premachandran *in the Chair*)

Sir, I rise to express my support for the Budget. This Budget is all-embracing, broad in scope and truly inclusive. I submit that although India attained independence 70 years ago, the aspirations of our valiant freedom fighters were not realised in the ensuing 55 to 60 years. Had their vision been fulfilled, every household today would have had electricity, every home would have had access to water and every family would have lived in light and dignity. Those brave revolutionaries, such as Madan Lal Dhingra, Khudiram Bose, Veer Savarkar, Bhagat Singh and Chandrashekhar Azad, embraced the gallows with a smile for the sake of our nation's freedom. Their dream was that India would flourish in a vibrant democracy and that our people would enjoy true economic, cultural and social independence. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Chairperson, those cherished aspirations did not come to fruition. We remained, in many ways, constrained and deprived of genuine economic, social and cultural

emancipation. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Member, kindly listen. I urge you to see the history. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, today the people of this country look to Shri Narendra Modi, our Prime Minister, with renewed hope. Over the past five years he has demonstrated results, and the public has acknowledged this through the mandate they have given in the recent election. I can state that this Budget is transparent, self-reliant and one that sets the nation on the right path. It is a Budget that propels the country forward. It is visionary and consequential. It is a Budget that advances national progress and is dedicated to the welfare of villages, the poor and the farmers, for the soul of India resides in its villages. This is a Budget that embodies Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas. It is a Budget that will benefit every section of society, uplift the poor, and contribute to the building of a New India. It is a Budget that will ensure water reaches every household, and this commitment is already becoming visible.

Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has established the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Under its mandate, 18 crore households will be provided with tap water. I would like to submit that in the times to come, if any conflict arises not only in India but anywhere in the world, it is likely to be over water. In the past decade, the lives of more than eight and a half lakh people have been lost due to contaminated water.

The arrangements made by our Hon. Prime Minister are indeed timely. I come from Uttarakhand, from the Himalayan region encompassing Badrinath and Kedarnath. In my area, the glaciers are receding and the natural sources of water are diminishing. The crisis of water scarcity is evident not only there but also across the plains. Places where water was once found at a depth of 150 feet now require drilling to depths of 500, 600 or even 800 feet.

The Hon. Prime Minister has emphasised the creation of water reservoirs. The enhancement of the budget under MGNREGA for this purpose is a commendable step. He has stated that in the coming years every household will receive water through a tap connection. I am confident that this goal will indeed be achieved.

I now address the issue of farmers. The Government has resolved to double farmers' income, to advance zero-budget natural farming, to provide Rs. 6,000 annually through the Kisan Samman Nidhi, to extend interest-free agricultural credit and to ensure a pension of Rs. 3,000 per month under the farmer pension scheme. In his youth, a farmer may well wield the spade, the shovel and the hoe. However, once he advances in age, how is he expected to sustain himself?

In such circumstances, the Government has resolved to provide a pension of Rs. 3,000 to the farmer. Not only this, under

the Ujjwala Yojana, seven crore households have been provided LPG connections. Today, every family has been freed from the perils of smoke; women are no longer compelled to cook in hazardous conditions. Further, under the Ayushman Bharat scheme, fifty crore citizens have been granted health cover. Even a country such as the United States does not have a population of fifty crore, and yet our Hon. Prime Minister has ensured coverage for this vast number. In several island nations where the population is ten or twenty crore, such provision does not exist, but India has extended this benefit to fifty crore people.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please, you should now conclude.

SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT: Hon. Chairperson, I have only just begun. The moment is only now beginning to gather momentum.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT: Hon. Chairperson, I would like to give an illustration of this scheme.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please no explanation, just conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT: Hon. Chairperson, consider a vegetable vendor whose spine was gravely damaged. He lacked the means to obtain medical treatment. Without the provision of Rs. 5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat, he would likely have remained confined to his bed. However, owing to this scheme, he found renewed hope that he could live, stand and walk again. He received treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh under Ayushman Bharat, and today he is restored and able to resume his daily life.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If you are not concluding, the speech will be unfinished.

[Translation]

SHRI TIRATH SINGH RAWAT: Hon. Chairperson, the Government has also provided access to sanitation facilities by ensuring the construction of toilets for eight crore people.

[English]

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA (KORAPUT): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. At the outset, let me first congratulate, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman Ji, being the second Female Finance Minister, for presenting the Budget. Actually, I am a great fan of hers and I was really excited to listen to her Budget Speech, but I was a bit disappointed with the Budget. I don't blame her. Maybe demonetisation, unemployment, lack of jobs in the manufacturing sectors, and other things were the reasons why she couldn't provide a proper budget.

Let's talk about the five trillion-dollar economy. We don't have any problem whether we have a five trillion or ten trillion dollar economy. We will be very happy, if it is a five trillion-dollar economy. What does it mean? I called in my area. I come from a tribal region and both Koraput and Rayagada are aspirational districts. [Translation] I said to them that a five trillion dollar economy is anticipated by 2024. They innocently asked, "Will the rice we receive at Rs. 1 per kilogram stop? Will we get employment?" [English] What does the Government want to do with the five trillion-dollar economy? Will it remove all the subsidies? [Translation] Currently there is subsidy of Rs 3,38,949 crore, will we stop giving it? Will we attain such strength? Will employment be available for all? [English] So, when you talk about

the five trillion-dollar economy, it is very good, but the real issues which the country is facing are employment, jobs, farmers' distress, farmers' suicide, and millions of people to whom we are providing subsidized. food, fertilizers and other things. These things need to be taken care of with the growth of the economy. Still not able to understand how the economy will grow.? We are talking about sunrise companies, advanced technology and lithium storage batteries manufacturing in India by giving some tax relief in Income tax etc. Will this attract manufacturers to come and set up production? Why are we not looking to have the defence sector as a manufacturing hub? For example, why do we not revive Rafale? These are the key things.

Now I come quickly to the Railways due to lack of time. There is a line where it is mentioned that the sanctioned projects will take decades to be completed with the current budget. So, none of the projects will be completed before 10 years till we have the private-public partnership and so on. What does it mean? Will there be new rail projects or not? Will there be new trains or not? This is not clear in the Budget and this is something for which the Finance Minister needs to provide an answer….(*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, where is the Finance Minister?

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA: Sir, there is a request for new Jaipur to Bhubaneswar Intercity train.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Cabinet Minister is there.

19.00 hrs

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA: There is a request for a new Jeypore to Bhubaneswar Intercity train; there is a request for new rail line project from Gunupur to Therubali *via* Bissamcuttack; there is a request for expedition of double lines; and there is a request for multiple other rail projects, which my colleagues have also mentioned here.

When we talk about education and health, it is all fine. But what we were expecting from the Budget is declaration of new AIIMS or the establishment of medical colleges. Coming from a poor region like Odisha, there is a lack of AIIMS and medical colleges and there was no declaration about them. So, through you, Sir, I would like to request the Government to setup AIIMS in some backward District like Kashipur and in Rayagada District.

The third issue that I want to highlight is regarding tourism. Why was Odisha neglectedwhen the Indian Government declared 17 iconic tourist places? It was there in the manifesto of BJP that they wanted to have Puri as the cultural capital. But Odisha, in spite of having world-heritage sites like Konark, Puri, Chilika Lake,

Similipal National Park and many other places there …(*Interruptions*)

Sir, I have just started. This is my maiden speech. Kindly give me two minutes, and I will wrap up.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Yes, okay.

SHRI SAPTAGIRI SANKAR ULAKA: Sir, the key issue is the *PM Kisaan Yojana.* We also want to double the income of farmers by 2024. I am coming from Odisha. So, I am sharing my experience from the State. We do not have the list of farmers, which is an issue. We do not know the income of the farmers. So, how are we talking about doubling the income of farmers? Currently, in the *PM Kisaan Yojana,* the State Government has not been able to provide the list of farmers. So, what are we talking about here?

Odisha is a State that is devastated by floods, cyclones, famines, droughts and what not, and since BJP and BJD are in a very good understanding now, the ‘double engine’ that they wanted to have is in place. Shri Amit Shah talked about 120 plus, but they have 135 Members in the Odisha Assembly. So, can we have some special package for Odisha? I want to request you, Sir, that Odisha deserves a special package.

In addition to this, one last thing is that there are about 20 lakh small depositors who have been duped to the tune of Rs. 10,000

crore in a chit-fund scam. These small investors need that money from the Government. Will the Government tell us as to when they will get back that money, which they have lost in the chit-fund scam?

With this, I would like to say that there were a lot of expectations from the Budget, but we are terribly disappointed. May be, you will do something for the State of Odisha, and the people at large. Thank you, Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much.

Hon. Members, there are 30-40 speakers remaining who wish to speak during this discussion. The time allotted for all the political parties has already been exhausted. So, it is directed by the Hon. Speaker that we will try our level best to accommodate maximum speakers, but the speech should be confined to five minutes each so that maximum speakers could be accommodated. So, kindly confine your speeches to five minutes each.

The next speaker is Shri Thomas Chazhikadan.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN (KOTTAYAM): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to participate in the general discussion on the Budget. Having obtained a huge mandate, the entire country had high expectations about this Budget. However, I must say that this is a highly disappointing Budget.

I would like to touch upon a few important issues, which I would like to highlight before this august House. The Hon. Finance Minister raised the prices of petroleum products. The raise is by around Rs. 2.6 per litre on petrol and Rs. 2.3 per litre on diesel. This will have a cascading adverse impact on all goods and services all over the country, especially, in the Southern part of India. This is a blow to the common man.

During the last five years, at the international level, the price of crude oil came down drastically from around $150 per barrel to around $48 per barrel. Even at that time, the price of petrol and diesel were hiked nine times, and only twice the prices were brought down and that too marginally. By doing this, the Government has amassed huge resources at the cost of the common man.

There are around 13.2 lakh marginal rubber growers in the country. Out of this, around nine lakhs are from Kerala. We are producing around 95 percent of the total production of natural rubber in the country. Unfortunately, rubber growers are in great

distress due to fall in the price of natural rubber. In spite of repeated demands and agitations by growers, the Government continues to neglect this segment. The Finance Minister has not declared any policy for upward revision of import duty on import of natural rubber. Moreover, sufficient funds are not provided in the Budget for payment of overdue subsidies to the farmers. All the Members of Parliament from Kerala, including you, have demanded urgent intervention of the Government of India to take steps for enhancing the price of natural rubber to at least Rs.200 per kg.

In paragraph 20 of the Budget speech, the Hon. Finance Minister has urged the need to develop our inland waterways in order to shift a significant portion of inland cargo movement from road and rail to waterways. Even though many States have been covered in this project, my State, Kerala, is not given due consideration. As we all know using waterways for movement of cargo is quite cost effective as well as eco-friendly.

Sir, Kerala is blessed with a network of waterways. The West Coast Canal or the National Waterway No.3 which passes through the entire State from Trivandrum to Kasargode is more than 600 km. in length. Out of this, Kottapuram-Kollam segment of 168 km. is already commissioned. The Champakkara Canal and the Udyogmandal Canal together stretching to 37 km. are navigable, and connect the industrial centres of Kochi. Allapuzha-Kottayam-

Athirampuzha, Allapuzha-Changanacherry, Kottayam-Vaikom in my constituency extending to around 108 km. together are also declared as National Waterways but not developed. In addition to this, there are several hundreds of kilometres of feeder canals which can effectively be used for cargo movement, tourism and fishing activities. Hence, I request the Hon. Finance Minister to consider a separate package for the development of waterways in Kerala, which will be a boost to its economy.

There is no mention of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Programme in the Budget. Even though several lakhs of rural workers are employed under this Scheme, their daily wages are quite meagre at Rs.271 per day. Hon. Member, Shri Varun Gandhi was mentioning two hours back in this House that in Kerala, the minimum wages are around Rs.900 whereas these poor workers are getting only Rs.271. I request that the Government should take immediate steps for revising wages being paid to the Nagare workers.

Now, I come to the pat of incentivizing the coffee industry.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, please conclude.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN: Incentivizing the coffee industry in India can improve our exports. This would help coffee growers to get better share, value realisation and increased.

The Hon. Minister spoke of rationalising labour laws into labour codes. Let us also revise and rationalise laws which may be restraining the potential of our economy, especially old laws such as the Plantations Labour Act and the Tea Act. We need rationalization, which will balance the needs of the industry, along with the rights of the workers.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude with last sentence.

SHRI THOMAS CHAZHIKADAN: Hon. Prime Minister has declared that the use of plastic will be prohibited and some initiatives have already been taken. If the culture of using plastic carry bags is to be discontinued, then, use of eco-friendly paper carry bags need to be promoted.

Unfortunately, the GST rate on paper carry-bags and also on the machinery used to manufacture paper carry-bags is 18 percent. I request the Hon. Finance Minister to take immediate steps in this matter, and the GST Council, for reducing the rates.

[*]**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAGH):** This budget 2019-20 is entirely shifting of goal of the Government and changing its projections just to fool the people. After completion of five years in government, budget document is not talking about achieving a double-digit growth but buzzing with 5 Trillion Dollar economy. As a member of the opposition party it is my duty to expose the hollowness of claims of the current Government and to highlight their failure to address the basic need of the country and the plan to SELL INDIA.

If you ask any person in the street there will be a uniform answer that lack of employment is the biggest concern of the country, especially among the youth. Have we seen any acknowledgement of the fact of highest unemployment in last 45 years in the budget speech? The answer is a big NO. In a country of a population of 130 crore is the figure of 2.5 lakh employment generation is a figure even worth mentioning?

Time and again this Government has shifted the account, manipulated figures, suppressed independent evaluation and cast aspersion on independent economists and thinkers. Institutions have been attacked; their independence undermined and any voice of dissent was muzzled in the name of nationalism. In last five years

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

we have seen two RBI governors were forced to move out of the Bank. Recently, a Deputy Governor who consistently opposed Government interference in RBI matters left prematurely before completion of his term.

Many times, GDP growth rate figures were revised retrospectively to show that things were well despite the world-wide acknowledgement that Indian economy has been passing through a serious downturn. In terms of 2011-12 base year, the GDP was 13.99 in 2005-2006; 19.92 in 2010-11; 10.46 in 2015-16 and 11.20 in 2018-19. The world bank reports the growth rate of GDP in India as 9.285% in 2005; 10.26% in 2010; 7.41 in 2014 and 6.624 in 2017. From the above fact it is clear that Government cannot fool everybody all the time.

A pro-people Government would have passed on the moderation in global oil price to the consumer. Instead, this Government passed on the entire burden on the consumers when crude oil price hit US Dollar 80/barrel and imposed excess excise duty when the price has fallen to US Dollar 60/Barrel. Today almost 18 Rupees are collected by Government from consumers as excise duty for sale of one liter of petrol. The corresponding figure is 13 Rupees per liter in case of diesel. I demand immediate roll back of excise duty and cess on petroleum products which will put further pressure on the large scale of people.

The Government is talking about doubling of farmers income by 2022. There is a negative trend in agriculture and to achieve the target of doubling farmers' income by 2022 there is a need of 18% annual growth in the sector. Can the Government tell us how the current budget will help achieving 18% growth in agriculture?

Growth of industrial production has also shown only marginal growth due to deceleration in manufacturing sector. Government in last five years showcased the dream of 'Make in India' and at the end of five years manufacturing sector is showing far less growth compared to previous year. The figures in the economic survey conclusively prove that people are in distress, there is visible downturn in economy, there is loss of jobs, less employment opportunities, people do not have enough disposable income to buy products. But still the Government is in denial and the budget is trying to show that everything is fine with the economy.

On external front, current account deficit has gone up from 1.9% of GDP in 2017-2018 to 2.6% in 2018 (April-December). This is largely due to increase in trade deficit. India's export today stands at US Dollar 330 billion which is marginally higher than what it was in 2013-2014. So, there is no visible growth in India's export over last five years. Government is trying to push a free trade agreement with China and other ASEAN countries through Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership which will destroy

our manufacturing industry especially the MSME sector. It is also a fact that the graduates engineers are in deep problem in getting jobs in country and all the students are in position to get job in abroad. The technical and engineering colleges are in trouble to get students. We have talent and can compete with foreign brains as well as technology. Why we will not march MSME with technical institutes and or with ITIs of the country and can exchange ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) technology to produce cheaper products and sustain the job and economy market therein.

This budget is to privatise public sectors. Rs 105 lakh crores has targeted from PSU share sells. There is no reason to sell Salem Steel, Alloy Steel Plant and Viveswaraya Iron & Steel, also there is no clarity to corporatize Chittaranjan Locomotive Works including land and industrial plants of state-owned enterprises like National Thermal Power Corporation, Cement Corporation of India, Bharat Earth Movers Ltd. It has been seen that, in 2014-15, when Modiji took over as Prime Minister, Central Government expenditure shrank from 13.9% of GDP to 13.2%. Since then, it has dropped to just 12.2% in 2018-19, as per CGA data. What is the reason to suck out cash from the profitable public sector through shares buy back? Does this Government want us to go back to the IMF again with a begging bowl? I urge upon the Government to withdraw the decision to sell out or corporatize PSUs immediately.

I cannot remember a single Government in the recent past that showed such spectacular failure in all fronts. None of its promise has come to realty and yet it is trying to sell new dreams. The budget, instead of addressing the immediate issues in hand, is trying to plan a 10-year road map which is full of dream.

[Translation]

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for granting me time to speak on the General Budget 2019-20. Sir, Mumbai is the capital of Maharashtra and the financial capital of the country. Yet, in this Budget, no necessary financial provision has been made by the Union Government for the holistic development of Mumbai. Today, the population of Mumbai has reached one and a half crore, in addition to a floating population of 50 lakh. Of the total tax collected by the Union Government from across the country, 35 percent comes from Mumbai alone. Despite being a densely populated international metropolis and contributing 35 percent of the nation's total tax revenue, there is no provision for a special financial package for Mumbai in the Union Budget. In contrast, for the National Capital Region, particularly NDMC, the New Delhi Municipal Corporation, substantial allocations are made. This is our capital city, and the Government places significant emphasis on keeping it clean and well-maintained, but the same attention is not extended to Mumbai.

Sir, it is necessary for the Union Government to provide special economic packages to various regions in order to accelerate the nation's development. However, it is with regret that I must state that even in this Budget, no special package has been provided

for Mumbai. The Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai and the MMRDA are indeed pillars of the city and they do perform their duties in maintaining Mumbai, but without substantial financial support from the Union Government, the city's slow pace of development cannot be improved. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to allocate a special economic package for Mumbai.

[English]

There are various issues and constraints which the Mumbai City is facing. I will elaborate now.

The CRZ Notification of 2011 needs to be finalised. The entire Mumbai City is alongside the sea. A proposed Goregaon-Mulund Link Road passes through Sanjay Gandhi National Park which is under Mumbai Forest Department. There is a need to get 'No Objection Certificate' from the Central Environment Ministry.

I have been continuously taking up the issue of pouring out the mud deposits in the Versova Creek and Andheri West. The site was also surveyed by the authorities concerned. The Dredging Corporation of India, Vishakhapatnam has submitted a proposal estimated to cost Rs. 80 crore to the Maharashtra Maritime Board. The Maharashtra Maritime Board immediately sanctioned Rs. 5

crore in 2017. I request the Central Government to sanction Rs. 38.62 crore under the Sagarmala Project.

Versova and Andheri fishermen Jetty Port needs to be redeveloped. A proposal of Rs. 350 crore was prepared by the Maharashtra Maritime Board in 2017. It is suggested that more funds be provided under 'Sagarmala Project'.

Slum Rehabilitation projects are operative in the Maharashtra State. Those projects can be worked out over the plots reserved by the State Government or local government. But these schemes are not allowed to be worked out on the plots reserved by the Central Government or Institutes affiliated to the Central Government. As a result, these plots remain undeveloped. It is clearly mentioned in the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana that it is the responsibility of the Ministry concerned to rehabilitate the slum dwellers. It is suggested that the Government may frame rules and regulations. Residents in the slums around Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj Airport are not yet rehabilitated anywhere which is resulting in delay in development of the airport. It ultimately affects the air travelers' schedules. Considering the magnitude of the problem, it is suggested that the Aviation Ministry should pay immediate attention.

The Juhu airbase is the first civilian airport in Mumbai. As on today it is only used for operating ONGC helicopters. This airbase

is not yet fully developed for operating helicopters during the night. Many businessmen in Mumbai are willing to travel by helicopters but as there is a slum of 25,000 residents, it is not possible to develop the Juhu airbase. If these residents are rehabilitated as per the guidelines of Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, then it is possible to develop the Juhu airbase. It is suggested that the Civil Aviation Ministry should look into the matter.

Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan, a collective fund of Rs.7,000 crore ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your two points are over.

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR: One more, Sir. Mumbai is a large city.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Do not explain, just put the demands on record and conclude.

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR: Sir, under adverse conditions, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj raised forts in various remote parts of Maharashtra. These forts are required to be preserved for posterity. Forts like Raigad, Shivneri, Pratapgad, Sindhudurg and Vijaydurg should be included in the UNESCO World Heritage Sites list. It is suggested that the Department of Archaeology should pay necessary attention and more funds should be allocated for the restoration of forts.

The Central Ocean Fishing Research Institute, Kochi has initiated a census of the fishing community in the coastal areas of Maharashtra in February, 2016 in coordination with Maharashtra Government's Department of Fisheries. However, in my Constituency of Mumbai North-West, Mumbai suburban District area namely Khardanda, Versova and nearby areas have not been taken up yet. The community is unable to avail of facilities under the Government schemes thereby remaining backward as before. It is suggested that the Central Government's Department of Fisheries should immediately act in the matter.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR PINTU (SITAMARHI): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me yet another opportunity to speak in this august House. At the outset, I would like to express my appreciation for the Budget presented by the Finance Minister. This Budget lays out a clear vision. It provides a glimpse of the direction in which we wish to take the nation in the coming year. For the first time, the Budget has touched every sector. There is not a single sector that has been left untouched, be it farmers, youth, the middle class, students, women or labourers. In this Budget, the Minister of Finance has, in some measure, taken into consideration the concerns and aspirations of each and every segment of society.

Through you, I would like to extend my congratulations, to the Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister. Among the seven resolves of the Hon. Chief Minister of Bihar, two major schemes are particularly noteworthy. One of these is Har Ghar Jal, a scheme to supply water through pipelines. This initiative, one of the seven resolves, has been continuously implemented by the Hon. Chief Minister to ensure water reaches every doorstep in Bihar. By incorporating this very scheme into the Union Budget, the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance have effectively endorsed and affirmed the success of Bihar’s model.

Hon. Chairperson, the second scheme concerns providing electricity to every household. The Union Government has also made provision in this Budget to ensure that electricity reaches every home in the country. In Bihar, it has been the resolve of the Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar, that every household must receive electricity. The spread of electricity across Bihar was symbolically reflected in the election results, where voters no longer supported the party represented by the lantern. Nowhere in Bihar does one see a lantern burning, for every household now has access to electricity, a fact that was also reflected in the recent elections, wherein the people chose to set aside the lantern altogether. This has been made possible due to the efforts of both the Union Government and the Government of Bihar. What you witnessed has also been reflected in the election results. The people have placed their seal of approval upon this scheme of the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Chief Minister.

I would like to place before the House certain aspects of this Budget and raise a few points for consideration. The Hon. Minister of Finance has stated that transportation will be developed along the Ganga. At present, in Patna, the siltation in the Ganga has increased significantly. There was a time when the Ganga in Patna was nearly one hundred feet deep; today, its depth has reduced to merely 20 feet. Unless this silt is removed, the plan to facilitate transportation

by steamer cannot be realised. Therefore, there should have been a provision in the Budget for dredging the Ganga so that waterway transport through steamers may become feasible.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the funds provided by the Union Government to the States amounted to Rs. 1,41,353 crore in 2018-19. For the year 2019-20, the Government has made a provision of Rs. 1,55,447 crore in the Budget. However, Hon. Members from three States, Bihar, Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, have raised the issue that unless Special Category Status is granted to these States, they will not be able to progress at the pace required. You aspire to make this 20country a five trillion dollar economy. But unless Bihar becomes strong, this will not be possible, for Bihar is the heart of the nation; and if the heart of the nation remains weak, the nation itself cannot be healthy. Therefore, Bihar must be granted Special Category Status. Whatever obstacles exist in granting this status should be removed, and until such time, a Special Package must be provided so that Bihar may develop and prosper.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, with respect to the allocations made to the States, I submit that these funds ought to be transferred directly to the State Governments. At present, the amounts are routed through Centrally Sponsored Schemes, and the States face significant challenges in executing these schemes in a timely and efficient manner. Therefore, I would like to urge that a suitable

mechanism be devised to ensure direct disbursal of these funds to the States, so that they may utilise the allocations without procedural impediments. I am grateful to the Chair for having afforded me the opportunity to present my views.

[English]

[*]**SHRI ASIT KUMAR MAL (BOLPUR):** I think the third NDA Government's First Budget which our Hon'ble Union Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman has submitted in the Parliament on 05.07.2019 is nothing but a rhetoric speech and a mishmash of reformist and socialist moves. This Budget cannot show the country the direction for the welfare of the people as a whole. In this Budget, we fail to find out the means of employment for the educated young person. Particularly, there is no provision for education and employment for the SC/ST/OBC youth. There is no investment for the welfare of poor and weak.

As a result of this Budget, the rich will be richer and the poor will be poorer. This Budget clearly grows faith that the Government wants to sell the public sector to the private sector of the foreign countries.

After Independence of the country, we did not see such a bad Budget as this.

So, I am not in agreement with this Budget.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table

DR. SUBHAS SARKAR (BANKURA): Respected Hon. Chairperson, Sir, from the core of my heart, I convey my gratitude and thanks to you. Let me first congratulate first full-time woman Union Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji for presenting a growth-oriented visionary Budget for new India under the dynamic leadership of the most popular Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. This is a Budget for new India. The Budget shows commitment for people of India who have blessed us with record votes and seats. This is a Budget for achieving 5 trillion U.S. dollar economy.

"Jab hausla bhar liya hai unchi udaan ka,

tab fizool hai dekhna qad-e-aasmaan ka."

(It implies that if the country collectively has the resolve to progress and transform, then even the most challenging objectives, such as achieving rapid economic growth, can realistically be attained.)

The Budget focuses on growth with fiscal stability. The Budget has schemes for every category of our fellow Indians, be it farmers, women, small children, labour, SCs, STs or minorities. The 10-point vision of growth with minimum government and maximum governance will change the structure of economy. We

are speaking here on the basis of our last five years' achievements. Gone are the days of corruption, loot *raj*, instability and uncertainty. This is a new Government for new India. So, I wish to tell the House:

Kuch to phool khilae humne aur kuch khilane
hain,
Mushkil yeh hai ki baag mein kaante purane
hain."

(These lines convey the idea of progress achieved despite long-standing challenges, underscoring both the accomplishments made and the continuing effort required to overcome inherited obstacles.)

There are so many projects ranging from *Har Ghar Jal* to *Ayushman Bharat* that have already been discussed in the House. Yesterday, we saw that the Opposition leaders raised a hue and cry over excise duty and cess on petrol and diesel. Without any basis, there is no mathematics. Actually, I am not a pundit of Economics. I am a gynaecologist, but I have passion for Economics and Environmental Science. There are two terminologies: one is food mile per capita and the other is essential goods mile per capita. On that basis, if we calculate the achievement of people per capita, it

will be very clear that people are getting Rs. 10 in lieu of expense of one rupee. Members from the Opposition said that the price of oil in the world market is diminishing gradually. When the price of oil diminishes, this minor cess will be the buffer action in the Budget.

Before concluding, I make one mega appeal to the Finance Ministry and the Jal Shakti Ministry to make an integrated planning for the country for preservation of river and flow of rainwater, accepting the watershed from the *mohalla* to the river. The mega project will prevent flood, and at the same time, scarcity of water in the country.

Hon. Chairperson, please let me make the last part of my speech in Bengali.

[*] Hon. Chairman, Sir, through you I would like to request the Hon. Finance Minister to allocate special funds for the densely populated West Bengal in this fiscal year. My area is known as Jangal Mahal. There is scarcity of water in the five Lok Sabha constituencies of Jangal Mahal. The dam at the confluence of Gandeshwari and Darakeshwari river in Bankura, dam at Upper Kansabati in Purulia, dam over Dulung river in Jhargram. *

[*].... [*] English translation of this part of the speech delivered originally in Bengali

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, what you have stated just now is not being translated since you have not given prior notice. So, please conclude now.

DR. SUBHAS SARKAR: There should be rail lines from Chhatna to Mukutmanipur, from Purulia to Jhargram and from Bishnupur to Tarakeswar. At the same time, I would like to request the Government to allow a Special Economic Zone in Jangal Mahal and in the border area of West Bengal. In addition to this, the Gangasagar Mela is held in the month of January and that is almost a national *mela*. I request the Finance Ministry that there should be a large Yatri Niwas for people coming to the *mela*. I will conclude by saying,

[Translation]

"Koshish karne waalon ki kabhi haar nahi hoti,

jab koshish hi nahi karoge, to pehchaan kaise paoge."

(These lines convey that determined effort never truly ends in defeat; persistence ultimately brings success. By contrast, those who do not even try can neither achieve anything nor earn recognition. The message underscores that effort is the basis of both success and identity.)

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, at the outset, I extend, on behalf of my party, Apna Dal, my felicitations to the country's first full-time woman Finance Minister for presenting an all-inclusive and progressive Budget. I rise to express my party's support for this Budget.

The Hon. Finance Minister has presented a Budget that responds meaningfully to the aspirations of every section of society, women, youth, farmers and the middle class alike. It charts a clear direction for the hopes of all. As this Budget places the village, the poor and the farmer at its core, it is only fitting that my observations begin with them.

We are all public representatives, and we are well aware that the absence of housing is one of the most visible indicators of poverty in every corner of our country, particularly in rural areas. I am pleased that, during the past five years, my Government has provided a roof over the heads of crores of the poor who had been living without adequate shelter. One crore fifty lakh houses have been constructed for such disadvantaged citizens, and for the next five years, the Government has set a target of constructing a further one crore ninety-five lakh houses for those who remain without a home. These houses will be equipped with all essential amenities that make a dwelling complete, be it toilet facilities, LPG connections, electricity connections or piped drinking water supply.

This will bring significant relief to the poorest families across the country.

Another important matter pertains to the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. In comparison to the year 2018-19, the budgetary allocation for this Ministry in 2019–20 has been increased by 82.90 percent. It has risen from Rs. 75,753 crore to Rs. 1,38,564 crore. The largest component of this allocation is under the PM-Kisan scheme, for which the Government has provided Rs. 75,000 crore. Through this scheme, our farmer brothers are being given an income support of Rs. 6,000. For many of our farmers, this amount of Rs. 6,000 carries great significance. These are the farmers who, for their basic agricultural needs, such as seeds and fertilisers, were often compelled to depend on moneylenders. Today, with this financial assistance available to them, they are able to meet such small but essential requirements on their own. A very large number of the country's farmers stand to benefit from this initiative.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, my concern is for those sharecroppers who, in the absence of written tenancy agreements, are deprived of the benefits of this scheme. I would like to urge the Hon. Minister to consider establishing a mechanism through which sharecroppers too may receive the benefits of the PM-Kisan scheme.

Our Government has consistently emphasised the need to enhance agricultural productivity and to double farmers' incomes, for which the target year of 2022 has been set. For this, we must go beyond the PM-Kisan Yojana and undertake a range of comprehensive measures. In the previous term, the Government implemented several such initiatives, including the neem-coating of urea, the Soil Health Card scheme, the new crop insurance scheme, and the agricultural irrigation programme. The Government has even connected farmers to electronic markets (e-mandis). However, in this Budget, I had expected that, when allocations were made, a larger share would be earmarked for agricultural research and development.

