

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Eleventh Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXIV contains Nos.21 to 30)

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NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Wednesday, April 12, 2017/Chaitra 22, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Madam, happy birthday to you.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you.

[Translation]

MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, on behalf of the entire House, we offer our heartfelt wishes on your birthday. We collectively wish you a life blessed with health, longevity and continued success, and we pray that under your gracious leadership the deliberations and functioning of this august House may proceed in harmony and dignity.
... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You mean to say that you wish I should continue scolding everyone?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV): May your blessings continue to be showered upon us forever. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Of course, you can definitely say that.

... (*Interruptions*)

11.02 hours**SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS**

**Re: Reported uncharitable remarks made by a political activist
of West Bengal against the Chief Minister of West Bengal**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Saugata Royji.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, on this very happy occasion of your birthday where everybody is wishing you many happy returns, I have to mention a very disturbing news in the House.

Day before yesterday, there was a lathicharge on BJP workers in Birbhum District of West Bengal on the issue of Hanuman Jayanti. Lathicharge was done by the police. After that, a BJP youth leader from West Bengal has given a public statement that he would give Rs. 11 lakh to anybody who presents him with Mamata Banerjee's head. This is ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Let him speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, I do not want to raise temperatures further, but this issue is condemnable because Mamata Banerjee is not only the elected Chief Minister of West Bengal and a

former Member of this House, but also she is one who has come up from the ranks, from the grass-roots.

So, I take this opportunity to bring this matter to your notice and that of the House. I would urge the Government to take all possible action against such men who create such provocation, especially threatening to behead a popular Chief Minister.

Madam, I thank you for allowing me to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. A. Sampath, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, Shri P. Karunakaran and Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Prof. Saugata Roy.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down Rajendra ji .

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): ... *(Interruptions)*... Action should be taken against it. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I condemn the statements made in respect of the incident that has taken place in West Bengal. We associate ourselves with what has been stated. Such an occurrence ought not to have taken place. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: All of you can associate.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: If such comments are made everywhere against a woman Chief Minister and a former Minister of the country, it will undoubtedly create a negative atmosphere in the nation. Therefore, I would like to request you that a strong message should be sent by the Government to such persons that anyone who makes such statements will be dealt with in accordance with the law.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): The Government should respond to it. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What does the Government have to do with this? I believe that such conduct, wherein people speak against one another, is not appropriate. ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Hon. Speaker, the statement that has been made is utterly foolish and entirely unacceptable. We condemn that statement in its totality. The Bharatiya Janata Party is a democratic party, and Sushri Mamata Banerjee, as an elected Chief Minister, is entitled to the highest regard. If any such remark is made from any corner, we emphatically and unequivocally condemn it. ...
(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam, I have also raised in the House regarding the Chief Minister of Kerala. ...
(Interruptions) Now, we hear about the Chief Minister of West Bengal. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Karunakaran ji, please sit down. Shri Jyotiraditya ji, please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

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

HON. SPEAKER: Only the Minister's statement should go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I request you all,

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Venu Gopal ji, please be seated. I request all of you, with folded hands, that as Members we must acknowledge that this emerging practice of speaking anything at one's own will, from either side, is wholly inappropriate. I would like to urge everyone to exercise restraint. We are the representatives of the people, and this is my earnest appeal to all of you. It is neither proper nor becoming to speak against one another, whether in this House or outside. This is gradually becoming a practice, and we must all remain mindful of it.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

[English]

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Madam, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Madam, the non-BJP Chief Ministers are facing this situation. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record like this.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam, the hon. Home Minister is present in the House. ... *(Interruptions)* He should respond on the issue raised here. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we will have the Question Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Venugopal, what is the matter?

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Madam, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, not now. It is the Question Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What is the matter that you want to raise now?

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Madam, it is the farmers' issue that we want to raise in the House. ...
(Interruptions)

DR. P. VENUGOPAL: The farmers from Tamil Nadu have undertaken a protest in New Delhi demanding waiver of agricultural loans that they have taken from the nationalized banks and also to constitute Cauvery Management Board. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is the Question Hour.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I will not allow like this. I understand your problem.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Madam, the agitation is going on for the last 25 days in New Delhi. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, it is about the loan waiver. I can understand.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the 'Zero Hour'.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I will not allow anything like this.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Madam, we have festivals coming up in Kerala. ... *(Interruptions)* Please allow me to raise an important issue.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have given him an opportunity to raise the issue because it was something different.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: There is the festival of Easter and Vishu coming up in Kerala. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Madam, there is no money in the treasury. ... *(Interruptions)*

11.09 hours***ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 541, Shri Janak Ram

(Q. 541)

[Translation]

SHRI JANAK RAM: Hon. Speaker, at the outset, I extend to you my warm greetings on your birthday. I am satisfied with the written reply of the Hon. Minister, and I convey my heartfelt gratitude for the same. Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, the centenary year of the birth of Hon. Deendayal Upadhyay is being commemorated. Preparations are also underway to celebrate, on a grand scale, the one hundred twenty seventh birth anniversary of the founding father of the Constitution and the first Minister of Law and Justice, Dr. B. R. Ambedkar.

Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to request a reply from the Hon. Minister of Communications as to what steps the Government has taken thus far to extend the BSNL network to rural areas in the same manner as the networks of other private companies.

I would also like to know by when the Government of India will successfully complete the technical facilities in the remote rural areas of the block along the Nepal border, which falls within my Parliamentary Constituency in Bihar, where Maoists and Left Wing Extremists are active.

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker, with regard to the question raised by the Hon. Member, I would state that the district of Gopalganj, from which he hails, does not fall among the districts identified by the Ministry of Home Affairs as Left Wing Extremist-affected areas. Under that scheme, 184 towers have been installed by BSNL in the State of Bihar, and we are in the process of installing 66 additional towers. However, the district of Gopalganj, the district of our Hon. Member, does not fall within the Left Wing Extremist category. Districts such as Gaya, Arwal, Aurangabad and several others in Bihar fall within that classification. Our 43 BTS units are functioning in many districts apart from these. Our 2G and 3G services are operating satisfactorily in the areas he has mentioned, from Hathua up to the block headquarters. If there is any specific location where problems are arising, we shall certainly look into it.

It is true that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited had been facing financial difficulties, but during the last three years, after this

Government assumed office, we have installed approximately 20,100 BTS units of 2G and more than 20,450 BTS units of 3G. For the first time, BSNL has achieved operating profit, and in the days to come, we shall undoubtedly be able to provide services superior to others and continue to rise and shine.

SHRI JANAK RAM: Hon. Madam Speaker, complaints regarding the poor BSNL network continue to surface across the country, including issues of call drops, which at times occur even in the vicinity of the Parliament House. I would like to submit that when the common people of my area call me in my capacity as an Member of Parliament and the call gets disconnected in the middle of the conversation, I too am subjected to scolding. People assume that I do not wish to speak to them now that I have become a Member of Parliament. ... *(Interruptions)* Or they think that I have deliberately disconnected the call. Therefore, I put forth a demand: since a private company is providing free internet facilities in this era of the internet, and BSNL is lagging behind in this competitive environment, is the Government considering providing free internet service to the poor in the country, including those residing in rural areas? If so, by when will this work be completed?

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Member seeks many answers to one question. He has raised the issue of call drop. I wish to inform the House that in the last 9 to 10 months, we have installed 2.5 lakh BTS across the country. As far as Delhi is concerned, we have begun the work of installing BTS in government buildings. Ever since we made ROW rules, our towers have been installed in 16 post offices. We are installing these towers in some other NDMC buildings as well. Parliament House is under your jurisdiction, and neither have you given permission to install towers here, nor can I install. However, we have made arrangements so that the call of the Hon. Member is not dropped. There are many places, such as Lodhi Road, where people who go for morning walks have refused, and when MTNL began installing BTS, the Archaeological Survey of India also refused, and residents started protesting. I can state that TRAI parameters have improved by 60 per cent in the last few days. Through the IVRS system launched by the Ministry, we have made calls to 16 lakh people in the last three months to learn about call drop and the problems they are facing, and we are finding solutions. We assure the House that after the spectrum auction, spectrum with service providers is sufficient. They are investing so

that progressive improvements may be made and Shri Janak Ram may have no complaint.

Secondly, the Hon. Prime Minister has taken interest in internet service, which is an important component of BharatNet, after the formation of his Government. We want to provide 100 MBPS broadband connectivity to 2.5 lakh gram panchayats. In the first phase, we have taken up 1 lakh gram panchayats, and we have laid optical fibre in more than 90,000 gram panchayats. I hope that by the end of April or 15 May, optical fibre will be laid in all 1 lakh gram panchayats of the country. In the second phase, we will provide broadband connectivity to 1.5 lakh gram panchayats, and we will build the necessary infrastructure. Please request the Bihar government to provide Wi Fi free of cost. The Uttar Pradesh government has recently announced that it will provide free Wi Fi to students. Certainly, the Government is committed to building such infrastructure in the country, and it will be completed within the stipulated time frame.

[English]

SHRI PARTHA PRATIM RAY: Not only in LWE areas, but also in every State in our country, especially in rural and border areas including a district in my constituency, Coochbehar, BSNL network

is very poor. Day to day work both in public and private sector, especially in the banking sector, education sector and various on-line services like salary, submissions, scholarships, etc. is hampered due to poor network of BSNL. There is a common tendency to use other networks instead of BSNL. Through you, I would like to ask the hon. Minister: What is the Government's initiative to provide smooth and regular BSNL network throughout the country, especially in rural and border areas?

The Ministry of HRD is going to launch a new e-based education system, SWAYAM. For the success of this programme, the online network coverage should be ensured in the rural areas. What is the Government's initiative in this regard?

