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Tuesday, March 28, 2017

Chaitra 07, 1939 (Saka)

## **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

**(English Version)**

**Eleventh Session**

**(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. XXIII Contains Nos. 11 to 20)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

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## CONTENTS

**Sixteenth Series, Vol. XXIII, Eleventh Session, 2017/1939 (Saka)**

**No. 20, Tuesday, March 28, 2017/Chaitra 07, 1939 (Saka)**

<b><u>SUBJECT</u></b>	<b><u>PAGES</u></b>
<b>WELCOME TO PARLIARMENTARY DELEGATION FROM NAMIBIA</b>	12
<b>REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER</b>	
Nutan Samvatsar 2074 of the Vikram Era	13
<b>ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS</b>	
*Starred Question Nos. 361 to 365	15-55
<b>WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS</b>	
Starred Question Nos. 366 to 380	56
Unstarred Question Nos. 4141 to 4370	

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

<b>PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE</b>	57-63
	91
<b>BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE</b>	64
<b>42<sup>nd</sup> Report</b>	
<b>JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT</b>	65
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Report</b>	
<b>MATTERS UNDER RULE 377</b>	124-157
(i) Need to undertake electrification of villages under Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand	
Shri Laxman Giluwa	124
(ii) Need to include 'Kamlapuri Vaishya' caste of Bihar in the Central List of OBCs	
Shrimati Rama Devi	127
(iii) Need to declare Hajira town in Surat district, Gujarat as 'No Fly Zone' and also to strengthen the security of the town	
Shrimati Darshana Vikram Jardosh	129
(iv) Need to create awareness about eco-enzyme and promote its use in the country	
Shri Maheish Giri	131

- (v) Need to increase the area under irrigation in Korba district, Chhattisgarh  
Dr. Banshilal Mahto 132
- (vi) Need to take welfare measures for child beggars  
Shri Hukum Singh 133
- (vii) Need to provide adequate compensation to farmers whose land has been acquired for extension of International Airport at Gaya, Bihar  
Shri Hari Manjhi 134
- (viii) Need to construct platforms and overbridges at all the railway stations on Kodarma-Giridih via Kowad railway line in Jharkhand  
Shri Ravindra Kumar Rai 135
- (ix) Regarding problems being faced by farmers of Kheda constituency in Gujarat  
Shri Devusinh Chauhan 136
- (x) Need to take strict action against fraudulent chit fund companies in the country  
Shri Sudheer Gupta 137
- (xi) Regarding modernization of Fire Services in the Country  
Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi 138
- (xii) Need to enact law for reservation in promotion of SC/ST Government employees  
Dr. Udit Raj 139

- (xiii) Need to establish a Divisional Office of Life Insurance Corporation of India at Dhanbad, Jharkhand  
Shri Pashupati Nath Singh 140
- (xiv) Need to bring railway stations at Chakarbhata, Bilha and Dagauri in Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh under the jurisdiction of Bilaspur Railway Division  
Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu 142
- (xv) Need to upgrade Tumkur railway station in Karnataka as a high-tech station with all modern facilities  
Shri S. P. Muddahanume Gowda 144
- (xvi) Need to introduce modern methods of cultivation among tribals of Manipur  
Shri Thangso Baite 145
- (xvii) Need to introduce a pension scheme for divorcee and single women in the country  
Shrimati Mausam Noor 146
- (xviii) Need to impress upon Government of Kerala to stop construction of check dams on river Bhavani in the interest of farmers of Tamil Nadu  
Shrimati V. Sathyabama 147
- (xix) Need to provide better remuneration and extend retirement benefits to Asha Workers in the Country  
Shrimati Pratima Mondal 149

- (xx) Need to set up Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (FMTTI) in Bargarh constituency, Odisha  
Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh 150
- (xxi) Need to permit sale of eatables and packaged water at fruit/juice stalls at railway stations in the country  
Shri Shrirang Appa Barne 151
- (xxii) Need to improve the Orderbook position of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd  
Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi) 153
- (xxiii) Regarding the problem faced by employees of Instrumentation Limited, Palakkad in Kerala  
Shri M. B. Rajesh 154
- (xxiv) Need to withdraw the decision to shift the office of Inland Waterways Authority of India, Bhagalpur, Bihar to Sahebganj, Jharkhand  
Shri Shailesh Kumar 155
- (xxv) Need to provide road connectivity to some villages of Karimganj in Assam under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana  
Shri Radheshyam Biswas 156
- (xxvi) Need for early completion of Angamaly-Sabari railway Project in Kerala  
Adv. Joice George 157

**NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY,  
SCIENCE EDUCATION AND RESEARCH  
(SECOND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016** 158-249

Motion to Consider	158
Shri Prakash Javadekar	161-170 256-277
Kumari Sushmita Dev	171-180
Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank	181-187
Dr. Mriganka Mahato	188-192
Dr. Prabhas Kumar Singh	193-198
Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi)	198-205
Shri Bheemrao B. Patil	205-207
Shri P. K. Biju	207-212
Shrimati Butta Renuka	212-215
Shri Manoj Tiwari	216-222
Shri Kaushalendra Kumar	223-224
Shri N. K. Premachandran	225-231
Shri Nihal Chand	232-238
Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya	239-242
Shri Hukum Singh	243-249
Shri Rahul Shewale	250-253

Shri Sirajuddin Ajmal	253-256
Clauses 2 and 1	278-280
Motion to Pass	280
<b>COLLECTION OF STATISTICS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017</b>	281-868
Motion to Consider	281
Shri D. V. Sadananda Gowda	281-283
Shri Deepender Singh Hooda	283-297
Shri Sunil Kumar Singh	298-307
Shrimati Aparupa Poddar	307-310
Shri Tathagata Satpathy	310-315

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Tuesday, March 28, 2017/Chaitra 07, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

## **WELCOME TO PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION FROM NAMIBIA**

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, on my own behalf and on behalf of the Hon. Members of the House, I have great pleasure in welcoming Hon. Prof. Peter H. Katjavivi, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Parliament of Namibia and members of the Namibian Parliamentary Delegation who are on a visit to India as our honoured guests.

They arrived in India on Monday, 27<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 and are now seated in the Special Box. Besides Delhi, they will also visit Agra and other places. We wish them a happy and fruitful stay in our country. Through them we convey our greetings and best wishes to the Parliament, the Government and the friendly people of Namibia.

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**11.03 hrs**

**REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER**

**Nutan Samvatsar 2074 of the Vikram Era**

[Translation]

Hon. Members, today I would like to greet all of you on the auspicious commencement of Vikram Samwat, 2074. This House extends heartfelt congratulation to all the citizens of the country on the occasion of the advent of the Nutan Samwatsar which is also celebrated in different names such as Gudi Padwa, Ugadi, Chaitra Shukladi, Cheti Chand, Navreh and Sajibu Cheiraba in various parts of the country.

I hope this new year may bring new expectation, energy, exaltation and new enthusiasm to all our fellow citizens and enable us to make our nation strong.

On this auspicious occasion, a Lunch has been organized for the Hon. Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha in the courtyard 9 adjacent to the Central Hall between 1 PM to 2 PM in which you all are cordially invited. Your presence is solicited for the Lunch.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Madam Speaker, you have not done justice, because in every new year,

holidays are granted in other states, but for Ugadi, you only gave blessings and not a holiday. This New Year is observed in Maharashtra, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh. People from so many states will not be present today and tomorrow. Please tell us, how will the House function?

**HON. SPEAKER:** Had a holiday been granted, all of us would not have been able to celebrate the New Year together. Let us, for once, celebrate it collectively.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

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**11.04 hrs**

**\*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, let us go to the Question Hour. Question No. 361, Dr. Satya Pal Singh.

[Translation]

**(Q. 361)**

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Madam Speaker, I would like to make a correction in this. Answer to the question 'C' National Food Security Mission has been written in Hindi. The National Food Mission has been written in English, while it should be the National Food Act. I want to correct it. [English] National Food Security Mission should be replaced by National Food Security Act.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Okay.

[Translation]

**DR. SATYAPAL SINGH:** Respected Madam Speaker, Hon. Speaker Madam, today is a very special day. As you have said, today

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

is not only the New Samvatsara or New Year for India, but with your permission, I would like to state that it is the New Year for the entire world as well, according to our culture, which is entirely scientific. Our culture is a great confluence of faith and scientific reasoning. Our Rishis, Maharishis, and scholars...

**HON. SPEAKER:** This is what I have stated.

**DR. SATYAPAL SINGH:** Madam, with your permission I would like to say.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Then everyone will begin saying such things.

**DR. SATYAPAL SINGH:** I would like to say that through the recitation of a Sankalp Mantra, we have continued to state which day it is today, since the creation of the universe. As written in the scriptures, "Mukham va etad ritunam yad vasantah", that is, the face of all seasons is the beginning of the spring season. Therefore, on the occasion of spring, warm wishes from all of us Indians to the people of the entire world.