The Economic Survey also states that India spends merely 0.37 percent of its agricultural GDP on agricultural research and development, whereas there is broad global consensus that all developing countries must allocate at least one percent of their agricultural GDP towards agricultural research and development. I am keen to know, and I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, what measures the Government intends to undertake through this Budget to enhance investment in agricultural research and development.

The Budget also makes mention of zero-budget farming, which is undoubtedly a pressing need of the present times. If my understanding is correct, Andhra Pradesh stands at the forefront in this regard, with nearly five lakh farmers having already embraced this agricultural practice.

Across the country, there are nearly 40 lakh farmers who are adopting this agricultural method, as it reduces the cost of cultivation, lowers risk, enhances soil fertility, and enables farmers to free themselves from the cycle of indebtedness. It is perhaps with these very objectives in mind that the Government has introduced zero-budget farming in this Budget. For this, I would also like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance.

Hon. Chairperson, another major concern facing our country is the water crisis. India is not a nation lacking in water; we possess adequate water resources. However, the real issue lies in how we utilise and manage the water available from these sources. It is in this mismanagement that the root of the problem appears to lie. Consequently, a large part of our country is grappling with severe water scarcity. There are two primary categories of water needs: drinking water and irrigation. I am pleased that the Government has identified 256 districts, comprising 1,592 blocks, that are struggling with water scarcity. Although I have not yet examined the list in detail, I sincerely hope that the Bundelkhand and Purvanchal

regions of Uttar Pradesh, many districts of which suffer from an acute water crisis, have been included. In particular, several blocks in my parliamentary constituency of Mirzapur, such as Lalganj, Halia, Patehra, Rajgarh, and Pahadi, are facing severe water shortages. It is essential that these areas also be included in the list.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, with regard to the management of water resources, there are certain matters that require careful consideration. We must have accurate information about all the aquifers in our country. For the management of aquifers, two specific programmes were implemented in our country. One of these was the Atal Bhujal Yojana and the other was the National Aquifers Mapping Programme. Today, it is necessary for us to understand the actual status of these programmes because they may not have achieved the level of success that they ought to have achieved. The Ground Water Departments of our Union Government and of the State Governments are also in a considerably weakened condition, and there is a need for improvements in them as well.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the most important point is that in our country, out of the total available water, 90 Percent is utilised for irrigation purposes. Our farmers are accustomed to cultivating water intensive crops because there is an assured market for them. If we wish to conserve water used for irrigation, then we must

encourage our farmers to cultivate crops that are not water intensive. By doing so, sufficient quantities of water will be available for drinking purposes, and the scheme of piped water supply, which our Government has envisioned, will also become successful.

I would also certainly like to speak on the issue of employment. According to the Economic Survey, in our country, between the years 2021 and 2031, a working age population of 41.5 million will emerge, and between the years 2031 and 2041, a working age population of 95.6 million will emerge. These young people will require employment. I am pleased that the Government has taken the decision to invest in the development of basic infrastructure. This will create ample employment opportunities, and arrangements are also being made to provide skill training to the youth of India, who will form the workforce needed by the entire world in the coming times.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to conclude my remarks with three brief questions. My first question relates to MGNREGA. In rural areas, MGNREGA is a very important source of employment. What is the reason for the reduction of Rs. 1,084 crore in the budget for MGNREGA? I would like to know this from the Hon. Minister. In our Economic Survey, it has been clearly stated that the focus of the Swachh Bharat Mission should now shift from

ODF to environmental and water management. In such a situation, why has there been a reduction of 31 percent in the budget of the Swachh Bharat Mission? My third question, which inspires the greatest enthusiasm in us, is that we are on the path to making India a 5 trillion dollar economy. As a young person, I am curious to know what the roadmap is for making India a 5 trillion dollar economy.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to request the Hon. Finance Minister to respond to my questions. I support this Budget.

*__PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI (ALLAHABAD):__ Budget 2019 reflects the vision of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, for a New India. This Budget represents an aspirational India whose citizens today desire greater opportunities, wider choices, improved basic amenities and better security and protection. This Budget is a Budget for public welfare. It is a Budget for development. It is a Budget that shapes the future.

India is not merely a developing economy. It is a rapidly progressing society that is oriented towards transformation. Our learned colleagues seated in the Opposition do not find any useful element in this Budget and have expressed various reactions. A former Minister of Finance has described the Budget as one based on a protectionist policy in which public opinion has not been included. I would like to tell him that, prior to preparing the Budget, the Finance Ministry had invited public suggestions, and more than fifty thousand people submitted their views. He seems to have forgotten that the Bharatiya Janata Party has today become the most popular party in the country, and for the first time since 1984, the voters have given any party a full majority twice. If, even with 303 Members, the Bharatiya Janata Party does not represent the voice of the people, then who does? Furthermore, if under the Make in India initiative, import duties have been increased on certain items such as paper, electrical appliances, textiles, some chemicals,

ceramic products and others, in order to promote our own entrepreneurs and industries, then such a protectionist policy must be regarded as being in the interest of the nation.

Some critics are describing this Budget as a dream Budget. They forget that those who dare to dream big are the true pioneers. The great scientist and former President, Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam, in his address, used to say that dreams are those which do not let you sleep. In the same manner, the dream of building a great India that Modi ji has envisioned does not let him rest, and he will persevere until he achieves his goal because, as we say, Modi hai to mumkin hai.

All experts acknowledge that the Budget contains strong provisions for reforms in the social sector, concern for the environment, rapid expansion of basic amenities and encouragement for micro, small and medium entrepreneurs. They also agree that the reforms being undertaken in the banking sector, along with the efforts to strengthen banks, non banking financial companies (NBFCs) and the Reserve Bank, are appropriate.

Permitting 100 percent Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the sectors of media, aviation and insurance, extending greater facilitation for investment by NRIs and the decision to consolidate labour laws into four categories will play a pivotal role in enhancing

investment within India and in establishing a robust economic framework. The targets set by our Government to maintain the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at approximately 8 percent, to keep inflation below 4 percent and to contain the fiscal deficit at 3.3 percent will contribute significantly to strengthening the national economy. This Budget is a Budget dedicated to development. It provides for the liberalisation of foreign investment and places emphasis not merely on consumer driven growth but also on investment led growth.

The essence of this Budget lies in its commitment to the villages, the poor and the farmers. Several reforms have been proposed in the social sector in order to enhance the quality of life of the common citizen. For Modi ji, the following couplet appears most appropriate.

Dhan hai gareebon ki kismat ka, vo unko dilaakar maanenge.

Har mehnatkash ko raahat ka, haqdaar banaakar maanenge.

(These lines express that the Budget is guided by a firm commitment to social justice, inclusive development and the welfare of the poor, farmers and labourers. The intent is to ensure that economic growth translates into tangible benefits for those who need them most.)

The main focus of this Budget is the rural sector, for which a provision of Rs. 4.3 lakh crore has been allocated. While the Prime Minister is according priority to the Ease of Doing Business in trade and industry, he has, at the same time, undertaken numerous measures to bring wellbeing and prosperity to millions of households through the Ease of Living. He has resolved that, by the year 2024, every household shall receive electricity, a gas connection, a toilet and potable water supplied through a tap. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, a pledge has been made to ensure the supply of drinking water to every household by 2024. His Jal Shakti campaign represents an endeavour of exceptional magnitude and determination, one which he is committed to achieving, for indeed, Modi hai to mumkin hai. A total of 1.5 crore houses have already been completed, and under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, a further target of constructing 1.95 crore houses has been set. Following the distribution of 7 crore gas stoves under the Ujjwala Yojana, the decision to distribute an additional 8 crore stoves is nothing short of transformative. Under the Modi Mission, Ayushman Bharat has emerged as the world's largest health protection scheme. In the 150th year of Mahatma Gandhi, the Government's objective of achieving 100 percent ODF is undoubtedly ambitious, yet it is poised to craft an extraordinary success story in the creation of a New India.

For 55 years, a single political party governed this nation. Although numerous claims were made during that period, the people continued to remain deprived of even the most basic amenities. In the endeavour to connect every village by road, the construction of 1.20 lakh kilometres of roads has been proposed for this year. Furthermore, an allocation of Rs. 50 lakh crore has been determined for enhancing railway facilities by the year 2030.

The world is advancing rapidly and, in the present era, it is impossible to secure dignified employment without skill development. In the Prime Minister's Employment Generation Programme, an increase of 117 percent has been effected. Through several important reforms in the higher and school education systems, the Prime Minister seeks to ensure that, in our country, educational quality is enhanced and an environment conducive to research and scientific inquiry is established. In this same tradition, through institutions such as the Higher Education Commission of India (HECI), the National Research Foundation (NRF), SWAYAM, GYAN and others, and through expanded avenues of skill development, arrangements shall be made to provide millions of young people with industry related skills and language training. Along with these initiatives, there is also a firm resolve to elevate Digital India to a position of excellence. Through the National

Sports Board, Khelo India will serve as the medium to transform the nation into a world class power in the field of sports.

I am pleased that, for the first time in India, a full time woman Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, has presented the Budget of India. Since Shri Narendra Modi assumed the office of Prime Minister, he has undertaken significant efforts to advance the status of women. He has not merely spoken of women's development but has resolved to pursue development under the leadership of women. The commitment he has undertaken to empower women politically, socially and economically has created unwavering confidence among half of the nation's population in the leadership of the Prime Minister.

In view of the special contribution of women to the rural economy, the Government has, during the past five years and continuing forward, made commendable efforts to strengthen women economically through the Mudra Yojana, Self Help Groups and Stand Up India. Every woman belonging to a Self Help Group who holds a Jan Dhan account has been provided the facility to avail an overdraft of Rs. 5000 from the bank, and one woman from each group shall also be granted a loan of up to Rs. 1 lakh.

It is gratifying for all to note that, over the past five years, 70 percent of the beneficiaries of loans disbursed under the Mudra

Yojana have been women. Furthermore, an enhancement of Rs. 75,000 crore has been effected in the loan corpus available to Self Help Groups, and the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) has been strengthened by an additional allocation of approximately Rs. 4,000 crore.

The Prime Minister has articulated the objective of reaching 10 crore women over the coming 10 years, an endeavour that shall be regarded as an unparalleled milestone in the history of independent India.

In the social sector, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao initiative has played a transformative role in reshaping the traditionally male dominated mindset of our society. Under the National Health Mission, programmes for maternal and child welfare have been not only accelerated but further strengthened through the Matru Vandana Yojana, which seeks to promote safe motherhood. Ensuring the security of women remains among our highest priorities. In this regard, a provision of Rs. 500 crore has been earmarked under the Nirbhaya Fund.

A mother and child cannot be separated from one another. Frequently, issues concerning women receive greater attention, and children, in some measure, are left behind. However, our Government has accorded special priority to the health and

education of children. An increase of 62 percent has been made in child protection services, an increase of 11 percent in anganwadi services, and an enhancement of approximately Rs. 5,000 crore has been provided in the budget of the Ministry of Women and Child Development. Through these measures, the Prime Minister has unequivocally demonstrated his commitment to this sector.

I would like to submit that all the programmes introduced by the Government in the social sector have had a positive and meaningful impact on the lives of women. Whether it be the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Ujjwala Yojana, the Saubhagya scheme or Ayushman Bharat, each of these initiatives has played a vital role in making the lives of women within the household simpler, more convenient and more fulfilling.

It is often stated that the 21st century shall belong to women and to the youth. In light of the steadfast manner in which the Prime Minister has been implementing women centric and youth centric policies, there remains no doubt that women and young people will occupy a pivotal and influential position in the shaping of India in the twenty first century. For this, we remain deeply obliged to the Prime Minister, for whereas others in the past were content with mere rhetoric and slogans, Shri Narendra Modi has given tangible expression to women's empowerment and has heralded the advent of a new era.

Many Members from the former ruling party have already elaborated upon the unprecedented initiatives being undertaken in the field of agriculture. Concurring with their observations, I would submit that India is an agrarian nation, and 70 percent of our population is dependent upon agriculture. Beyond traditional farming, the emphasis that has been placed on Zero Budget Natural Farming and on alternative forms of agriculture shall bring about a significant transformation in the income of our farmers. This Budget reflects a broad and sincere concern for farmers and agricultural labourers. Through the Kisan Samman Yojana, various insurance schemes, MGNREGA and other initiatives, provisions have been made for the security and advancement of these sections. Without going into further detail, I would state that the policies and Budget allocations aimed at doubling farmers' income through measures such as minimum support prices, the Pradhan Mantri Aasha procurement scheme, incentives for pulses and oilseeds production, and the Government's support for agro based industries, fisheries, agricultural research institutions and farmer producer groups, are indeed commendable steps in the right direction.

Special attention has been accorded to the micro, small and medium enterprises sector in this Budget. We are all aware that this sector contributes 29 percent to India's Gross Domestic Product.

The provisions introduced by the Prime Minister to raise this contribution to 50 percent are likely to generate substantial growth within the sector. Several measures have also been introduced for start ups, such as an increase in import duties on a number of foreign goods, relief from angel tax and facilitating ease of operations through simplified arrangements for payment platforms and e business in order to free enterprises from the constraints of the inspector raj. I extend my congratulations to the Prime Minister for his decision to establish e commerce platforms akin to Alibaba and Amazon to elevate our traditional arts to the international stage. Through this initiative, not only will millions of our artisans benefit, but our traditional handicrafts shall also reach markets across the world.

In conclusion, I would like to submit that this Budget is a positive Budget which prioritises Medium Term Sustainable Growth. It lays emphasis not merely on consumer driven development but on investment led growth in order to ensure long term and enduring progress.

Those critics who express doubt that India shall not be able to become a 5 trillion dollar economy fail to recognise that whatever Modi ji resolves to achieve, he accomplishes. It has now become a familiar expression that Modi hai to mumkin hai. A verse comes to my mind which, though old, is entirely apt in this context:

Kaun kehta hai aasmaan mein suraakh nahi ho sakta.

Ek patthar to tabiyat se uchhaalo yaaron.

(The verse reinforces the argument that under the determined leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, the Government is capable of achieving bold and aspirational objectives that others may deem impossible.)

The guiding principles of Modi ji are reform, performance and transformation. He has resolved to make India free from corruption and to render the lives of its citizens simpler and more fulfilling. To those who oppose SHRI Narendra Modi day and night, he could very well say:

Raah-e-junoon-e-shauq mein badhne to de koi,

Manzil jagah-jagah na bana doon to baat kya.

(The speaker is emphasising that once a leader has embarked upon a path defined by dedication and lofty aspirations, it is only natural that significant achievements should follow.)

I express my gratitude to you for affording me the opportunity to present my views on the Budget 2019-20.

[English]

[*]**SHRI M. SELVARAJ (NAGAPPATTINAM):** I wish to place on record the views pertaining to the Budget for the year 2019-20. Majority of the population of my parliamentary constituency Nagappattinam are farmers and farm labourers. Agriculture is undertaken in an area of 15 lakh acres. Approximately 20 lakh tonnes of paddy is cultivated. Non-availability of water through Cauvery river has very much affected the farming in this area. As the drought affected farmers are unable to repay their crop loans and their livelihood is at stake. They are slowly migrating to the urban areas seeking employment for their existence. Agriculture plays a major role in our economy. Farm labourers do not have alternative jobs. They are unable to live as most of them are below the poverty line. They should therefore be provided employment. Under MGNREGA, their man days of employment should be increased. 100 man days of work should at least be increased as 200 man days. Moreover they should be provided a salary of minimum Rs 400 per day. MGNREGA should be extended to the areas of Town Panchayat. Poor people living below poverty line in the adjoining areas of cities are facing difficulties. Keeping in view of their livelihood, this MGNREGA should be extended to city areas.

[*] English transaltion of the speech laid on the Table originally in Tamil.

In the year 2018, Gaja cyclone devastated my parliamentary constituency after moving across Bay of Bengal. Lakhs of houses, particularly thatched huts were destroyed due to Gaja cyclone. Due to this Gaja cyclone, coconut trees teak trees, banana trees and other useful trees have also been uprooted. Till date no complete relief has been provided. I urge upon the Union Government to provide additional funds in the current Budget. Adequate funds should be allocated to construct houses under Pradhan Manthri Awas Yojana (PMAY), in my Nagappattinam constituency. The loans availed by farmers during the year 2018-19 should be completely waived. The Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme should be reviewed. The damage to standing crops should be calculated under the old scheme and necessary crop insurance claims should be settled. Agricultural wastes and tree wastes. In my Nagappattinam parliamentary constituency, there is ample opportunity to start paper mills by using waste paper as a raw material. I urge that a paper mill should be started in Valangaiman which comes under Nannilam legislative constituency. Fishermen live in large numbers in Nagappattinam constituency. A ship building base should be set up. Nagappattinam port having ancient and historical importance should be revived and funds should be allocated in the present Budget. Adequate funds should be allocated in the fishermen areas for construction of additional houses. The Broad Gauge conversion work between

Agasthiyampalli and Thiruththuraippoondi is in snail pace. Additional funds should be allocated to expedite the work and complete it by this year end. There is no Gatekeeper on work at Level Crossing No 72 on the Thiruvarur-Karaikkudi broad gauge section. I request that a Gatekeeper should be appointed immediately at this level crossing. In my constituency, additional funds should be allocated to provide toilet facilities in Thittacheri, Thirumarugal, Peralam, Poonthittam, Kudavaasal, Kottur, Nannilam, Muthuppettai, Valangaiman, Nahoor, Sikkal, Keezhvelur, Vedaranyam, Thalaignayiru, Koothanallur and Koradacheri. Additional funds should be allocated for PMGSY. All the education loans availed by students should be waived. Additional funds should be allocated for providing education loans to students. Additional fund should be allocated for the welfare of Scheduled Castes for educational loans, business loans and special component plan.

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BANIWAL (NAGAUR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I have been seated here since morning and have attentively listened to all the deliberations.

Sir, your presiding over the House today imparts a distinct sense of encouragement to us, for you address every Bill with such clarity that new Members greatly benefit from your guidance. Observing you in the Chair, it appears likely that you will graciously allow me two or three minutes of additional time to present my views. I extend my felicitations to our first full time woman Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, for having presented the Budget for the year 2019-20.

Certainly, this Budget has taken into consideration every section of society across the entire country. It is the Budget for the period from 2014 to 2019. We have witnessed many Budgets in the past, and it is unnecessary to reiterate which party governed the nation for the greater part of that period. In those earlier Budgets, the interests of only a particular section were often prioritised, even if it caused detriment to other sections, and Budgets were presented that disproportionately benefited a select group while others suffered loss. I express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister that, in this Budget, every section has been given due attention. For

the first time, the interests of small shopkeepers, micro enterprises and the trading community have also been addressed. A pension scheme has been introduced for poor shopkeepers. Along with farmers, soldiers, traders and industrialists have all been taken into consideration in this Budget. It is indeed a historic Budget. On behalf of my party, the RLP, I extend my support to this Budget. If one reads this Budget in its entirety, it becomes evident that although some of our preceding speakers, including colleagues from the Congress and other Opposition parties, have opposed it, we have also seen their Budgets. One can clearly observe the breadth of vision with which the Prime Minister has brought forth this Budget and how it has reached every section, including the person sitting at the very last rung of society. If all these measures had been undertaken earlier, if electricity had reached every hamlet, if piped water had been provided to every household, if employment had been addressed forty years ago, and if, fifty years earlier, a plan had been formulated to link the rivers and canals for irrigation in the years 1960, 1965 or 1970, then every field in the country would have had irrigation water. Rajasthan’s lands, like those of Punjab and Haryana, would have been equally fertile. Yet, little thought was given to these matters at that time. In this Budget, provision has also been made for the youth of Kashmir who, having strayed from the right path, had taken to stone pelting. Funds have

been allocated specifically for Kashmir so that such youth may be brought back into the mainstream. Two or three Bills were introduced. One such Bill pertains to the international border adjoining Kashmir. When there is firing along that border, the villages situated in its vicinity are often compelled to evacuate. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Home Affiars and the Hon. Prime Minister for bringing forth this Bill, which provides for reservation for the young people residing in these border areas.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, this Budget is truly historic in its character. I would like to request that the bell not be rung, for I stand here today fully prepared. The United States Chamber of Commerce, in commending the Budget, has observed that it is both forward-looking and liberal in nature, and that it shall significantly enhance the prospects for investment in India. Likewise, the International Chamber of Commerce has stated that the Budget will strengthen the nation's infrastructure and will contribute meaningfully to India's endeavour of becoming a 5 trillion dollar economy. As a consequence of this Budget, India, which previously stood as the eleventh largest economy, is poised to advance to the sixth position. This is a Budget that promises to impart a new direction to the country. It marks the first Budget of the Hon. Finance Minister and is indeed an ambitious one, with the express

goal of elevating the Indian economy to the 5 trillion dollar. By encouraging start ups and MSMEs and by expanding opportunities for employment, this Budget places deliberate emphasis on the development of rural India and the empowerment of women. It directs focused attention to the advancement of all modes of transport, including buses, roads, railways, waterways and airways.

The Hon. Speaker of the Lok Sabha had conducted training for our newly elected Members, in which you had also participated, and Adhir Ranjan ji was present as well. All of you had advised that new Members should speak on the basis of facts and figures. It is for this reason that I am presenting my views with supporting data. Indeed, I too could deliver a lengthy speech of half an hour, but I shall confine myself strictly to what is in the national interest and to what is factually correct. It is for these reasons that I commend this Budget. Approximately 68 percent of the nation's population resides in rural India; therefore, the development of rural India has always remained a priority for the Government. For instance, by the year 2022, the aim has been set to ensure electricity for all willing rural households, access to cooking facilities, housing for all under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and the provision of all weather roads to every inhabited area under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. ...*(Interruptions)* Sir, kindly allow me two more minutes. We have been seated here listening since morning. It is Members

like us who often ensure the presence required for quorum, as at times the quorum is not even complete. In the Budget, a plan has also been formulated to promote traditional industries such as bamboo, honey and others, in order to create employment opportunities in rural areas.

From 2 October 2014 to 2019, a total of 9.6 crore toilets have been constructed. More than 5.6 lakh villages have been declared free from open defecation. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Digital Saksharta Abhiyan, over 2 crore rural citizens have been imparted digital literacy. Through the BharatNet initiative, internet connectivity is presently being extended to every panchayat. A capital infusion of Rs. 70 thousand crore is proposed for public sector banks. A provision of Rs. 400 crore has been made for the establishment of world class educational institutions. The creation of the National Research Foundation represents a substantial step towards enhancing the quality and direction of research in the country. In furtherance of the objective of ensuring housing for all, the Government has taken an additional significant decision. The income tax exemption limit on interest for home loans up to Rs. 45 lakh has been enhanced by Rs. 1.5 lakh.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the availability of drinking water in our country poses a significant challenge for all of us. The Prime Minister constituted the Ministry of Jal Shakti to address this

critical issue. The mission mode approach adopted by our NDA Government, with the objective of ensuring piped water to every household by the year 2023, will undoubtedly yield substantial benefits.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly conclude your speech now.

SHRI HANUMAN BAENIWAL: There are 1,592 blocks where the water situation is alarming. I would like to request that I be granted 2 or 3 more minutes to speak.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You kindly confine yourself to the Budget and conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BAENIWAL: On the one hand, every year during the monsoon, several parts of Bihar, eastern Uttar Pradesh and Bengal experience severe floods owing to the swelling of rivers, while on the other hand, more than half of our Rajasthan is compelled to endure drought. In such circumstances, through an appropriate channel and planned mechanism, the waters of the Chambal, the Ganga and the Yamuna can be made available to the people of Rajasthan so that this water does not flow wastefully into the seas. The Government needs to give due consideration to this matter. During the past 1,000 days, roads under the PMGSY have

been constructed at the rate of 130 kilometres per day. With an estimated expenditure of Rs. 80,250 crore, the Government has set a target of constructing 1 lakh 25 thousand kilometres of road over the next 5 years.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have taken seven to eight minutes. Please come to your concluding remarks and conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI HANUMAN BANIWAL: Kindly grant me one or two minutes of additional time. Along with other projects under the Bharatmala scheme, the Government has set a target of constructing 1.25 lakh kilometres of roads in rural areas over the next five years. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, which was introduced by the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, as well as several National Highway projects that are awaiting approval, pertain to constituencies represented by various Members of Parliament.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No explanations, please. Points only.

SHRI HANUMAN BANIWAL: For this purpose, the recommendations and opinions of the concerned Members of Parliament should be sought. For any scheme of the Union Government, irrespective of the Department under which it falls, if it is being implemented in a particular district, the Member of

Parliament of that district should be consulted. The Hon. Prime Minister has recently stated in the all party meeting that the productivity of Members of Parliament must be enhanced. Although our party does not form the Government in Rajasthan, we are in the Government in Delhi, and therefore, in the districts of Rajasthan where Central Government offices exist, they should be overseen by the respective Member of Parliament so that productivity can improve.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI HANUMAN BANIWAL: Kindly allow me one more minute. With regard to the increase in the prices of petrol and diesel, I would like to submit that the prices of petrol and diesel should be reduced.

SHRI VIJAY BAGHEL (DURG): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I express my gratitude to you, and I also thank Shri Hanuman ji. By the grace of the Almighty, I received the blessings of our leader, Hon. Shri Modi ji, and Hon. Shri Amit Shah ji. By the blessings of the revered people of my Parliamentary Constituency, Durg, I have been bestowed this privilege. It is through divine grace and through the blessings of Hon. Shri Modi ji and Hon. Shri Amit Shah ji, as well as the mandate of the people of Durg, that I have had the good fortune to stand in this august House. This Parliament building, which has stood for 92 years, has echoed with the voices of the great leaders of our nation, voices now enshrined in the annals of history. To have been given even a small place in these pages of history is an honour for me. I express my sincere gratitude to all and extend my thanks to them.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the first Budget of the Seventeenth Lok Sabha has been prepared by our Hon. Minister of Finance, under the guidance of Hon. Shri Modi ji, with great diligence and commitment, keeping public welfare and national interest at the forefront. I can state with complete confidence that the slogan with which we went before the people during this election, under the leadership of Hon. Shri Modi ji, Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas and Sabka Vishwas, finds full and comprehensive expression in this Budget. I extend my compliments to the Minister of Finance,

Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, and to our Anurag ji, whose name itself seems wholly embedded in this Budget. This Budget is distinguished by purity of intent, by a pleasing and well-crafted character, and by a spirit of sincere commitment. One also discerns within it a gentle and compassionate touch that reflects a deep sense of responsibility towards the people. It is indeed a singular privilege for us to witness this moment, for we stand in the 21st century, and our society today is fully awakened. In every household, at least one son or daughter is educated. Mobile phones are in everyone's hands. This is the age of social media. Electronic media is conveying information to the public with full competence. Print media is working with equal dedication. Newspapers reach every village; televisions are present in every home; mobile phones are in every hand. Today, through debates, electronic media explain each component of the Budget to the people in an analytical manner, engaging experienced individuals to communicate every detail. The era has passed when half the population was uneducated.

There was a time when newspapers scarcely reached many villages, and the era of television had not yet begun. People remained unaware, unfamiliar with the very concept of a Budget, and felt no reason to await its presentation. Today, however, the situation is entirely different. The public awaits the Budget with keen anticipation. When it is presented, people seek to identify

themselves within it. Every section of society looks to understand where its interests have been addressed. Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I can say with full conviction that in this Budget, every individual has found due recognition. Every individual has perceived his own welfare reflected through this Budget. It is this very outcome that has strengthened the people's faith in our Government. Our colleagues in the Opposition often engage in distorted arguments to criticise this Budget, yet ultimately they place requests for their own constituencies. First comes the criticism, and thereafter the plea. They have every right to raise issues, I fully acknowledge that. However, I would like to submit that they should be constructive critics, not critics for criticism's sake. The bell has rung. I had thought that I would speak briefly, and when the bell rang, I would conclude by thanking myself. But, unfortunately, the bell has rung for me as well, although only five minutes have passed.

I shall conclude my remarks with a verse:

Sarve bhavantu sukhinah, sarve santu niramayah;

Sarve bhadrani pashyantu, ma kashchid duhkha bhag bhavet.

(The verse serves as a dignified and uplifting conclusion, symbolising the Budget's inclusive intent to ensure that no individual is left behind, while the Government's policies strive for

the welfare, prosperity, collective happiness, good health and the alleviation of suffering for all citizens alike.)

In this Budget, many matters concerning my region, my State of Chhattisgarh and my Durg Parliamentary Constituency have been duly included. We shall, of course, seek a few additional provisions as well. Through you, Sir, and through this august House, we shall meet the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance and respectfully request that the remaining needs of our region be fulfilled. This is the assurance I would like to convey to the people of my constituency and my State.

[English]

SHRI TALARI RANGAIAH (ANANTAPUR): Respected Chairman, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister. I also want to convey my thanks to our leader Y.S. Jagan Mohan Reddygaru and the people of Anantapur District.

I appreciate Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, the first fulltime woman Finance Minister for presenting her first Budget in the Parliament.

Today, I stand before this House to present my views on the General Budget.

On the irrigation front, the situation is alarming. Despite highlighting 1,592 blocks being overexploited in 256 Districts, the Budget for the PM Krishi Sinchai Yojana, though up by 17 percent, remains miniscule; it is less than Rs. 10,000 crore. This is not enough to take care of the irrigation needs of this vast country.

The Government is focussing on ‘private investment’ to boost the economy. However, more details have to be worked out to develop a roadmap in this regard. Stages of growth and contributing sectors need to be spelled out clearly.

The thrust on connectivity through PMGSY, Industrial Corridors, Railway Networks, National Highways, Ports and *Jala*

Margas in the name of name of Bharat Mala is a welcome framework.

Programmes like Housing for All under PMAY by 2022 is a much needed programme for the poor and lower income groups in the country. The Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana will help thousands of villages in the country to get connected with the mainstream.

As per the Census 2011, 69 percent of the population in the country lives in rural areas. Though the Finance Minister said that the Government's focus is on 'Gaon, Garib and Kisan', there are no allocations announced for agricultural infrastructure, crop diversification and productivity. Excepting the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme, which is aimed at small and marginal farmers with a minimum income support of Rs. 6,000 in a year, there is no other scheme announced for the farming' community.

19.58 hrs (Shrimati Rama Devi *in the Chair*)

It is difficult to understand the rationale behind releasing this amount in three instalments. There are no policy announcements to protect the interests of the farmers from the clutches of indebtedness.

The announcement of setting up of a Committee to assess the budgetary allocations through a gender lens is appreciable. There is an increase of 17.7 percent budgetary allocation for the Women and Child Development Ministry and an increase of 62 percent budgetary allocation for the Child Protection Services with allocation of Rs. 1,500 crore. There is also a two-fold hike in regard to allocations for Working Women Hostels, which is Rs. 165 crore. The Nirbhaya Fund of Rs. 500 crore is also appreciable.

Madam Chairperson, now, I would like to place before this House, some issues of concern.

The principle of 'Reform, Perform and Transform' should not be a mere slogan.

The total expenditure of the Union Government on all sectors in the Budget Estimates of 2019-20 has been increased from Rs. 27.84 lakh crore in the Interim Budget presented in February, 2019 to Rs. 27.84 lakh crore in the present Budget. The increase in expenditure is only of Rs. 2000 crore, which looks like a replica of the Vote on Account Budget.

20.00 hrs

It is also noteworthy to mention that the expenditure in the Union Budget, in the last six years, has stagnated at 13 percent of the GDP of the country. Health expenditure is also stagnant at 0.3 percent of the GDP from 2014-15. There is no change in the expenditure in the present Budget also. While the international conventions prescribe allocation of 4 percent of the GDP for healthcare, the National Health Policy, 2017 assured that the allocation will be increased to 2.25 percent of the GDP by 2025. The objective will not be reached unless the Government of India enhances its budget to the health sector by 20 percent ever year. Presently, it is increasing only by 5 percent to 6 percent every year over the last five years. We request the Finance Minister to look into the matter more deeply.