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Madam Speaker, we have never stated that Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited has an all India coverage. District headquarters, Tehsil headquarters, Block headquarters and many villages across the country do have BSNL network. However, there are more than 50,000 villages in the country where mobile connectivity is still absent. The Government of India has formulated several schemes to address this. Left Wing Extremist Areas have been mentioned, and we are covering some villages in those regions. The

Government of India has also recently approved a special scheme for all the States in the North Eastern region, and its tender process is currently underway. Separate projects have been prepared for Lakshadweep and Andaman, and the remaining uncovered areas of the country will be completed in a phased manner in the coming period.

Hon. Speaker, the data available with us is based on the year 2011. We are writing to the Chief Secretaries of all States to obtain updated information regarding which villages in each State still remain without connectivity. As regards the second part of the Hon. Member's query, I have already stated that 100 Mbps broadband connectivity will be extended to every Gram Panchayat through Bharat Net by the year 2018.

[English]

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR: Madam, a survey was conducted by Dharmapuri SSA on my request way back in 2016, which has recommended for the installation of BTS in villages – Nochipatty, Pannandur and Chickapoovathy – falling in my parliamentary constituency, Krishnagiri. Due to lack of proper mobile connectivity, more than 40 villages are deprived of mobile communication. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken

by the Ministry to install the BTS in above named villages to improve the mobile connectivity.

Madam, I had already sent a letter to the hon. Minister in this regard and the same is pending for a year.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Hon. Speaker, it has not yet been one year since I assumed charge as a Minister in this Ministry. I apologise to the Hon. Member, and I shall certainly provide a written reply to the letter he has submitted within 15 days, and if he is available, I shall also inform him over the phone regarding the position. I believe it will be difficult to furnish precise details of how many towers are presently in the Parliamentary Constituency and how many installations are still required.

SHRI NIHAL CHAND: Hon. Speaker, the network of Bharat Sanchar Nigam continues to pose a serious challenge in several States. In the border regions, signals from neighbouring countries often enter India. I represent a border area myself. With regard to Rajasthan, I wish to submit to the Hon. Minister that in many border locations, the frequency of Pakistan is received, yet the BSNL network is absent. The number of BSNL towers is so limited that no effective connectivity reaches these areas.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether there is any plan to install towers along the borders of the adjoining States so that the frequencies coming from across the border may not enter India.

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: The Hon. Member has enquired about the border areas, and they remain on the priority list of the Department. I believe that a policy on this should be formulated soon. We shall ensure that this facility reaches the Parliamentary Constituency of the Hon. Member as well as the other border areas of the country.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Madam, Happy Birthday! Non-compliance of good business practices by the BSNL staff, both managerial and field, has brought down this mammoth of a Corporation, a PSU, to its knees. We see the feeling across the House. This shows that the plight of the consumer, at the lowest level, is very bad. The services of the BSNL are very dissatisfactory. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, if the Government has any proposal to create a situation where a small percentage of the shares of the BSNL, which is a hundred per cent Government-owned Company, can be given to its own staff. It would be the best kind of motivation. The staff would feel that it is their company, it is their pride and not of somebody else. This way, they would get a benefit

beyond their salaries from the company. Will the Government consider this?

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Madam, Hon. Tathagata Satpathy is a senior Member, and he has offered a suggestion. The Ministry does not have any such proposal at present to issue shares. It is a hundred percent government owned company. However, I would like to inform the House that despite intense competition in the past two months, the number of BSNL customers has continued to increase, and in the last two years BSNL has achieved operating profit. Performance based promotion has been implemented in BSNL, and several other measures are also being undertaken. I am of the view that, considering the pace at which BSNL is progressing, it has successfully withstood many fluctuations. Our customer base continues to grow despite the entry of new competitors, which is an encouraging sign. I believe that BSNL has remained steady through such challenges in the past and will continue to do so in the future, and its financial health will remain stable.

SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE: Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether BSNL has introduced any new schemes for the tribal areas. In these regions, there are no towers

of any private company, nor of BSNL, and the people consequently face considerable hardship. The roaming charges for them are also high. Thank you.

SHRI MANOJ SINHA: Madam, tribal areas are in the priority list of this Government. Hon. Member Madam, had recently given me a letter. I am getting it looked into and I certainly assure you that we will take care that this facility should be available in tribal areas as well.

(Q.542)

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Hon. Madam Speaker, first of all, I would like to extend my warm greetings to you on your birthday.

Madam, through this question, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to my Parliamentary Constituency, Gadchiroli-Chimur in Maharashtra, which is among the most backward, dense, tribal dominated and Naxal affected regions of the country. My area possesses resources such as granite, dolomite, diamond, emerald, gold, magnet and coal in substantial quantities, and nearly 80 percent of the region is forest area. Yet there are no major industries or factories. The sole reason for this is the absence of adequate means of transport, proper roads and reliable railway lines. The Nagbhir Nagpur broad gauge line was approved in the budget for the year 2013 to 2014. The revised estimates for this rail line, including electrification, are now ready. Earlier, its cost was 401 crore rupees, and it has now increased to 708.11 crore rupees. Madam, despite the allocation of 708.11 crore rupees, the work has not commenced due to the absence of approval from NITI Aayog. Therefore, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government intends to initiate, on a priority basis, work on this

railway line located in an area severely affected by Naxalism, so that the region may develop and the youth may be integrated into the mainstream of the country by overcoming the challenge of Naxalism. Will the Hon. Minister give this matter serious consideration?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, I am pleased that, as the Hon. Member has mentioned, we have endeavoured to initiate more projects in those areas where Left Wing Extremism is present and which are affected by it. I would also like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, who has extended full support to these efforts. I am happy to state that the State Government and the Ministry are forming a joint venture company to undertake this project, and I have already discussed this matter with the Hon. Chief Minister. We shall complete this project through that joint venture company.

Secondly, I would like to inform the House that this year we have sanctioned the complete conversion of all meter gauge lines in the country. This means that not only this particular line, but every meter gauge line in the country has been approved for full conversion into broad gauge, and accordingly this work will also be completed.

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Hon. Speaker, Madam, the Hon. Minister has provided a satisfactory reply. My second supplementary question concerns the second railway line in my Parliamentary Constituency, Wadsa Gadchiroli. This project was approved in the year 2011 to 2012. Its estimates are ready, and the process of land acquisition is also progressing in full swing, yet even after four to five years, the work has not commenced.

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister when this project will begin, and whether a date will be fixed for its commencement after selecting an appropriate time and performing the Bhoomi Pujan. This is what I seek to know from the Minister.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, at present there are projects worth more than 4 lakh crore rupees across the country that the Hon. Member has referred to. Sanction, in this context, merely meant inclusion in the Pink Book, without any corresponding budgetary provision. Consequently, people were under the impression that some work was underway, while in reality no progress was being made. To avoid such situations, we are according priority to those projects on which some work has taken place but which remain incomplete.

Madam, with your permission, I shall send state wise information to all Hon. Members regarding the extent of old projects

we have sought to complete, the new projects that we have initiated, and the number of surveys that have been carried out. I shall send this information state wise to all Hon. Members within eight to ten days.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you. Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia ji, please speak.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Hon. Madam Speaker, Sheopur district lies between Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. It is a tribal dominated region and is characterised by dense forest areas. The foundation stone of the Gwalior Sheopur Kota line for this region was laid during the UPA Government. Shri Muniyappa is seated beside me; together we had laid the foundation stone of this line in 2011. However, since then, the progress on this project has been extremely slow. I have met the Hon. Minister several times regarding this matter, and he has assured me that budgetary allocation for this project would be made this year. I have received information that the Hon. Minister has allocated about six hundred crore rupees for this scheme during the current year. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he can confirm that 600 crore rupees have indeed been allocated for the Gwalior Sheopur scheme.

Secondly, I would like to know by when work will commence on the approved Sheopur-Kota line.

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, the Hon. Member is a valued friend. What he has stated about projects for which the foundation stone was laid but which did not progress thereafter is entirely correct, although the reasons for that are best known to those responsible at that time. ... (*Interruptions*) The foundation stone had indeed been laid, but no budgetary provision existed. As he has mentioned, we have now, for the first time, made a budgetary allocation for this project. I would like to assure him that I shall provide state wise detailed information regarding the present status of such projects. He is right in observing that no work was undertaken after the foundation stone was laid. However, a project cannot move forward on a foundation stone alone; it requires financial provision. I will send him the information pertaining to Madhya Pradesh. He meets us regularly, and we are taking this matter forward. I shall also send the relevant information to all Hon. Members from all States.

Madam, I am pleased to note that earlier only 40 to 50 thousand crore rupees were provided in the budget annually, resulting in more schemes being announced than could realistically be supported. Through the collective efforts of all Members, we have invested 3.5 lakh crore rupees in just two and a half years for the modernisation of our railways. This scale of investment will bring substantial benefits

to all concerned. I shall make the complete information available to him shortly.

SHRI HUKUM SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, the reply of the Hon. Minister has encouraged me, and I would like to seek further information from him. Shamli is a district headquarter. A shuttle train had been started between Delhi and Shamli. At that time, the Hon. Minister of State for Railways had visited the area. People welcomed him warmly, and together he and I waved the green flag and set the train in motion. However, the difficulty is that the train has not operated again till today. ... *(Interruptions)* My question is that whatever is announced, approved and stated in the House should adhere to some time limit. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask only one question. Kindly restrict yourself to the matter for which you have been allowed to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HUKUM SINGH: Madam, I am concluding. A new train service from Meerut to Panipat was approved. Will the Hon. Minister be kind enough to give me some information on both?