Secondly, I wish to state that for the first time in nearly three years, my question has come up for discussion. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Well, at least the New Year has brought some success.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, please ask a good question as part of this New Year's achievement.

[English]

**DR. SATYA PAL SINGH:** Hon. Speaker, first of all, I would appreciate the Hon. Minister for a very detailed and elaborate reply.

Secondly, I would also like to express my heartiest congratulations to our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi-ji for taking such an – we can say – unpleasant decision of demonetization for the benefit of our country. Though it was considered as a bolt from the blue by some experts, yet it was appreciated and welcomed by the common people of our country, and which has been proved by the unprecedented victory in Uttar Pradesh and local elections all over the country.

Madam, I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that the hoarders have taken or tried to take advantage of the Government's decision of demonetization from making artificial shortage of essential commodities so that they can make unjustified profits. There

have been some news-items like this: 'Jacking up prices of such commodities'

In this regard, as a first supplementary, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about the awareness programmes implemented by the Government to expose such artificial shortage of essential commodities or such hoarders during the period of demonetization scheme along with the action taken or being taken against such hoarders so far. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Hon. Speaker, the first question raised was regarding the impact of demonetisation, whereas demonetisation has had no adverse impact. On the contrary, if you look at the prices as on 08.11.2016, whether it be rice, wheat, flour, gram dal, tur, urad, moong, masoor, sugar, milk, groundnut, mustard oil, vanaspati, soya, or other such items, a total of 22 commodities including sunflower oil and palm oil, you will see that there has been no increase in their prices.

As far as pulses cultivation is concerned, it was 612 lakh hectares in the year 2015-16, it increased to 622 lakh hectares in 2016-17. As far as production of pulses is concerned, it was earlier 163. 5 lakh

tonnes, which will increase to 221. 4 lakh tonnes this time. In this way, we assume that demonetisation has had no effect.

As far as the Hon. Member's question regarding taking action is concerned, we have already provided a written reply in the main question. From November, 2016 to February 2017, action was taken against black marketers under the 'Essential Commodities Act' and the 'Prevention of Black Marketing Act, 1980'. Under this, 17,506 raids were conducted, 1,524 people were arrested, prosecutions were initiated against 837 individuals, 163 persons were found guilty, 46 were detained, and goods worth Rs. 4 Crore 33 lakh were seized.

We would like to state that under the 'Essential Commodities Act' and the 'Prevention of Black Marketing Act', we empower the State Governments under Section-3 of the Essential Commodities Act to impose stock limits, and the State Governments take necessary action accordingly.

**DR. SATYAPAL SINGH:** Madam Speaker, I would first like to congratulate and commend the Hon. Minister for the actions taken.

My question is regarding what happens inside the mandis, the A.P.M.C. markets, [English] I would like to know whether there is any proposal to make all transactions of *mandis* mandatory through

digital mode and constitute a permanent committee to keep a check on such transactions of *mandis* to avoid artificial manipulation of prices of essential commodities by the middlemen. It will not only give momentum to the decision of our government to promote digital payment but also provide relief to the farmers and the common people from artificial high prices of essential commodities.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI C.R. CHOUDHARY):** Hon. Speaker Madam, the learned Hon. Member has raised a very important and timely question. Since this was a historic decision by the Hon. Prime Minister, the people of the country have wholeheartedly welcomed it. Its result has also been reflected before the entire nation through the elections.

The Hon. Member has asked a special question. As far as digitisation is concerned, programmes under the Digital India initiative were already underway in this direction. After demonetisation, DigiDhan Mela and similar programmes were conducted in 100 cities across the country.

As far as the A.P.M.C. or agricultural produce markets are concerned, you will now observe, as our Hon. Minister has mentioned, that during this period, 10.5 lakh tonnes of pulses have been purchased, and all payments to farmers have been made through cheques. During this time, we have procured approximately 85 lakh tonnes of wheat and more than 120 lakh tonnes of rice, with all payments made via cheque.

Similarly, farmers are now also receiving their payments through cheques. To encourage and raise awareness among them, our Ministry runs the 'Jago, Grahak Jago' programme. Alongside this, under the consumer awareness campaign, we are implementing various schemes. For these reasons, emphasis is being placed on digital payments so that payments are made through this medium as much as possible. This moves us towards a less-cash economy. The concern of the Hon. Member regarding digital payments has already been covered by our Ministry. The greatest benefit of this is that for any country to progress economically, payments should be made through banking channels and transactions should occur via banks. This will curb black money and prevent tax evasion. Farmers are already following this practice, so they suffer no loss. It is a positive development, welcomed by all.