The Schemes like SFURTI and ASPIRE should mark the re-entry of such artisans back into action by taking up their traditional occupations. I appreciate the Government's commitment to develop 75,000 skilled entrepreneurs in agro-rural industry sectors. I request the Government to add more traditional occupations to the list. …(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY (MAHARAJGANJ): Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I express my support for the Budget for the year 2019 presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance of the Government led by our illustrious and visionary Prime Minister, Hon. Shri Narendra Modi ji. This is the sixth Budget of this popular Government, and even within a short span of five years, the Government has achieved commendable success in diverse sectors. Whether in the field of nuclear power, space exploration or the implementation of numerous fundamental reforms aimed at benefiting the common citizen, the achievements are noteworthy. In this Budget, as well as in the preceding Interim Budget, provisions have been made for the welfare of the poor, farmers, tribals, women, persons with disabilities, educated unemployed youth and even nomadic tribes. The focus on health infrastructure and the encouragement given to women's groups clearly reflect the Government's sincere intention to uplift the last person in the queue and to bring all sections of society to a level of equality.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I have been coming to this House since 1991, and we have witnessed many Budgets over the years. Whenever a Budget was presented, there would invariably be some level of disruption in the House, and the following day the newspapers would carry sensational headlines. Television channels

would host debates, and numerous comments and criticisms would circulate. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance that when she presented the Budget, there was pin drop silence in this august House. Moreover, the remarks carried by newspapers and the responses of the general public have, in large measure, been in favour of this Budget. If one were to capture the essence of this Budget in a single line, it could rightly be said that it is a Budget that carries resources from the vaults of the treasury to the hands of the people. Much discussion and many exchanges have taken place in this House today. There has been discussion regarding the Government, and indeed about our popular Prime Minister, Shri Modi ji. When we first entered this august House in 1991, we were relatively young, and we carried with us a firm resolve to bring development to our constituencies. We represent a frontier region where, at that time, there were neither proper roads nor adequate drinking water facilities, nor even basic housing. Being an international frontier area, numerous foreign tourists travelled through our region. It was deeply distressing for us that, in the absence of sanitation facilities, our mothers and sisters were compelled to go to the roadside in the evenings. On many occasions, foreign tourists would photograph such scenes and take them back to their countries, thereby conveying an unfortunate and unfavourable image of India before the world. In 1999, when the

Government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji assumed office, the situation changed significantly. Prior to that, despite our best efforts, we were unable to secure the construction of roads or ensure arrangements for drinking water. However, with the advent of the Vajpayee Government in 1999, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana ushered in a revolution in rural road connectivity, and substantial progress was made in providing drinking water facilities. The successive Governments that followed continued this endeavour, and since 2014, under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji, the work undertaken has truly embodied the spirit of the slogan we gave the nation, Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas.

Madam, what does a poor person truly require? A poor person needs a house to live in; a house equipped with a toilet; a house with an electricity connection; a gas stove for cooking food. A poor family requires subsidised rations at two or three rupees less, and when illness enters such a household, there must be a system in place to ensure timely medical relief. Our Government, in keeping with the pledge of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, has fulfilled these responsibilities, irrespective of the repeated allegations and counter-allegations made in this House. If today we have constructed nine crore toilets, we did not look at caste or religion. We ensured that assistance reached those who genuinely needed it.

As citizens of this country, the poor had certain rightful entitlements from which they had been deprived for 55 years. Our Government, within a span of merely 5 years, has endeavoured to provide every essential facility to the poor. Not only has our Government done this, but it has also worked to make the poor self reliant and to extend social security to them. Previously, if any accident occurred in a poor household, the family was compelled to wander from place to place in search of assistance. Our Government, through the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, has provided accident insurance of Rs. 2 lakh at a premium of merely Rs. 12, so that if any mishap befalls a poor family, the family may still be sustained. Through the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, our Government has also extended life insurance to the poor. In cities, individuals routinely insure their homes, shops, vehicles and possessions, but the poor, owing to high premiums, were unable to obtain such coverage. By enabling life insurance for an annual premium of Rs. 330, our Government has ensured that even the poorest citizen is afforded this essential protection. The Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, which we have incorporated in this Budget, provides that a labourer who spends his entire life toiling and contributing to the building of this nation, and who, upon reaching the age of sixty, becomes infirm or aged with no one to look after him, shall receive a pension of Rs. 3,000 per month. Our

Government has conceived and implemented this scheme so that such labourers are not left unsupported in their later years. Under the PM Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, similar provision has also been made for traders who play a pivotal role in sustaining the nation's economy. The same commitment has been demonstrated in the Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. Furthermore, for the workers who contribute immensely to the progress of the country, our Government has undertaken significant reforms by consolidating 44 labour laws into four comprehensive labour codes, thereby ensuring greater clarity, efficiency and protection for the workforce. The work undertaken for water conservation reflects not merely an effort to supply water to every household, but the far sighted vision of our Prime Minister, who clearly perceives the challenges that lie ahead. He recognises that we must not only provide water to all but also conserve it, restore our water strata and strengthen our long term water security. It is with this broader objective in mind that he has established the Ministry of Jal Shakti. Certainly, the Government has commenced its second term with this renewed commitment. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri M. K. Raghavan.

SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY: Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I shall conclude my remarks within two minutes. ...*(Interruptions)* Those Governments which, in the past, were unable to take decisive

action have, today, been surpassed by a Government that, within a month of assuming office, has implemented the Kisan Samman Nidhi, introduced pension schemes for small traders and marginal farmers, provided scholarships to five crore students, taken welfare measures for the armed forces, paramilitary personnel, police officers, martyrs, widows and dependants, undertaken the vaccination of 13 thousand animals and initiated several unprecedented decisions. All this demonstrates that our Government continues to move forward with determination, despite doubts cast by some. Therefore, I shall conclude with these two lines:

Kaun kehta hai ki aasmaan mein suraakh nahin ho sakta,

Ek patthar to tabiyat se uchhaalo yaaron.

(The couplet symbolises the Government's confidence in achieving bold national goals, the Hon. Prime Minister's determination to overcome obstacles and the belief that resolute effort can transform aspiration into reality.)

If our Prime Minister resolves to achieve a goal, and he has already demonstrated this over the past five years, he will assuredly elevate the economy of this nation to five trillion dollars. In conclusion, I once again express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime

Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance, and I extend my wholehearted support to this Budget.

[English]

*__SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI):__ I'm pleased to have got the opportunity to put my views on the budget proposals for the financial year 2019-20, presented by the Honorable Finance Minister in this August House on 5th July.

I've been listening to the debates on this budget very intently and I must tell you that I'm quite bemused at the analysis of this budget by some of our members from the opposition benches.

[Translation]

The Budget for the financial year 2019-20 is an excellent Budget for the nation, for the economy, for economic growth and for the future. However, for a Budget to appear excellent, one requires the vision to see it, the thought to appreciate it and the understanding to comprehend its strengths. Those who have understood it are rightly describing it as a futuristic Budget and are highlighting its merits, while those who have not been able to grasp it have remained occupied in searching for shortcomings. Yet none has, thus far, succeeded in offering any substantive criticism.

I understand their state of mind quite well. They wish to speak the truth, but as Bashir Badr Sahib has written:

---

* Speech was laid on the Table.

“Ji bahut chahta hai ki sach bolen,

Par kya karein hausla nahin hota.”

(The couplet subtly implies that the truth of the Budget’s merit is evident, but its critics do not possess the courage to admit it.)

Therefore, I would like to urge my colleagues in the Opposition to fortify their resolve and to listen as I set out the true strengths of this Budget.

Fiscal discipline,

The development of essential infrastructure, and

The roadmap for achieving the target of a 5 trillion dollar economy, thereby making India the world’s third largest economy.

[English]

This budget reflects the maturity of the NDA Government. The NDA has come back to power with a landslide majority. It becomes an overwhelming moment for any Government that often tempts them to come up with a slew of populist announcements as gratitious payback measure. But, this Government didn't fall into trap and took to short-term populist routes. In this budget, the Finance Minister has drawn a roadmap for future under the clear

vision of the Prime Minister to take India to the path of 5 trillion dollar economy. To my friends in opposition, some of the measures may appear tough, but they're missing the woods for the tree.

[Translation]

This Budget does not exist in isolation. It represents the logical culmination of five years of steadfast resolve, honest intent and policies nurtured by truth and integrity. It cannot be examined in a vacuum; it must be understood within a broader, integrated framework of thought and vision. Accordingly, today I shall speak of the five-year perspective and philosophy that underpin this exceptional Budget.

This Budget is a testament to our five-year journey from resolve to realisation in building an India characterised by transparency, probity, employment, cleanliness, health, prosperity for farmers, growth for traders, well-being for the poor, dignity for women, opportunity for minorities and equal avenues for all under the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas. These five years have been, for us, a devoted passage from vision to creation. This Budget represents the culmination of the commitments we placed before the nation in our manifesto prior to the 2019 elections. It constitutes the first stage in the fulfilment of those pledges. Our Budget for 2019-20 signifies that we have

successfully traversed a demanding journey and now advance with confidence upon the path of prosperity and progress.

While outlining the vision of the NDA Government for a 'New India', the Hon. Minister of Finance has dedicated this Budget to the welfare of farmers, soldiers, entrepreneurs, traders, women, and the rural and other backward sections of society. From increasing allocations under Ayushman Bharat to ensure affordable healthcare, to committing to the development of backward regions, and to making financial provision for strengthening our strategic capabilities on land, in water, in the skies and in space, all these initiatives make clear the direction in which the Government intends to proceed. Furthermore, the establishment of the Ministry of Jal Shakti to ensure the proper management and adequate availability of water for domestic and agricultural use, coupled with the resolve to provide piped water to every household by 2024, reflects the progressive vision of the Government.

This Budget gives effect to the vision for India in 2022 outlined by His Excellency the President. Indeed, on the eve of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, we shall be able to witness the realisation of his vision for India. This shall be one of the greatest achievements of this Government. The dream cherished by the founding fathers of independent India, the dream envisioned by progressive nationalists such as Bhagat Singh and

Chandrashekhar Azad, and the dream nurtured by humanists like Lohia and Deen Dayal Upadhyay, shall, after seventy five years of independence, finally be realised. Following this Budget, antyodaya will no longer remain a slogan but a reality, and public welfare will not merely be an ideal but our guiding philosophy.

As we have observed, during the past five years our Government has not governed merely for the sake of holding power, but has governed with a vision, and that vision has been the all round development of the nation.

Under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the NDA Government, guided by the principles of sarvajan hitaya, sarvajan sukhaya, welfare for all and happiness for all, has, over the last five years, consistently and transparently implemented a series of fundamental and transformative initiatives. These include Digital India, Skill India, Make in India, Start Up India, the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the Mudra Yojana, the Fasal Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and major infrastructure programmes such as Sagarmala and Bharatmala, together with the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat) and the Namami Gange Project. Through the orderly and effective execution of these ambitious programmes, a

climate of developmental transformation has been created throughout the nation. This Budget will carry that momentum even further.

[English]

SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Hon. Chairperson, Madam, thank you for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the General Budget 2019 presented by Hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman *ji*.

I would like to disagree with the Budget because this is an anti-farmer, anti-labour, anti-youth, and anti-poor Budget. What has happened to this Government?

Our Hon. Finance Minister has not disclosed crucial information to the common man about the total revenue, total expenditure, fiscal deficit, revenue deficit, and the details of additional revenue mobilisation. For example, allocations to important programmes like MGNREGA, to health care, and to the weaker sections like SCs, STs, minorities, and women empowerment are not stated in the annual financial statement.

Actually, we are very much shocked because it is against the usual practice. This Government started the journey. But where is it going?

I would like to remind this Government about the experience of Christopher Columbus. Everybody knows about Christopher Columbus. Christopher Columbus started off from Spain to discover India but ended up in Bahamas which is part of US. In

similar way or in similar fashion, *The Economic Survey*, 2018-19 and the General Budget 2019-20, probably started out as a policy document but ended up as a sort of none-too-coherent textbook on economics. It means the same thing is happening to the NDA Government. The annual financial statement is nothing but sale of tantalizing dreams.

What was the NDA's main slogan in the 2014 elections? When the NDA campaigned in 2014 elections, the main propaganda was the slogan '*achhe din',* which has not been materialized even after the full term of the last Government. The Government, which came to power exploiting the short memory of some voters, now extended the dream of *'achhe din'* to 2022 and 2030.

What about two crore jobs per year for the youth? The Government itself tabled in the House that unemployment rate is at its peak within a span of 4-5 years. In 2014, it was offered that every year two crore jobs would be created. I would like to remind this House that passage of time proved that the God of Srishti has become the God of Samhara by annihilating the unorganized sector and small-scale industry, with the advent of demonetization. Nothing concrete is seen in the Budget to cure the enhancing unemployment.

What are the real challenges faced by the farmers? Above 50 percent of the Indian workforce is still in agricultural field. The farmers are not getting fertilizers, irrigation facilities and reasonable price. What is the result? Day by day, we are seeing increasing suicidal death of farmers. To cite an example, 12,000 farmers espoused death in one State of Maharashtra itself. What about other States? The same suicidal death is increasing.

Please allow a few minutes more to speak.

But the Government is blind towards the woes of farmers, except making noisy declarations.

The Government of India can easily befool the 135-crore people of India by discontinuing the Railway Budget since last tenure as the people do not know what is denied to them, as it was in the past. The current Budget, which swallowed the Railway Budget, does not draw meticulous attention towards the realm of railways.

When almost all North Indian States are covered by 19 AIIMS, South India, especially, Kerala faces step-motherly treatment in sanction of AIIMS. By all means, the Government of India is ignoring our State, Kerala. We are also a part and parcel of this nation.

I request the Hon. Minister to include the following suggestions also in the speech:

In 2018, the World Bank said in its report that the Indian diaspora has sent 79 billion dollars to their motherland. In the above circumstances, the Government should introduce welfare fund for the betterment of the returned NRIs.

The headquarters of Malabar region, Kozhikode Corporation should be included in the list of smart cities, and it is a long-pending demand before the Ministry. The Government of Kerala has allotted 250 acres of land for the proposed AIIMS in my constituency and it should be considered as a long-pending demand of Keralites.

The Government of India must initiate legislation for the protection of the nature and practice of Sabarimala Temple. The National Institute of Research and Development for Defence Shipbuilding, Chaliyam, Kozhikode could not reach its expected level after its inauguration, and I request necessary sanction may be accorded for its regular functioning.

I also request the Government to increase the frequency of Delhi-Trivandrum Rajdhani Express, introduce Calicut-Bangalore Jan Shatabdi Express and also introduce Mangalore-Calicut, Calicut-Ernakulam and Calicut-Palakkad MEMU service.

While finalizing the steps for the development of Kozhikode Railway Station into a world-class station, the views of the people's representatives may also be taken into consideration and the project may kindly be expedited.

Madam Chairperson, the Hon. Prime Minister had tweeted in 2012, when he was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, that if the Government of India increases fuel price with the hike in price of crude oil, that shows the inefficiency of the Central Government. I would like to remind that when they are increasing the fuel price with increase or decrease in crude rates, what should the Government be named? The current hike in fuel prices would fuel total price hike and the common man is going to bear the brunt.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your remarks are not going on record.

Shri Nihal Chand ji, please proceed with your speech.

...(Interruptions)[*]

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

[English]

*__SHRIMATI SUMALATHA AMBAREESH (MANDYA):__ I am thankful to you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the general budget for the year 2019-20.

Hon'ble Finance minister referred to the 12th century's social reformer, philosopher and icon of Karnataka, Basaveshwara and his teachings in the budget speech. She quoted very significant message of Basaveshwara the "Kayaka (work) and Dasoha (Giving)." Basavanna practiced what he taught. He was a finance minister under the king Bijjala of Kalachuri kingdom. He treated everyone equally without any discrimination.

The rainfall deficiency is major concern for the growth of agriculture sector, particularly small and medium and marginal farmers as majority of them dependent on monsoon. As far as Karnataka is concerned the state has been reeling under vagaries of natural calamities like drought and flood always. This year in around 150 taluks drought is affecting the life of farmers and also the livestock. The Union Government should extend all necessary help to the state Government to tackle the problem. There is a need of preparing district wise contingency plans to mitigate the ill effects of drought situation.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

NDA Government has laid 10 points vision for the development of the country. One of those 10 points vision is Water, water management and clean rivers. The union budget has announced Har Ghar Jal scheme. Around 80% of the rural households are not getting piped water supply even after 70 years of Independence. This NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modiji has taken timely decision to make arrangements to supply safe and quality drinking water to tackle the water crisis in the country. It would be a great help to rural households, especially women and girls to get relief from fetching water from bore wells, lakes and ponds at far away places. This would also improve the economy and also health of the rural families. By announcing Har Ghar Jal the BJP has fulfilled its promise made in election manifesto to provide water from tap to each house in villages. The NDA Government introduces the Jal Jivan Mission to cover 14 crores households. The scheme proposed to use both ground and surface water to meet the requirement of rural water supply scheme.

Another vision is Make-in-India, with particular emphasis on MSMEs, Defence, Electronics and automobile manufacturing etc., Promoting Make in India initiative will be a big boost to create job for unemployed youths of the country. In the budget the Government has widened the limit of annual turnover from Rs. 250

crores to 400 crores will reduce the tax liabilities for a large number of companies and boost the confidence among the players. More over this initiative will crack down on nefarious activities. It will also help to bridge the gap of corporate tax with ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nation) countries.

The increasing number of elephants death in Karnataka is a matter of great concern. As per the available reports about 22 elephants were died between May 2018 and March 2019 in elephants camps established in the state. I urge upon the Government to take immediate necessary steps to set up more elephant camps in the country including Karnataka to save the elephants. Along with this the Government should also focus to increase the number of veterinary doctors to take care of the health of the elephants and also take steps to put an end to elephant menace need to take as the elephants are and other wild animals are entering into the villages and destroy the standing crops such as banana, mango, coconut, sugar cane and paddy etc., Further there are number of people killed by elephants and other wild animals.

Hence I urge upon the Union Government to take steps to put an end to the human-animal conflict and protect the precious lives of people and also famers by saving the standing crops from wild animals.

As a women finance minister of the country, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji felt the need of importance of women, particularly rural women in the progress of the family as well as the country. The Government also proposes to take steps for welfare of the women of the country. The budget for children in the Union Budget 2019-2020 has shown a marginal increase of 0.05% going up from 3.24% in the last fiscal to 3.29% in the current fiscal with a grant of 91,644.29 crore.

There are areas need adequate focus to protect child rights, including education, health, development and child protection, shows that the first two categories have registered a decline while the money allocated for the ambitious plan for nutritional development may be insufficient. The country recorded a neo natal mortality rate of 24 per 1,000 live births in 2016 and an infant mortality rate of 33 per 1,000 births in 2017.

The Anganwadi services and the Poshan Abhiyan (Nutrion Mission) are among the most important Government programmes aimed at reducing stunting, under-weight, anaemia and low birth weight. While the former has registered an increase of 19% and the latter of 14% in this latest Budget announcement, experts have argued that it is inadequate given the expectations from the scheme. "Given the multiple demands upon the ICDS system [or Anganwadi services], including increase in honorarium for anganwadi workers,

even this substantial increase may not be adequate to meet the expectations.

The Government's Integrated Child Protection Scheme, which aims at preventing trafficking and providing care to missing, abandoned and orphaned children and rescue victims of child labour has seen an increase of 62% with an allocation of Rs1,500 crore as compared to last year's Rs 925 crore.

As far as three key schemes for the girl child are concerned, they have either remained unchanged or have registered a sharp decrease. The Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme has received Rs 280 crore, same as last fiscal, but the scheme for adolescent girls and National Scheme for Incentive to Girl Child for Secondary Education have both registered a decline of 60% in allocation.

The Women and Child Development Ministry saw a 17.7% increase in its budgetary allocation, from Rs 23,356.50 crore last fiscal to 27,584.37 crore during 2019-2020. Anganwadi services have seen an 11% hike in their grant to Rs 19,834 crore. Other schemes that have seen a noticeable hike include child protection services (62% with an allocation of Rs 1,500 crore), and working women hostels which got a two-fold hike at Rs 165 crore.

For schemes on the safety of women, Rs500 crore has been set aside for the Nirbhaya Fund.

I would like to make some observation that there is increasing number of crime against women, children and elderly persons in the country. There is an urgent need put an end to this ugly situation. To tackle this problems there is a need to increase CCTV surveillance in all the strategic locations and places in the residential colonies in the country. Hence I urge the Government to allocate sufficient funds for the said initiative without any delay. It can be implemented in an effective manner by involving residents by taking them into confidence and giving subsidized electricity to install CCTVs in the premises of house holds.

Another point I would like to mention is there is huge gap in enrolement of male and female students in most of the technical, professional and management courses. Though the Government is giving so many initiatives the number of girls are not coming forward to join the courses. So, there is a need to focus on this aspect. I would like to suggest that the Government should open more and more girls hostels to encourage the parents and students should also feel comfort able in staying in the campuses of the college and universities. I urge the Government to make serious efforts to see that girls comprises 50% of the students.

The union budget has increased the allocation to the department of Space to Rs. 12,476.26 crores. It is a significant move of the Union Government in the year of Launching Chandrayan-2

by ISRO. The increasing allocation would strengthen the hands of ISRO to increase its activities of launching satellites and National Remote Sensing Centres. The allocation covers Gaganayaan mission of 2022, Insat and Gsat Communication statellite system also.

I would like to request the Union Government to take steps to enhance the accuracy of the date and information related to weather forecast of the Meteorological department. This would help the people of the county to have a fair idea about the raining and sowing operations. There is a need of increasing the application of the advanced technology to study the movement of wild animals in the thick forest. There is also a need to have state of the art technologies in place to provide better network for internet and mobile connectivity as it is the need of every individual in the 21st century world.

As far as health care is concerned the union budget has allocated Rs. 62,659.12 crores. It includes Rs. 6400/ crores allocation for Ayushman Bharat scheme, under which the beneficiaries would get medical treatment up to Rs.5 lakh in a year. It covers 50 crore people of the country. I welcome this initiative of the NDA Government as it will be a very big step in addressing the health care issues of the country.

Along with this I would like to make an observation of the health issues of the country. It is a matter of great concern that Vector-borne disease such as Dengue, Chikungunya are on the rise in the country especially in the state of Karnataka. It has created a panic among the people as they are not getting timely medical treatment. The number is 1830 in the city of Bengaluru from January to April 2019. It was 17844 in the year 2017 and about 4848 cases reported in 2018. Last year there was an out break of H1 N1 and other communicable disease in the state and also in the country.

In the recent months almost every day the hospitals are getting suspected dengue patients. Government hospital are recording full occupancy and private hospitals are reporting a shortage of beds. This is the scenario of the health department in the country. Doctors are seeing about hundreds of patients with viral fever and dengue like symptoms every day.

The most worrisome factor is that there is no permanent solution found to the disease. Whenever the dengue case is reported the civic authorities simply fog the house and surrounding areas. This is only a temporary solution to kill the mosquitoes. It is not a permanent solution and the people are apprehensive over the residue of the insecticide as it can be harmful for children as insecticides are poorly monitored in the country.

Hence there is a need to find out a long-term solution by encouraging the research to develop a better medicines to all these diseases. I would also urge the Government to extent all kinds of technical and financial support to the state of Karnataka to deal with the problems effectively.

As far as generic medicines are concerned the union Government has proposed to amend the Drugs and Cosmetics Rules 1945 to ensure that the medical practitioners of the country should prescribe only generic medicines to their patients. I welcome this move as it helps the poor and all the needy people to get medicines at cheaper price to safeguard their health. I would also like to request the Government to take steps to ensure easy availability of quality generic medicines in the hospitals.

[*]**DR. D. RAVIKUMAR (VILUPPURAM):** In the 2018-19 budget the Revised Estimate to Post Matric Scholarship scheme was Rs 6000 Cr. That amount itself was insufficient to meet the demand. Instead of increasing the allocation it has been reduced. This year allocation is Rs 2926.82 Cr only. I sincerely request the Government to revise the allocation and help the SC/ST students.

There was a shortfall in the allocation of SCSP and TSP funds in the 2018-19 budget. The apathy continues in this year budget too. I request the Government to revise the allocation to match with the population of SC/STs

Though I welcome the tax exemption announced for the affordable housing we would like to point out the problem in fixing the upper limit as 45 lakh. Even in medium size cities like Madurai, Tiruchirappalli and Coimbatore the average square feet rate of an apartment is more than 6000/- Rs. Buying an 800 sq ft apartment will surpass the eligible limit. So I earnestly request the Government to consider the reality and increase the upper limit at least to 60 lakh.

Iran crisis and the cut in the production announced by the OPEC countries are threatening the global oil market. The average crude oil price per barrel in April 2019 was 71 US dollars. But you

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

have said in the budget that the "Crude prices have softened from their highs". Already the common people are suffering by unjust tax burden on petrol and diesel. Now an increase of 1 rupees Cess on every litre of petrol and diesel has been announced in the budget. It is unbearable to the people. I kindly request the Government to withdraw the increase.

I request you to increase the overdraft limit announced to SHG members who hold Jan Dhan accounts from 5,000 to 50,000 rupees and extend the one lakh rupee MUDRA loan to all members of Women SHGs.

I request the Government to include the street vendors and hawkers also in the Pradhan Mantri Karam Yogi Maandhan Scheme.

The Government has promised in the NEP draft, 6% in GDP for education. But contrary to its promise we see only a mere 11,000 crore increase in the allocation for HRD. It is quite insufficient. I request the Government to increase the amount.

Rural poor particularly women depends upon the MGNREGS for their livelihood. Shockingly the allocation to this important scheme has been reduced from 61084 Cr in the RE 2018-19 to 60000 Cr in 2019-20 budget. This is unacceptable. I strongly urge the Government to increase the allocation.

[Translation]

*__DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH):__ I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the Budget.

Our Government has consistently emphasised the creation of employment opportunities. As we all know, India today is the youngest nation in the world, and it is the responsibility of the Government to provide employment commensurate with this demographic profile. In this regard, our Government has placed significant emphasis on developing the skill capacities of our youth and has achieved notable success in this effort. Today, we have skilled young individuals available across various sectors. Agriculture and construction hold substantial potential for employment generation in our economy. In this direction, the Government has proposed that, within the next three years, one crore ninety five lakh houses will be constructed in rural areas under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, and one lakh twenty five thousand kilometres of roads will be upgraded under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. These measures constitute a major step towards expanding employment opportunities and will also help to curb the migration of young people from rural areas.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

A third significant step towards enhancing employment opportunities is the promotion of the tourism sector, for which the Government has proposed the development of seventeen tourist destinations. To attract foreign tourists and increase their numbers, the Government's introduction of the UDAN scheme is a meaningful initiative, one that will also help generate employment in the aviation sector. In addition, it will assist in expanding prospects in trade, the hotel industry and small restaurants, thereby creating further avenues for livelihood.

I would also like to draw attention to another important measure taken by the Government, under which certain enterprises have been moved from the 30 percent tax bracket to the 25 percent category, and the turnover limit for this concession has been raised from Rs. 200 crore to Rs. 400 crore. It is noteworthy that by granting such tax relief, the business capacity of these enterprises will expand, thereby enabling them to contribute further to employment generation.

Another commendable step taken by the Government is the proposal to remove the inconsistencies prevailing in labour laws and to make them relevant to contemporary needs. The most significant among these reforms is the elimination of disparities in minimum wages and the introduction of a uniform and rational wage structure. At present, the Minimum Wages Act is

implemented in only eighteen States, and even within these States the wage rates vary considerably. As I mentioned earlier, this measure will also help to curb the migration of rural youth. Once a uniform minimum wage is implemented across the country, young people will be able to find gainful employment within their own regions.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, workers in the unorganised sector will receive a monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 after attaining the age of sixty. Nearly thirty lakh workers have already enrolled under this scheme. This is a highly commendable initiative, as it will provide social security to small traders and workers in the unorganised sector, ensuring that in their old age they are not troubled by the thought of being dependent on others. I extend my congratulations to the Government for this measure.

By providing micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with a single platform for conducting their operations, and by extending a 2 percent interest subvention on loans, investment in this sector will increase, thereby creating new avenues for employment.

The 16 percent increase in the total Budget allocation for child welfare is a most welcome measure. It will strengthen children’s

education, support the rehabilitation of abandoned children and assist in restoring the lives of those rescued from child labour. By directing attention to the education, care and rehabilitation of children who, in the harsh sun, heat and rain, are compelled to gather scraps and plastic bags for survival, we secure a stronger future for our nation. It is essential that Child Welfare Committees, child protection services and the National Child Labour Projects be further reinforced.

Through the SFURTI scheme, new avenues of employment will be created for the unemployed in rural areas, and traditional rural occupations will receive renewed encouragement. Earlier, in our villages, Nathu the blacksmith would fashion the farmer's plough, repair agricultural tools and make implements such as the pickaxe, spade, hoe and sickle. Devanand Vishwakarma crafted bullock carts, ploughs, wooden bats and toys. At Sarju Mama's home, cloth weaving took place. At the house of Kundan Master ji, whenever there was a wedding in any family in the village, preparations would begin fifteen days in advance, with the entire household stitching garments. Members of Ramola Vanshkar's family would play musical instruments at weddings and other ceremonies.

In our villages, a variety of statues and artefacts were once fashioned from wood, stone, clay and brass. Almost every

household reared cows and goats, and after meeting its own needs, the surplus milk was sent to the towns for sale. With the decline of these rural industries, the employment situation has become increasingly serious.

The present Budget, by promoting traditional rural industries, creating clusters for bamboo, honey and khadi, and encouraging agro based enterprises under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Sampada Yojana, will generate employment opportunities in fruit processing, vegetable cultivation and horticulture, thereby enhancing the participation of rural India in the nation's development.

Through the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, irrigation water will be conveyed to the farmer's fields by means of canals or pipelines, thereby reducing dependence on rainfall and enabling farmers to cultivate two, and in many cases even three, crops in a year.

The proposal to interlink rivers will serve as a significant catalyst in this endeavour. This visionary scheme was formulated during the Government of the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, yet no substantive progress was made during the ten-year tenure of the UPA Government. Hon. Narendra Modi ji revived and advanced this initiative in the previous Government, and its implementation is now poised to commence. In the first phase, the Ken–Betwa link,

situated in my Parliamentary Constituency of Tikamgarh, is to be undertaken. For Bundelkhand, a region recurrently afflicted by drought, this project will prove life sustaining. Furthermore, with the construction of the Kakrwaha Pick-up Weir Dam on the Dhasan River, irrigation facilities in Tikamgarh will be substantially augmented, and rural communities will benefit from improved access to drinking water. This will also reinforce the Prime Minister's water conservation mission, under which the Ministry of Jal Shakti seeks to ensure the provision of piped water to every rural household.

As Tikamgarh is predominantly an agrarian region, there is a need to establish agro based industries and food processing units. This will not only foster development but will also create substantial employment opportunities.

In Bundelkhand, minerals are available in abundance and iron deposits are also found in substantial quantities. Therefore, a steel plant ought to be established at Chhatarpur. In Chhatarpur district, within my Parliamentary Constituency, the land acquisition process for the NTPC project has been completed and the boundary wall has already been constructed. Accordingly, the work of NTPC should be commenced at the earliest.

With the commencement of the third phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 1,25,000 kilometres of rural roads will be upgraded over the next five years at a cost of Rs. 80,250 crore.

By the year 2022, all rural households will be provided with electricity and clean cooking facilities through the Saubhagya Yojana and the Ujjwala Yojana.