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, you are aware that a total of 542 Hon. Members from all the States are present in this House. If every Member seeks information regarding his constituency, I shall send complete details to each of them. I do not have the specific information related to the question raised by Hon. Member Hukum Singh ji at this moment. This question pertains to a rail line in Vidarbha. It is the right of every Hon. Member to know about the projects underway in different parts of the country, and such information must indeed be provided. I shall certainly make that information available to him. However, I would like to add that the colour of the flag you saw was green. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Madam, at the outset, on my behalf, on behalf of my party and my Chief Minister, I extend to you my warm greetings on your birthday. I also wish to congratulate you for your performance yesterday in *Matoshree*; it was an excellent presentation. The character of Ahilya ji was truly reflected through you. On this special day, we pray that you continue to ascend with the same grace and distinction. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask the question. This is not related

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: [English] Madam, I am not asking about my Parliamentary Constituency. [Translation] I would like to raise a matter concerning my State. Shri Suresh Prabhu is doing commendable work, and he has inaugurated many projects in Telangana. However, I would like to request that the projects which have been sanctioned, such as [English] double line from Kazipet to Vijayawada, [Translation] have not commenced till today. Likewise, New line from Pandurangapuram to Sarangpur in Bhadrachalam, [Translation] where Lord Rama resides, and as everyone knows that Lord Rama resides in Bhadrachalam, that line too has not begun. Furthermore, [English] Introduction of a passenger train from Dornakal to Yellandu, [Translation] which falls under a tribal region. Although the amount has been sanctioned for all these three, the work has not yet commenced. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister when these projects are going to be taken up.

HON. SPEAKER: This is again a similar question. The Hon. Minister has stated that he will send a state wise list.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SURESH PRABHU: Madam, the Hon. Member has already extended his wishes to you on this auspicious day, and I would like to assure him that, along with those felicitations, we shall endeavour to

the fullest extent to realise his expectation of securing a meaningful gift for Telangana.

(Q. 543)

SHRI NANA PATOLE: Hon. Madam Speaker, we are advancing rapidly into the scientific era. There exists a real danger of terrorist and cyber-attacks on nuclear power plants. We have not forgotten the atomic bombings that took place over the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in the twentieth century. My question is that nuclear plants are kept isolated from the public internet to safeguard their computer systems from cyber-attacks, which is appropriate. I would like to know the details of the measures in place to prevent hackers from using flash drives to infiltrate the computers that operate the main security systems of these plants.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Madam, the concern raised by the Hon. Member is a concern shared by the entire House. In essence, his question has two dimensions: one relates to external aggression, to which he has alluded by citing the example of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the other pertains to potential in house threats. As far as external aggression is concerned, whether it is a foreign attack, a nuclear strike or a missile assault, the matter is broader in scope and falls within the domain of the Ministry of Defence as well as the

Ministry of Home Affairs. There remains the possibility of an in house mishap or accident within the Department of Atomic Energy, as the Hon. Member has also noted, including the possibility of cybercrime, cyber-attack or cyber intrusion. Adequate arrangements have been put in place to address these concerns. In the field of atomic energy, we operate on two principal mantras. The first is “safety first, production next,” which means that before establishing any nuclear generation plant, it must be ensured that every aspect of safety is fully secured. The second mantra is “defence in depth,” which requires that every security measure must extend to the deepest and most fundamental levels of the system. With specific reference to cybercrime, two expert groups have been constituted in the atomic energy sector. The previous government had also taken cognizance of this matter, and the present Government, under the guidance of the Hon. Prime Minister, has advanced this initiative with greater urgency. At present, we have two specialised groups known as CISAG and TFICS. CISAG stands for Computer and Information Security Advisory Group, and TFICS stands for Task Force for Instrumentation and Control Security. Both groups remain engaged round the clock to ensure that no cyber intrusion takes place.

Additionally, all systems of atomic energy have been separated from the public internet, and only a limited number of authorised personnel have access to them. The systems operate on an independent network, and as a result, no such incident has occurred so far. In the unlikely event of an accident, there are established mechanisms which can be viewed in several layers. The first is self-shut down, under which the plant will immediately shut itself down. Beyond that, we have an emergency response plan that will automatically come into operation in the event of any unprecedented occurrence. We also have emergency response teams in place. Furthermore, not only are we alert, but mock drills are conducted periodically. Over the last two to three years, a new system of conducting regular mock drills has been developed to ensure continuous preparedness and awareness among personnel.

SHRI NANA PATOLE: Madam, I wish to submit that while India is moving towards greater international cooperation, we nevertheless require an independent regulatory body for nuclear safety in the country. Such an institution is essential to compensate for the absence of an autonomous mechanism, yet it does not exist even today. The institution that ought to have been mentioned in the report I was reading is still not in place in our country. I would like to ask the

Minister whether the Government proposes to establish an independent institution of this kind for the nation.

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Madam, through you, I would like to assure the Hon. Member and the House that all our security related arrangements conform to international standards. They are in no way inferior. Any study or review conducted from time to time is carried out on the basis of the same parameters that are followed in the developed countries of the world. Moreover, this process begins not only after an installation plant is built, but right from the stage at which planning for the plant commences. Even during the construction phase, there is a separate provision for review every 3 months. Once a plant becomes operational, there is a formal requirement for periodic renewal of the licence, first after 6 months and then after 5 years. A plant cannot continue to function unless these renewals are completed. Thereafter, a comprehensive review is undertaken after 10 years. In essence, the same standards that are observed at the international level are adhered to here as well. A dedicated mechanism and a separate department have been established within the Atomic Energy Department for this purpose.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Madam, it is a matter of grave concern, even the International Atomic Energy Agency has expressed its concern, that there is a possibility of cyber security threat from terrorists to the nuclear installations. In my constituency there is the Indian Rare Earths Limited, which comes under the Department of Atomic Energy. Huge deposits of Monazite are there not only in Chavara but also in Alwaye and Manavalakurichi, Tamil Nadu. As the hon. Minister has just cited, no mock drill has been conducted so far.

My specific question to the hon. Minister, through you, Madam, is whether sufficient precautionary security measures have been taken to protect the interests of the workers working in IREL. Since it is a highly radioactive element, their health is being affected. Are the precautionary measures being taken to ensure the safety of the workers and the security of the area as a whole?

DR. JITENDRA SINGH: Speaker, Madam, the hon. Member has asked a very important and a wise Question which is actually divided into two-three parts. As far as mock drill is concerned, I agree with him that there is no mock drill done for Monazite. The mock drill that I was referring to was *per se* in-house mock drill conducted to assess

the preparedness in the eventuality of a cyber-attack or some other attack happening. So, it was not related to the Monazite mining.

The hon. Member is right, there have been reports in the last one or two years, particularly in some of the very widely read newspapers published from Chennai, South, regarding smuggling and theft etc. though they were not fully substantiated. The hon. Member has rightly said that Monazite is a beach mineral found along the coast of Kerala and to some extent in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh. It is an associated mineral. How is the smuggling actually happening? Though this is a prescribed mineral, we do not give licence for extraction of this mineral because this comes under the prescribed item.... (*Interruptions*) I will tell you how it is happening. Basically, this is one of the associated minerals and among these minerals you also have Granite. Granite is one mineral for which sometimes a licence is procured and that is how these newspaper reports emanated. Some mischievous people in the garb of extracting Granite were also found extracting this mineral, which is a source ultimately for Thorium of which India has great reserves. But that has been taken care of. Due cognizance has been taken of this fact.

There are three or four levels at which this theft or smuggling is sought to be checked. As the hon. Member has said, there are

radioactive detectors. The State Police is also kept in the loop. The coastal barriers along the sea and ocean are erected so that smuggling does not happen. Over and above that, I would like to add and also share with the House, in the last one or two years we have added one more provision. We have started using the satellite images. Through satellite, from the shades of the images that emerge on the satellite picture, you can detect the exact store of a given mineral. This can help us in detecting any suspicious activity occurring in a particular area which is known to have Monazite reserves.

I agree with the hon. Member that we still have lots of Monazite reserves which are waiting to be explored. Currently, we have about 12 million tonnes of Monazite reserve which is usable and out of that only 10 per cent, that means one or two tonne, Thorium is expected. Therefore, the need is there and the exploration is also required which is an on-going continuous effort.

(Q. 544)

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: *{Tai', you are Tai of the entire Maharashtra. I would like to greet you on your Birthday on behalf of my Party Shiv Sena.}

HON. SPEAKER: Supplementary, please.

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Madam, it may be noted that more than 80 per cent channels are common across the DTH operators. In this scenario, enabling sharing of the satellite transponders and earth station facilities may reduce the entry barriers, and also reduce capital and operational expenditure of the operators. I would like to know from the hon. Minister the extent to which the cost will be reduced by sharing the satellite transponders and Earth station facilities.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, firstly I would like to thank the hon. Member. To answer his question, actually three Departments of Government of India are here today, that is, Department of Space, TRAI and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

The satellites are launched about 36,000 kilometres above the surface of the Earth. They are geo-stationary there. Each of the

* {.....} English translation of the speech originally delivered in Marathi.

satellites carry about 24 to 35 transponders and these transponders are used. So, there are three main players. One is the broadcasting company, the other is the individual house that receives signals and in between is the direct-to-home service providers (DTH), who take the link from the broadcasting companies and deliver it to the houses. The method that they use is *via* the satellite mostly, otherwise the cable. Now, we have been in a discussion with TRAI for some time and based on that, just ten days ago, the TRAI has sent us recommendations that we could perhaps think in terms of using the same infrastructure. I would like to tell the hon. Member that it is a valid point on the face of it. It is because, like he said, among the two main DTH providers, one has 450 channels and the other has 550 channels. Around 350 channels are same. The same channels are being provided to each of the houses occupying different spaces. So, the space could be combined. It is a valid point on the face of it. However, the set top boxes are different and the codings are different. All these things require deliberations with the users as well as the Ministry. The point has just come to our notice about ten days ago. We will consider it and will take an informed decision on it.

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Madam, the number of foreign operators launching satellites within India has led to a situation where a large capacity is lying vacant in the Q-band transponders meant for the direct-to-home companies. The transponders lease agreement is signed in dollars. It has also become expensive due to the currency fluctuations. These agreements should be signed in rupees. Is the Government prepared to do it or not?