The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana aims to achieve the objective of housing for all by 2022. The progress made in this direction surpasses the cumulative work of many decades, and this scheme has, in effect, become the foundation of a dignified life for the poor.

Under the pension scheme, three crore small shopkeepers and traders with an annual turnover of less than Rs. 1.5 crore will receive pension benefits, thereby giving them a sense of financial security for the future.

The National Research Foundation will significantly promote research activities across the country.

In the field of space science, India has reached new international heights. The successful testing of the anti-satellite missile is a symbol of our advancing capabilities in this domain, and it has elevated India to the position of the fourth major power in the world.

A provision ought to be made whereby all taxpayers, whether contributing through sales tax or income tax, are accorded comprehensive health facilities for every member of their family in recognition of the taxes they pay.

Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Union Government is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. In addition to the sanctioned amount for these dwellings, the Budget should include a separate allocation for the installation of water harvesting systems in every Pradhan Mantri Awas. Such a measure would substantially alleviate the grave water crisis confronting the country and would constitute a meaningful step towards water conservation.

While invoking the dictum “Nari Tu Narayani”, the Hon. Minister of Finance has announced several noteworthy measures for the empowerment of women. One such provision enables women holding Jan Dhan accounts to withdraw up to Rs. 5,000 even in the absence of a balance, as against the earlier limit of Rs. 2,000. This is, in my view, a most consequential step.

Under Stand Up India, women entrepreneurs will receive targeted support. Additionally, under the Mudra Yojana, one woman from each Self Help Group will be eligible for a loan of up to Rs. 1 lakh, thereby enhancing their economic strength and

enabling them to surmount financial constraints within their chosen fields of enterprise.

In order to augment the participation of women in the economy, a proposal has been put forth for the establishment of a committee that will recommend measures to strengthen women's contribution to national development and to the rural economy. It is noteworthy that the Budget allocation for the Ministry of Women and Child Development has been enhanced by 17 percent to support initiatives directed at women's empowerment and other allied schemes.

Under the ICDS scheme, an additional sum of Rs. 4,000 crore has been allocated. In comparison with the revised estimate of Rs. 23,356 crore in the previous year, the allocation this year has been raised to Rs. 27,584 crore.

Allocations for anganwadi services and for the Poshan Mission under the ICDS have likewise been increased. Enhanced provisions have also been made for the Creche Scheme and the Child Protection Scheme, both of which significantly benefit working women.

The women centric measures announced in this Budget will contribute meaningfully to the economic empowerment of nearly

half of our nation’s population and will further strengthen their sense of security.

Today, women’s participation has expanded across every sphere, and they occupy positions ranging from small scale enterprise to the highest offices. It is, therefore, entirely appropriate to observe that women’s representation in this Parliament has reached its highest level, with 78 women Members elected to this august House. This is a commendable achievement and stands as an inspiring example for women throughout the country.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND CHOUHAN (GANGANAGAR): Hon. Chairperson, Madam, through you, I would first like to express my gratitude to the Union Government, to the Hon. Minister of Finance and to the Hon. Minister of State for Finance for the Budget for the year 2019-20, and I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on it.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, any endeavour must be anchored in a grand and far-sighted vision. For the first time, under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, we have witnessed such a vision, one that, over the past six years, has sought to position India as a Vishwa Guru and enhance our nation's stature on the global stage. Rarely has a Union Government advanced with an aspiration of such scale and purpose. It is incumbent upon us, therefore, to ensure that this expansive vision is translated into tangible achievement. I express my sincere appreciation to the Union Government, the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Finance Minister for presenting a Budget that accords due priority to the welfare of the poor, the small and marginal farmers and the individual residing at the very last mile of our villages. For the first time, if any Government has taken decisive steps to strengthen the economy of this nation, it is the Union Government. In the 70 years since independence, it is indeed the Government led by the Bharatiya Janata Party at the Centre that has fortified the economic

foundations of our country. Today, if India is advancing to the fifth position globally in terms of economic performance, the credit for this achievement must rightfully be accorded to the Hon. Prime Minister. On this auspicious occasion, I would like to express my gratitude to all of you, for India today commands respect across the world. It is the Hon. Prime Minister who has played a pivotal role in establishing India's name internationally and in steering our nation towards becoming a Vishwa Guru.

Madam, I would like to express my gratitude to the Union Government for having made a provision of Rs. 400 crore under the National Education Policy. For the first time, the educational institutions of this country are being strengthened in a meaningful manner. This provision has been made so that the youth of our nation, including those residing in villages, may receive quality education and, through such learning, advance and contribute to the progress of the country in the years to come.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to place on record my appreciation for the Union Government, for it is for the first time since 2014 that India's educational institutions have found a place among the world's top two hundred. Equally, development initiatives of an unprecedented scale have been formulated for the nation. The Hon. Prime Minister's vision is unequivocal: the progress of India must begin with the poor in our villages, with the

individual residing at the very last mile, and with the youth who will shape the nation's future. This alignment of national development with such a clear and inclusive vision is itself a remarkable first. We aspire to build a healthy society. Elderly villagers, young people, and citizens from economically weaker and socially backward sections, individuals who had never imagined in their lifetimes that they could seek treatment in premier hospitals, have been empowered through the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. By providing Rs. 5 lakh per family, the Hon. Prime Minister has ensured that no disadvantaged citizen in any village of India need stand behind the affluent, but may stand with equal dignity and obtain treatment in the finest medical institutions.

Madam, through you, I would like to convey my appreciation to the Union Government for allocating, for the first time, Rs. 60 thousand crore under MGNREGA. This provision has proved invaluable for those impoverished villagers who have no productive assets of their own. Therefore, I extend my sincere thanks to the Union Government. I would also respectfully submit that millions of tonnes of foodgrains stored in various warehouses are deteriorating and going to waste. If an appropriate mechanism could be devised to integrate these foodstocks with MGNREGA, it would greatly enhance the prospects of rural development and contribute

to a more prosperous future for our villages. I place this submission before the House.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, the Union Government has allocated Rs. 9,000 crore for irrigation projects across the country. I represent a State traversed by three major canals: the Rajasthan Canal, the Ganga Canal and the Bhakra Canal. For the first time, a sum of Rs. 2,300 crore has been sanctioned for the renovation of the Rajasthan Canal, and this distinction rests with our Hon. Prime Minister. I express my sincere gratitude to him for this. With respect to the Ganga Canal, an amount of Rs. 786 crore has been provided by the Union Government, and for the Bhakra Canal, Rs. 719 crore has been sanctioned. On behalf of my State, I extend my heartfelt appreciation to the Hon. Prime Minister for these significant allocations. The Hon. Prime Minister has articulated a vision whereby every farmer’s field receives assured irrigation. It is he who conceived the plan to construct concrete-lined canals to ensure the full delivery of water and to develop durable ponds in our villages. For providing the requisite financial support to realise this vision, I express my profound thanks to him.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, through you, I would like to place an earnest submission before the Government. I hail from the State of Rajasthan, through which the Rajasthan Canal flows. Regrettably, polluted water from Punjab enters our State through

this canal. The effluents discharged from sugar mills in Punjab, including waste from molasses, are carried into our region. It is with deep sorrow that I inform this august House that approximately 20 percent of the population in my constituency is afflicted with cancer. A train that operates from our region to Bathinda, and also travels onward to Bikaner, is, in common parlance, referred to as the “Cancer Train”. I would like to urge the Union Government to accord urgent and special consideration to this grave public health concern.

Madam, the chemically contaminated water discharged from 383 factories in Punjab, including effluents containing molasses, flows directly into the canals, and it is this water that our people are compelled to drink. The situation poses an extremely serious threat to the health and future of the population. Recently, a boiler burst at the Chadha Sugar Mill, and the release of polluted water and molasses resulted in the death of all the fish in the canal. Any animal or bird that drank from that water also died. Yet this is the very water that our citizens are consuming. ...*(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I shall conclude my remarks forthwith; there will be no occasion for you to ring the bell. I fully appreciate the time constraints of the House and the desire of every Member to speak. I merely wish to place before the Union Government certain matters that merit urgent consideration.

Through you, I would respectfully submit that the Chadha Sugar Factory was fined Rs. 25 crore; however, despite its failure to pay this penalty, the Punjab Government has permitted the factory to resume operations. Through you, I would like to state that the chemically contaminated water discharged from such sugar mills is the very water consumed by our people. The fine imposed upon this factory must be strictly recovered, and the factory ought to be closed.

Madam, through you, I would like to submit that Rajasthan is a drought-prone State, and the 0.6 MAF of water that Punjab is obligated to release to us is not being provided. One of our Members raised this matter yesterday as well, observing that the 6.6 MAF of water due to Rajasthan has yet to be received. I respectfully urge the Union Government to take up this issue with the Punjab Government. Although Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab have entered into four agreements in the past, I shall not delve into their dates, as that would unduly prolong my remarks. Nevertheless, I would like to request the Union Government to ensure that the 0.6 MAF of water to which Rajasthan is entitled is duly released. Furthermore, when the Union Government issued directions with respect to the BBMB, it was stipulated that each of the three States, Rajasthan, Punjab and Haryana, would nominate one Member on a rotational basis. Regrettably, Rajasthan has not been accorded

representation on the Board even now. Through you, Madam, I would like to urge the Union Government to rectify this matter without delay.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, my constituency lies in a border region. We reside along the frontier, and our lands extend up to the barbed wire fencing on the Pakistan side. Even today, our farmers are unable to cultivate their fields that lie beyond the fencing towards Pakistan. Through you, I would like to request the Union Government to make provision for compensation for these farmers so that their livelihoods may be safeguarded and their lives improved. I have one final submission. In my constituency, there was once an oil depot which was closed many years ago. My constituency adjoins the Punjab border, and my residence is merely three kilometres from Punjab. ...*(Interruptions)*

I shall conclude with one final suggestion. My residence lies merely three kilometres from the Punjab border, and there is a difference of Rs. 8 per litre in the price of diesel between Punjab and my region of Rajasthan. Should the depot at Hanumangarh be reopened, it is my considered view that the farmers and rural inhabitants of the area would derive substantial benefit.

Hon. Chairperson, Madam, I would like to express my gratitude to you for affording me the opportunity to speak. With these observations, I conclude my remarks in support of the Budget.

[*]**KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR):** I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the Union Budget 2019-20.

To take the nation further forward and to build a New India, the Modi Government has presented a Budget of approximately Rs. 27.86 lakh crore, with primary emphasis on strengthening the country's infrastructure and empowering rural India. Through this Budget, the Government has articulated a clear policy framework for development. To this end, the Government has set forth the following future objectives:

- To simplify procedures;
- to encourage efficiency in execution;
- to reduce red tapism;
- to make better use of technology; and
- to accelerate the programmes and services that have been initiated.

Under the leadership of Modi ji, the Government has been working with continuity and commitment, and the achievements during the period 2014-2019 are as follows:

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

- One trillion dollars has been added to the Indian economy over the past 5 years.
- India has become the sixth largest economy in the world; five years ago, it stood at the 11th position.
- In terms of purchasing power parity, India is the third largest economy in the world.
- During the period 2014-19, fiscal discipline was strengthened and greater dynamism was brought to Centre–State relations.
- Structural reforms were undertaken in indirect taxation, insolvency matters and the real estate sector.
- On average, annual expenditure on food security during 2014-19 was twice that of the period 2009-2014.
- In 2017-18, more than three times the number of patents were issued compared with 2014.
- With the policies and support of the NITI Aayog, the process of building a New India is progressing steadily.

The Government's emphasis is on creating a 5 trillion US dollar economy, and for this, enhanced investment and further empowerment of rural India are essential. Investment is particularly

required for the development of infrastructure, the expansion of the digital economy and the creation of employment in small and medium enterprises. Simultaneously, to generate employment in rural India, the Government seeks to promote traditional industries, and to increase farmers' incomes by reducing the cost of agriculture and ensuring fair prices for crops. The policy direction in these areas has been strengthened and is being implemented with greater effectiveness.

Rs. 75,000 crore has been allocated for the PM-Kisan scheme. To promote value addition to farmers' produce from the point of harvest, and to support private entrepreneurs engaged in related activities, appropriate assistance will be provided.

Infrastructure will be developed for the production of fodder, as well as for the procurement, processing and marketing of milk, in order to promote dairy production through cooperative institutions. To ensure better economic conditions for farmers, 10,000 new Farmer Producer Organisations will be established. The Government will work in collaboration with State Governments to extend the benefits of e-NAM to farmers. In addition, zero-budget farming is being promoted, and farmers in certain States are being trained in its practices.

The Ujjwala Yojana and the Saubhagya Yojana have brought marked improvement to the living conditions of every rural household and have substantially raised their standard of life. By 2022, all willing rural families will have access to electricity and clean cooking facilities. The Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana–Gramin seeks to realise the goal of housing for all by 2022. Under its second phase, spanning 2019-20 to 2021-22, 1.95 crore houses will be provided to eligible beneficiaries, each furnished with essential amenities such as toilets, electricity and LPG connections.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana, the Department of Fisheries will establish a comprehensive fisheries management framework. This initiative aims to address the significant gaps across the value chain, including infrastructure, modernisation, traceability, production, productivity, post-harvest management and quality control.

To accelerate the provision of road connectivity to eligible and viable housing sites, the completion target has been advanced from 2022 to 2019. As a result, 97 percent of such housing sites have been connected with all-weather roads. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 30,000 kilometres of roads have been constructed using green technology, waste plastic and cold-mix technology.

Under the third phase of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 1,25,000 kilometres of roads will be upgraded over the next five years at an estimated cost of Rs. 80,250 crore.

To generate sustainable employment by enhancing the productivity, profitability and competitiveness of traditional industries, Common Facility Centres (CFCs) will be established to facilitate cluster-based development. During 2019-20, one hundred new clusters will be created, with particular emphasis on bamboo, honey and khadi, thereby enabling 50,000 artisans to be integrated into the economic value chain. The ASPIRE scheme, designed to foster innovation, rural industry and entrepreneurship, has been finalised. Under this initiative, eighty Livelihood Business Incubators (LBIs) and twenty Technology Business Incubators (TBIs) will be established during 2019-20.

For 50 years, the Congress Party contested elections on the slogan of providing roads, electricity and water, yet it was unable to offer any meaningful solutions and continued to disregard the sentiments of the people. I take pride in being a worker of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Under the NDA-1 Government led by Atal ji, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched to provide rural road connectivity. Under NDA-2, led by Modi ji, electricity reached every household through the Saubhagya Yojana. Work has now begun on ensuring tap water to every home under the Har Ghar

Nal, Har Ghar Jal initiative. By 2024, these longstanding problems will be fully resolved.

There is a pressing need for robust water management across the country, including in Bundelkhand, and the Government has already initiated significant measures in this direction. The establishment of the Ministry of Jal Shakti marks a decisive step, as it will provide coordinated and holistic oversight of our water resources and water supply systems. Under the Jal Jeevan Mission, the goal of ensuring Har Ghar Jal, piped water supply to every rural household, by 2024 will be realised. Local, demand- and supply-based water management structures will be strengthened, and the schemes of the Union and State Governments will be aligned to achieve this objective in a unified and efficient manner. For the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, 1,592 blocks across 256 districts have been identified for focused intervention. Moreover, the Government has made budgetary provisions for the welfare of urban and rural labourers, as well as for women in the middle- and lower-income groups.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Urban (PMAY–Urban), investment amounting to Rs. 4.83 lakh crore has been sanctioned for the construction of nearly 81 lakh houses. Construction has commenced on 47 lakh of these, more than 26 lakh have been completed, and approximately 24 lakh houses have been

handed over to beneficiaries. Through the use of modern construction technologies, over 13 lakh houses have been built to date. Furthermore, more than 95 percent of cities have been declared open-defecation free.

Nearly one crore citizens have downloaded the Swachhata App. The goal is to fulfil Mahatma Gandhi's vision of a Swachh Bharat by achieving ODF status nationwide by 2 October 2019. To commemorate this occasion, the National Cleanliness Centre will be inaugurated at Gandhi Darshan, Rajghat, on 2.10.2019. To familiarise the youth and the wider community with constructive Gandhian ideals, the National Council of Science Museums has developed "Gandhipedia."

Approximately 30 lakh workers have enrolled under the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana. Under this scheme, labourers in the unorganised and informal sectors are entitled to a monthly pension of Rs. 3,000 upon attaining the age of sixty years. Under the Ujjwala Yojana, nearly 35 crore LED bulbs have been distributed, resulting in an annual savings of Rs. 18,341 crore. Building upon the extensive reach of the LED bulb mission, the Government will also promote solar battery chargers. Comprehensive programmes have been initiated for the modernisation of railway stations.

There has been a definitive shift towards a women-centred approach in policy formulation to support women's leadership initiatives and movements. A committee comprising Government and private stakeholders has been proposed to address gender discrimination. It is further proposed to extend the Women SHG Interest Subvention Programme to all districts. Every verified woman Self-Help Group member holding a Jan Dhan bank account will be eligible for an overdraft facility of Rs. 5,000.

Under the leadership of Modi ji, this Government remains steadfast in its commitment to the philosophy of Antyodaya and is resolute in its endeavour to build a New India. I am fully confident that Bundelkhand, along with the entire nation, will witness comprehensive and accelerated development under the present Union Government, which is deeply attuned to public welfare.

I express my sincere gratitude to you for granting me the opportunity to present my views on the Budget.

[*]ADVOCATE AJAY BHATT (NAINITAL-UDHAM SINGH NAGAR): I am grateful to you for granting me the opportunity to express my views on the Budget for 2019-20. Sir, this Budget is truly comprehensive and inclusive. It encompasses every class, every caste, every faith and every region. Through it, Modi ji and the Hon. Finance Minister Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman have made it abundantly clear that the Government belongs to all, and that every ordinary citizen of India is an integral part of that Government. Sir, I rise to voice my support for the Budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister. A clear and genuine reflection of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas is evident throughout the Budget for 2019-20.

Indeed, this is a Budget that resonates with the very soul of India. It fulfils the aspirations of all: from those who break stones on the roadside, those who labour with pickaxe and shovel, the barber, the washerman, and the sisters and brothers who work in households, to the vendors who sell vegetables, betel, bidis, roasted gram, tea and local snacks from their small carts. It equally addresses the expectations of the middle class and the upper class. This Budget is one that truly seeks to realise the hopes and aspirations of every section of society.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

Between 2014 and 2019, under the leadership of Modi ji, the Government strengthened Centre-State dynamics, reinforced cooperative federalism, empowered the GST Council and consolidated fiscal discipline.

The work undertaken over the past 5 years, and that which is already in progress, will gain significant momentum following this Budget. Four months ago, prior to the elections, the Interim Budget was presented, wherein the outline of this Budget and the mission for the next ten years were clearly set forth. The objectives of a cleaner planet, water for all, housing for every citizen, and universal access to electricity, roads, healthcare, education and pension, together with income-tax relief of up to Rs. 5 lakh for the middle class, had already been delineated.

When Hon. Modi formed the Government in 2014, the nation was engulfed in an atmosphere of utter disorder. Almost daily, Ministers of the then Government were being incarcerated in connection with one scandal after another. Fear and corruption had reached unprecedented levels. The common citizen was overcome with frustration and despair, for the Congress Party of that time, together with its allied parties, had forsaken the spirit of public service and strayed onto an unethical path.

Their organisation and the responsible figures within their Government chose to close their eyes in the same manner as Bhishma Pitamah, the patriarch, and Vidur, the guardian of moral counsel, remained silent during the grievous injustice of Draupadi's disrobing in a full assembly. It was this wilful inaction that emboldened the unethical Duryodhan and his destructive conduct, compelling all others to endure injustice in silence. The inevitable consequence, as the epic records, was the downfall of the entire Kaurava lineage.

In the same manner, prior to 2014, the actions of the UPA, the Congress Party and its constituent allies, led to the collapse of the Opposition itself. The Congress Party did not even have the requisite number of Members to secure the position of Leader of the Opposition.

Hon. Shri Narendra Modi ji, upholding the ideals of truth, non-violence, righteousness, and justice, has, through his leadership, offered a new guiding light for India and made a meaningful impact not only on our nation but also on the global stage. Today, under the distinguished leadership of Shri Modi ji, India stands prominently among the world's leading nations, emerging as a steadfast and guiding presence within the global community.

The Members of the Opposition continually sought to malign and criticise Narendra Modi ji, yet today they themselves receive respect abroad in his name. This is because, in foreign countries, individuals are recognised not by their political affiliation but by the fact that they are citizens of India.

It is well recognised that when Hon. Modi assumed office in 2014, the size of our economy was approximately 1.85 trillion US dollars. In the span of five years, it has risen to 2.7 trillion US dollars, and in the near future it is set to reach the five trillion dollar. This remarkable progress has not occurred by accident. It is the result of Modi ji's relentless dedication, his practice of working 18 to 20 hours a day, the disciplined reduction of unnecessary expenditure, the conclusion of an era of political extravagance, the resolute elimination of leakages across departments, and the impact of exemplary financial management.

A man once claimed that he possessed honey that was 100 years old. When another asked for a small taste, he replied that had he offered a taste to everyone over the years, it would never have survived for a century. The message is evident: by safeguarding every penny, a great reserve is created. In much the same way, through disciplined savings and careful stewardship, our nation is now advancing towards becoming a major global economic power. Measures such as the introduction of LED bulbs, neem-coated urea,

and the removal of fraudulent gas connections, fake ration cards, bogus teachers and illegitimate pension claims have eliminated vast leakages in the system. These sustained efforts have resulted in considerable savings of public resources. It is for this reason that India today stands as the sixth largest economy in the world, whereas merely 5 years ago we ranked 11th.

It is for this reason that the entire nation, placing its trust in Modi ji, elected 282 Members in 2014, and in 2019 increased that mandate to 303 Members, thereby placing an emphatic seal of approval on his work and expressing unwavering confidence in his leadership.

The Indian economy, which took more than 55 years to reach the one trillion-dollar mark, has, under Modi ji's leadership, added more than 1 trillion dollars in merely five years, thereby creating history. At present, India stands close to a 3 trillion-dollar economy, and we are confident that the forthcoming target of five trillion US dollars will most certainly be achieved.

Over the past 5 years, we have set one extraordinary milestone after another across water, land and air. In the realm of space, we astonished the world by successfully bringing down a live satellite, thereby placing India alongside nations such as China, Russia and

the United States. Furthermore, by launching 104 satellites in a single mission, we established a new world record.

Whether it was the incident at Uri or the attack at Pulwama, India demonstrated its unwavering resolve to eradicate terrorism by acting decisively within Pakistan's own territory, thereby delivering a firm and unmistakable message to the perpetrators of terror.

The labourer who, after a lifetime of daily wage work, was once compelled to beg in his old age, has today been given dignity and support through a monthly pension of Rs. 3,000, thereby fulfilling the resolve to uplift the person standing at the very last mile. By extending pension benefits to small shopkeepers, the Government has provided them with security in the twilight years of their lives. From rickshaw pullers, tanga drivers, street vendors and railway porters to truck drivers, private vehicle drivers and those who run small stalls selling betel, bidis, tea or vegetables, none will now be left to wander helplessly in their old age.

Our Government has always revered the power of women in the exalted forms of Durga, Kali, Saraswati, Lakshmi and the Navadurga. By declaring "Nari tu Narayani", we have reaffirmed the timeless dictum "Yatra naryastu pujyante, ramante tatra

devatah", that where women are honoured, there the divine itself dwells.

We have always considered the strength of women to be a pivotal pillar of India's economy. It is in this spirit that a historic milestone was achieved by providing cooking gas connections to seven crore mothers and sisters, made possible not through additional strain on the public exchequer but through the voluntary relinquishing of subsidies by citizens. The inclusive and transformative Budget presented by Modi ji and the Hon. Finance Minister reflects this commitment with great clarity. It affirms, in the fullest measure, the guiding principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas".

The people of my Lok Sabha constituency, Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar, have sent me to this House with a resounding mandate of 3,39,096 votes, in order to strengthen the hands of the Hon. Prime Minister. Through you, my constituents naturally have expectations of me, and there are several pressing issues in my constituency to which I would like to draw the attention of the Government. The Jamrani Dam, which is the lifeline of the Terai, Bhabar and Gangetic regions, has not yet been constructed, resulting in a grave drinking-water crisis. Once completed, this dam will resolve the irrigation and drinking-water problems of the Bhabar, Terai and Gangetic belt, including the districts of Bareilly and Rampur.

This demand has persisted for 52 years, clearly demonstrating that even five decades ago the region faced acute shortages of drinking water and irrigation. After a long period, all objections have finally been settled. It is now absolutely essential that this project be taken up as a National Project. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge the Government to include this dam in the National Project category without delay and to commence construction at the earliest.

Several years ago, an HMT factory was established in my Lok Sabha constituency; however, it was subsequently closed without warning. The employees were not even granted VRS. Their dues must be settled forthwith, and a new industry or institution should be established at that site so that meaningful employment opportunities may be created for the unemployed. Furthermore, it is imperative that the restrictions imposed on hydro-electric projects in Uttarakhand be lifted at the earliest. This is essential not only to strengthen the revenue position of the State but also to provide much-needed employment to its youth.

It is also essential that the uninterrupted and free flow of the River Ganga be maintained. Hon. Sir, I further request the Government that a campus of the Central University, Srinagar, Garhwal, be established within my Lok Sabha constituency so that

the benefits of higher education may be extended to the entire region.

Black money, which has long been a curse to society, widening social disparities and contributing significantly to the further marginalisation of the poor, has been decisively curbed by the Hon. Prime Minister, bringing an end to its influence. A cap of Rs. 20,000 has been imposed on cash transactions in real estate. The permissible limits for business-related cash transactions have been reduced, and the maximum cash donation to charitable trusts has been lowered from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 2,000. Similarly, the limit for cash contributions to political parties has also been fixed at Rs. 2,000.

By confiscating benami properties, the Government has effectively tightened the net around those who sought to conceal their black money by purchasing assets in the names of their employees, relatives or acquaintances.

At the same time, the registrations of fraudulent NGOs were cancelled. Those who had kept their funds outside the banking system for other purposes were compelled to bring that money into the banks after paying due taxes. Today, we are recognised as one of the world’s rapidly emerging economies. Those whom we

viewed with indifference 5 years ago now seek to engage with us on equal terms.

I once again extend my wholehearted support to this comprehensive and inclusive Budget, and I convey my sincere congratulations to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Finance Minister for presenting such an accomplished and forward-looking Budget, both on my own behalf and on behalf of the people of Uttarakhand.

[English]

SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR (THENI): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you for the opportunity to speak on the General Budget 2019-20 on behalf of my AIADMK Party.

I congratulate and appreciate the Hon. Finance Minister Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman who is, for the first time, a full-time female Finance Minister for presenting the people's Budget which is growth and employment oriented. I also congratulate Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance and Corporate Affairs for supporting her to make this Budget.

My colleague Members described about the vision of the Budget. They asked a question. In my words, I want to answer their question. This is our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji's democracy. He is creating a new India. I want to describe the word 'DEMOCRACY'. It is: D for development budget, E for enormous budget, M for modernisation budget, O for organised budget, C for corruption-free budget, R for revolutionary budget, …(*Interruptions*) A for associated budget, C for cultural budget, and Y for young budget …(*Interruptions*) These all reflect the vision of our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji's new India's DEMOCRACY. …(*Interruptions*)

Madam, the Union Budget mainly focuses on the development of *gaon*, *garib* and *kishan* and doubling the farmer's income by the year 2022. The announcement of Jal Jeevan Mission will provide potable water to every rural household by 2024. The Government has formed a new Ministry, Ministry of Jal Shakti which looks after the management of water resources and drinking water supply in a holistic manner. Ujjawala and Saubhagya Schemes have transformed the lives of rural families. Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana for establishing a fisheries management framework; setting up 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations in the rural areas; setting up of 100 clusters to bring 50,000 artisans engaged in traditional crafts; setting up of 80 Livelihood Business Incubators, 20 Technology Business Incubators for new entrepreneurs; over Rs.60,000 crore allocation towards MNREGA; over Rs.27,000 crore allocation for Integrated Child Development Service; over Rs.12,000 crore allocation for the Swachh Bharat Mission; Rs. 75,000 crore allocation for PM Kishan Yojana; allocation for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana of Rs.80,000 crore to upgrade 1.25 lakh kms. of rural roads; and Zero Budget Farming are the pivots around which our Hon. Prime Minister seeks to give wings to the concept of 'Antyodaya'.

Madam, the Government of Tamil Nadu, with the blessing of our Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and the under the good governance of

our Chief Minister and the Deputy Chief Minister, is implementing various number of projects and Centrally-sponsored schemes for the benefit of the people. The State of Tamil Nadu comes second from top with a significant contribution to nation's GDP.

Madam, Tamil Nadu is affected and has suffered massively by national disaster like Tsunami, cyclones in the name Gaja, Ockhi etc. and also by drought situations. So, we are in need of additional financial assistance from the Centre. However, I express my concern at this moment that there are a number of pending allocations to be provided by the Central Government to Tamil Nadu Government for successfully implementing the schemes. A total amount of Rs.11,335 crore has been pending for Tamil Nadu for the last two years. Therefore, I urge the Government to take necessary action to provide the pending allocation without further delay.

Madam, I also congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister for taking necessary efforts to get back the Tamil peoples' traditional rights regarding *Jallikattu*, which is a traditional festive event in Tamil Nadu, especially, in my Theni Lok Sabha Constituency. I also thank the Hon. Prime Minister for setting up of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences hospital in the 'temple-city' Madurai, which will give advanced treatment and save the lives of our people in South Tamil Nadu. Some other Parties that were in power for more than

15 years were not able to bring this hospital to Tamil Nadu. …(*Interruptions*)

On the one side, our Hon. Prime Minister is committed to the development of our nation, and on the other side, he is protecting the country. I retrospect the situation several decades before, in 1976, wherein our Katchatheevu Island, our land, which belongs to our mother India is donated to the other country. …(*Interruptions*)

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY (CHENNAI NORTH): Madam, we demand that this statement of his be removed from the records. …(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR: This is a historical fault. …(*Interruptions*) If this fault was not committed, then the lives of a large number of Indian fishermen would have been saved. …(*Interruptions*)

DR. KALANIDHI VEERASWAMY: Madam, we demand that this statement of his be removed from the records. …(*Interruptions*)

SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR: Finally, with one sentence, I would like to conclude my speech. …(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If anything objectionable is said, it will be expunged from the record.

[English]

SHRI P. RAVEENDRANATH KUMAR: I would like to end my speech with a quote of universal Tamil poet, *Thiruvalluvar*.

"*Iyatralum eethalum kaathalum kaatha*

Vaguthalum valladhu arasu."

It means that: “A king is he who treasure gains, stores up, defends, and duly for his kingdom's weal expends.”. Our Hon. Prime Minister has proved once again as the perfect example of this *Thirukkural*. The Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Finance Minister have prepared the current Budget, which quiet adequately balances the income and expenses of the nation translating into the welfare of the people. Thank you.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, arrangements for lunch have been made in the Central Hall of the Lok Sabha. Hon. Members may proceed for lunch. I request you all to kindly do so.

[*]**SHRI RATANSINH MAGANSINH RATHOD (PANCHMAHAL):** I would like to place before the House my views on this historic Union Budget for the year 2019-2020. I congratulate the Government for presenting a Budget that has taken into consideration the needs of all sections of society. By extending substantial support to farmers, the Budget has accorded due importance to the agricultural sector, and by emphasising animal husbandry and dairy activities, it will create employment opportunities for farmers and for those residing in rural areas. Similarly, the Government has given significant attention to the construction of roads to connect all villages, and has introduced several schemes to promote trade. These are noteworthy steps. Sir, the Government under Modi ji deserves special commendation for establishing the Ministry of Jal Shakti in view of the growing water crisis. This will help ensure proper water management in those districts across our nation where large numbers of people are suffering from acute water scarcity. By augmenting the budget of the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, this Government has clearly demonstrated the seriousness with which it addresses the challenge of unemployment. As unemployment had been on the rise in our country, determined efforts have been made to arrest this trend and to create new avenues of livelihood for our

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

youth. Similarly, by increasing the allocation for the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, substantial support has been extended to small and medium traders. This Budget also places considerable emphasis on the health sector. The enhanced allocations for the Department of Health and Family Welfare and the Department of Health Research represent significant and timely steps in strengthening healthcare. Furthermore, by increasing the budget for the Department of School Education and Literacy, the Government has underscored its conviction that "India will advance only when India is educated."

Beyond the sectors already referenced, the Government has also addressed numerous other important areas, thereby enabling the pace of national development to be further strengthened. Through you, I once again extend my congratulations to the Government and submit that such endeavours must continue so that the country may advance with sustained rapidity.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Prof. Sougata Ray.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUMDUM): Madam, the Finance Minister has not been seen for the past two days. Where has the Minister of State, Shri Anurag Thakur, gone? Has he gone out? Is this how he proposes to discharge his duties? We remain here

listening to speeches until half past eight, while he moves about outside.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please make your submissions within the time allotted to you.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Madam, you occupy the Chair with great dignity. You ought to direct that the Minister must remain in the House.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He has stepped out for a short break; he is on his way back.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Madam, what value does a Member's speech hold if the Minister is not present? Who will respond? Who will even listen? [English] There is not a single Cabinet Minister present here in the House. What type of Government is this Modi Government? …(*Interruptions*) There is only one Parliamentary Affairs Minister sitting here. …(*Interruptions*) Madam, still what to do? …(*Interruptions*) [Translation] Madam, we remained seated here until 8:30 p.m., and I am speaking now as I have at last been given the opportunity to do so. .... *

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please do not take note of such remarks. These are irrelevant.

* Not recorded.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, yesterday the discussion continued from two o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock. I remained here for six hours. Today as well, the discussion has been underway since two o'clock in the morning, and it is now half past eight. In six and a half hours, would your colleague deny me even the right to go out for a glass of water?

PRO. SOUGATA RAY: Yes, you have that right. But you keep going out repeatedly to drink water.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Would a senior leader and Member such as yourself truly make such a remark? I have sat on that side of the House for many years; I know very well how to respond. I spent ten years there.

I would also like to submit this: if you descend to such trivial matters, and if, having nothing substantive to say on the Budget, you must search for such minor points, it will not advance your argument. ...*(Interruptions)* I reiterate that the prominent leaders of the Opposition are not present in the House. ...*(Interruptions)* Many individuals were seated here, and if we were to discuss this matter,

some of them might not even be able to speak. I am more than capable of addressing all of this on my own. ...*(Interruptions)*

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Hon. Chairperson, Madam, may I speak, with your permission?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What permission can I grant now? You have already squandered your allotted time.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Hon. Member, please speak within the bounds of decorum and confine your remarks to the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Madam, I rise to speak on the Budget, and I oppose the Budget placed by Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman and her Budget speech in all totality. …(*Interruptions*) Madam, kindly listen to me. …(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Are you speaking on the Budget or are you speaking merely in opposition?

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: I am indeed speaking on the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)* I have already stated that I oppose it.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If you are speaking on the Budget, then please proceed accordingly.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Kindly listen. ...*(Interruptions)* Why are you causing disturbance? ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Madam, this is highly unfair. Hon. Minister of State in the Ministry of Finance is sitting in the House since morning till this moment. His comment ... * is uncalled for and the same has to be expunged. The Minister of State has just gone to have a glass of water. The Hon. Member is commenting all these things. It is uncalled for. I urge you to expunge all such comments. Let him continue with his Budget speech. (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: ... * The Finance Minister should have come. [Translation] He should have come once. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Whatever has been stated by him should be expunged. The remarks made by him ought to be removed, as he

* Not recorded.

should not make comments on the Minister. He is required to speak only on the Budget.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUMDUM): *...(Interruptions)* *

HON. CHAIRPERSON: When you rise to speak, you consume the time of the House unnecessarily.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: *...(Interruptions)* *

20.37 hrs (Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

[English]

Sir, we welcome you to this Chair. You have been more regular than the Finance Minister. You have spent a lot of time in the Chair. I congratulate you for the same.

Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget, and the Budget speech of the Finance Minister.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, please do not speak while remaining seated.

* Not recorded.
* Not recorded.

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: This speech has been given in the background of growth rate falling to 5.8 percent; highest unemployment rate in 45 years; 11 lakh crore of rupees of NPA of banks; farmers' suicides; and lynching of Muslims.

As far as West Bengal is concerned, we did not expect anything from the Budget. We have got nothing. This is a useless, directionless Budget, with a useless Budget speech. It is strange that there are no figures about allocation to Ministries in this Budget. That is why, the newspaper from Chennai, *The Hindu* said, `The Budget that goes nowhere'. That is the headline of *The Hindu.*

Sir, the formula of the Budget was given in *The Economic Survey* by Shri Krishnamurty Subramanian. His Economic Survey is reflected in the Budget speech. *The Economic Survey* talks about the behavioural economics of Richard Thaler. The first chapter is called, `Private Investment as key driver of growth, jobs, export, and demand'. This is the framework of the Budget. This Budget is by the corporates, of the corporates and for the corporates.

We have a new Deng Xiaoping. You must have heard of Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader. He said, "It is glorious to be rich". Mrs. Sitharaman says in her Budget Speech, "We do not look down upon legitimate profit earning". India Inc. are India's job creators

and wealth creators. She, who was once a former JNU free thinker, has become the biggest proponent of the private sector and the corporate sector in this country. It is a shame on all of us. I am basically opposed to this philosophy enshrined in the Budget. Many BJP MPs who clapped while Nirmala ji was speaking did not realise that these people are being taken up the garden path, by the corporates and the Finance Minister. Their clapping shows that she has done nothing for the rural areas. This Budget is all about selling public sector shares and the target is Rs. 1.05 lakh crore.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You will be given an opportunity to speak when your turn comes. Until then, please speak fully at that time. Do not disturb any other Hon. Member.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please take your seat. I have not given you permission to speak. I will call upon you by name.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Thank you, Sir. This Government believes in selling the public sector units to make up for budget deficit. It is selling Rs. 1.05 lakh crore. What Cut-Money are you talking about! you are selling government property worth Rs. 1.05

lakh crore to the private sector. We do not know how much cut money is. This is like selling family silver to run the family.

There is another big promise - $5 trillion economy in five years. India will become the sixth largest economy. What is the great deal if India overtakes Britain, France, Germany or Japan? They are small countries with a miniscule population. Our country with a big population will naturally have more output, but that does not mean we are more advanced. The actual advancement will be measured by the per capita purchasing power. That is never mentioned by the Hon. Finance Minister.

Sir, the Budget talks about sale or closure of forty-two Central PSUs. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru had said that public sector will be at the commanding heights of economy. This Government has already handed over three airports including Ahmedabad to the Adanis. It talks of disinvesting Air India. The BSNL is on the point of being sold. This is the economics of these people.

The budget talks of schemes and programmes which have been talked about in the past – GST, insolvency and bankruptcy code, real estate regulation Act, Mudra loans, Ujjwala Yojana and Saubhagya yojana. the government does not mention that those who got Ujjwala connections do not have the money to have a refill. Sir, I am speaking on matters relating to the Government. I request that

I be granted two more minutes. Sir, I respectfully request that this course of action not be taken.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, the time allotted to your party has already expired. However, notwithstanding this, additional time is being granted to you.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, I am aware of this. Since we are speaking with your permission, I request that you kindly show some indulgence. [English] There is mention of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, PMGSY, Bharatmala and Sagarmala projects, but there is no mention of new goals. So, today, this Budget is one such Budget which talks of P.P.P in State-owned railways to unleash faster development, completion of tracks, rolling stock manufacturing, and delivery of passengers. The Railways is also being handed over to private hands.

The budget speaks of building infrastructure through PPP on land owned by central government and central P.S.Us. Land owned by the Central Government and Central Public Sector Undertakings is also being transferred. It talks of opening up of foreign direct investment (FDI) in aviation, media and insurance sectors. Air India is also proposed to be transferred to foreign ownership. In such a situation, even when one seeks to travel to Jaipur by Air India, it

may be stated that the airline is now under foreign control. Sir, 100 percent FDI is being allowed in insurance intermediaries.

Labour Code will be changed. If it means hire and fire, then the working class will protest. The Budget Speech has not spoken of how much is the total NPA of banks and how banks can come out of the current mess. The Government has spoken of reducing the shares below 51 percent.

Sir, I also want to mention that the only concession made is on electric vehicles. I do not know why they only receive all concessions. IT deduction is allowed on loans for affordable housing. These are the only two sectors which get some concessions. On the other hand, petrol will cost Rs.2.5 per litre higher and diesel will cost Rs.2.3 per litre higher. When you drive your own car, you will have to pay more money.

The markets are down. Have you seen the papers today? The markets are down as never before. This is a useless budget which gives no direction and so, naturally the stock markets are down.

They are saying that allocation for agriculture is hiked by 78 percent. What hike? Rs.75,000 crore given to Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi. that is not a hike in allocation for agriculture. [Translation] It has just been stated that assistance has been provided to every farmer and to the villages. However, not a single

rupee has been increased. Sir, you are aware of this, ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

Allocation for MGNREGA is down from Rs.61,000 crore to Rs.50,000 crore; for Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Gramin) it is down from Rs.18,900 crore to Rs.16,000 crore. Thank you.

SHRIMATI LOCKET CHATTERJEE (HOOGHLY): Mr. Speaker, Sir, at the outset I would like to congratulate our first full-time female Finance Minister Shrimati Nirmal Sitharaman Ji on presenting such an inspiring Budget, a Budget that is people centric and more importantly India centric. This is the Budget for a new India that dares to dream big.

[Translation]

For the past 75 years, the world viewed our country as a poor nation. Yet, in that very poor nation, a simple individual born into a poor family nurtured a very large dream. It took 55 years for our country to become a one trillion dollar economy. However, under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, we have added another one trillion dollars in just the last five years. Swami Vivekananda used to say, “Arise, awake and stop not until the goal is achieved.” Our new objective is to make India a five trillion dollar economy, and this Budget represents a significant step towards that resolve. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Locket Chatterjee ji, please wait for one minute.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: Sir, one should not interrupt.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: All right.

Shrimati Locket Chatterjee.

[English]

SHRIMATI LOCKET CHATTERJEE: Hon. Speaker, Sir:

Bharatbarsho Surjer Ek Naam Amra
Roechi Shei Surjer Deshe Leela
Chanchal Samudre Abiram Ganga,
Jamuna, Bhagirathi Jeitha Meshe.

That in English means: India is another name of Sun. We are in this land of Sun where oceans are playful; where Ganga, Yamuna and Bhagirathi meet.

Sir, under the leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, this Bharatiya Janata Party-led Government is working towards unifying India in true sense. Water grids, gas grids, regional airports, power grids and highways are laying foundation towards the same. Our Government is working towards multi-dimensional development of the country. On one hand we are connecting the villages under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and at the same time we are connecting India to space by launching various satellites. Industrial corridors, Bharatmala and Sagarmala projects, Jal Marg Vikas and Udan schemes are steps towards the same goal. The Government is trying to ease the pressure on road and rail network by connecting the rivers and

promoting waterways transportation. Multimodal terminals are being developed in Sahibganj and Haldia in West Bengal. We have the dream of 'One Nation, One Grid' to connect every nook and corner of the country.

[Translation]

Recognising the challenges faced by women, over the past five years our Hon. Prime Minister has articulated a new definition of women's empowerment. On the one hand, through the Ujjwala Yojana, on one hand, he has freed households from the hazards of smoky kitchens, and on the other, through the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, he has upheld their dignity by ensuring access to proper sanitation facilities. Under the Mudra Yojana, 70 percent of the beneficiaries of loans are women. This, in itself, stands as a very significant testament to the Government's commitment to women's empowerment. [English] For every verified woman Self Help Group member having a Jan Dhan Bank Account, an overdraft of rs. 5,000 shall be allowed. One woman in every SHG will also be made eligible for a loan up to Rs. 1 lakh under the Mudra Scheme. Our Government regards every woman of our country as an embodiment of Maa Durga and Maa Kali.* Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar said, no country can develop without imparting

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

education to women. Women should come in the forefront for the progress of the nation.* He was one of the first Indians to champion the cause of women. Our Government is following in his footsteps.

The introduction of faceless e-assessments of income tax returns is a ground breaking initiative and a huge stride towards fulfilling the promise of 'Na Khaunga, Na Khane Dunga (a policy of zero tolerance towards corruption.)' by our prime minister. According to the upanishads, *'teno takteno vhunjitha'* means enjoyment through sacrifice and *'ma gridhah'* means don't be greedy. this will move to remove the stigma of corruption that is associated with income tax assessment and will definitely make the lives of both assesses and assessing officers much easier, at the same time, reducing the time taken for assessment and making the entire process increasingly efficient.

Our Prime Minister, who understands the plight of the poor, brought in the Aayushman Bharat Yojana for their health needs where they can get free treatment up to Rs. 5 lakh in hospitals throughout India. Sadly, this benefit could not reach West Bengal because of non-cooperation on the part of TMC Government in the State. Due to them, millions of people living in the State of West Bengal are being deprived of this wonderful scheme.

Similarly, our Prime Minister has the vision of housing for all by 2022 under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. But again, in my State this has been politicized as houses are either allotted to Members of the ruling party or cut money is taken to allot them to normal public.

Our Government has great respect for farmers. The direct benefit scheme of Kisan Samman Nidhi aims to provide financial support to our farmers. Rs. 6,000 is directly sent to the bank account of farmers. But here again, the Government of West Bengal did a huge injustice to the farmers of the State as they did not provide the names of farmers. My constituency has a huge population of farmers. We all know about the condition of Singur whose farmers have lost both their land and also the opportunity for industrialisation due to the land policy of the State Government. I would urge the House to look into this matter and try to find a solution for this problem.

I would like to inform the Members of the House that this Budget is meant for fulfilling hopes, dreams and aspirations of a New India. It is attached with the emotion of a common man. It aims to empower rather than appease; it aims to build rather than import; and it aims to satisfy the needs which are basic and of paramount importance. I would like to congratulate the Government on such a fantastic Budget.

This is a chance for all of us present in the House to work together with pride and to make ‘Shaktishaali Bharat’.

“Dhano dhanye Pushpe Bhara amader ei boshundhara Tahar majhe achhe desh ak, shakol desher shera o shey shapno diye toiri she je sriti diye ghera Emon deshti kothao khuje pabe na to tumi shakol desher rani she je amar janmobhumi”

This in English means:

Our Earth is full of resources, flora and fauna. There is one country which is the best. That country is created by dream and surrounded by sweet memories. You will never find such a country anywhere. She is the queen of all countries. She is my motherland.

Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: As the Hon. Member is speaking on the Budget for the first time, it is appropriate that all Hon. Members extend a welcome to her.

SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on such an important matter. At the outset, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, for becoming the first woman Finance Minister and for presenting the Budget. Being a woman, she stood for over two and a half hours and spoke with great diligence and confidence, and for this, I formally congratulate her.

Sir, as far as the Budget is concerned, our party is of the view that it contains very long and elaborate promises. If I were to describe those promises as dreams, my brother Thakur Sahib might also take offence.

HON. SPEAKER: No one will take offence. Please address the Chair while speaking.

SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Sir, owing to our long standing acquaintance, my gesture inadvertently went in that direction.

HON. SPEAKER: Please accustom yourself to addressing the Chair while speaking.

SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL: I tender my apologies, Sir. I shall henceforth make it a practice to address the Chair. In fact, this is a habit that has developed over the past ten years. Sir, as there has

been considerable recitation of poetry from that side today, with your permission, I would like to submit the following.

Gajab kiya tere waade par aitbaar kiya,

tamaam raat qayaamat ka intezaar kiya,

ki subah hogi to dekhenge.

(The verse politely questions the credibility of the Budget's assurances, expressing cautious doubt and suggesting that their true worth can only be judged by actual outcomes.)

However, the promised positive outcome has been repeatedly delayed, resulting in a prolonged period of waiting and uncertainty, with the expected results yet to materialise. It has been stated that these objectives would be achieved by 2025, by 2030, or even by 2040. Had these assurances been confined to a shorter and more definite timeframe, they might have appeared more practical and credible. It was also announced that two crore employment opportunities would be created, yet no substantive initiative has been undertaken in this regard. I would further submit that the assurances regarding the transfer of one and a half lakh rupees, or fifteen lakh rupees, into the accounts of the people have likewise remained unfulfilled. The slogan of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" has been repeatedly articulated. Through you, I would like to urge

that the principle of justice also be incorporated within it, so that there may be collective participation, collective development, dignity for all and justice for all.

“Aah chahiye ek umr asar hone tak,

kaun jeeta hai tere zulf ke sar hone tak.”

(The verse conveys that meaningful change or relief takes an excessively long time to materialise. The speaker suggests that people may not be able to endure such prolonged waiting, as the promised results are deferred so far into the future that their impact becomes uncertain or ineffective.)

Sir, I may not ordinarily wish to raise this issue within the framework of the Budget discussion. However, without doing so, I would find it difficult to respond to my minority community in India, especially as this is the first occasion on which I have been granted the opportunity to speak, and I did not raise the issue of mob lynching. The Budget that Modi ji and our colleagues on that side are commending ought to have conveyed a positive and dignified image of the nation to the world. Nevertheless, incidents of mob lynching have cast a dark blemish upon the country, and this causes me profound distress. Recently, an MLA assaulted an officer

with a bat, and Modi ji took action by removing that MLA. For this decisive step, I extend my congratulations to him.

PROF. SOUGATA RAY: He has not yet been removed.

SHRI M. BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Modi ji has made a statement. I believe that the Prime Minister speaking on this matter is, in itself, of great significance. If even limited action is taken at a few places against those involved in mob lynching, it may help bring this pattern to an end. I come from the minority community. This time, a provision of Rs. 4,700 crore has been made for minorities, which is the same as in the previous allocation. There was no occasion for us to demand an increase, otherwise we would have certainly done so. Since, on this occasion, the Minister of Minority Affairs has stated that scholarships will be provided to one crore minority children, I sat down one day and worked out the calculations. I initially thought that I might be mistaken in my calculations. Therefore, I requested others to verify the figures as well. It was found that each child would receive Rs. 4,700 per year. When viewed on a monthly basis, this amounts to approximately Rs. 400. This amount is grossly inadequate and is unlikely to bring about any meaningful benefit for the children. In the meantime, about a month ago, our Minister of Minority Affairs visited Alwar and announced the establishment of a university. We received him warmly and extended a proper welcome. Announcing a university in a minority

dominated area is indeed a significant step. However, if the Budget allocation has not been increased even by a single rupee, from where will the funds for such an institution be sourced? This is a genuine question that I would like to place before the Minister of Minority Affairs. You are aware of the Sachar Committee Report. A few days ago, there was extensive discussion on television regarding Modi ji, Muslims and Madrasas. It is certainly a welcome development that modern education should be imparted in madrasas.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Hon. Speaker, Sir, the sitting of the House had earlier been extended till 9.00 p.m. Even now, a number of Hon. Members wish to participate in the discussion. If the House so agrees, I propose that the sitting of the House be further extended by one hour.

HON. SPEAKER: If the Hon. Members are agreeable, the sitting of the House may be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, yes.

HON. SPEAKER: The sitting of the House stands extended by one hour.

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL: Sir, through you, I would like to make a submission to Shri Badruddin Ajmal. If he sincerely wishes to work for the welfare of minorities and also desires to support

children studying in madrasas, and if the Budget allocation continues to remain at Rs. 4,700 crore, then the demand of our party is that this allocation should be enhanced at least fourfold. Members on that side of the House also wish that Muslim children should receive education, grow into responsible human beings, become good citizens and emerge as capable doctors and engineers. I am confident that this aspiration is shared by all.

21.00 hrs

There is no ill intent in anyone's heart. I have been observing the proceedings of this House for the past eleven years. There are some new Members who may express themselves with greater intensity initially, but with time, they too will adopt a more settled approach. This is my considered view.

Sir, I come from Assam, and the most serious issue concerning Assam is that of security. This matter has not yet been raised by anyone. Assam faces a national security threat. With regard to the Bangladesh border, all political parties have stated that fencing should be carried out. However, ours is the first party that has consistently demanded from the very beginning that the border be sealed. Across the world today, the issue of sealing borders is being addressed. This is not a matter involving crores, but one involving

billions of rupees, and a new avenue for such expenditure has been left open, allowing all activities to continue while movement across the border also persists. On behalf of my party, I strongly demand that this be stopped at the earliest.

I would also like to speak about flood and erosion. The area from which I have been elected is currently facing severe flooding. I have stated on several occasions earlier that the Brahmaputra has, for us, become almost like a deity due to its overwhelming impact. I would like to request that the situation be formally declared as a flood and erosion affected area.

Sir, a few days ago, the Assam Government, which is part of your Government, organised a large scale programme under the Namami initiative, referring to it as a tsunami related event. However, we are living in an era of science and technology. To address the challenge posed by the Brahmaputra, not merely hundreds but several thousand crores of rupees have been expended largely on ritualistic activities. While there is no objection to matters of faith and worship, in the present age it is equally imperative to adopt scientific and technological measures. Only through the effective application of science and technology can the recurring problems of floods and erosion be meaningfully addressed and brought under control.

Sir, in our region there are only two paper mills, and Assam today is virtually devoid of industrial activity. This sector has collapsed, pushing large sections of the population into acute poverty. I have raised this matter repeatedly in this House. The Cachar Paper Mill and the Nagaon Paper Mill were the largest industrial establishments in our area. On an earlier occasion, the Hon. Prime Minister had assured that these mills would be revived, and this assurance has been reiterated once again. The State Government has also extended similar commitments. However, despite these assurances, the situation on the ground remains extremely distressing. People are facing severe economic hardship, instances of hunger and suicide have been reported, and children have been deprived of their education. These two paper mills constituted the sole major sources of employment in the region. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge that this matter be accorded immediate and serious attention.

Sir, the Dhubri Phulbari Bridge is the most important bridge in my region, connecting Meghalaya, Tura and Assam. Once completed, it will reduce a journey of six hours to merely 45 minutes. I am grateful that the Hon. Prime Minister has approved this project. Shri Gadkari ji is working towards reviving it. However, no project can progress without adequate finance.

Therefore, through you, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Finance to make a specific budgetary allocation for this project.

I had prepared an extensive speech, but I do not propose to place it before the House. However, I wish to draw attention to one matter directly related to the Budget. In my considered view, the allocation of Rs. 5 crore to Members of Parliament is inadequate. The funds available to Members of Legislative Assemblies are significantly higher than those allotted to us. I am confident that the House will appreciate the validity of this concern. Adequate financial resources are essential, as without them it becomes exceedingly difficult to effectively address the needs and aspirations of the people of our Parliamentary Constituencies.

آپ کہ ہوں گزار شکر کا آپ میں صاحب، اسپیکر :(دھبری) اجمل بدرالدین جناب نِرملا پہلے سے سب میں دیا۔ موقع کا بولنے پر موضوع اہم اتنے مجھے نے ہوئی منسٹر فائننس خاتون پہلی وہ کہ ہوں دیتا مبارکباد بہت بہت کو جی سیتارمن گھنٹے دو سوا سے محنت بڑی ہوئے ہوتے عورت وہ کیا۔ پیش بجٹ نے جنہوں ہیں ہوں۔ دیتا مبارکباد انہیں میں لئے کے اس ہیں، بولی سے وِشواس جس کر ہو کھڑے

بہت میں اس کہ ہے ماننا کا پارٹی ہماری ہے سوال کا بجٹ تک جہاں جناب، بھائی میرے تو گا، کہوں سپنا میں کو وعدوں ان ہیں، ہوئے وعدے لمبے لمبے گے۔ جائیں ہو ناراض بھی صاحب ٹھاکُر

اب ہوں چاہتا گیا۔معافی چلا اُدھر ہاتھ لئے اس ہے دوستی پرانی ہماری جناب، جناب، ہے۔ عادت ہوئی بگڑی کی سال دس پچھلے دراصل گے، بنائیں عادت کی اِدھر چاہتا کہنا سے اجازت کی آپ لئے اس ہوئی شاعری و شعر بہت آج سے طرف اس ہوں--

کیا اعتبار پہ وعدے تیرے کیا غضب

کیا انتظار کا قیامت رات تمام

گے دیکھیں تو ہوگی صبح کہ

تک 2025 سال کام یہ کہ گیا کہا یہ گئی۔ ہو لمبی تک رات کی قیامت صبح وہ لیکن تھوڑے وعدے یہ اگر گا۔ جائے ہو میں 2040 گا، جائے ہو میں 2030 گا، جائے ہو گئی، کہی بات کی دینے نوکریاں کروڑ دو لگتا۔ پریکٹِکل شاید تو ہوتے کے دنوں کم کہ ہوں چاہتا کہنا سے آپ میں ہے۔ ہوئی نہیں پہل بھی کوئی میں معاملے اس لیکن بھی وہ گے، جائیں میں اکاونٹ کے لوگوں روپئے لاکھ پندرہ روپئے، لاکھ ڈیڑھ سے ذریعہ کے آپ میں گئی۔ کہی بات کی وِکاس کا سب ساتھ، کا ہوا،سب نہیں

ساتھ، کا سب تاکہ جائے دیا جوڑ بھی کو انصاف اندر کے اس کہ گا کروں گزارش ملے۔ انصاف کو سبھی ہواور سمّان کو سبھی اور وِشواس کا سب

تک ہونے اثر عمر اِک چاہئے کو آہ

تک ہونے کےسر زلف تیری ہے جیتا کون

میں شاید کے اس بغیر لیکن چاہیے، لانی نہیں بات یہ مجھے اندر کے بجٹ جناب، اس بار پہلی مجھے کہ گا پاوں دے نہیں جواب کو طبقہ اقلیتی اپنے میں ہندوستان نہیں بات کیوں میں بارے کے لنچنگ ماب نے میں اور ملا موقع کو بولنے مرتبہ ہیں، رہے کر تعریف کی بجٹ جس بھائی ہمارے کے طرف اس اور جی مودی ۔ کی ماب لیکن تھی، ضرورت کی جانے میں دنیا پوری چہرہ خوبصورت کا بجٹ اس دِلی مجھے سے بات اس ہے۔ رہا لگا داغ کالا اندر کے ملک پورے معاملہ کا لنچنگ پیٹ کو آفیسر ایک سے بیٹ نے ایم۔ایل۔اے۔ ایک پہلے دن کچھ جیسے ہے۔ تکلیف انہیں میں لئے کے اس دیا، نکال کو اے۔ ایم۔ایل۔ اس نے جی مودی اور تھا، دیا بولنا کا اعظم وزیرِ کہ ہوں سمجھتا میں دیا بول نے جی مودی ہوں۔ دیتا مبارکباد جگہ دو ایک کو والوں لنچنگ ماب سے طرح اس آپ اگر ہے۔ بات بڑی بہت بھی سے طبقہ اقلیتی میں گا۔ جائے ہو بند سلسلہ یہ شاید تو گا جائے کیا کچھ زرا بھی تھا پہلے جتنا ہے، گیا رکھا بجٹ کا روپئے کروڑ 4700 کا اقلیتوں بار اس ہوں آتا دیجیئے، کر زیادہ اسے کہ تھی نہیں بات کوئی کی کہنے ہمارے ہے۔ بار اس ہی اتنا اقلیتی کروڑ ایک کہ کہا نے منسٹر مائینوریٹی بار اس چونکہ دیتے۔ کہہ ہم تو نہیں مجھے نکالا۔ حساب کر بیٹھ دن ایک نے میں گے۔ دیں وظیفہ ہم کو بچوں کے طبقہ ہر تو نکلوایا، حساب سے لوگوں لئے اس ہے، رہی ہو بھول سے مجھ شاید کہ لگا دیکھیں سے حساب کے ہے۔مہینے آتا میں حصے کے بچے ایک روپئے 4700 سال والا ہونے کچھ کا بچوں سے اس ہے۔ ناکافی بہت رقم یہ ہے۔ روپئے 400 رقم یہ تو

انہوں گئے۔ منسٹر مائینوریٹی ہمارے پہلے مہینے ایک میں الور بیچ اسی ہے۔ نہیں بہت یہ کیا، ویلکم انکا کیا، استقبال کا ان نے ہم کیا۔ وعدہ کا یونیورسٹی ایک نے آپ اگر لیکن گے، دیں یونیورسٹی ایک میں علاقے مائینوریٹی آپ کہ ہے بات بڑی یہ گے؟ دیں سے کہاں پیسہ آپ تو بڑھایا نہیں بھی روپیہ ایک میں بجٹ اپنے نے میں بارے کے رپورٹ کی کمیٹی سچر آپ ہے۔ سے منسٹر مائینوریٹی سوال میرا جی، مودی کہ اچھلا بہت میں ٹی۔وی۔ معاملہ ایک پہلے دن کچھ ابھی ہیں، جانتے ہو۔ تعلیم جدید میں مدرسے ہےکہ بات اچھی بہت یہ مدرسہ۔ اور مسلمان

لئے کے اقلیتوں واقعی آپ اگر کہ ہے گزارش سے ذریعہ کے آپ میری جناب، بجٹ اور ہیں چاہتے دینا کچھ آپ بھی کو بچوں کے مدرسے ہیں، چاہتے کرنا کچھ کم سے کم اسے آپ کہ ہے ڈیمانڈ کی پارٹی ہماری تو ہے، روپئے کروڑ 4700 وہی بھی بچے مسلمان کہ ہیں چاہتے اگر بھی بھائی کے طرف اس کیجئے۔ گُنا چار اچھے بنیں، شہری اچھے بنیں، انسان اچھے بنیں، انسان کر لکھ پڑھ اور پڑھے میں دل کے کسی ہیں۔ چاہتے سبھی یہ کہ ہوں جانتا میں اور بنیں انجینیئر ڈاکٹر، وہ تو ہیں، چہرے نئے کچھ ہوں، رہا دیکھ سے سال 11 میں ہے۔ نہیں برائی کوئی ماننا میرا یہ گے، جائیں ہو ٹھنڈے بعد دن کچھ پھر اور گے چلائیں کچھ بیچارے ہے۔

ہے، کا سیکیوریٹی معاملہ بڑا سے سب کا آسام ہوں۔ آتا سے آسام میں جناب، تھریٹ کا سیکیوریٹی نیشنل کو آسام اٹھایا۔ نہیں نے کسی تک ابھی کو معاملے اس کیجیئےلیکن فینسنگ وہاں کہ کہا نے سب میں بارے کے بارڈر دیش بنگلا ہے۔ سیل کو بارڈر اس ہےکہ کی ڈیمانڈ ہی سے شروع نے جس ہے پارٹی پہلی ہماری عربوں نہیں کروڑں یہ ہے، رہا چل معاملہ کا سیلنگ میں دنیا پوری آج کیجئے۔ کام کا چیز ہر ہے۔ گیا رکھا کر کھول راستہ کا جس ہے، لائن نئی کی کھانے روپئے

کہ ہے ڈیمانڈ یہ سے طرف کی پارٹی ہماری رہے۔ چلتا بھی جانا آنا اور رہے چلتا جائے۔ کیا بند کو اس پہلے سے سب

آیا کر چُن میں سے جہاں ہوں چاہتا کہنا میں میں، بارے کے ایروزن اور فلڈ برہمپتر کہ ہوں چکا کہہ بھی پہلے میں ہے۔ ہوا آیا سیلاب زبردست وہاں ہوں، جائے۔ کیا ڈکلئر ایروزن اینڈ فلڈ کو اس ہے۔ گیا بن دیو لئے ہمارے

نام کے سنامی ہے، حکومت کی آپ جو نے حکومت کی آسام پہلے دن کچھ اس ہے، زمانہ کا ٹیکنولوجی اینڈ سائنس آج کیا، پروگرام نامی بڑا بہت ایک سے پوجا صرف روپئے کروڑ ہزار کئی نہیں سو کئی لئے کے روکنے کو برہمپتر لئے کے آج لیکن کیجئے، پوجا آپ ہے، نہیں بات کوئی ہیں۔ گئے کئے ختم میں پاٹھ ہو بند باتیں سب یہ تبھی لیجئے، بھی سہارہ کا ٹیکنولوجی اور سائنس میں زمانے ہے۔ سکتا ہو بند ایروزن اور فلڈ یہ ہیں، سکتی

ہے۔ نہیں انڈسٹری میں آسام ہیں۔ ملیں پیپر ہی دو صرف یہاں ہمارے جناب، ایوان اس مرتبہ کئی اسے میں ہیں۔ گئے آ نیچے کے غربت لوگ ہے۔ گیا ہو ختم یہ بڑی سے سب کی یہاں ہمارے مِلس پیپر گائوں نو اور کچھاڑ ۔ ہوں چکا اٹھا میں چالو کو اس ہم کہ تھا کیا وعدہ بھی ٹائم لاسٹ نے صاحب اعظم وزیرِ تھی۔ انڈسٹریز وہاں لیکن ، کیا وعدہ بھی نے گورنمنٹ لوکل کیا، وعدہ بھی مرتبہ اس گے۔ کریں سے پڑھائی بچے کے ان ۔ ہیں رہے کر کشی خود وہ ہیں۔ رہے مر بھوکے لوگ کے سے ذریعہ کے آپ میں لئے اس تھے۔ ملس پیپر بڑے ہی دو یہ ہیں، رہے ہور دور جائے۔ دیا دھیان ضرور پر چیزوں ان کہ ہوں کرتا گزارش

جو ہے، برِج بڑا سے سب کا علاقے میرے برِج پھُلواری دھُبری، سر، راستہ کا گھنٹے چھہ سے اس ہے۔ گیا بنایا کر ملا کو آسام اور تورا میگھالیہ، صاحب منسٹر پرائم کہ ہوں گزار شکر میں گا۔ جائے کیا طے میں منٹ 45 صرف

فائننس بغیر لیکن ہیں، رہے کر ریوائیو کو اس صاحب گڈگری کیا۔ اوکے کو اس نے صاحب منسٹر فائننس لئے اس ہے۔ سکتا ہو نہیں کام کوئی کے پیسے بغیر کے، کریں۔ ایلوٹ بجٹ لئے کے اس وہ کہ ہے کہنا میرا سے

ایک لیکن گا۔ کہوں نہیں کا اس میں لیکن تھا، بہت تو بھاشن ہوا لکھا میرا ہیں، ملتے روپئے کروڑ پانچ جو ایم۔پیزکو ہم ہے۔ ریلیٹڈ سے بجٹ اس جو ہے بات بہت سے ہم وہ ہیں ملتے پیسے جو کو ایم۔ایل۔ایز ہے۔ کم بہت یہ سے حساب میرے تالیوں ضرور پر معاملے اس ہائوس پورا کہ ہوں سمجھتا میں ہیں۔ رہے ہو زیادہ کے حلقہ آپ کے اس بغیر ہے۔ ضرورت کی پیسے کو ہم گا۔ کرے سواگت سے ہیں۔ سکتے نہیں بیٹھ میں گھر ساتھ کے لوگوں

(شد ختم)

[English]

KUMARI AGATHA K. SANGMA (TURA): Thank you Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Budget. Sir, I would first of all like to say that I stand here with a sense of pride, a sense of belonging, and a sense of hope to see our first woman Finance Minister, Madam Nirmala Sitharaman present the Budget. I would like to congratulate Madam for giving such a wonderful Budget. I would like to congratulate our Hon. Prime Minister, my friend, MoS, Shri Anurag Thakur, and the entire team that has been responsible for presenting and bringing about this Budget.