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): Since the growth base of consumers is increasing, the number of broadcasting companies is increasing and therefore, the requirement of transponders is also increasing. Just to give you a figure, in 2014, 77 transponders were in use. But, today, about 104 transponders are in use and 68 more transponders are required. Out of these 104, 39 are indigenous transponders and 65 are foreign leased transponders. Since the Department of Space is also here, they are seized of the matter. Gradually more satellites and transponders would be launched and the Government of India would ensure that as many as possible our own transponders are there to ease the service that the DTH service providers are providing.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what fixed timeline has been prescribed by the Ministry for acting upon the recommendations made by the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India, through which consumers may receive facilities and services at the minimum cost. This is my specific question regarding the timeline.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN SINGH RATHORE (RETD.): Madam, the Hon. Member's question pertains to the transponder. I would like to state that it functions within an open market framework and has multiple service providers. The basic quality parameters and the basic cost have also been prescribed. If any consumer feels that a particular service is unsatisfactory, he may certainly change his service provider.

(Q. 545)

SHRI SUDHIR GUPTA: Madam, BIRAC, Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council, has been constituted with the objective of developing affordable products. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether BIRAC has succeeded in achieving its objectives and, if so, to what extent. I would also request the Hon. Minister to inform in how many sectors, including agriculture, health and energy, BIRAC has registered its presence, and in what form this presence is reflected in Madhya Pradesh.

HON. SPEAKER: A lot of questions asked at once.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that BIRAC, the Bio Technology Industry Research Assistance Council, was established in the year 2012. It is a Section 8, no profit organisation that supports individuals from society, industry and the academic community in developing new innovations in the field of biotechnology. As the Hon. Member has asked whether it has succeeded in its objectives, I believe that by every objective parameter, BIRAC has been highly successful. BIRAC has become very influential and widely recognised, and it receives a large number of submissions seeking grants for various support systems. After meticulous evaluation and scientifically driven

selection processes, the projects that are approved have achieved significant success, whether in products, technologies, agriculture, medical devices, or other areas mentioned by the Hon. Member.

As far as his specific query regarding Madhya Pradesh is concerned, while I do not have state wise details of individual beneficiaries or companies at this moment, I will be pleased to provide the Hon. Member with complete information regarding those in Madhya Pradesh who have received assistance, including their association with the State, if he so desires.

SHRI SUDHIR GUPTA: Hon. Minister, I am satisfied with the reply you have given, and it will be very beneficial for the country in the future. I would like to know whether BIRAC, in the future, is inclined to expand its action plan at the grassroots level to promote agricultural activities in my Parliamentary Constituency, Mandsaur, which is a very renowned place in the country.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: As I have stated, this facility is available to any interested individual in your area who wishes to become an entrepreneur or who seeks support within the start-up ecosystem, particularly in the field of biotechnology. Whether the person belongs to the academic community or is associated with industry, anyone may apply. The application procedure is entirely online. From the

stage of receiving submissions to the completion of the selection process, the entire system is 100 percent transparent. For your Madhya Pradesh as well, any company within your Parliamentary Constituency may apply. Since you had raised this query earlier, I have been informed that 6 companies in Madhya Pradesh have been supported by BIRAC.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bidyut Baran Mahato – not present.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Thank you, Madam Speaker and let me join the others in wishing you many happy returns of the day.

Madam, biotechnology is, of course, a modern science but a lot of biotechnology is actually building on the same principles as our traditional knowledge. Ayurveda is based on the bio-medical uses of herbs and plants. Same is with the Sidhha and Unani. So I am wondering whether the Minister would consider giving access to the Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council to the traditional knowledge practitioners in this country and assist them in conducting further research in order to increase their efficacy to use traditional knowledge and also perhaps even to commercially exploit such knowledge because your Research Council has an industry-academia interface.

I have a Traditional Knowledge Bill pending before the Private Members' Bills of this House. To try and strengthen our traditional knowledge, here is one obvious way that it could be connected to your Ministry's modern 21st century work.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to inform the hon. Member that firstly there is no bar on any particular system of medicine or its practitioner or those who want to pursue the efforts in that direction. That way any involvement of the Indian system of medicine is firstly welcome.

Moreover, I would like to inform the hon. Member that amongst the various things that we do through BIRAC, as per statistics till now, 50 per cent of them are now actually related to health and out of them another 50 per cent is related to medical devices and all. So, if there is any particular thing that the hon. Member has in his mind pertaining to the Indian system of medicine, we would definitely like to help and support any such activity.

(Q. 546)

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. First of all, I would like to wish you many happy returns of the day.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: Madam Speaker, NBCC and HUDCO have entered into an MoU to develop the land parcels of various Government bodies to increase housing stock and office space in various cities of the country. Under the MoU, HUDCO is supposed to provide funds and design support for construction, while NBCC is expected to use its project management, expertise and technical know-how to develop and market the properties.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister, in the last three and half years, since this MoU was signed, how many properties or houses have been developed by NBCC, the total cost of these projects and how many of these houses are in the affordable housing category?

[Translation]

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Madam, at present the work of NBCC is underway only in East Kidwai Nagar. Earlier, East Kidwai Nagar comprised a total of 2,444 houses. Upon redevelopment, the number

of flats will increase to approximately 4,608. NBCC is constructing flats from category two to category six, and the total cost, as of today, is estimated at Rs 5,298 crores. In addition, NBCC has been entrusted with work at three further locations in Delhi, namely Nauroji Nagar, Netaji Nagar and Sarojini Nagar. However, the work has not yet been fully assigned to NBCC at these sites, as all the houses have not been vacated. Once the houses are vacated, NBCC will commence the work at these three locations and will complete it within five years.

[English]

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE: My second question is regarding affordable housing scheme of the Government. The Government is giving major push to affordable housing and it wants to achieve the target by 2022. Hon. Finance Minister, in his recent Budget speech, gave affordable housing the 'infra status' which is going to help these projects to get institutional funding. That is expected to help bring down the cost. The Government is also offering various tax sops to these projects. However, one of the major components of the cost for housing is land. The cost of construction is very less as compared to the cost of land. Therefore, my specific question to the hon. Minister is: What steps the Government is taking to control prices, especially in major cities like Mumbai and its

suburban and its peripheries? I would also like to know whether the low cost institutional borrowings will also be extended to land purchase.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Madam Speaker, the land is a State asset. The State has to take a decision on that and not the Ministry of Urban Development. But I would like to say that under the Prime Minister's Awas Yojana, by 2022, we would provide houses to all those who are in the low income group, middle income group and lower sections of society and to do that there are four verticals. Under those verticals only the Government of India gives grants and aids. So, if the State Government takes care of the housing project of the land, then we will provide money to help the person who is building his house there.

12.00 hours

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE: Hon. Madam Speaker, NBCC is undertaking commendable work on many schemes in India and abroad. NBCC has constructed several buildings in New Delhi and Noida, and has also executed government housing projects. However, NBCC has not undertaken any project in any part of Mumbai, nor has it entered into any agreement with the Maharashtra Government. I wish to ask the Hon. Minister, through you, whether NBCC will, in

the future, take up low cost housing projects or hospitals through the Maharashtra Government.

RAO INDERJIT SINGH: Madam, NBCC functions as a Project Management Consultant. If the Maharashtra Government wishes to entrust work to NBCC, then NBCC is prepared to undertake it.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 547 to 600

Unstarred Question Nos. 6211 to 6440

12.01 hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Papers to be laid on the Table.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH) (RETD.): Madam Speaker, with your permission, on behalf of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I beg to lay on the Table a copy (Hindi and English versions) of the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Implementation Rules, 2016 published as Notification No. S.S.R. 672 (E) in the Gazette of India dated 8th July, 2016 under sub-section (3) of Section 26 of the Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, 2005.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6989/16/17]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (RAO INDERJIT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Lakshadweep Building Development Board, Kavaratti, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Lakshadweep Building Development Board, Kavaratti, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6990/16/17]

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

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) Annual Report of the Nagpur Metro Rail Corporation Limited, Nagpur, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6991/16/17]

(4) A copy of the Annual Statement (Hindi and English versions) of out of turn discretionary allotments of General Pool Residential Accommodation made in terms of the guidelines dated 17.11.1997 for 5% vacancies occurring in each Type of General Pool Residential Accommodation in a Calendar year for the year 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6992/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952:-

(i) The Employees' Provident Funds (Third Amendment) Scheme, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R.298 (E) in Gazette of India dated 29th March, 2017.

(ii) The Employees' Provident Funds (Seventh Amendment) Scheme, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R.299 (E) in Gazette of India dated 29th March, 2017.

(iii) The Employees' Pension (Seventh Amendment) Amendment Scheme, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R.300(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th March, 2017.