Sir, I would like to start from a quote by a great poet of India, Shri Rabindra Nath Tagore. I quote:

> "We have for over a century been dragged by the prosperous West behind its chariot, choked by the dust, deafened by the noise, humbled by our own helplessness, and overwhelmed by the speed. We agreed to acknowledge that this chariot-drive was progress, and that progress was civilization. If we ever ventured to ask, 'progress towards what, and progress for whom,' it was considered to be peculiarly and ridiculously oriental to entertain such doubts about the absoluteness of progress.

> Of late, a voice (Gandhi) has come to us to take count not only of the scientific perfection of the chariot but of the depth and of the ditches lying in its path."

Sir, at the outset, I would like to say that this Budget of 2019-20 is in alignment with the vision and beliefs of the Father of our Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, whose 150 years we are celebrating this year. Therefore, I believe that this Budget is a tribute to the Father of our nation.

We are at a time where the only way forward is through sustainable development. As has been recognized by Mahatma Gandhi and by Rabindranath Tagore, we cannot follow the western concept of development and we have to recognize that the western model of development in the past has been unsustainable; it has been energy intensive, fuel intensive and that has been based on over consumption of non-renewable resources and non-biodegradable resources. We need to focus on sustainability and I am so grateful to our Hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minister for ensuring that this Budget focusses on sustainability in this new vision for our new India.

The steps such as e-vehicles, setting up of Jal Shakti Ministry and encouraging green technology, especially, in PMGSY and also implementation of schemes such as Ujjwala Yojana also enhances

energy efficiency. The plans for organic farming are also very sustainable plans that this Government has and I welcome such initiatives and such plans in the Budget.

Secondly, I would like to draw your attention to the fact that this Budget is trying to improve the well-being of our people. It is trying to improve the quality of life of our people. The basic facilities that the citizens of this country are entitled to are being focussed on. We see initiatives such as Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Avas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, Ujjwala Yojana, Soubhagya, etc. They all have recognised the importance of basic things that people need in order to improve the quality of life.

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has helped improve the safety of our women. The PMAY has given houses to our people. Ujjwala has made it more energy efficient and Soubhagya has improved the health of our women.

Finally, I would also like to say that the intention of this Government through the Budget is focus on inclusiveness. The motto that our Hon. Prime Minister spoke about such as ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas’ and regional aspirations, these visions can be seen in many of the schemes that are being focussed on in this Budget. Har Ghar Jal is one of the very important visions

of this Government which I would like to be grateful for. I would reiterate that this scheme be converged with the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana and rainwater harvesting structures be included in PMAY so that Har Ghar Jal Scheme can be done in a more effective and a quicker manner.

Approximately 70 percent of our population lives in rural areas. Therefore, SFURTI Scheme which aims to boost the agro-industries is again a very welcome initiative. The Mudra Scheme for women again is a very important initiative.

I would like to say that I am very positive and hopeful that this Budget is going to be a very good Budget. But there are certain concerns of mine for the North-Eastern region. I will quickly, in a minute, put forth those concerns.

Sir, though the Budget allocation for the DONER Ministry has been increased by Rs. 3000 crore, allocation for road infrastructure has also been increased, the allocation for the North East Special Infrastructure Development Scheme has been increased to Rs. 695 crore, yet the allocation for the NEC has been decreased to Rs. 580 crore. Also, the allocation for the Central pool of resources for the North East region and Sikkim has been reduced to Rs. 531 crore. I would like to urge upon the Central Government to kindly re-consider this and increase the fund allocation for the North East

Council and for the development of the North Eastern region. I would also like to request the Central Government to improve the connectivity infrastructure between North East India and South East Asia by improving the international roads and air connectivity.

Sir, India shares its border with eight countries. [Translation] Sir, one page still remains. Our border is shared with 8 countries, and 4 of these are connected through the North Eastern region. I would like to request that in this budget it has been said that new institutions worth Rs. 400 crores, [English] the institutions of higher education have been set up and I would like to urge upon this Government to kindly look at the North Eastern region for setting up such institutions because it is strategically located and setting up of these institutions in the North East would be helpful to us economically and also it would help in national integration. There was a mention of organic farming in the address of the Hon. President but I was unable to locate any specifications of this in this Budget …(*Interruptions*) I would like to request the Hon. Finance Minister to kindly look into this aspect.

With these words, I thank the Hon. Finance Minister for presenting a wonderful Budget and also, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the general discussion on the General Budget.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI PRADEEP KUMAR CHOUDHARY (KAIRANA): Thank you, Hon. Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Budget and in its support. I would thereafter like to express my gratitude to the Finance Minister, Shrimati Sitharaman ji, who has presented such a prosperous Budget aimed at strengthening the nation, with the support of the Minister of State for Finance, Shri Anurag ji. Under the leadership and guidance of our illustrious Prime Minister, the Hon. Shri Narendra Modi ji, the Minister of Finance has had the opportunity to present such a commendable and vision-driven Budget. In this sequence, while keeping in view the interests of all sections of society, this Budget accords priority to farmers, undertakes initiatives to secure a bright future for women, and creates opportunities for the youth. This Budget has made provisions for young people and for all sections, ensuring that every segment of society has been duly considered.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, the Ujjwala Yojana, which has been in operation over the past few years, has been implemented by the Government with the priority of providing gas connections to every household. In contrast, under the Governments that were in place approximately 5 years ago, gas connections were not easily available. Even with recommendations from Members of Parliament, it was extremely difficult to obtain a single connection.

When someone did receive a gas connection, that person would return home with great joy and would invite neighbours and distribute sweets to celebrate the occasion. I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister for formulating and implementing a comprehensive plan to ensure that gas connections reach every household, thereby extending this facility to every woman. Under the Saubhagya Yojana, electricity connections have also been provided. Such significant progress has been achieved in the power sector that, 5 years ago, when we were working in our constituencies, power substations were heavily overloaded. In addition to the substations, the transformers installed in villages were under such excessive load that they would frequently burn out. On several occasions, reports were received of as many as 20 transformers failing within a single day, accompanied by repeated requests and recommendations.

Despite such recommendations, it was with great difficulty that one or two transformers could be arranged, and that too only for a single day. Owing to overloading, protests and demonstrations frequently took place at power substations. Our Government has undertaken the task of addressing and rectifying this inadequacy. Transformers have been installed across villages, and priority has been accorded to providing electricity connections to every household. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana as well, crores

of people have been extended benefits. Similarly, under Ayushman Bharat, which is a significant and transformative scheme, a large number of people have been provided the opportunity to avail themselves of healthcare benefits.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I have also had the opportunity to serve as a Member of the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly. In that capacity, I had the privilege of working on various committees. In recent times, I served as a Member of the Estimates Committee. During that period, we undertook inspection programmes, under which we visited hospitals. We interacted directly with beneficiaries of the Ayushman Bharat Yojana. They expressed a deep sense of satisfaction and stated that they were receiving the benefits of this scheme owing to the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister. We take pleasure in conveying our appreciation and extending our congratulations to the Hon. Prime Minister. He has worked with a clear vision and has implemented this scheme with determination.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, through the vision of “Nari Tu Narayani”, our Hon. Prime Minister has set the objective of empowering women. Through the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Yojana, efforts have been made to extend benefits to our youth. In the field of road infrastructure, large scale construction of four lane and six lane highways has been undertaken. The commitments made by Shri

Nitin Gadkari ji have been fulfilled through the planned and systematic construction of these roads. This Budget is in the interest of the people and in the interest of the nation. Our Government has presented this Budget under the Swachh Bharat framework, keeping in view the rural poor, farmers, the unemployed, youth and women. This Budget will provide an opportunity to eradicate poverty, strengthen and enrich the nation, and contribute towards curbing the growing incidents of terrorism in the country.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I would like to express my gratitude to you and conclude my remarks with a few words:

“Main chalta gaya, raaste milte gaye,

raah ke kaante phool bankar khilte gaye.

Yeh jaadu nahin, aashirvaad hai mere apnon ka,

varna usi raah par laakhon phisalte gaye.”

(The verse conveys that progress was achieved despite obstacles, with challenges turned into opportunities through perseverance and the support of the people, underscoring that success comes from sustained effort and collective backing rather than chance.)

[English]

SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY (BHONGIR): Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to express my opinions on the General Budget.

I heartily congratulate the Finance Minister who is the first full-time woman Finance Minister of this country.

21.18 hrs (Dr.(Prof.) Kirit Premjibhai Solanki *in the Chair*)

As a woman Finance Minister, I appreciate her announcement to extend Rs. 5000 overdraft facility to the Self-Help Groups having Jan Dhan Account. I also appreciate her announcement of Rs. 1 lakh loan to one of the SHG members.

Unfortunately, our Minister has earned the ire of common women of this country by imposing import duty on gold. Gold is considered to be a saving according to women. By enhancing the import duty on gold, common women feel that they are cheated and it will lead to black marketing in the country.

There is another issue on which the common man feels dejected by this Government. This Government is charging a cess of Re. 1 on petroleum and its allied products. It will directly and indirectly impact on various issues by which common citizens will be hit hard on their earnings like increase in the cost of transport,

increase in the prices of vegetables, daily use goods, etc. It shows that the Government is friendlier towards rich men and an enemy of poor men.

Another important issue raised by this Government in the Budget is utilisation of river water for transportation. Unlike other countries, in our country, most of the habitants depend upon rivers for their drinking water and other usages. If river water is used for transportation, then that water gets contaminated and becomes unusable for drinking purposes. A serious concern was raised by environmentalists on this issue.

Hence, the Government should think twice before venturing into such activities. India is one of the major exporters of pharma products in the world. To encourage further exports, the industry needs more support from the Central Government. Unfortunately, there is no mention about any sort of relief or support announced by the Government to the pharma industry and its exports. This will not only discourage the industry to grow further but also face negative impact on further investments in this industry.

Sir, this Government is trying to double the farmers' income by 2022 but unfortunately, there are no sops announced in the Budget to boost their income and also to reduce the cost of farming. Farmers have started non-conventional farming in some parts of the

country. To encourage such farmers and to decrease the conventional farming and bring them to non-conventional systems, the Budget has not specified any concessions. As of now, a large number of farmers are committing suicides due to drastic increase of price in cultivation and not receiving MSP due to which they are unable to repay the debts. Hereby, I humbly request the Government to seriously consider increasing the MSP.

Sir, with your permission, I want to speak in Telugu. I had given the notice yesterday….(*Interruptions*) So, please give permission.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay, but please conclude quickly.

[*]**SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY:** Honourable Chairman Sir, Telangana state was formed after four decades of struggle, in which 1100 students sacrificed their lives. Then UPA Government led by Shri Manmohan Singh, our honourable Congress party president and UPA Chairperson Smt Sonia Gandhi with the support from BJP made Telangana a reality. Unfortunately, the state Government of Telangana which retained second term failed to fulfill aspirations of four crore people of Telangana. Yesterday Honourable Finance Minister stated in Rajya Sabha that the loans of Telangana which were Rs 60,000 crores has risen by

[*] English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu.

Rs 1,59,000 crores in the last five years. Not even a single infrastructure project came up with these funds. Basic amenities for poor like food, clothing and shelter were also not provided. In last 20 years, not even 20,000 houses were built for poor in Telangana. My humble request through you Speaker sir, AIIMS was proposed in my Constituency Bhongir. Last year it was sanctioned. There is no mention of it in this budget and I request that this may kindly be set up at the earliest. Sir, Kaaleshwaram Project has been redesigned with Rs 1,00,000 crores which amounts to an investment of Rs 1,00,000 per acre per annum. Such project should be declared as National Project. Let it be Bayyaram Steel plant, Kazipet Rail Coach Factory or Special Category status to Andhra Pradesh, these were promised by UPA Government and present Government should fulfill these assurances. Friend from TRS has said about water supply to every House through Mission Bagiratha.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I seek your kind permission to take a moment to thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly proceed.

[English]

SHRI KOMATI REDDY VENKAT REDDY: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am really thankful to you for giving me this much of time to speak on the General Budget.

in the end, i would request this government to please take care of our Telangana state. it is a newly formed state. [Translation] There is disorder prevailing in Telangana State, or it is being allowed to prevail. ...*(Interruptions)* It is my earnest request that the people of Telangana be served appropriately. ...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you. I have been elected to this House for the first time. I am grateful to you for granting me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Budget for the first time. With your permission, I would like to speak in Telugu.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are permitted to do so.

[English]

*__SHRI BANDI SANJAY KUMAR:__ Honourable Chairman sir, this Budget presented by Smt Nirmala Seetharaman clearly establishes the objective of this Government which is 'Sab Ka Saath, Sab Ka Vikas, Sab Ka Vishwas'. As envisaged by our beloved Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Honourable Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Seetharaman, this Budget reflects our goal to emerge as Rs 5 Trillion economy soon. This Budget also establishes Government's commitment for the welfare of poor people, farmers, women and youth. Many colleagues referred to several points in the Budget, due to time constraint I will confine myself to the budgetary allocations made for Telangana. For creating world class education infrastructure, Rs 400 crores has been allocated. Under 'Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana' around 1 crore youth will be imparted skill development training,

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Telugu

which is a positive development. Yet again our Government proved it's commitment towards women empowerment. Various political parties and previous Governments used women groups for their own benefits by using such groups for agitations, rallies and demonstrations. But, this Government is truly empowering women by making them self reliant. Women are provided with Rs 5,000 over draft facility and with a loan of Rs 1,00,000 to Jan Dhan account holders. I am happy to note that 3 crore small traders will be provided with pension.

Sir, I represent Telangana state, it is never enough when I speak about strange ways of state Government of Telangana. Out of 29 states in our country, Telangana Government's governance and approach are different. TRS Government takes credit for all good developments in the state and if something goes wrong it blames Union Government. TRS party is opportunist and is raising hue and cry that injustice has been meted out to Telangana in this Budget.

If I don't condemn and clarify such misleading statements of TRS Government on this platform, people will believe their lies. Sir, if we look at the allocations made for Telangana state, Rs 800 crores has been ear marked for IIT Hyderabad. For Tribal educational institutes in both Andhra Pradesh and Telangana around Rs 8 crores have been allocated. For Atomic Minerals

research and exploration centre, Rs 313.39 crores. For Salar Jung Museum, Rs 22 crores. For National Centre for Ocean Information services, Rs 23 crores. For International Advance Research centre for Powder Metallurgy and New Materials Rs 59 crores. National Fisheries Development Board, 80 crores. For IIT second campus in Hyderabad, Rs 200 crores. For Hyderabad Outer Ring Road second phase works, Rs 120 crores. Five years ago average National Highways in Telangana used to be 2.5% compared to 3% throughout the country. Under the leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and with the involvement of Road and Transport Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari, Rs 60,000 crores were spent for the development of National Highways in Telangana and as a result when national average of National Highways is 3%, Telangana's average is 4%, which is the highest in the country.

Sir, Telangana Government claims to be the Government of farmers and introduced 'Rythu Bandhu' scheme. But that scheme is beneficial only to land lords. The scheme which was introduced by the union Government to uphold self respect of farmers is more beneficial for small and marginal farmers. 'Fasal Bhima Yojana' was implemented to benefit farmers but in Telangana this scheme is being diluted and as a result 5 lakh farmers are deprived of the benefits of this Scheme. Similarly, 'Ayushman Bharat' Scheme is being implemented throughout the country, but Telangana

Government has discarded this scheme and deprived lakhs of poor people from the benefits of the scheme. Union Government has set up Ministry of Jal Shakti to conserve and manage water resources in the country to provide ‘Ghar Ghar Jal’, whereas Telangana Government is wasting lakhs of crores of rupees in the name of Mission Kakatiya and other projects. Though our Prime Minister is implementing so many welfare schemes, TRS party is making derogatory comments about him and trying to vitiate atmosphere of the nation.

Sir, my special thanks to Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Honourable Finance Minister Smt Nirmala Seetharaman for making this budget so special. Still, Telangana is not getting justice in Budgetary allocations and therefore, it is the responsibility of Union Government to give more funds to Telangana. I assure people of Telangana that I will work towards getting more funds from Central Government for the development of Telangana. I thank Honourable Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji, Shri Amit Shah ji and people of my constituency for giving me this opportunity to represent my constituency in the Parliament. With this I conclude. Thank you. Bharat Mata Ki Jai.

SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV (HINDUPUR): Respected Chairman Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget.

Before starting my speech in English, I want to recite a poem in Telugu:

Akkarkau raani chuttamu

Mrokkina varameeni vadpu

Moharamunadanekkina baarani gurramu

Grukkuna viduvamgavalayum gadara Sumati

I can tell you the meaning of the same by tomorrow.

The Union Budget is so much disappointing that it fails to address the issues of farmers, youth, women, minority and differently abled persons. There are no sufficient measures taken to address the problems of unemployment, agrarian crisis, health and education.

Sir, through you, I would like to appeal to Madam Nirmala Sitharaman *ji* to explain as to how the Union Budget is going to provide employment to crores of youth who are awaiting employment. She is also requested to explain how the present

Budget is going to tackle agrarian crisis which India is struggling with today.

The Budget seems to have neglected regional imbalance of Andhra Pradesh which is a deficit State. It needs more support from the Union Budget. Unfortunately, the Budget 2019 has miserably failed to address several issues of Andhra Pradesh. The BJP-led Union Government has been turning a deaf ear to the crisis in Andhra people. The aspirations of the Andhra people have been loud and clear. The Budget has failed to fulfill the dreams of the people of Andhra for a ‘Special Status’. The recent electoral mandate of Andhra Pradesh is loud and clear. Their only agenda is ‘Special Status’. That is the reason why they have rejected the TDP which had taken several u-turns on the issue of ‘Special Status’.

Let me take this opportunity to awaken the Government of India which has stalled the allocation of Rs. 50 crore each to the seven most backward districts of Andhra Pradesh on the pretext or for silly reasons like technical issues.

Another issue which needs more attention of the Union Government is this. The Central University of Andhra Pradesh was allocated to Andhra as a part of the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014. The University was supposed to be established by 2015; whereas the Government of India had no interest to follow it up.

The Government of Andhra Pradesh was not in a mood to take initiative. As a result, the University was started only in August, 2018. Let me bring to the notice of the House that the University was inaugurated only after the break-up of BJP's honeymoon with TDP. The University has been accommodated only in a transit campus of a small building.

I appreciate the 'new India' idea of Modi *ji*. But let me question Modi *ji* on this occasion how he is going to build new India by allocating just Rs. 13 crore to a Central University which is insufficient to construct even half of the compound wall. I hope, Madam Nirmala Sitharaman *ji*, who was a student of JNU, must have gone through the text of Nehru *ji*'s speech given on third December, 1947 at the Allahabad University. He said: "A University stands for humanism, for tolerance, for reason, for progress, for the adventure of ideas and for the search for truth. It stands for the onward march of the human race towards even higher objectives."

The announced Railway Zone in Vizag has not been realised.…(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI KURUVA GORANTLA MADHAV: Thank you, Sir.

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU (MALDAHA UTTAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, *Marotan chairmanbonke, disemran santhal ko pata koi manab johar* – at the outset, let me wish our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi *ji* and Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman *ji* for presenting a Budget which in its truest form would benefit elderly, differently-abled, youth, and middle-class citizens of our country. This Budget has not only taken care of people from all walks of life, but also has paved the way for India's economic superpower status. This Budget would provide an impetus to our vision of providing economic independence to every citizen of our country while maintaining transparency in all aspects. This Budget provides accountancy of every single penny of our countrymen and hence it is a well-planned *bahi khata* presented in public interest. Post-Independence, the previous Governments were unable to get desirable results for our country, but Modi *ji* Government's administration skills have helped our nation to reach new heights.

I would like to bring forth some of the issues which have been a bone of contention to the overall development of my Parliamentary constituency, along with West Bengal, and which need immediate attention. West Bengal is the only State which is deprived of Ayushman Bharat scheme.

Hence, I would request, through you, Sir, the Government to kindly initiate this scheme so that the downtrodden people of West

Bengal can reap the benefits of this scheme. The Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana has also not been launched in West Bengal. So, the farmers of West Bengal are not getting the benefit of Rs.6,000. The Hon. Prime Minister's ambitious schemes such as the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, Deen Dayal Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana and the Ujjwala Yojana are the other successful schemes of the past five years and a milestone of Modi Ji's Government.

Our Prime Minister's motto of *sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas* is now resonating in every person's conscious mind.

The Hon. Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana has been the backbone of connecting remote and rural people to urban areas of our country. With approximate 130-135 km per day construction of roads, it has not only helped the villages seeking better medical care and ease of transportation of agricultural produce but also has been a boon to students seeking higher education and job prospects for the youth.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU: Please give me two minutes more.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We have a very long list of speakers.

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU: There are some important demands from my Parliamentary constituency. We have the problem of

erosion. My constituency is a flood-affected area. The river Ganga and its tributary Fulhar cause a lot of damage, including loss of lives and property. In addition to this, hundreds of acres of land submerge into the rivers. The problems of river erosion and flood have to be addressed immediately.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU: The second demand of the people of my constituency is about airport. Land acquisition mark has been completed once there but the operation of flights has not been started which is affecting the progress of my constituency. Construction of airport and operation of flights is another big demand of my constituency people.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI KHAGEN MURMU: There is one problem at the Indo-Bangladesh border. Nearly 100 km area of my constituency is close to the international border. The Government is doing fencing work but some of the area is not covered. …(*Interruptions*)

[*]**DR. THOL THIRUMAAVALAVAN (CHIDAMBARAM)**: Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. At the outset I wholeheartedly thank you for allowing me to express my views by taking part in the discussion on General Budget for the year 2019-20. After making a two and a half hour speech Hon Union Minister of Finance Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Budget of a great country. I congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister for the commendable job. I once again congratulate for becoming the first woman Finance Minister to present the General Budget in free India in an efficient manner. At the same time, I wish to state that this Budget speech is full of ornamental words and attractive announcements. There is a dearth of aspects that can kindle happiness or lead us to congratulate the Government of the Day. This is a matter of great concern. There is no announcement for new employment generation in the country or any schemes for improving our agriculture. There is no scheme that is aimed to protect the livelihood of micro and medium level farmers and farm labourers in a country fully dependant on agriculture. The Scheduled Castes and Tribes people constitute 25 percent of our population and there is no announcement to protect the SCs, STs and the marginalised people. “Sabka Vishwas”, is the slogan of the present Government. This slogan is aimed to gain confidence of all

[*] English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

the people of this country. But the Budget for the year 2019-20 or the Budget Speech of Hon. Finance Minister has failed to gain confidence of all the people of this country. This is my concern. “Housing for All”, is announced as a dream project of the present Government in the current Budget. An amount of Rs. 18,516 Crore was allocated last year under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. During the current financial year of 2019-20, an amount of Rs16114 Crore has been allocated. It means a reduction of approximately Rs1400 Crore. During the current financial year of 2019-20, Rs.60,000Crore was allocated to the 100-day employment guarantee scheme as against Rs 61,084 Crore for the last year. This results in a reduction of Rs.1,084Crore. I want to register my concern in this august House as to how this Government can gain confidence of all sections of the society. “One Nation; One Culture”, is a famous slogan of this Government. Why the Government is not putting up another note to put forth the slogan, “One Nation; One Village”. Every village is divided into two parts. Within a village, the people are divided as locals and Dalits. Moreover, there are separate crematoriums for locals and Dalits. Every village has two crematoriums. I will just take one more minute. This Government should come forward to create a situation there is only “One Nation and One Crematorium’’. I have one more demand. Under the direction of Hon. Supreme Court, Tamil Nadu

Government had sent a recommendation to Hon. Governor with regard to release of 7 persons including Perarivaalan, 10 months ago. H.E. the Governor of Tamil Nadu has not explained his stand point besides he has not announced any decision in this regard. This raises severe doubts thereby creating no-confidence on Union Government. I therefore urge upon the Union Government to direct the Hon Governor of Tamil Nadu to announce his stand by taking a decision with regard to release of 7 persons including Shri Perarivaalan. Thank you. Vanakkam.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRI RAVI KISHAN (GORAKHPUR):** I am deeply grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to present my views on the Union Budget for 2019-2020.

In my view, the Budget is not merely a statement of expenditure and income for a single year. Through the Budget, the Government determines both the direction and the condition of the nation in the times to come. The Budget is not only a financial document, but also a social, economic and political document. At the outset of my remarks, I would like to extend my salutations to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance. Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, this being the first Budget of the Government is especially worthy of appreciation, as such a visionary and inclusive Budget has been prepared within a short span of time after the formation of the Government. The Hon. Minister of Finance has admirably translated the Prime Minister's vision into concrete form. If stated briefly, this Budget reflects the Prime Minister's philosophy of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas aur Sabka Vishwas".

After the conclusion of the Mahabharata war, Maharaja Yudhishthira expressed his desire to renounce his kingdom and

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

retire to the forest as an ascetic. However, on the counsel of Narad Muni, he reconsidered this decision. Narad Muni informed Yudhishthira that Bhishma Pitamah was still lying on his bed of arrows, awaiting the moment of his passing. As Bhishma Pitamah was a distinguished authority on Rajdharma, Yudhishthira was advised to receive guidance from him on the principles and duties of kingship before his demise. Accordingly, Yudhishthira approached Bhishma Pitamah and received instruction in Rajdharma. Bhishma Pitamah imparted to Yudhishthira that the foremost obligation of a ruler is to ensure the happiness and welfare of his subjects. He further explained that taxation should be imposed in the manner in which a bee collects nectar from flowers or a cowherd draws milk from a cow, namely, without causing harm. In the same spirit, taxes should be levied only upon those who possess the capacity to bear them. Our Government has adhered to this principle in letter and spirit. Relief has been extended to lower income groups, while assistance to the poor and weaker sections of society has been correspondingly enhanced. Accordingly, Yudhishthira approached Pitamah and acquired from him the knowledge of Rajdharma. Bhishma Pitamah taught Yudhishthira that the foremost duty of a ruler is to ensure the happiness and welfare of his subjects. He further explained that taxation should be levied in the manner in which a bee collects nectar from flowers or

a cowherd draws milk from a cow, that is, without causing them any harm. In the same manner, taxes should be imposed only upon those who are capable of bearing them. Our Government has followed this principle in letter and spirit. While relief has been provided to those in the lower income groups, assistance for the poor and weaker sections of society has been enhanced.

While the Budget is, by its very nature, a comprehensive document encompassing all sectors of the economy, I would like to confine my remarks to a few key aspects.

As far as the economy is concerned, when viewed against all major economic and financial indicators, our economy today is in a far stronger position than it was five years ago. India is presently the fastest growing among the world's major economies. Inflation is firmly under control. Both the current account deficit and the fiscal deficit remain within manageable limits. Foreign Direct Investment has been increasing year after year, and India's standing in the World Bank's Ease of Doing Business Index continues to improve steadily. All these achievements clearly demonstrate that the Government led by the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, is a Government that delivers results. We believe not merely in making statements, but in action and in demonstrable outcomes. The present objective of our Government is to transform India into a 5 trillion dollar economy. At present, India is the sixth largest

economy in the world. As the Hon. Finance Minister has pointed out, it took 55 years for India to reach the 1 trillion dollar mark. However, in the last 5 years alone, we have added one trillion dollars to the economy. In the current year, we are poised to become a three trillion dollar economy. When both policy intent and commitment are clear, such milestones can be achieved with confidence, and this Government has conclusively demonstrated that fact.

Women constitute half of our population, and no nation can progress without their active and meaningful participation. From ancient times, women have occupied a place of great respect and distinction in our society. Our country has been enriched by a long tradition of learned and exemplary women such as Sita, Gandhari, Maitreyi, Anusuya, Lopamudra and Gargi. Our Government has taken sustained steps to encourage women's participation in economic activity through initiatives such as the Mudra Yojana, Stand Up India and the Self Help Group movement. Taking these efforts further, the present Budget has introduced the facility of overdraft in Jan Dhan accounts held by women and has also announced the provision of loans of up to Rs. 1 lakh for women under the Mudra Scheme.