(iv) The Employees' Deposit Linked Insurance (Second Amendment) Amendment Scheme, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R.301(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th March, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6993/16/17]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA):

Hon. Madam Speaker, with your permission, on behalf of Shri Vijay Goel, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the First Statutes of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (Third Amendment) Statutes, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.310(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2017 under

sub-section (3) of Section 32 of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development Act, 2012.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6994/16/17]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (RETD.): On behalf of Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. S.O. 753(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 6th March, 2017, regarding making Aadhaar mandatory for availing benefit under Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana under sub-section (2) of Section 58 of the Aadhaar (targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6995/16/17]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH-EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH): Hon. Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Vigilance Commission, New Delhi, for the year 2016, under sub-section (3) of Section 14 of the Central Vigilance Commission Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6996/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): Madam Speaker, with your permission, on behalf of Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the EEPC India (formerly Engineering Export Promotion Council), Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the EEPC India (formerly Engineering Export Promotion Council), Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6997/16/17]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Culture Fund, for the years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Culture Fund, for the years 2013-2014 and 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6998/16/17]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act,1997:-

- (1) The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Standards of Quality of Service and Consumer Protection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017 published in Notification No. 21-5/2016-B&CS in Gazette of India dated 3rd March, 2017.
- (2) The Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) Regulations, 2017 published in Notification No. 21-4/2016-B&CS in Gazette of India dated 3rd March, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6999/16/17]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): On behalf of Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government on the Audited Accounts of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7000/16/17]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maulana Azad Education Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7001/16/17]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (Staff) Amendment Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 282(E) in Gazette of India dated 23rd March, 2017 under sub-section (3) of Section 48 of the Life Insurance Corporation Act, 1956

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7002/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY): Hon. Madam Speaker, with your permission, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the MSME-Tool Room (Central Tool Room), Ludhiana, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the MSME-Tool Room (Central Tool Room), Ludhiana, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7003/16/17]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Railway Claims Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.332(E) in Gazette of India dated th April, 2017 under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Railway Claims Tribunal Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7004/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the National Highways Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Amendment Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.248(E) in Gazette of India dated 15th March,

2017 under sub-section (2) of Section 9 of the National Highways Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7005/16/17]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI KRISHAN PAL GURJAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Dr. Sanjeev Balyan, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Water Development Agency, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7006/16/17]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): On behalf of Shri Y.S. Chowdhary, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, along with Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Consultancy Development Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7007/16/17]

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

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
 - (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli, for the year 2014-2015.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7008/16/17]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi, Rae Bareli, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7009/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): Madam Speaker, I wish you a very happy birthday.

I beg to lay on the Table:-

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

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra Dam, for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) Annual Report of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra Dam, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7010/16/17]

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Cables Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016, 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 item No. (a) of (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7011/16/17]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY): I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7012/16/17]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chandigarh, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7013/16/17]

(5)(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chennai, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Chennai, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7014/16/17]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, Wardha, for the year 2015-2016.
- (8) Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7015/16/17]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Bhopal, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technical Teachers Training and Research, Bhopal, for the year 2015-2016.

- (10) Statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7016/16/17]

- (11) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 43 of the Central Universities Act, 2009:-

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- (i) Notification No. CUK/ADM/Court-II/2016 published in Gazette of India dated 30th March, 2017, amending the Statute No.10 of the Central University of Kerala.
- (ii) Notification No. CUK/REG/Ordinance/CUK/2017 published in Gazette of India dated 29th March, 2017, relating

to Ordinance Nos. 1 to 4 of the Central University of Kerala.

- (iii) Notification No.20-53/2016-C.U.III published in Gazette of India dated 24th March, 2017, relating to Ordinance Nos. 1 to 55 of the Central University of Karnataka.
- (iv) Notification No. Cen. Univ. of Kashmir/Admn./F.No.385/14 /3488 published in Gazette of India dated 29th March, 2017, relating to Ordinance Nos. 10 to 11 of the Central University of Kashmir.
- (v) Notification No.2-4/2009-Admn./7555 published in Gazette of India dated 27th March, 2017, relating to Ordinance Nos. 3, 8 and 10 of the Central University of Gujarat

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7017/16/17]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), 11 Chennai, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Board of Apprenticeship Training (Southern Region), Chennai, for the year 2015- 2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7018/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ):

Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7019/16/17]

12.07 hours

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

[English]

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

“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 10th April, 2017 agreed without any amendment to the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2017 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 23rd March, 2017.”

12.07 ¼ hours**LEAVE OF ABSENCE FROM SITTINGS OF THE
HOUSE**

HON. SPEAKER: The Committee on Absence of Members from the Sittings of the House in their Eighth Report, presented to the House on 11th April, 2017, have recommended that leave of absence from the sittings of the House be granted to the Members as indicated in the Report.

1. Shri Vinod Khanna 31.01.2017 to 09.02.2017

&

09.03.2017 to 12.04.2017

2. Shri Rayapati Sambasiva 09.03.2017 to 30.03.2017

Rao

Is it the pleasure of the House that leave as recommended by the Committee be granted?

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. SPEAKER: Leave is granted. The Members will be informed accordingly.

12.07 1/2 hours

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMITTEE

74th Report

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM): I beg to present the 74th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2016-17) on the subject 'XIX Commonwealth Games 2010'.

12.07 ¾ hours

**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS**

Minutes

DR. M. THAMBI DURAI (KARUR): I beg to lay on the Table the Minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Twenty-ninth to Thirty-third sittings of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions held during the current Session.

12.08 hours

COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES

11th Report

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Madam Speaker, I wish you a very happy birthday.

I beg to present the Eleventh Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (2016-17) on 'Reservation for and Employment of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL)' pertaining to the Ministry of Communications (Department of Telecommunications).

12.08 ¼ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

Statement

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): I beg to lay on the Table the statement (Hindi and English versions) showing Further Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Tenth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of External Affairs for the year 2015-16.

12.08 1/2 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

17th Report

[Translation]

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

(AHMADNAGAR): Hon. Speaker, I beg to present the 17th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2016-17) on the subject 'Functioning of Directorate General of Estates, Manufacturing and Maintenance of Government Residential Buildings and other Buildings by CPWD and NBCC.

12.09 hours

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

[English]

(i)(a) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 6th Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.): On behalf of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I beg to lay the Statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 6th Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See Nos. (i)(a) LT 7020/16/17 and (i)(b) LT 7021/16/17 respectively.

12.09 ¼ hours

(b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (GEN. VIJAY KUMAR SINGH (RETD.): On behalf of Shrimati Sushma Swaraj, I beg to lay the Statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 11th Report of the Standing Committee on External Affairs on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Ministry of External Affairs.

12.09 1/2 hours

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 16th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2016- 17) pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): I beg to lay the Statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 16th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship.

*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See Nos. (i)(a) LT 7020/16/17 and (i)(b) LT 7021/16/17 respectively.

12.10 hours

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 237th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the Action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the 230th Report of the Committee on the issues related to security at Airports in India pertaining to the Ministry of Civil Aviation*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): I beg to lay a Statement on the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 237th Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 230th Report of the Committee on the issues related to security at Airports in India pertaining to the Ministry of Civil Aviation.

12.10 ¼ hours

(iv)(a) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 265th Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 265th Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See Nos. (i)(a) LT 7020/16/17 and (i)(b) LT 7021/16/17 respectively.

12.10 1/2 hours

(b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 270th Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 270th Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See Nos. (iv)(a) LT 7024 /16/17 and (iv)(b) LT 7025/16/17 respectively

12.10 ¾ hours

(c) status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 273rd Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises*

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI BABUL SUPRIYO): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 273rd Report of the Standing Committee on Industry on Demands for Grants (2016-17) pertaining to Department of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. (iv)(c) LT 7026 /16/17

12.11 hours**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377***

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

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Regarding inclusion of aborigines of Santhal Pargana in the list of Scheduled Tribes

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I refer the matter raised under Rule 377 regarding inclusion of Khetauri, Ghatwal-Ghatwar and others as Scheduled Tribes in Parliament and received a reply from Hon'ble Minister of Tribal Affairs. But, amidst all of this, no development has taken place in this regard so far.

It is thus that I want to place a piece of great historical record - a book titled: "The Little World of an Indian District Officer", written by R.Carstairs and published by Macmillan & Co., London in 1912. In this book there is a detailed, historical record of the fact that the Santhal Pargana was created and named in 1855, and it was the youngest of the Bengal districts. The writer provides a wonderful account and description of the Ghatwals (guardians of the passes) and the Khetowrie (Khetauri) and how at the time of the Permanent settlement in 1790, every part of the territory was occupied. The details point out that at the time of the Permanent Settlement there was NOT a single Sonthal in the whole of this area. "Shunyas, Khetowries, Hindoos, Mahomedans, Highlanders - yes, but Sonthals, no".

It is a fact that when these findings were recorded and when the book in question was published, the nomenclature of Scheduled Castes and Tribes did not exist in the context of what it means administratively today. Thus the aborigines of the region are the ones who are deprived of their rightful status and claim to be recognized as Scheduled Tribes.

(ii) Need to run a direct train between Surat and Mumbai

[Translation]

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA): North Gujarat is the only region in Gujarat comprising the three districts of Palanpur, Patan and my Constituency Mehsana. Palanpur and Mehsana are A-class railway junctions. Yet there is no direct train facility for Surat and Mumbai for the population of sixty lakh people in this region. The entire North Gujarat remains deprived of direct train connectivity.

Palanpur has a significant diamond trade. Mehsana is a major business hub for industry, milk and oil. Patan is home to the World Heritage Site of Rani Ki Vav. The Modhera Sun Temple is a major tourist destination. Unjha is the largest spice market in Asia and houses the esteemed Shaktisthal of Umiya Mata. There is also a large Jain temple in Taranga and in Mehsana. A substantial movement of devotees and tourists takes place there. Socially, religiously and economically, the activity of the entire North Gujarat region exceeds that of Surat and Mumbai. All trains from Delhi, Jaipur and Udhampur proceed towards Ahmedabad, Surat and Mumbai, due to which the people of North Gujarat receive fewer facilities. Therefore, the residents of all three districts must rely on private, luxury and

government buses and vehicles, resulting in a financial burden upon them.

I would like to urge the Government that this legitimate demand of the people of North Gujarat be accepted and that a direct train be introduced from Surat to Mumbai for the convenience of the people of Palanpur, Mehsana and Patan.

(iii) Need to stop ongoing survey by ONGC in Mumbai High at B-157 and give compensation to fishermen for the loss

[English]

SHRI CHINTAMAN NAVASHA WANGA (PALGHAR): ONGC has started seismic survey in Mumbai High at B-157, where thousands of fishermen are engaged in fishing to earn their daily bread. However, ONGC has floated tender to Dolphin company to do seismic survey for ONGC where company has prohibited fishing for 3 to 4 months at B- 157 block. This is fifth survey of ONGC. Previously survey was undertaken on four occasions. The fishermen are not allowed to do fishing at neighbouring open sea.

This has created a lot of inconvenience to entire fishing business. The fishing boats are anchored, the working fishing class is idle, the ancillary class like fish transporter, ice suppliers, marketing is affected and there is loss of crores of rupees.

I, therefore, request the government to stop ONGC Survey in Mumbai High at B-157 and give compensation to fishermen.

(iv) Need to provide a stoppage of Jan Shatabdi Express (Train No. 12069/70) at Bilha Railway Station in Bilaspur Parliamentary Constituency, Chhattisgarh

[Translation]

SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR): The Janshatabdi Express, train numbers 12069 and 12070, traverses Bilha district, which forms part of my constituency Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh. Yet, owing to its non-stoppage at Bilha, the ordinary citizens of this region are compelled to endure considerable inconvenience. This area is expansive and holds notable significance from the standpoint of industry and trade. Bilaspur hosts the High Court, acknowledged as the judicial capital, and being the second most developed city of the State, a large number of service oriented citizens as well as travellers from across Chhattisgarh regularly journey by way of the Bilha route. On numerous occasions, they confront difficulties related to travel. In light of these circumstances and the genuine aspirations of the public, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Railways to take due cognizance of the Bilha Railway Station, to institute a departmental inquiry, and to accord his gracious permission for the Janshatabdi Express to be provided a stoppage at this station.

(v) Need to review the list of Scheduled Tribes and delete the ineligible Tribes not fulfilling the fixed norms from the list

SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (BHARUCH):

I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that proposals for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes are being received from various States across the country. Among these, there are several proposals that are not suitable for inclusion in the Scheduled Tribes, and even those proposals that have been approved pertain to communities that are neither tribal in origin nor tribal in character. Such proposals are being advanced solely to secure the benefits accorded to the Scheduled Tribes and to obtain advantages in government employment, thereby undermining the rights of those Scheduled Tribes who are inherently backward and deprived of social and economic development. In the country, certain Muslim castes have been accorded the status of Scheduled Tribe, whereas Muslims are not tribal in any sense, nor do they inhabit forested regions. As a consequence, the backward, the poor and those who have long remained distant from the mainstream of national development are being denied justice. The constitutional provisions framed for the advancement of the Scheduled Tribes risk being rendered

meaningless, and the genuinely deserving sections of the Scheduled Tribe population stand in danger of being entirely deprived of developmental opportunities.

I would like to request the Government to cancel the inclusion of ineligible.

**(vi) Need to set up Skill Development Centres in Dibrugarh,
Assam**

[English]

SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH): My constituency Dibrugarh has a large number of tribal population. Majority of this tribal people are engaged in agricultural activities. The poor economic condition of the tribal people has forced them to live in utter poverty and penury. The Ministry of Tribal Affairs provides funds to TRIFED and National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation (NSTFDC) to implement various schemes for skill and entrepreneurial development programme. I, therefore, urge upon the Hon'ble Minister for Tribal Affairs to open centres for various skill development programmes in my constituency Dibrugarh so that the poor tribal youths can take up jobs or start their own business.

(vii) Need to accord approval to the proposal for setting up a new steel Plant at Chatra in Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): An agreement was concluded between the Government of India and the National Mineral Development Corporation Limited (NMDCL) for the establishment of a new steel plant on 28 June 2015 in the presence of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. A subsidiary company titled *Jharkhand Kolhan Steel Limited* (J. K. Limited) was incorporated by NMDCL on 24 September 2015. A team from NMDCL, Hyderabad conducted a survey on 02 December 2015 in Chatra. The proposal to establish a plant in Chatra district was forwarded by the State Government to the Board of NMDCL on 06 May 2016. Subsequently, the NMDCL Board deputed a high level team of NMDCL and MECON for site inspection in Chatra district on 25 July 2016. During the site inspection at Unta (Laxmanpur village) in Chatra, the high level team found the location to be favourable and suitable for the steel plant. Out of the 3100 acres required for the proposed plant, 2800 acres of land are available in Laxmanpur village of Chatra, which includes 1665 acres of large sheep goat breeding area and about 1300 acres of *Gairmajarua* and forest land. The remaining land is *Raiyati*. Only four

villages will be affected by land acquisition, and the *Raiyat* of these villages are willing to provide land for the plant. The essential resources required at the initial stage, namely land, water, coal, traffic and electricity, are all available here.

A recommendation was sent by the Chatra district administration on 11 November 2016 to transfer 1523.38 acres of land of the large sheep goat breeding area located at Unta (Laxmanpur village) in Chatra Sadar block to the Department of Industries. Thereafter, a detailed report was transmitted to the Central Government by the State Government. The Hon. Chief Minister of Jharkhand Shri Raghubar Das urged that the plant be established at Chatra at the earliest on 05 September 2016. A high level meeting of NMDCL was held in Ranchi on 27 December 2016.

Several meetings have been convened over the last two years. The proposed site inspection, the status report, the process of land transfer and the proposal of the State Government have all been completed, yet the project remains pending at the level of the Central Government. Chatra district holds substantial potential for industrial development. The area possesses abundant natural resources and adequate land for the establishment of industries.

Therefore, I would like to request the Hon. Mines and Steel Minister of the Government of India to direct the Ministry to approve the proposal submitted by NMDCL for establishing a steel plant at Chatra, and to issue a notification so that the laying of the foundation stone and the commencement of construction may begin by finalising a date at the earliest.

(viii) Need to reduce wastage of food

[English]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): According to an estimate, there is a waste of food grains, fruits and vegetables amounting to Rs. 60,000 crore every year in our country. In the same way, there is wastage of Rs. 60,000 crore food waste in our country. Therefore, hon'ble Prime Minister has called upon the countrymen to stop wastage of food. United Nations through its sustainable development goals have also launched a sustainable consumption and production of food. Therefore, I urge the Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution that issue of food wastage may be taken up so that by 2030 we may be able to halve per capital national food waste at the retail and consumer level and reduce food losses along production and supply chains including post harvest losses. It is must in our country where 75% of rural and 50% of urban population is covered under PDS. Implementation of National Food Security Act effectively may be game changer in the life of poor people and we may be able to provide more food to our poor countrymen.

(ix) Need to enhance the amount of rehabilitation package for families displaced from Sariska, Ranthambhore and Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserves in Rajasthan

[Translation]

DR. MANOJ RAJORIYA (KARAULI DHOLPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the three Tiger Reserves and the 108 villages from which people have been displaced in Sariska, Ranthambore and the critical tiger habitat of Mukundra Hills Tiger Reserve in Rajasthan. Out of these villages, a total of eight villages have so far been completely displaced, and about fourteen thousand families across one hundred villages in the CTH areas of the three Tiger Reserves are still awaiting displacement, for which an amount of Rs. 1424 crores will be required.

The present displacement package of Rs. 10 lakh per family is inadequate, and the villagers are not willing to accept this amount. Animal husbandry is the primary source of livelihood for the families residing in these areas. According to the villagers, displacement would create grave difficulties for them, as they would lose both their homes and their means of livelihood. They would also face considerable hardship in meeting their daily needs. Therefore, it would be appropriate for the National Tiger Conservation Authority

to enhance the existing package from Rs. 10 lakh per family to Rs. 30 lakh per family for Sariska Tiger Reserve and to Rs. 20 lakh per family for Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to increase the current package amount of Rs. 10 lakh per family to Rs. 30 lakh per family for Sariska Tiger Reserve and Rs. 20 lakh per family for Ranthambore Tiger Reserve.

(x) Need to construct adequate number of mobile towers in Goa

[English]

ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR (SOUTH GOA): Goa with a population of 14.57 lakh have 144 BSNL Telephone Exchanges. The total number of Landline customers is 11,6355, while the number for broadband customer is 53,869. The number of Mobile customers stand at 180,4 5 and the number of WLL customers is 7986. Keeping these facts in view, the existing 374 Mobile Towers, including both 2G and 3G are considered to be inadequate besides their poor service quality. These have led to serious problems in the entire Goa, particularly the rural areas of South Goa. There is no proper connectivity and there is increasing number of call drop. Goa being an important tourist destination, both for domestic and foreign tourists, I would strongly urge upon the Government to look into the problem and immediately arrange for construction of adequate number of mobile towers.

(xi) Need to accord Central University status to University of Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA (JAIPUR CITY): Jaipur is the capital of Rajasthan, and I am the Member representing this capital city. Rajasthan University is the largest university in the State, with about 7.50 thousand students pursuing their studies therein. The University comprises 35 postgraduate departments and 20 established centres.

Students from across the country and from abroad also come to study at Rajasthan University. In the 1960s and 1970s, distinguished scholars of national and international repute, such as Sarvashri Acharya G. C. Pandey, Dayakrishna, Satish Chandra, S. S. Ramaswamy, G. S. Sharma, R. C. Mehrotra, S. P. Verma, N. V. Mathur, C. Rangarajan, Raja J. Chellaiah, Rajakrishna, Iqbal Narayan and C. P. Bhamri, have taught in this University.

Rajasthan University is among the major universities of the country. It has seven constituent universities and five hundred fifty affiliated colleges. Recently, Rajasthan University has been accredited with A category status by NAAC. The University is spread over four hundred acres of land and includes twenty two hostels with

separate accommodation for male and female students. This University imparts specialised knowledge in research, for which it is renowned both within the country and abroad. The faculty here provides exemplary guidance to scholars who come for research, and enables them to pursue their work with the use of modern technology.

The University of Rajasthan enjoys an established national and international reputation. Talented students from across the country and from abroad have gained knowledge on its campus, and its teachers and academicians have earned global recognition. The University possesses abundant physical and human resources. In view of this, it merits being accorded the status of a *Kendriya Vishwavidyalaya* (Central University) so as to uphold and further the dignity of knowledge.