Mahatma Gandhi had observed that the soul of India resides in its villages. I state with pride that all initiatives undertaken by our

Government are conceived with the villages, the poor and the farmers at their core. Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, two programmes of this Government have fundamentally transformed the landscape of our villages. I refer to the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and the Saubhagya Yojana. As a result of these schemes, there has been a qualitative improvement in the lives of rural residents. Clean fuel has reached every household, and energy supply has now extended to every village. Our Government is working towards the objective of "Housing for All" by 2022. Over the past five years, approximately two crore houses have been constructed, and an equivalent number are proposed to be built over the next two years. In this manner, by 2021-22, every individual will have access to a dwelling of their own.

Even today, agriculture provides employment to the largest number of people in the country. For national development, investment in agriculture is of paramount importance, and this Government is firmly committed to increasing such investment. The Government will extend support to farmers not only for agricultural activities but also for allied and related sectors. In this regard, a new initiative is being undertaken through the establishment of Farmer Producer Organisations, with the objective of strengthening farmers' participation and improving their economic prospects.

Today, India is a young nation. 65 percent of our country's population is below the age of 35 years. At present, the average age of an Indian citizen is 29 years, whereas this average stands at 37 years in the case of China and 48 years in the case of Japan. Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, our Government has been making sustained and tireless efforts over the past five years to provide quality education and better employment opportunities to our youth. In the field of sports, the Government's initiatives have begun to yield positive results, and our athletes are performing commendably in competitions at the global level. The Khelo India Scheme, launched in 2017, has undertaken remarkable work in connecting students with sports. Further, for skill development among the youth, under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, one crore young people have been trained in modern technologies such as the internet, artificial intelligence and 3-D printing.

I come from the film industry. From the outside, it appears to be a world of glamour and attraction, but the reality within is quite different. India's film industry is among the largest in the world, and when films produced in all languages are taken together, more than 1000 films are made each year. Through films, the estimated annual revenue is approximately 3 billion dollars. Within this, the Hindi film industry is the largest. However, regional language film industries such as Telugu, Tamil, Kannada, Malayalam, Bhojpuri

and Rajasthani are also growing in significance. This industry constitutes an important source of tax revenue for the Government. The production of a single film involves the contribution of thousands of individuals. The purpose of raising this issue here is to highlight that there is a very large number of people in the film industry whose economic condition is not stable. The workers employed in the film industry do not have access to social security benefits such as health insurance, life insurance, pension, provident fund or unemployment allowance. If, for any reason, such individuals become unable to work, they are confronted with a serious crisis in their lives.

Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Finance Minister Madam to make appropriate arrangements for ensuring social security for those working in the film industry. I, personally, and the entire film fraternity would remain grateful to her for such an initiative. Finally, I would once again like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Finance Minister Madam on this development oriented Budget. This Budget will prove to be a milestone in determining the future direction of India. Due consideration has been given to the interests of all sections of society, with special attention accorded to farmers, women, youth and the weaker sections. Before concluding my remarks, I would like to quote Chanakya.

"Mat rakshane karya siddhi bhavati.

Daivam vinati prayatnam karoti yaksha divaphalam."

That is to say, any task should be undertaken only after proper planning, and when an endeavour is carried out with thorough preparation, it yields favourable results. The vision of our Government is clear and well defined. Consequently, all programmes of this Government are implemented effectively and successfully. This, indeed, is the secret of our success and of the enduring popularity of the Hon. Prime Minister.

[English]

SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA (MYSORE): Mr. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in this discussion on General Budget. The biggest achievement of Modiji's Government is giving India political and economic stability. Economic stability is a very difficult thing to achieve. After all, 'Lakshmi' is considered to be *chanchala*, unstable. Lakshmi does not stay at one place, but our Prime Minister has made *chanchala* Lakshmi into *sthita* Lakshmi, from unstable economy to stable economy.

Sir, everyday when we get up in the morning, in our culture, we recite a shloka:-

Karagre Vaste Lakshmi, Karamadhye Saraswati,

Karmule Sthite Gauri, Prabhate Kardarshanam.

It only means that at your fingertips, you have money – Lakshmi and in the middle, you have Saraswati - knowledge. Strength of mind is the king of all qualities. In the rest, you have Durga - strength and security, which is very important. For Lakshmi to stay stable, you have to give more importance to Saraswati and Durga – knowledge, and strength and security.

Sir, if you look at the policies adopted by Modiji's Government in last five years, if you look at the initiatives taken by Modiji's Government, he has solely focussed on Durga, Saraswati and Lakshmi.

If you look from Swachh Bharat to Swasth Bharat, it stresses that the health of the economy as well as the health of the people is very important. Thus, he brought this noble concept called Swachh Bharat. On the one side, he is building toilets; he is giving pucca houses; and he is giving clean cooking gas and on the other side, under Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana, he is giving health insurance to every family worth five lakh rupees in a year .

Not just that. From surgical strike to Balakot air strike, he is giving a sense of security to the people of our nation. As far as 'Saraswati' is concerned, he is giving more importance to education by framing National Education Policy, by setting up new AIIMS, IITs, IIITs, and by writing Exam Warriors. In the last five years, he has also focussed on 'Lakshmi'. He has come out with programmes like Skill India, Stand up India, Start up India, Mudra yojana, and Jan Dhan Yojana. Through these Schemes, he is empowering the people.

I would like to cite the figures regarding the fiscal deficit. This will show how the Modi Government has changed things positively.

When UPA was ruling this country for ten years, the fiscal deficit was almost touching six percent. He has brought it down to 3.4 percent. Now, our present Finance Minister is aiming to bring it down further to 3.3 percent.

The greatest achievement of Modi ji's Government in the last five years is the management of macro economy. That is the reason we are the fastest growing economy in the world and that is the reason why our country attracts highest foreign investment. Opposition was blaming our Prime Minister, Modi ji for demonetisation. In the last three years, the tax collection has increased by 78 percent. There is no such example in the world.

The learned Member from Opposition, Dr. Shashi Tharoor was expressing doubts about five trillion dollar economy. All big achievements start by thinking big. We are a country of 130 crore people. …(*Interruptions*) Please give me five more minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No. You have to conclude in three minutes.

SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA: Should we not think big? I will just focus on my State. The State of Karnataka has immensely benefited under Modi ji's Government. I will give you a few examples. I won't take more than three minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your time is over. Please conclude.

SHRI PRATHAP SIMHA: I will finish it two minutes. When we came to power in 2014, the total number of Passport Seva Kendras was 77 in this country. Now, we have added 412 Post Office Passport Seva Kendras. In my State, Karnataka, we had only five Passport Seva Kendras. Now, we have 27 of them. Every district has got one Passport Seva Kendra. Look at the size, scale and the speed.

When we came to power in 2014, the total length of National Highways in Karnataka was 6,000 kms. Now, it has gone up to 13,500 kms.

I have a few requests to make to the Hon. Finance Minister. The Government is planning to develop 17 cities as iconic destinations for tourism. She won't find a better city than Mysore for this purpose. So, I would request her to choose Mysore to be included in these 17 cities.

I have two more issues to speak about. Our Prime Minister is aiming to double the income of farmers. The kind of GST we are levying on agricultural related products, like fertilizer, pesticides, rubber, plastic, is above 18 percent. We need to bring it down. It is very important for the farmers.

There are many tractor manufacturing companies, like Tafe, Mahindra, Sonalika and Escorts. These companies are not

mentioning the MRP in their brochures. If a particular variant is sold at a particular price in Chamaraj Nagar, the same variant is sold at a different price in another place. This is very important.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SANGEETA AZAD (LALAGANJ): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget.

Hon. Chairperson, unemployment has today reached its highest level in the past 45 years, whereas in the year 2014 the Government had promised to eradicate unemployment. The Government had assured that two crore jobs would be provided every year. On the one hand, through privatisation, the Government has diluted reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs, and on the other hand, people belonging to these sections are being rendered unemployed.

At the same time, almost every day the Government is adopting new methods to sell public sector undertakings. Recently, the Railway Budget has been abolished and a single Budget system has been introduced. From this Budget, it is evident to anyone that the Railways are being privatised. Privatisation of the Railways effectively means the dilution of reservation for SCs, STs and OBCs. The Government must immediately discontinue recruitments carried out through outsourcing and ensure that reservation is provided even in the process of privatisation.

...*(Interruptions)* The Government must also ensure employment for the unemployed. ...*(Interruptions)*

In the context of this Budget, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that scholarships provided by the Union Government have historically enabled students belonging to the SC, ST and OBC communities to pursue education and advance academically. However, over the past few years, these scholarships have either been discontinued or, where they continue, remain wholly inadequate in proportion to the number of eligible SC and ST students, rendering the assistance merely symbolic. ...*(Interruptions)* I therefore demand that the Government make appropriate arrangements to substantially enhance the amounts of scholarships and compensation extended to students belonging to the SC, ST and OBC communities, and ensure the effective provision of both compensation and scholarship support. ...*(Interruptions)* Please allow me to complete my submission. ...*(Interruptions)* Furthermore, the Government must take firm, effective and comprehensive measures to ensure the safety and security of members of the SC, ST and OBC communities, as well as of all women. ...*(Interruptions)*

In this Budget, there has been a substantial increase in the prices of essential household commodities such as petrol, diesel, pulses and onions. ...*(Interruptions)* This amounts to a betrayal of

farmers, workers and the youth, and signals have been given of pushing inflation to extreme levels.

In this Budget, no provision has been made for opening a Kendriya Vidyalaya in the Lalganj Parliamentary Constituency. There is also no mention of establishing a Central Warehousing facility in Lalganj. ...*(Interruptions)* Further, this Budget makes no reference to the establishment of any heavy or small scale industries in our Parliamentary Constituency. There is also no mention of setting up any new sugar mill in our region. ...*(Interruptions)*

Sir, many important requirements for the development of our area have been overlooked in this Budget. I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance to kindly give due attention to the needs of our Parliamentary Constituency.

SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA (PRATAPGARH): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I express my gratitude to you for granting me the opportunity to speak on the Budget.

Rishton ki yeh naazuk doren, todi thodi jaati hain,

Apni aankhen dukhti hon to, phodi thodi jaati hain.

Yeh kaante, yeh dhoop, yeh patthar, inse kaise darna hai,

Raahen mushkil ho jaayen to, chhodi thodi jaati hain.

(The verse conveys resilience and perseverance, suggesting that hardships are endured with patience rather than abandoned, and in the Budget context, it reflects renewed hope and confidence in the Government's actions despite past challenges.)

Sir, I recited this couplet to convey that the achievements of the previous Government and the Budget presented by the present Government have instilled a new sense of hope in the hearts of nearly 80 percent of the country's population. This hope emerged at a time when the nation was grappling with deep rooted corruption and nepotism, and was standing at the brink of being pushed away from the path of development.

Sir, even after 67 years of independence, when the Modi Government assumed office, there was a phase when the poor did not have a roof over their heads. Long queues formed at ration shops for kerosene to light lamps, and for a full meal the common citizen

was compelled to endure exploitation at the doors of ration middlemen and moneylenders. This Government is now engaged in scripting a new chapter of India’s development. The Hon. Prime Minister, having himself risen from humble beginnings, has felt this pain and understood these realities deeply.

22.00 hrs

The provision of housing for all and the electricity of every household through the Saubhagya Yojana have effectively curbed the activities of black marketeering mafias. Through the use of swipe machines or biometric authentication, and by collecting only a nominal token amount, arrangements have been made to deliver essential food grains such as wheat and rice directly to the homes of the poor. This represents a historic step, the transformative impact of which is now clearly visible in villages across the country. It may be recalled that there was a time when poor women and young girls were compelled to venture out in freezing winter nights, amidst the thunder of heavy monsoon rains, or under the scorching midday sun in isolated fields in search of a place for defecation. Accordingly, under the Swachh Bharat Mission, Modi ji ensured that toilets were provided to every household, without any discrimination.

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, MINISTER OF COAL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI): Sir, as a large number of Hon. Members still wish to participate in the discussion, I propose that the sitting of the House be extended by one hour.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Sir, why cannot we complete the discussion tomorrow? The Members are very much tired now. …(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Each Hon. Member shall speak for only three minutes.

SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA: Hon. Chairperson Sir, guided by the principle of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", the Government has initiated a process of development that is now moving forward steadily.

[English]

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Sir, we would not allow further extension of time of the House after 11 pm. …(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I seek the sense of the House, and it is proposed that the sitting of the House be extended until 11:00 p.m.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Please extend it.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time for the proceedings of the House is extended up to 11:00 p.m.

SHRI SANGAM LAL GUPTA: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the Budget presented by our Government's strong and capable woman

Finance Minister, aimed at realising the vision of strengthening trust and propelling the Indian economy towards the five trillion dollar mark in the coming period, thereby positioning India as a global economic power, is certainly worthy of appreciation. Through this Budget, the Government has primarily focused on the rural population by strengthening agriculture and traditional industries, and by integrating artisans into the economic value chain so as to empower them economically. Even more commendable is the manner in which the Budget addresses the deepening crisis of drinking water in the present context. Through the Prime Minister's initiative of providing tap water to every household and promoting water conservation, concrete budgetary provisions have been made. Upon careful consideration of these measures, an action plan has been implemented at the initial stage for the rejuvenation of water resources in 1,592 severely distressed blocks across 256 districts. In addition, guided by the vision of "Nari Tu Narayani", the Budget has placed due emphasis on the role of women in the rural economy and has proposed the expansion of women's Self Help Groups. Verified SHGs have been permitted an overdraft facility of Rs. 5,000, and under the Mudra Scheme, loans of up to Rs. 1 lakh are being made available to women. This Budget, by enabling women to stand on their own feet, will advance women's empowerment and contribute to writing a new chapter of inclusive development.

Sir, the Budget presented by the Government also reflects a clear commitment to realising the vision of "Padhega Bharat, Badhega Bharat". The Government has announced the launch of the Study in India Scheme and has made a budgetary provision of Rs. 400 crore for this purpose. This will prove to be a transformative step in positioning the country's higher educational institutions in global competition. Through this initiative, the migration of talented students abroad will be curtailed, while research and innovation within the country will receive a significant boost.

SHRI TAPIR GAO (ARUNACHAL EAST): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, he is a very effective Speaker, and I would not wish my time to be taken up unnecessarily.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Only the speech of Shri Tapir Gao will be placed on record.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I have risen to support the Budget. I have been listening to the discussion on the Budget over the past two days. After hearing the debate continuously for two days, I had almost lost track, but when you called out my name, I regained my composure. I do not intend to offer any commentary or propose any additions.

When I look at our country's widely respected leader, Modi ji, I perceive in him the combined qualities of creation, preservation

and transformation. For this reason, I do not wish to add anything further. Similarly, in the policies of the country's first woman Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala ji, I see a balance of prosperity, knowledge and strength. She has presented a clear and well defined roadmap for taking the nation forward. This 8 lane roadmap is broad and well structured. If other political parties choose to deviate from it or lose direction, we are not in a position to compensate for their lack of clarity.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the emphasis placed on villages, the poor and farmers, the focus on women's empowerment, the strengthening of Self Help Groups through credit support of up to Rs. 1 lakh, the empowerment of youth through skill development, sustained support for farmers, the clear objective of progressing towards a 5 trillion dollar economy, and the budgetary provisions made for national missions such as Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan are matters to which we have no objection. In my considered view, this Budget is comprehensive and forward looking, and it stands among the most inclusive and ambitious Budgets presented in the country.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw attention to one additional point. As human beings, we are endowed with two eyes through which we observe the world, enabling us to discern both what is good and what is undesirable. Yet, the nose that lies directly

beneath our eyes remains beyond our own sight. In a similar manner, while formulating a Budget aimed at advancing the nation towards a five trillion dollar economy and supporting ambitious national missions such as Gaganyaan and Chandrayaan, it is possible that certain issues may inadvertently have escaped attention. I therefore wish to address one such aspect directly.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Only three minutes may be taken.

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Chairperson Sir, it may come as a surprise even to you to hear that the security of the nation is under threat. I have travelled along several international borders, from Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh. Today, reference has been made to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, under which it is intended that road connectivity should reach every village. However, the Rural Development Department has framed a provision under which roads cannot be constructed under the PMGSY in habitations or villages with a population of fewer than 250 persons. Since we are located along sensitive border areas, including regions adjoining the Army border, many habitations have populations below 250. Due to the absence of road connectivity, residents are compelled to migrate to towns and cities for their children’s education and for medical treatment. As a result, these areas gradually become no man’s land, where, year after year, people from China come and settle. Therefore, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Finance

to review the provisions of the PMGSY guidelines, as the existing law does not adequately address the specific requirements of road construction in border areas.

If one examines the charts today, it will be evident that Arunachal Pradesh frequently figures in the news in the context of India China relations. The reason for this is that, owing to objections raised by China, not a single rupee from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank or the BRICS Bank is allowed to reach Arunachal Pradesh. I had raised this issue even during the tenure of the Manmohan Singh Government. At that time, it was stated that although funds from the World Bank could not be provided, a separate budgetary provision would be made by the Union Government for Arunachal Pradesh. I would like to urge the Hon. Finance Minister that, if funding from the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank or the BRICS Bank is not feasible, alternative compensatory arrangements should be made to provide infrastructure support. This is essential and cannot be deferred.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I am now concluding my remarks. I say this with a sense of awareness because the Hon.

Prime Minister's toilet scheme has reached even the remote hill regions of Arunachal Pradesh. However, there is a place called Singa in Arunachal Pradesh where, during the tenure of the Hon. Finance Minister as Defence Minister, China constructed two kilometres of road within Indian territory. In that area, there is a village where the price of a single bag of cement is Rs. 6,000, and one kilogram of salt costs Rs. 150. There is another location, Vijaynagar, situated along the Burma border, where a bag of cement costs Rs. 7,000 and one kilogram of salt is priced at Rs. 200. Under such circumstances, how are people expected to survive? I respectfully submit that while planning for a 5 trillion dollar economy, such ground realities must also be taken into account, particularly in areas where even essential commodities like salt cost Rs. 200 per kilogram. I place this demand before both the Government of Arunachal Pradesh and the NDA Government. Arunachal Pradesh has, in effect, become a punishment posting destination. It has been 32 years since the State was granted Statehood, yet even today, under the AGMUT cadre and the Union Territory cadre, postings of IAS and IPS officers to Arunachal Pradesh are treated as punishment postings.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

[Translation]

SHRI TAPIR GAO: Senior IAS officers are assigned postings for a tenure of two years, while junior IAS officers are posted for a period of two and a half years. Consequently, Arunachal Pradesh does not receive the sustained administrative attention it requires. Nevertheless, we should express our appreciation to the Government for presenting such a well considered and comprehensive Budget. Our colleague, SHRI Gogoi, is present in the House. Every year, blockages occur in the Brahmaputra River. From the time of Independence to the present day, these blockages have persisted. Rainwater flows down from Arunachal Pradesh, and substantial public funds are expended in managing these recurring issues. Matters concerning the Brahmaputra involve both the Ministry of Water Resources and the Ministry of Environment. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

[*]**SHRI OM PAVAN RAJENIMBALKAR (OSMANABAD):** I would like to thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on Union Budget on behalf of my party Shivsena. I would also like to congratulate and compliment Hon. Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman and Shri Anurag Thakur ji, MoS Finance for presenting a pro-poor, pro-farmer and a very progressive budget. Hon. Chairman Sir, when we were contesting in this Lok Sabha election, an election rally was organized in my constituency and in that rally Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji promised that a Jal Shakti Ministry will be established to provide water to the drought prone areas. Hon. Narendra Modi ji kept his promise by creating a new ministry called Jal Shakti.

My Marathwada region has many expectations from Modiji and this ministry. Congress-NCP led government had done injustice to Marathwada region by not giving 21 TMC water. I would cite some examples. A girl named Priti Vyankat Atkare aged about 19 years, committed suicide because her father was suffering from high blood pressure and her family could not bear the expenses of treatment. She thought that her father has no money for his own treatment; then how he would marry her off? Akshay Shahaji

[*] English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

Deokar, a boy aged 16 years committed suicide for not having money to pursue his studies. All these happened due to the acute water scarcity and drought. Hence, 21 TMC water should be given to my Marathwada region. We don’t need any financial or drought relief package or a loan waiver. I have been elected by a margin of 1,28,000 votes because of Modiji as people have faith in him. I want to request Hon. Minister to provide 21 TMC water to my Marathwada region and allocate sufficient amount of fund for irrigation projects. So that justice would be done to our farmers. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI MUKESH RAJPUT (FARRUKHABAD): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in support of the Budget.

Sir, on behalf of the poor, the farmers and the labourers of the country, I extend my heartfelt salutations and congratulations to the illustrious Prime Minister of the nation and the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting a farmer-centric Budget. Before becoming the Prime Minister of the country, Hon. Narendra Modi ji, in his address delivered in the Central Hall, had stated that this Government would be for farmers, for the poor, for women and for unemployed youth.

Sir, during his five-year tenure, the Hon. Prime Minister has done exactly what he promised. I would like to say:

"Shoor samar karni karahin, kahi na janavahin aapu.

Vidyman ran paai ripu, kaayar kathahin prataapu."

(True courage is shown through actions, not self-praise. When victory is certain, it is the weak and fearful who resort to boasting, while the truly brave remain focused on their deeds.)

The import of this is that true warriors establish their identity through their actions and do not indulge in self-glorification. Through the Budget allocation provided by the Hon. Prime Minister

during the Budget Session for the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the slogans “Jal hi Jeevan hai” and “Jal Hai To Kal Hai” will help address the drinking water crisis that the country is likely to face in the coming times. An announcement has been made to ensure water for every household and a tap connection for every home, with the objective of delivering safe drinking water to every village across the country. Today, we see that there are many regions where there is an acute scarcity of drinking water. People are compelled to travel several kilometres to fetch drinking water and spend a significant part of their time merely arranging for this basic necessity. It has been clearly observed that resolving the problem of drinking water would itself be a major achievement for the people. The Government has set this as a clear goal and has made this announcement, and I have complete confidence that this Government will ensure a tap connection in every home and water for every household.

Sir, similarly, when ‘Ayushman Bharat’ was announced earlier, Members of the Opposition felt that it was merely an announcement. In the same manner, they had also stated about the Ujjwala Scheme that it was only an announcement, and many among us were wondering how these schemes would ever be implemented. We see that there were many poor families in the country who used to lose their lives due to lack of money and were unable to obtain medical treatment. Even today, there are many

such people in the country. I once happened to be sitting with a doctor in my area when a person came seeking treatment. He was told that it would cost Rs. 16,000 and that his hernia operation would be carried out.

Sir, he had been writhing in pain for a long time. He said that he did not have the money and began to rise to leave. We then told him that we would arrange the money and urged him to get himself treated. He replied that if we provided the money, he could undergo the treatment, but that he personally had no resources to pay for it. He said that regardless of the severity of his suffering, he was unable to afford medical care. In this context, I would like to submit that with the provision of the Golden Card to poor beneficiaries under the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, no poor person will now be forced to suffer in silence. A beneficiary will simply carry the Golden Card, authenticate identity through a thumb impression, present the card, and the treatment will begin without delay.

Sir, it has been stated that for the purchase of houses costing up to Rs. 45 lakh, an interest-related deduction of Rs. 3.5 lakh has been announced. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, a provision of Rs. 80,250 crore has been made. Through this, roads covering a length of 1,25,000 kilometres will be constructed. The day these roads are completed, I have full confidence that it will

lead to the development of farmers as well as villages across the country.

Sir, this is a very good Budget for the country. No amount of praise would be sufficient. I would like to place one or two points concerning my area. I would like to request that if a new railway line is constructed from Farrukhabad, Kannauj and Kasganj to Aligarh, it would benefit five Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituencies.

SHRI DHARMENDRA KASHYAP (AMLA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Budget for the year 2019-20. I would also like to congratulate and thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for the manner in which she has presented a Budget focused on social justice and the development of a progressive India. If we look at the Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana, Mahatma Gandhi had said that the soul of India resides in its villages. Dr. Lohia had stated that unless villages are developed, the nation cannot develop. Dr. Ambedkar had said that social inequality and discrimination must be eradicated. Dr. Lohia further said that the person who sits at the very back, who is at the lowest rung, who has no footwear on his feet, no food in his stomach and no clothes on his body, must be made the main focus. I would like to state that-

"Modi ji ne Hind mein vah kaam kar diya,

Gandhi, Lohia, Ambedkar, Deendayal ke sapnon ko saakar kar diya."

(The lines mean that under Modi ji's leadership, the long-held ideals of social justice, equality and inclusive development envisioned by leaders like Gandhi, Lohia, Ambedkar and Deendayal are being turned into practical governance outcomes.)

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to state that every individual desires food, clothing and shelter. One wants to eat good food, wear proper clothing and have a decent house. However, along with food, clothing and shelter, security and dignity are equally essential. Our Government seeks to ensure dignity as well. Our Government aims to provide identity, and the Government also seeks to give people their rightful place. The fisher community used to live along the banks of ponds and worked in harsh conditions during winter. Through the Matsya Sampada Yojana, the Hon. Prime Minister has taken concrete steps to confer dignity and recognition upon this community.

I would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister that today the Ujjwala Scheme is widely discussed across the country. Today, when women turn on the gas regulator provided under the Ujjwala Scheme, they do so with a sense of gratitude and offer their heartfelt blessings to Modi ji. When these very women open the latch of a toilet, they once again express their gratitude and offer their blessings to Modi ji. When women in villages press the electricity switch in their homes, they do so with gratitude and offer their blessings to Modi ji. I would like to submit that under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the aim is to provide housing for all. My Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency is situated between two rivers. The region between the Ramganga and the Bari Ganga has long

been afflicted by acute poverty, with many families living in thatched huts. Through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, these rural households have been provided with proper housing, and today they remember Modi ji with gratitude and offer their blessings.

22.25 hrs (Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

Hon. Speaker, Sir, with regard to the Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maandhan Yojana, one can imagine the plight of a person who earns a livelihood and then is forced to stop working. In such circumstances, even his own son may be unwilling to provide him with food, and even his brother may turn away from him. The Hon. Prime Minister has taken the initiative to address the concerns of such labourers as well. Whether it is the issue of water, the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, or the construction of roads, our Government has consistently worked with concern and commitment. When our Government was formed in the year 2014, the size of our economy was approximately 1.85 trillion dollars. Over the past five years, it has grown to 2.7 trillion dollars, and now our target is to reach five trillion dollars. I would like to submit that-

"Hai vishva hamaari mutthi mein, bhavishya hamaari chaahon par.

Vishva guru ban jaayega Bharat, chale Modi ki raahon par."

(The lines convey confidence that under Modi ji's leadership, India will shape its own future and emerge as a global leader with influence and moral authority.)

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABAR): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would like to begin by expressing my gratitude to the Hon. Finance Minister for coming to the House at 10.30 p.m. tonight and patiently listening to the views of all Members. We had been eagerly awaiting your presence throughout the day, and it is indeed reassuring to see you in the House. I would now like to voice a note of concern. You have the support of 303 Members, and all of them are offering generous praise for the Budget. An excess of such praise may not always be conducive to sound judgment. Therefore, I would like to place before the House a few bitter but necessary observations. Although the observations being made may sound unpleasant or critical, they are intended to be constructive. Just as neem is bitter but beneficial for health, such critical remarks are meant to strengthen democratic functioning by encouraging accountability, reflection and improvement.

Sir, I seek your protection. According to the data presented by the Government today, its own data is contradictory, reflecting inconsistency and a lack of clarity in the information placed before the House. The present Government claims that the economy is the fastest growing in terms of GDP, but its former Chief Economic

Adviser has stated that the current GDP is actually 2 percent lower than the real GDP. No clarification has been provided on this issue. With regard to unemployment data, the Economic Survey states that unemployment stands at 6.1 percent, but when the Government comes to the Lok Sabha, it says that crores of jobs have been created as per EPFO data. It is claimed that the fiscal deficit is 3.3 percent. I would like to ask how much off-budget borrowing is being undertaken. How much food subsidy is being routed through the FCI, and how much fiscal deficit is currently being concealed? The important question is this: what are the actual income and actual revenue of the present Government? In the Budget document for the year 2018-19, it is stated that the revised estimate for that year was Rs. 17.3 lakh crore. However, the Economic Survey, which uses provisional actuals, states that the actual revenue for 2018-19 was Rs. 15.6 lakh crore. Why does the Economic Survey say one thing while the Budget states another? You have earlier served as the Minister of Defence, and today you are the Minister of Finance. You had a historic opportunity to increase the defence budget, yet why is the defence allocation, as a proportion of GDP, the lowest it has been in the last 20 years? The Government had earlier envisaged the deployment of a Mountain Armed Force in the North-Eastern region, particularly in Arunachal Pradesh, to counter China’s growing strength in the region. Why was this not

implemented? In your speech, you referred to many points that were also mentioned in the previous Budget. However, there was no mention of doubling farmers' income. You did not refer to Smart Cities or AMRUT. Given the serious problems of urbanisation being faced in cities like Mumbai, are these issues not important? You speak of the Ayushman Bharat Scheme, but how will it lead to an increase in our Primary Health Centres? We have seen in Muzaffarpur that hospitals have neither sufficient beds nor adequate medicines. The Ayushman Bharat Scheme will neither increase the number of beds nor augment the availability of medicines. The present Government is facing a revenue crisis. Today, its GST revenue has fallen short by Rs. 1 lakh crore. The Economic Survey states that private investment has declined, exports have declined, growth has declined, core sectors have weakened, and industrial production has also declined.

What is the Government doing? In order to generate revenue, it is increasing the cess on petrol and diesel. To augment revenue, it is undertaking the disinvestment of Air India. To raise additional resources, it seeks to sell land belonging to Public Sector Enterprises. To further increase revenue, it has raised the import duty on gold. Who, then, bears the impact of these measures? It is the middle class, along with farmers, youth and mothers, who are compelled to bear this burden. Whom has the Government chosen

to benefit? It has extended concessions to private companies. The Government has reduced the corporate tax rate to 25 percent for companies with a turnover of Rs. 400 crore. On what grounds was this decision taken? If the Government requires higher tax revenues and its collections are declining, why were tax concessions granted to companies with a turnover of Rs. 400 crore?

Because of the situation involving NBFCs, many medium and small industries are today unable to access funds, as NBFCs themselves are facing a crisis. These entities had adopted excessive risk appetites and indulged in improper practices, as a result of which the MSME sector has suffered a serious downturn. Why have you not taken punitive action against them? Instead, you are extending support to financially sound NBFCs. You have recapitalised banks and provided them with Rs. 70 thousand crore. The recapitalisation of banks is not going to benefit farmers. It will primarily benefit the same companies whose actions have contributed to the financial crisis currently facing the country.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of the House to concerns relating to my region. I express my gratitude to you, as you have earlier served as the Minister of Commerce and Industry. As you are aware, whether it is the Tea Board or the Coffee Board, tea plantations are spread across Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Assam, and you are well acquainted with the challenges faced

by the tea plantation sector. At present, this industry is passing through a period of acute distress. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to consider announcing a special package for the tea industry. You are also aware that the North East Industrial Policy had earlier encouraged companies to establish operations in the North-Eastern region and provide employment opportunities to local youth. However, this policy has not yielded the desired outcomes and has not functioned as effectively as envisaged. Having served as the Minister of Commerce and Industry, you are fully apprised of these shortcomings. I do not wish to take much time. Having placed before the House certain candid observations, which may be bitter but are made in the larger interest of sound governance, I conclude by thanking you.

SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji. I have listened to several of my colleagues from the Opposition. Criticism and complaints have been raised regarding this Budget. However, I would like to state that the manner in which our Government has been presenting the Budget over the past five years has certainly become a matter of concern for those sitting opposite. Such concern is understandable, for when one's position begins to weaken, a sense of anxiety is inevitable. This concern also arises because the people of the country gave them opportunities not once, but repeatedly, for more than fifty years. The expectations that the people had from them, and what the people of this country desired, were not fulfilled by them. Now, when this Government is delivering on those expectations, it causes them both surprise and discomfort. They feel that if work of this nature continues in the country, then just as 2019 followed 2014, their own future beyond this point appears uncertain to them. It is for this reason that their anxiety has increased.

When I was elected to the 12th Lok Sabha in 1998 and entered this House, thousands of people would approach Members of Parliament seeking LPG connections. At that time, each MP was allotted only 160 coupons in a year, that is, 40 coupons every three

months. Large numbers of people would stand in long queues, repeatedly requesting and even pleading for a single coupon. Today, under the Ujjwala Scheme, these very people are receiving LPG connections free of cost.

To further illustrate how the country has transformed and progressed, I would like to give another example. Over a period of 67 years since 1947, or even if we take the period of 62 years up to 2009, there were only about 13 crore gas connections in the country. It is a matter of political will that in just five years, between 2014 and 2019, as many as 14 crore gas connections were provided. Of these, nearly 8 crore were given under the Ujjwala Scheme, while the remaining were provided under the general scheme.

When the UPA Government was in power, over a period of five years they constructed 25 lakh houses for the poor. When the people of this country formed a Government under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi ji, a Government with strong political will, 1 crore 25 lakh houses were constructed within the same five-year period, that is, five times more. The financial assistance was also doubled. During their tenure, only Rs. 70,000 was provided for the construction of a house. In the area from which I am elected, which is an LWE-affected district, Rs. 74,000 was provided. Today, nearly Rs. 1,59,000, that is, more than double the earlier amount, is being

provided to people for constructing houses. It is for this reason that their anxiety has increased.

I would like to submit that the resolve reflected in this Budget, and clearly evident today, is centred on villages, the poor and farmers. At the same time, this is an era of science and technology, and recognising this necessity, our Government has also decided to establish a National Research Foundation. We aspire to compete with the world, move forward alongside it, and place ourselves on an equal footing globally. Under the leadership of Modi ji, we do not wish India to be described merely as a progressive nation for long. Rather, we seek to enter the category of a developed country. This will be achieved under the leadership of Modi ji, driven by his strong will and determination.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I was speaking about villages, the poor and farmers. Under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, only those whose names appear in the ACCC list are eligible to receive benefits under this scheme. In Bihar, a second survey has been conducted, and based on that survey, a list of selected beneficiaries has been forwarded by the State Government to the Union Government. I would like to request the Union Government to accord approval to this list at the earliest, so that those poor persons who have so far been left out and deprived of the benefits of this scheme may also receive the intended assistance.

Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister has introduced a highly ambitious initiative known as the Aspirational Districts Programme, covering 115 districts across the country. No previous Government had undertaken such a focused exercise to identify which regions and communities had been left behind or which districts had remained below the desired level of development. This initiative reflects a new approach and the Hon. Prime Minister's forward-looking vision. A comprehensive survey was conducted to identify districts whose development indicators were below the national average. In this context, both districts of my Parliamentary Constituency, Aurangabad and Gaya, have been included in the list of Aspirational Districts. In this regard, I would like to place a suggestion before the Hon. Minister. There should be a structured review mechanism to assess the progress of this programme and evaluate the extent of work undertaken. As elected representatives, we possess first-hand knowledge of the challenges and needs of our respective constituencies. If our participation is ensured in this process, we would be in a better position to offer constructive suggestions and convey ground-level realities. I firmly believe that, under the Hon. Prime Minister's vision and leadership, these districts will witness faster and more effective development in the times to come.

In the same manner, the Opposition has yet another concern. Issues that they do not even contemplate are anticipated well in advance by our Hon. Prime Minister, who then formulates appropriate plans to address them. For instance, the Hon. Prime Minister foresaw the emerging problem of water scarcity, formulated a comprehensive strategy to tackle it, established the Ministry of Jal Shakti, and also launched the Jal Shakti Abhiyan under its aegis.

The MGNREGA Yojana plays a vital role in the development of our villages. In the context of the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, I would like to place a constructive suggestion before the Government. At present, the use of machinery under MGNREGA is permitted only in exceptional cases. I submit that in districts or blocks facing acute water scarcity, the Government should allow the use of machinery under MGNREGA for the construction of new ponds as well as for the excavation and desilting of existing ponds. ...*(Interruptions)* I will conclude my remarks in just one minute. During the tenure of our respected Atal ji, a scheme for the interlinking of rivers was initiated. There are regions where water is wasted, regions where water is available in excess, and regions where there is a severe shortage of water. We come from water-scarce areas. I would like to suggest that the river interlinking scheme be implemented across the country in a comprehensive manner, with substantially

enhanced financial support. At present, under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan, 1,592 blocks across 256 districts have been selected. However, my district, Aurangabad, has not been included, despite being a water-deficient area. I have already requested the Hon. Minister that this district should also be included. I strongly submit that all water-scarce regions must be covered, and that the river interlinking programme should be pursued with due priority and seriousness.

Hon. Speaker, the day before yesterday, during a visit to my constituency, an elderly woman approached me and stated that she had been receiving an old-age pension earlier, but that the pension had not been disbursed for the past six months. There may be a technical issue or a requirement for re-verification. Whatever the reason, I respectfully request that the matter be resolved at the earliest so that thousands and lakhs of such beneficiaries are able to receive their pensions without interruption. The grievance expressed by that elderly woman reflects a wider problem, and I submit that it merits urgent resolution. The constituency from which I have been elected is not only an Aspirational District but also an LWE-affected district. It continues to face the challenge of Naxal influence. A specific scheme of the Union Government is already in place for the construction of roads in such districts. In addition, for the development of these areas, a scheme known as ACA, that

is, Additional Central Assistance, is also being implemented. I would like to submit that under the existing framework, there is a three-member committee comprising the District Magistrate, the Superintendent of Police and the District Forest Officer. However, there is no provision for the participation of elected public representatives in this committee. As representatives elected by the people, we possess first-hand knowledge of local conditions, challenges and developmental priorities. Therefore, I would like to urge that, for the effective and timely implementation of this scheme, elected public representatives should be included in the committee and their inputs duly considered. This would enable development activities to be undertaken in closer alignment with ground realities and to progress at a faster pace in accordance with the Government's objectives. Further, under the LWE scheme, the Union Government provides 100 percent funding for road construction. Even in the execution of these works, I submit that implementation should be guided by the views and recommendations of the elected representatives of the concerned areas, so that public resources are utilised in a manner that best serves local needs.

Sir, the Ayushman Bharat Scheme launched by the Government is a commendable and widely accepted initiative. However, individuals whose names do not figure in the SECC list

are unable to obtain Golden Cards and, consequently, many poor persons remain deprived of medical treatment. I would like to request the Government to identify an alternative mechanism and establish a suitable provision so that poor persons excluded from the SECC list may also be issued Golden Cards, thereby ensuring access to medical treatment when required. Sir, I am sincerely thankful to you for granting me the opportunity to speak.

[*]**SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA (JAIPUR):** I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to place my views on the Budget for the year 2019-2020.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance for having given due and comprehensive attention in this Budget to every section of society, whether it be Dalits, the afflicted, the deprived, the exploited, or farmers. Along with this, adequate care has also been taken of organised and unorganised workers as well as small traders. Today, this Budget has generated immense satisfaction among the people, and there is hardly any section of society that feels disappointed with it.

This Budget is an important step towards the creation of a New India. There is not a single populist measure in this Budget; rather, it has been formulated keeping in view the real conditions of the country. The Budget presents a clearer and more effective picture of New India.

This Budget places villages, the poor and farmers at the centre of policy making. It sets out a clear roadmap for the holistic development of 130 crore citizens of the country. It reflects the firm commitment of this Government to meeting the basic needs of the

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

common people and demonstrates a focused approach towards ensuring not only food, clothing and shelter, but also access to a roof, clean water and electricity for every household. This Budget is designed to narrow the gap between the privileged and the underprivileged sections of society.

In accordance with the Government's commitment, every poor family will be provided with a permanent house by the year 2022. For this purpose, nearly 2 crore houses are required to be constructed. These houses will be equipped with electricity, LPG connections, clean drinking water and toilet facilities. This will constitute a major step by the Government, through which every individual belonging to the Dalit, afflicted and exploited sections of society will derive meaningful benefit.

The Government's focus remains firmly on economic reforms. The Hon. Prime Minister has expressed a clear and resolute commitment that India's economy will reach the level of 3 lakh crore dollars by 2020. We are confident that by 2025, the country will achieve the target of a 5 lakh crore dollar economy, and in terms of purchasing power parity, India will emerge as the world's third largest economy.

Work will be undertaken on the concept of "One Nation, One Grid" to strengthen power connectivity. Under this initiative, an

expenditure of Rs. 50 lakh crore is envisaged by the year 2030. Through this programme, electricity will be provided to every household in the country. For the current year, a target has been set to provide electricity connections to 7 crore poor families.

India's true strength lies in its villages, and farmers constitute the backbone of the nation. With this perspective, the Hon. Finance Minister has set an ambitious target of establishing 10,000 new Farmer Producer Organisations. These organisations will enable farmers to secure fair and remunerative prices for their produce. Farmers are not only providers of food but are also emerging as providers of energy. Where farmers generate solar power on their farmland, the Government will also undertake its procurement. The Government has set a clear objective of ensuring that farmers receive income equivalent to twice the cost of cultivation by the year 2022. This Budget marks the first decisive step towards achieving that goal.

The Government is introducing a pension scheme for retail shopkeepers. Under this new arrangement, pension benefits will be provided to 3 crore small shopkeepers. These retail traders will also be granted a 2 percent interest subvention on loans. In addition, a provision has been made to provide a pension of Rs. 3,000 per month to workers in the unorganised sector.

Women have been provided with an overdraft facility of up to Rs. 500 under the Jan Dhan Account Holders Scheme. In addition, such women will be eligible to receive loans of up to Rs. 1 lakh under the MUDRA Loan scheme. The Hon. Finance Minister has announced in the Budget that benefits will be extended to women entrepreneurs as well as entrepreneurs belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes under the Stand Up India initiative. Programmes to promote start-ups will also be launched on television channels.

It is a matter of great satisfaction that, despite making such wide-ranging provisions, the Hon. Finance Minister has not increased income tax for the common public. The increase in income tax has been confined only to the wealthy. The Government has provided significant relief to the middle and lower income groups in the purchase of houses. For the purchase of a house costing up to Rs. 45 lakh, an interest deduction of up to Rs. 7 lakh over a period of 15 years has been provided, which will give a substantial boost to the real estate sector.

There is much more that can be said on this Budget, but keeping in mind the constraints of time, I do not wish to dwell on those aspects. In conclusion, I would only say that this is a Budget that truly reflects the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Through the provisions made in this Budget, the Government has expanded

opportunities for investment. This Government stands for hope, trust and aspirations, and this Budget is designed to fulfil those expectations.

DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE (DHULE): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for granting me permission and the opportunity to place my views on this Budget. I rise to speak in support of the Budget. I would like to thank the Hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji, and the Minister of State for Finance, Shri Anurag Thakur ji, for presenting a commendable Budget. This Budget is inclusive, development-oriented, and firmly rooted in the ideology of our Hon. Prime Minister. The vision of our Hon. Prime Minister is Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas. This Budget takes the country towards the creation of a New India. It envisions doubling farmers' income, ensuring a permanent roof over the head of every poor person, providing electricity connections to every poor household, ensuring access to clean cooking fuel for every poor family, freeing every poor person from the compulsion of open defecation, making medical facilities accessible to all, connecting every village in the country with road infrastructure, ensuring the uninterrupted and clean flow of the Ganga, moving closer to the goal of becoming a 5 trillion dollar economy, advancing towards inclusion among the world's three largest economies, and stepping forward to provide leadership in global development with renewed energy and confidence. This Budget has taken into account the interests of all sections of society. Due consideration has been given to villages, the poor, farmers,

Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, youth, women, labourers, the middle class, traders and the business community. Owing to the constraint of time, I would now like to confine my remarks to issues relating to my constituency.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I come from North Maharashtra. In Nashik district, there is a tehsil called Surgana, which we often refer to as the Cherrapunji of Maharashtra. Due to the Sahyadri ranges, the region receives very heavy rainfall. Four rivers in this area, namely Nar, Par, Auranga and Ambika, are west-flowing rivers. The basins of these rivers together hold about 40 TMC of water, all of which ultimately flows into the Arabian Sea. If this water is utilised for irrigation in North Maharashtra, the region can truly become Sujalam Sufalam. You are aware that the irrigation coverage in Punjab and Haryana is about 98 percent, and it is for this reason that Punjab is known as the granary of the nation. In Maharashtra, up to the year 2014, when the UPA Government was in power, the irrigation coverage was only 16 percent. Along with Marathwada and Vidarbha, North Maharashtra has also been severely affected by drought, and our farmers have been suffering its impact continuously for the last four years. If the river interlinking project is implemented, North Maharashtra too can emerge as a granary of the country. The river linkage project envisages the construction of 13 dams on these four rivers, with their water being diverted to the

Manjarpada zone. From the Manjarpada zone, the water will be brought to the Chankapur Dam through an 11-kilometre-long tunnel. Through this system, at least seven tehsils of Nashik district, including Surgana, Kalwan, Baglan, Sinnar and Malegaon, will benefit. In this regard, I would like to thank the Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra and the Hon. Minister for Irrigation, Shri Girish Mahajan ji, who have approved Rs. 14 crore for the preparation of the Detailed Project Report. Once the DPR is completed, and with the signing of an MoU with the Government of Gujarat, this water can be made available to North Maharashtra. This river linkage project involving the four rivers will irrigate at least 40,000 hectares, that is, about 1,20,000 acres of land. In addition, several river linkage projects are proposed, including the Nar-Par-Auranga-Ambika river linkage, the Girna River Linkage, the Par-Gujari River Linkage, the Daman Ganga-Godavari Ekdare Project, the Daman Ganga-Vaitarna-Kadwa River Linkage, and the Devbandi River Linkage Project.

Through these four river linkage projects, at least 3 lakh 30 thousand hectares of land in the districts of Nashik, Dhule, Jalgaon, Aurangabad and Ahmednagar in North Maharashtra will be brought under irrigation. Therefore, through you, I would like to appeal the Union Government may accord this project the status of a National Project and ensure its expeditious completion. Thank you.

SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL (BANASKANTHA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would first like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister of the country and the Hon. Finance Minister for presenting a Budget that is meant for villages, the poor, farmers, labourers, youth and women. This Budget has been framed keeping in mind villages, the poor, farmers, labourers, youth and women. It makes specific reference to our poor brethren living in villages, farmers, labourers, youth and women. Very few Members from the Opposition are present, yet through this House I would like to ask those who ruled the country for more than 55 years what they actually accomplished during that long period. They continue to raise issues by saying that this work remains unfinished and that work remains incomplete. What they failed to do in 55 years has been accomplished by Modi ji within just five years. I would like to remind them of the condition of village roads in the past, the state of electricity supply in villages, and how many villages had access to drinking water at that time. Did they ever think of providing gas connections to BPL families? I would also like to point out what used to be done during times of drought. At best, wages were provided. They never gave serious thought to floods or cyclones. I would like to state that since Modi ji assumed office, whenever drought strikes, relief is provided to farmers to compensate for their incurred expenses. The same approach is adopted in the event of

cyclones. When floods occur and farmers' land suffers damage, relief is extended to them as well. Those who failed to do anything in the past now claim that this Government has not done this or that. Through this House, I would like to ask those who now remain absent from the proceedings to reflect on what they achieved over the past sixty years. Despite the extensive work undertaken by Modi ji since assuming office, they display no sense of accountability. Even today, they fail to comprehend why, after occupying the Treasury Benches for so many decades, they have been compelled to sit in the Opposition. The people have delivered a clear verdict against those who sought to mislead them. Under the leadership of Modi ji, gas connections have been provided to seven crore women. There was a time when an Member of Parliament was allotted merely 25 coupons for LPG connections, and even people like us had to depend on such coupons to obtain a connection. Today, our Government has ensured direct access to clean cooking fuel for seven crore women. As for farmers, for decades they were neglected, with little meaningful financial support reaching them. We have taken a clear decision to provide Rs. 6,000 to every farmer. I submit that those who have made meaningful contributions may place their views before the House, but it is surprising that those who failed to act are now raising objections. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Scheme, the Minimum Support Price

has been enhanced substantially. When our Hon. Prime Minister served as the Chief Minister of Gujarat prior to 2014, his work spoke for itself, even though he did not enjoy the national recognition that he commands today.

HON. SPEAKER: Do not address your remarks to three Hon. Members; address the Chair.

SHRI PARBATBHAI SAVABHAI PATEL: Sir, I will speak keeping the Chair in view.

When our Hon. Prime Minister was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, the work he carried out then, and continues to carry out now, speaks for itself. In Gujarat, electricity was available round the clock, with assured three-phase power supply.

Officials, migrant workers, tourists and transporters who came from outside witnessed these developments firsthand. Today, 78 percent of households in Gujarat receive water through tap connections, a process that was initiated years ago and laid the foundation for the progress being seen today. At a time when electricity was yet to reach nearly 18,000 villages in Gujarat, even a small habitation with just seven houses and a population of 36 was provided with round-the-clock, three-phase power supply. This was achieved under the leadership of Modi ji.

Sir, it is precisely for this reason that I would like to submit that wherever Modi ji has worked, the overwhelming mandate received, whether 303 seats for the BJP or 353 seats for the NDA, reflects the deep trust and remembrance of the people. He is remembered in every household. Daughters and mothers alike recall him, recognising that the benefits they have received are a direct result of Modi ji's leadership. Even my young son, while pursuing his studies, is aware of who Modi ji is. ...*(Interruptions)* It was for this very reason that the so-called alliance was formed. It was not a coalition founded on shared principles or ideology, but merely an opportunistic grouping brought together with the sole objective of removing Modi ji. Despite the absence of common thinking or vision, they came together. However, the people of the country have delivered a decisive verdict. They have clearly indicated the place such voices deserve and where they are best suited to sit. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ajay Tamta ji, you may speak.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, please.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is my responsibility.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI AJAY TAMTA (ALMORA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am deeply grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget. ...*(Interruptions)* Hon. Speaker, Sir, first of all, I extend my heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to the Hon. Finance Minister, Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman ji, for having paid special attention in this Budget to the aspirations of 130 crore citizens of the country. I also convey my sincere thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister and to our Hon. Minister of State, Shri Thakur Sahab. This Budget stands at the centre of the hopes and expectations of 130 crore Indians and represents a decisive step towards New India. It is the first Budget of the new Government under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi ji, whose guiding mantra is a strong India and a New India, in which villages, the poor, farmers, youth and women have been accorded priority. As a result, our Government has won the confidence and the hearts of the people of the country. This Budget moves decisively towards the goal of New India by focusing on the development of the person standing at the last rung of society. While presenting the Budget, the Hon. Minister had stated that-

“Yaqeen ho to koi raasta nikalta hai,

Hawa ki ot bhi lekar chiraag jalta hai.”

(These lines convey that strong determination and self-belief can overcome even the most adverse circumstances. When intent is firm, obstacles themselves can be turned into opportunities, and solutions can be found even in situations that appear unfavourable.)

This makes it abundantly clear that the Modi Government stands firmly on the trust of 130 crore citizens of the country, and it is our collective belief that this trust will continue to grow even stronger in the times ahead. Hon. Speaker, Sir, despite 70 years having passed since the country attained Independence, the Opposition before us had numerous opportunities to serve the people. They formed Governments for long periods by securing the votes of the poor, yet they consistently deprived those very people of basic amenities. They failed to concern themselves with their housing, neglected their access to food, and never gave due priority to the many hardships faced by the poor which required Government intervention. These fundamental issues were never placed at the centre of their governance.

Under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, since the formation of the Government in 2014, sustained efforts have been made to reach the person standing at the last rung of society by providing essential facilities such as housing, LPG connections, toilets, drinking water and electricity. These initiatives have yielded substantial and visible results across the country. It is for this reason

that the poor have wholeheartedly reposed their trust, respect and confidence in Narendra Bhai Modi ji, and this is why the positive impact of this historic Budget is clearly evident. Under the Government led by Hon. Modi ji, this commitment is reflected consistently in action. With regard to our present Hon. Finance Minister, who had earlier served as the Defence Minister, I state with great pride and deep satisfaction that my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency lies along the Nepal-China-Tibet border. In my constituency, the Dharchula region, including the Lipulekh area along the border, was visited by her in her capacity as the Hon. Minister of Defence, during which due attention was accorded to this strategically important area.

23.00 hrs

This in itself is a significant opportunity. Therefore, considering the manner in which the Government led by Modi ji has been working consistently in the past and has now presented this Budget, I would like to request you to kindly grant me a little more time, as very limited time has been allotted to me. I shall place a few brief points directly before the House. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, if the House permits, there is one more Hon. Member and a newly elected Hon. Member as well.

If five minutes are granted to them, the list of all Members will be completed.

...(Interruptions)

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Hon. Speaker, Sir, please extend the time.

SHRI AJAY TAMTA (ALMORA): Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for extending the time.

Sir, for the first time, focused and sustained attention has been accorded to our border regions. Earlier, the Hon. Member from Arunachal Pradesh had also expressed serious concerns regarding border areas, and the Hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Bhai Modi ji, has given the highest priority to addressing these concerns. As a result, several Ministers have actively engaged in advancing developmental and strategic initiatives in these regions. The construction of the road up to Lipulekh is a significant achievement. By personally inspecting these roads, reviewing progress on the ground, interacting with the local population, and providing clear direction to Government programmes, effective steps have been taken to ensure that policy decisions translate into tangible outcomes. I would like to place on record that, for the first time in the country, such concrete results have been achieved under the leadership of Narendra Bhai Modi ji. Whether it is the identification

of 115 Aspirational Districts or the selection of targeted villages, the clear objective has been to ensure that the poorest and most remote sections of society receive essential facilities. By identifying these areas with precision and assigning responsibility to Ministers and Government officials, implementation has been ensured at the grassroots level. If any Government has undertaken such focused, accountable and result-oriented efforts for the first time, it is the Government led by Narendra Bhai Modi ji. Provision has also been made in this Budget to further enhance these efforts, for which I extend my sincere congratulations to you. I would like to offer my congratulations once again, particularly as I come from a border state of the country. In the same manner, with regard to the North-Eastern region and the entire Himalayan belt, it has been ensured that every Minister periodically visits these States, every two or three months, to review the functioning of their respective Departments. This has helped maintain a living connection with these regions, strengthening bonds of trust, affection, confidence and development. If any Government has ensured increased budgetary support for these regions, it is our Government that has done so over the past five years. Those seated opposite us ruled the country for 54 years, yet they never undertook such initiatives. All these efforts have been carried out during the last five years, and

even within this Budget, allocations have been further enhanced. This is, indeed, a historic Budget.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, I would also like to point out that this year marks the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi ji. He had said that the soul of India resides in its villages. Keeping this very thought in mind, this Budget has targeted village development through a range of focused schemes. As a result, people living in rural areas have begun to feel the impact of these initiatives, and this sense of inclusion and progress will continue to deepen in the times ahead. The outcomes of these efforts, and the growing trust they inspire, will be seen even more strongly under the Government led by Narendra Bhai Modi ji in the future.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, through the Swachh Bharat Mission, the Government has created a new chapter in the history of the country and has set an example before the world, particularly considering that our nation has the second largest population globally. This initiative was personally led and carried forward to the very last person in society. Today, even children are well aware of the importance of cleanliness and know where waste should be disposed of. This level of awareness is, in itself, a significant achievement. Similarly, for the cleaning and rejuvenation of Ganga, a programme titled Namami Gange has been implemented. In furtherance of this objective, a dedicated Ministry of Jal Shakti has

now been established. as I come from a glacier region, I would like to draw the attention of the House to this critical issue. Asia's largest glacier, the Milam Glacier, from which several rivers originate, provides irrigation and drinking water to vast regions of the country. By establishing a dedicated Ministry, the Government has made a sincere effort to confront this challenge and work towards addressing it. This is an issue that all of us need to understand deeply, because due to global warming, glaciers are steadily receding. In the coming times, if glaciers themselves disappear, the question arises as to how water will be made available. Therefore, it is imperative that rainwater is conserved and protected. Human life is intrinsically linked with water. In this great national mission, I would like to submit that all of us must come together and, within our respective regions, unite to realise the vision of the Hon. Prime Minister. This, in my considered view, is the need of the hour.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, just as 5 crore 64 lakh 668 villages have been declared open defecation free, 1,700 cities have also achieved open defecation free status. By 02 October 2019, India is committed to becoming completely free from open defecation. This is a mission of the Hon. Prime Minister. To successfully accomplish this mission, it will require the collective efforts of all of us and the participation of the entire nation. Only through such shared

commitment can this campaign be brought to its rightful conclusion.

Similarly, provisions have been made in this Budget to ensure employment opportunities for our youth and for our artisans under the SFURTI Scheme. This will further enhance the skills and livelihoods of our artisan brethren in the times to come. The Budget has also made provisions to bring about economic improvement in the production of bamboo, honey and khadi. This is, in itself, a highly commendable initiative.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to draw attention to another important issue, namely migration, which is a major challenge in border and frontier regions. The people residing in these frontier areas act as sentinels of the nation. The villagers living in these regions contribute directly to safeguarding our borders. Border security can be strengthened effectively only when good road connectivity is provided to these areas. For the first time in the country, and indeed recognised globally, all-weather roads are being constructed in India. Under this initiative, the Char Dham projects have been integrated, including Gangotri ji, Yamunotri ji and Kedarnath ji. Along with this, for the first time, several schemes have been extended to the hilly regions of my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, beyond the plains. This also includes

connectivity up to the Lipulekh Pass, which lies on the border with China.

China has already extended road connectivity up to that point. In this Budget, provision has been made to accelerate the pace of road construction on our side as well, and allocations have been enhanced for this purpose. This is, in itself, a very significant step. It is essential that these border areas do not become depopulated, that tourism and pilgrimage activities are encouraged there, and that, through the Bharatmala programme, meaningful employment opportunities are created for the youth in these regions. Hon. Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. I rise in support of the Budget. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Raju Bista. He is the last speaker and a newly elected Hon. Member from the Darjeeling region, which faces serious challenges.

SHRI RAJU BISTA (DARJEELING): Hon. Speaker, Sir, thank you. I rise to speak in support of the Budget. I have been observing the proceedings for the past three days, and one thing is abundantly clear: this is a Budget full of energy and enthusiasm. Even at 11.00 p.m., every person and every Member wishes to speak for at least an hour. A distinctive feature of this Budget is the emphasis placed on generating income with minimal expenditure. Special attention has been paid to this aspect, particularly because a substantial portion of our Budget continues to be spent on interest payments. For this, I would like to extend my special thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance. Moreover, whenever issues of finances and the Budget are discussed, there is a well-known saying in India that one should stretch one's legs only as far as the blanket allows. I would like to commend the Hon. Minister of Finance for having managed to stretch the legs while also ensuring that the blanket was fully taken care of.

Even after 72 years of Independence, many among us continue to win elections by glorifying poverty. I do not believe this is a matter of pride for us. That we are still compelled to speak about villages and the poor after so many decades is a serious concern. I am of the view that this Budget has the potential, in the days to come, to free India completely from poverty. This Budget places strong emphasis on the upliftment of the poor, women, youth,

farmers, workers and ordinary citizens. At the same time, comprehensive attention has been given to infrastructure, connectivity, highways, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, health, water and education. Special focus has also been placed on increasing foreign exchange inflows, attracting foreign investment and generating employment opportunities. Further, recognising that the Budget represents the nation's balance sheet, due and careful attention has been paid to managing the current account deficit and the fiscal deficit.

Sir, I come from the Darjeeling region. Naturally, I have made every effort to relate this Budget to the concerns of my area. Given the nature of the Government presently in power in West Bengal, many of us feel abandoned. For a long time, that Government was preoccupied with the collection of so-called commissions, and in recent times, it has been equally preoccupied with returning them. In this context, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance to extend special consideration and focused attention to the State of West Bengal. The Budget makes mention of the "Study in India" initiative, under which students from abroad will be encouraged to come to India for higher education. I would like to submit that Darjeeling continues to be an important education hub even today. A large number of foreign students, particularly from Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Thailand, Bhutan and Indonesia, come to

Darjeeling to pursue their studies. I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance that the “Study in India” programme be initiated from the Darjeeling region.

Much has been spoken about labour reforms. I would like to draw the attention of the House to the Darjeeling region, the Dooars, Alipurduar, Cooch Behar and adjoining areas, where there are more than 300 large tea gardens. Unfortunately, the condition of these tea estates today is deeply concerning. Although the Minimum Wages Act is applicable across the State, its effective implementation in tea gardens remains absent. Even today, workers employed in these plantations receive a minimum wage of only Rs. 176 per day, an amount that is grossly inadequate to meet even basic living needs, let alone provide education for their children. Through you, I would like to submit that the Plantation Labour Act, 1951, a colonial-era legislation, continues to govern the lives of plantation workers. The British have long since departed, yet their outdated laws continue to be imposed upon our workers. I would like to urge the Government to review and amend this Act so as to ensure fair wages, dignity and social justice for tea garden labourers.

Earlier today, I listened to a Member of the Trinamool Congress who was opposing the imposition of 2 percent TDS. If they are genuinely so concerned about this issue, they should also

state clearly that the labourers working there must be paid their full minimum wages.

Reference has been made to Jal Shakti, and it is often said that water is the next oil. Darjeeling, after Cherrapunji, is among the regions receiving the highest rainfall. Yet, despite this abundance, my entire region, including Siliguri, Matigara, Naxalbari, Chopra and Phansidewa, continues to struggle with acute water scarcity.

Just as we have ensured electricity and clean cooking gas for every household, I firmly believe that this objective too will be achieved within the next 5 years. Reference has been made to connectivity and infrastructure, and I would like to urge that special attention be given to Siliguri and the adjoining border regions. Similarly, focused attention can also be given to tourism, which holds immense potential for these areas.

As time is limited, before concluding my remarks, I would like to place before the House a few words from the Nepali litterateur Laxmi Devi Sundas ji.

Dekhos na dekhos yo vartamaan

Bhavi peedhi le dekhne chha.

Kasaile chhadma bhesh maa

timro itihaas lekhde chha.

Utsarg gar, utsarg gar.”

It means-

“Ye vartamaan dekhe ya na dekhe,

bhaavi peedhi unko dekhegi.

Koi kahin chhadma bhesh mein aapka itihaas likh raha hai.

Abhi tum utsarg karo. Utsarg karo.”

(This means that even if the present generation does not recognise it, future generations certainly will. Somewhere, someone is already recording your history, perhaps in disguise. For now, continue to make sacrifices. Continue to dedicate yourselves.)

Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned till 11.00 a.m. on Wednesday, 10 July, 2019.

23.11 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven O’Clock on Wednesday, 10th July, 2019/Ashadha 19, 1941 (Saka)

———————

INTERNET

The Original version, English version and Hindi Version of Lok Sabha proceedings are available on Parliament of India Website at the following address:

https://sansad.in/ls

LIVE TELECAST OF PROCEEDINGS OF LOK SABHA

Lok Sabha proceedings are telecast live on Sansad TV Channel. Live telecast begins at 11 A.M. every day the Lok Sabha sits till the adjournment of the House.

©2019 By Lok Sabha Secretariat

Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Seventeenth Edition)