(xii) Regarding Problems being faced by people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near international border

[English]

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): Border Area Development Programme (BADP) was initiated during 7th Five Year Plan period to meet the special developmental needs and well being of the people living in remote and inaccessible areas situated near international border through provision of infrastructure and promotion of sense of security among the border population. As per guidelines, works can be undertaken in the villages located within 0-20 kms which was amended to include villages upto a distance of 0-50 kms. which is a welcome step. However, there is a rider that works beyond 0-20 kms. can only be taken after “SATURATION” of villages within 0-20 kms. There are numerous development activities. Most works of development have been done in 0-20 kms. areas but bureaucrats are not paying heed to our suggestions.

Member of Parliament is not Member of either District Level Committee (DLC) as well as State Level Screening Committee (SLSC). There are 4 districts in the border areas of Rajasthan and represented by 3 Members being myself from Barmer & Jaisalmer

Distts., S/Shri Arjun Meghwal (Bikaner) and Nihal Chand (Sri Ganganagar) have written letters and had personal meetings with the Hon'ble Home Minister four times and officials of Ministry of Home Affairs as recommended by Home Minister drawing attention to the specific needs of the bordering desert areas of Rajasthan. I also raised this matter in Lok Sabha during Zero Hour on 4th March, 2015 and through Questions on several occasions. I am sorry to say that 12.04.2017 Dir. (KVJ) - JR Uncorrected / Not for Publication 311 Hon'ble Home Minister and Minister of State in Ministry of Home Affairs have intention to make Members of Parliament Member of District Level Committee and State Level Screening Committee but every time our suggestions were scuttled down by bureaucrats in position for reasons best known to them. Certain proposals of development works are prepared by Border Management Dept. New Delhi and State Govt. which allegedly stinks of corruption.

I want to mention here that two senior officials at State level in Rajasthan have been suspended but nothing happened at Central Government level officials who are allegedly involved in this episode. I urge the Hon'ble Prime Minister through Madam Speaker, to look into this as 100% funds are provided by Central Govt. under BADP and are being misused in connivance with officials at the

level of Govt. of India and Govt. of Rajasthan. I, therefore, recommend the following- a) Distance is more in a large number of Blocks in the desert districts of Rajasthan and the depth of Blocks being in the range of 100-150 kms and as such should be allowed to be taken up in villages upto 50 kms and word "SATURATION" should be removed from the guidelines so that works can be undertaken under BADP, b) To have a meaningful monitoring, local MP, if not made Chairman as in the case of other Centrally sponsored schemes (DISHA) should at least be made Member of DLC and SLSC.

(xiii) Need to set up a separate Railway Zonal Headquarters and office of IRCTC at Ranchi, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (RANCHI): My Parliamentary Constituency, Ranchi, is the capital of the State of Jharkhand. Its zonal rail headquarters is in Hajipur, Bihar, which is situated at a considerable distance from the divisional offices of Chakradharpur, Dhanbad, Ranchi and Adra, causing great inconvenience to the people. It takes an inordinately long time for any official work related to Railways to be completed. By combining these four divisions, a single zonal headquarters should be established in Ranchi, and a nodal officer should be appointed to coordinate with the zonal office, similar to the zonal office that has been created in Odisha. Along with this, the office of the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation should be established in Ranchi. This will augment catering activities and also provide employment opportunities to the people here. A MoU has already been signed with the Government of Jharkhand for opening this office. The required space for the IRCTC office will be available at the office of the Divisional Railway Manager, Ranchi. In addition, it is requested that the maintenance work of the Ranchi–New Delhi Rajdhani Express

should be entrusted to Ranchi. Until now, the maintenance of this train has been carried out in Delhi, due to which the arrangements for cleanliness and food in the Ranchi Rajdhani Express have not been up to the mark.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Railways to separate the Chakradharpur, Dhanbad, Ranchi and Adra Railway Divisions from the present Hajipur Zonal Railway Office and establish a separate Zonal Railway Headquarters in Ranchi. The office of IRCTC should be set up in Ranchi, and the maintenance work of the Ranchi Rajdhani Express should be undertaken in Ranchi instead of Delhi.

**(xiv) Need to evolve a mechanism to deal with stay orders given
by courts**

[English]

SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH (SURAT): There are huge number of cases which are stuck up with stay order in various courts of our country. Due to stay order, court cases are not proceeding further since a long time. This is a loophole of our independent judicial system. Many cases related to revenue of the Government are also stuck up with stay orders which block revenue of the Government.

Under this circumstances, I would like to request Central Government to make special law or mechanism so that, stay orders given by courts are applicable only for specific duration and after completion of the duration, stay order is automatically nulled. The duration of court stay orders should be decided by concerned courts according to merit of the case.

(xv) Regarding Alleged harassment of genuine citizens while updating National Register of Citizens in Assam

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): The National Register of Citizens is in the process of being updated in Assam being funded by the Government of India with an aim to delete the names of illegal foreigners. Simultaneously, the local police is trying to detect suspected foreigners in Assam. This process is turning out to be extremely arbitrary in many cases where genuine citizens of India are being detained and harassed despite having valid proof of Citizenship. This is causing unrest and fear especially amongst the Bengali speaking people in Assam. Such arbitrary action must be stopped immediately by the Ministry of Home.

**(xvi) Need to set up Trauma Centres at Kanakapura and
Channapatna in Karnataka**

SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL): National Highways (NH) 209 and 275 run through my Bangalore Rural constituency. NH 209 is from Bangalore to Dindigul in Tamil Nadu and nearly 120 Kms of this highway run through my Constituency. NH 275 is from Bangalore to Mysore and nearly 80 Kms of this highway run through my constituency. The traffic has increased on the highway and as a result the number of accidents and deaths are rapidly rising. The number of people died in fatal accidents on NH 209 and 275 only in the Ramanagara district area was 767 in three and a half years. Unfortunately, Trauma care is not available easily on the National Highway for long stretches as there are no major hospitals other than in Bangalore and Mysore. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to take immediate steps to set up Level II Trauma Centres at Kanakapura on NH 209 and at Channapatna on NH 275.

(xvii) Need for a comprehensive law to prevent sale and export of harmful food stuff

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA):

Of late an alarming situation has arisen in the health sector of Kerala and several other states across the country. It is distressing to note that incidence of lifestyle diseases like cancer, hypertension, diabetes, kidney ailments etc. are frighteningly on the increase. All studies go to show that apart from lack of proper exercise, the contamination in fruits, vegetables and other food stuff due to use of pesticides, insecticides and excessive chemical fertilizers are the main causes for this malaise. Large consignments of mangoes and other fruits exported to European and other countries are rejected on account of such contamination. Hence I request the Minister for Consumer Affairs to bring about a comprehensive law to prevent sale and export of such harmful food stuff and ensure stringent food safety.

**(xviii) Need to establish AIIMS at Sengipatti in Thanjavur
district of Tamil Nadu**

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR): I would like to urge the government to expedite setting up of AIIMS in Tamilnadu at Sengipatti in Thanjavur District. The proposal for establishment of AIIMS in Tamil Nadu was announced in the Union Budget 2015-2016. The Central Team constituted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare had visited Tamil Nadu as early as 23 - 25 April, 2015 to all the places identified by the Government of Tamil Nadu including the Sengipatti in Thanjavur district. The central team had also submitted its reports to the Government. However, so far the final decision regarding the location suited for this project has not been announced by the Government of India. It is further learnt that Sengipatti in Thanjavur District has been identified as the best suited location for setting up of AIIMS. Accordingly, our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamilnadu had already urged the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India on 27-02-2017 to expedite establishment of AIIMS at Sengipatti, in Thanjavur District. Thanjavur is the central part of the state and it covers Tiruvarur, Tiruchirappalli, Nagappatinam, Pudukottai, Ariyalur, Perambalur, Chidambaram, Cuddalore,

Sivagangai and Karur districts. In case of setting up of AIIMS in this district, it would not only be beneficial to the population of above said districts but also cover the entire state. Therefore, I once again request the government to notify the proposed location of AIIMS at Sengipatti in Thanjavur District along with necessary financial sanction.

(xix) Regarding upgradation of National Highway 209 in Tamil Nadu

SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL): National Highway 209 - Dindigul to Bangalore Via (Palani-Coimbatore-SathyamangalamHasanur) constructed in the year 1950 connects Bangalore with Coimbatore and Dindigul. There is an increasing demand to widen this 268 km National Highway (NH) 209 from Dindigul - Tamil Nadu to Karnataka border because of the traffic and growth on the Dindigul Coimbatore-Bangalore section as it will ensure smooth flow of traffic..

Currently, the NH-83 (earlier known as NH 209) route is in a bad condition. It has numerous curves which pose a threat to motorists. The initial proposal is to widen the entire stretch into a four-lane road. The project has two sections: from Dindigul to Coimbatore and from Coimbatore to Karnataka border. The proposal will include four major bridges, 30 minor bridges, vehicular and passenger underpasses, and road over bridges and as many as six bypass roads between Dindigul and Coimbatore. The total project cost is estimated to be about Rs. 3,000 crores (excluding the land cost).

Meanwhile, it is learnt that the Central Government has approved widening of the road from Pollachi to Coimbatore though it is part of

NH 83. The National Highways Authority of India awarded (NHDP IV), Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, New Delhi, an order worth Rs. 414,90,00,000/- (Rupees Four Hundred and Fourteen Crore Ninety Lakh only) towards “Rehabilitation and up-gradation of NH-12.04.2017 Dir. (KVJ) - JR Uncorrected / Not for Publication 319 209 from Km. 123.550 to Km. 150.400 of Dindigul - Bangalore Road (Pollachi to Coimbatore Section) to four lane with paved shoulder in the State of Tamil Nadu under NHDP — IV on EPC basis “to be completed within a period of 24 months from the appointed date. It is learnt that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has not yet finalised the feasibility study to widen National Highways 83 (earlier known as NH 209) from Dindigul to Pollachi which runs through Oddanchathiram, Palani and Udumalpet.

I request the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways to commence the work under National Highways Development Project for the entire stretch of NH 209. The bypasses are to be built in Oddanchathiram, Chatrapathi, Ayakkudi, Madathukulam, Udumalpet, provide service roads and bypass roads for the safe movement of local people along many highways.

Six bypasses, six rail-over bridges and two major bridges on Shanmuganadi river near Palani and the Amaravathi near

Madathukulam must also be part of the project. Passenger and vehicular underpasses are also to be built in the project that will include service roads, rest areas and bus bays.

**(xx) Need to release balance funds for setting up of four ITIs in
Odisha**

SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH

(KANDHAMAL): The State Government has availed 50% of the committed Central Financial Assistance of Rs.20.00 crores i.e. Rs. 8.10 crores towards capital expenditure for establishment 4 new ITIs at Bhandaripokhari in district Bhadrak, Daringbadi in district Kandhamal, Kotagarh in district Kandhamal and Kutra in district Sundargarh during financial year 2015-16. The Rural Works Department (RWD) has taken up civil construction of all the 4 ITIs with provision of Rs.10.00 crores during 2016-17.

I request the Minister of Minority Welfare Affairs to release the balance of 50% of the committed Central Financial Assistance of Rs. 20.00 crores so that civil construction and procurement of goods could be taken up.

**(xxi) Need to prepare a list of approved engineering colleges in
Maharashtra**

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST):

Engineering Colleges get approval on the condition that they follow AICTE guidelines. In Maharashtra there are about 109 Engineering Colleges whose affiliation has been withdrawn because they were unable to follow all the guidelines of AICTE and many students are unable to appear for their final engineering.

The Central Government Institute had arranged a document compliance camp on the premises of VJTI College on 18th April, 2016. In this regard, I request the AICTE to publish the information about approved engineering colleges in Maharashtra and the number of seats per course for respective colleges and make it mandatory on the part of the colleges to display the list at the entrance of colleges.

In addition, in the academic year 2017—18, a Special Task Force can be created which will inspect the colleges which give admissions to students but have been disapproved and strict action should be taken against such colleges.

If the corrective action is taken, it will help many students from being cheated by fake engineering colleges.

(xxii) Problems faced by Chilli farmers in Andhra Pradesh

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): I had raised this very issue on 30-3-2017, and expected Government of India to help Chilli farmers in Andhra Pradesh, but nothing has been done. This forces me to raise this issue again since situation is getting worse day-by-day.

When I mentioned this issue on 30-3-2017', farmers were getting Rs. 6,000 - 8,000/quintal for their produce which was much lower than last year price of Rs. 14000 - 15000/quintal. But, now, reports indicate that farmers are not getting even Rs, 5,000/quintal. So, farmers are now planning to store chillis in cold storage and sell their produce when they get a better price. But, banks are not giving them loans by mortgaging chillies which is the usual practice at the time of crisis. It is forcing them to go to private moneylenders who are charging interest at Rs. 2 - 3/month which is exorbitant from any point of view.

Secondly, they are not giving more than Rs. 1,500/quintal as loan. Banks officials are saying they have orders from higher authorities not to give loans to chilli farmers. This is sheer discrimination. I request Government of India to immediately direct banks to give loans to chilli farmers at 7% rate of interest, purchase

chillies from farmers through Market Intervention Scheme by fixing MSP at Rs. 12,000/quintal, take steps to promote exports and provide cold storage facilities at market yards to store their produce during crisis without going to banks and, most importantly, there is immediate need to set up Chilli Board since chillis aren't getting attention from Spices Board. An independent Chilli Board would have addressed the current chilli crisis and sufferings of chilli farmers.

**(xxiii) Need to obtain Presidential assent to the Bill passed by
Kerala Legislative Assembly**

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): The Kerala Assembly had unanimously passed a Bill in 2011 to set up a tribunal to obtain compensation for the people of Plachimada village of Palakkad. The village was devastated due to over-exploitation of water by Coca-cola plant. The entire area became uncultivable and faced severe drinking water shortage. An expert committee appointed by the Government of Kerala estimated a loss of Rs. 216 crore to the people of that area and recommended to set up a tribunal. Though the Bill was passed 6 years ago, the Union Home Ministry has not yet sent the Bill for the Presidential assent.

I urge upon the Government to immediately send the Bill for Presidential assent.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam, what about 'Zero Hour'? ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: All of you, please be seated. Zero Hour will not be taken up at this moment. ... (*Interruptions*)

12.12 hours

VALEDICTORY REFERENCE

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Eleventh Session of the Sixteenth Lok Sabha is coming to a close today.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The first part of this Budget Session commenced on 31st January, 2017 with the Address by the Hon. President to the Members of both the Houses assembled together in Central Hall.

In a historic move, the Union Budget, comprising both General and Railway Budgets for the year 2017-18, was presented on 1st February, 2017.

During the Session, we had 29 sittings spread over 176 hours 39 minutes. Of these, 7 sittings were held in the first part and 22 sittings were held in the second part of the Session.

The House discussed the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, a copy of which was laid on the Table of the House on 31 January, 2017. It was passed on 7 February, 2017 after a debate lasting for 10 hours and 38 minutes.

A discussion on the Union Budget for 2017-18, was held on 8th and 9th February, 2017 for 9 hours 58 minutes.

The House adjourned on 9 February, 2017 to enable the Standing Committees to examine the Demands for Grants of various Ministries/ Departments and submit their Reports thereon.

After the recess, the second part of the Budget Session commenced on 9 March, 2017.

During the second part, the Demands for Grants, in respect of the Ministries of Railways, Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, Defence and Home Affairs were discussed for more than 26 hours and voted in full. All the other outstanding Demands for Grants in respect of Budget (General) for 2017-18 of the remaining Ministries were

submitted to the vote of the House and voted in full on 20th March, 2017 and the related Appropriation Bill was passed.

The Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for 2016-17 and Demands for Excess Grants (Railways) for 2013-14 were passed and related Appropriation Bills were passed. The Supplementary Demands for Grants (General) for 2016-17 were passed after a discussion lasting for 3 hours 46 minutes and related Appropriation Bill was also passed.

The House discussed the Finance Bill, 2017 on 21 and 22 March, 2017 and it was passed after a discussion lasting for 8 hours and 41 minutes. Hon. Members, as I have already noted with appreciation on 5 April, 2017, this has been a singular achievement on the part of our entire fraternity of parliamentarians for having completed the entire budgetary process before end of the Financial year which has facilitated availability of fund for welfare schemes from 1st April itself. During the current Session, 24 Government Bills were introduced. In all, 23 Bills were passed, notably, Payments of Wages (Amendment) Bill, 2017, the Specified Bank Notes Bill, 2017; the Maternity Benefit (Amendment) Bill, 2016; Admiralty (Jurisdiction and Settlement of Maritime Claims) Bill, 2016; Enemy Property (Amendment) Bill, 2016; the Constitution (Scheduled

Castes) Orders (Amendment) Bill, 2017; the Mental Healthcare Bill, 2016; National Institutes of Technology, Science, Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016; Footwear Design and Development Institute Bill, 2017; The Taxation Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2016; the Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016; and the Constitution (One Hundred and Twenty-Third Amendment) Bill, 2017; Human Immunodeficiency Virus and Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (Prevention & Control) Bill, 2017.

Apart from this, another significant achievement has been the passing of four GST related Bills, namely, the Central Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017; the Integrated Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017; the Central Goods and Services Tax (Compensation to States) Bill, 2017; the Union Territory Goods and Services Tax Bill, 2017.

During the session, out of 560 starred questions 136 Questions were answered orally. Thus, on an average, 4.68 Questions were answered per day. Written replies to the remaining Starred Questions alongwith 6440 Unstarred questions were laid on the Table.

About 541 matters of urgent public importance were raised by the members after the Question Hour and after completion of formal business of the House by sitting late in the evening. Hon. Members also raised 494 matters under rule 377. During this Session, the

Departmentally Related Standing Committees presented 68 reports. The House also held a short duration discussion under rule 193 on the The discussion, however, was not concluded.

As many as 51 statements were made by the Ministers on various important subjects including 5 Statements made by Minister of Parliamentary Affairs on Government Business. During the Session, as many as 1864 papers were laid on the Table of the House by the Ministers concerned.

As many as 158 Bills on different subjects were introduced by private members during the Session. Motion for consideration of the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2015 moved by Shri Vincent H. Pala on 5 August, 2016 during the ninth session, was taken up for further discussion on 10 and 24 March and 7 April, 2017. However, the discussion on the Bill was not concluded on 7 April, 2017.

As regards, Private Members' Resolutions, further discussion on the resolution regarding steps to ensure welfare of Employees Provident Fund pensioners, which was, moved by Shri N.K. Premachandran on 11 December, 2015 during the sixth session and discussed on 6 May and 29 July, 2016 during eighth and ninth sessions, respectively, was further discussed on 23 and 31 March,

2017 during the session. However, the discussion did not conclude on 31 March, 2017.

In this session, while we lost 8 hours 12 minutes of time due to interruptions and forced adjournments, the House also sat late for 28 hours and 40 minutes and transacted urgent Government Business. This has been an immensely fruitful and productive session, which is very much conducive to uphold the credibility of all of us.

I would like to thank the Hon. Deputy Speaker and my colleagues in the Panel of Chairmen for their co-operation in the smooth conduct of the House. I am extremely grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Leaders and Chief Whips of various parties and groups and the Hon. Members for their cooperation. I would also like to thank, on behalf of all of you, our friends in the Press and the Media. I take this opportunity to thank the Secretary-General and the officers and staff of the Lok Sabha Secretariat for their dedicated and prompt service to the House. I also thank the allied agencies for their able assistance in the conduct of the proceedings of the House. I also thank all of you and I am sure that we will continue to strive hard for the progress of our country.

12:21 hours

NATIONAL SONG

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, you are requested to stand at your places, as the tune of *Vande Mataram* will now be played.

(The National Song was played.)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned *sine die*.

12.22 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned sine die.

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