The concern raised by the Hon. Member regarding digital payments has already been addressed by our Ministry.

**SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:** Madam Speaker, 'Gudi Padwa' is being celebrated in Maharashtra today, on this occasion I would also like to thank you, because the four MPs who are related to the first two questions are from Maharashtra. Dr Satyapal Singh Sahab is also from Maharashtra. ... (*Interruptions*)

Our Government and the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi took a revolutionary decision on demonetisation, the impact of which is now visible and will continue to be felt for many years to come. Because of this, our country has advanced by approximately ten to fifteen years. The difficulties experienced during demonetisation were felt most by the farmers and labourers working in the fields, as November and December are harvesting months.

Our Minister has just responded that the prices of all commodities have decreased, but the greatest loss has been suffered by our farmers. If we look at Maharashtra and the figures related to pulses that you have provided — which are estimated figures — the actual figures will surprise everyone, as in almost every district, the production of arhar or tur has doubled. The prices have fallen in the

market. Last year the rate was 10-11 thousand rupees per quintal, today it is 44.5 thousand rupees per quintal. The entire purchase is being done through NAFED as traders are not ready to take it. For this, we are getting four hundred and fifty rupees from our price stabilization fund and about 5.5 thousand rupees from the M.S.P. This is very meagre.

Through you, I request the Minister, because my question is related to both the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Consumer Affairs. In this, instead of four hundred and fifty rupees, one thousand rupees should be increased.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please ask your question.

**SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE:** Regarding the Price Stabilisation Corpus Fund, will you increase it from Rs. 500 crore to Rs. 5,000 crore?

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** The Price Stabilisation Fund initially started at Rs. 500 crore, but it has now increased to more than Rs. 7,000 crore.

As far as pulses are concerned, currently there are 22 essential commodities, but as per the Minimum Support Price (MSP), we only procure rice and wheat; we do not procure other items. For the first

time since independence, when the Government noticed that pulse prices had increased significantly, we decided to create a buffer stock. We initially procured 150,000 tonnes, then increased it to 500,000 tonnes, and now it has been raised to 20 lakh tonnes. Meanwhile, regarding the prices set by the Government for various commodities, it is ironic that when prices rise, people say pulses have vanished from the plate, and when purchases decline, farmers protest. We are using this fund for the benefit of both.

As just mentioned by our Hon. Minister of State, we have procured between 11 to 13 lakh tonnes domestically and imported 4 lakh tonnes. The Government is making every possible effort, but a sudden load has been placed on the system. As I said earlier, production has increased from 163 lakh tonnes to 221 lakh tonnes. Naturally, there are certain limitations in the existing infrastructure, but even so, we are making efforts to procure as much pulse stock as possible. All procurement is being done at the M.S.P. rate.

[English]

**DR. SHASHI THAROOR:** Thank you very much Madam Speaker. Madam Speaker, the Government takes satisfaction in the idea that prices have not gone up because of demonetisation. But, when prices

go down, they hurt some very essential people in our society. I would like to speak of the plight of the fishermen in my community and in Thiruvananthapuram, but it is also true across the coastline of India. We are looking at these people who are in a pathetic condition. They catch a few fish. You see these women sitting on the ground, trying to sell a few fish and no one has cash to pay them. We cannot tell them to go digital. We cannot ask for digital India when the rental of a credit card machine will exceed their week's profits. I ask you, Madam Speaker, can we do something to ensure that the most vulnerable sections of our economy are protected in the course of the consequences of demonetisation? Thank you, Madam Speaker.

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** First, please tell us, do you eat fish?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Madam Speaker, we have repeatedly stated that whether it is a matter of digitisation or linking the P.D.S. with Aadhaar, the intention of our Government is to curb corruption. People should receive fair prices, workers should not be exploited, and labourers should receive full wages for their work. These schemes have been designed for that very purpose. However,

to say that those who do not have access to digitisation or do not possess an Aadhaar card will not receive ration or their goods will not be sold, I would like to clarify that no such rule exists.

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** It seems fish falls outside his Department's purview. ... (*Interruptions*) I now move from water to land. ... (*Interruptions*) That is why I said that. ... (*Interruptions*) They say they have not received a reply.

**HON. SPEAKER:** He asked whether there is fish, vegetable.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** He spoke about small fish and small traders. Now he is referring to the big fish.

My question relates to agricultural produce. You mentioned that the actions being taken under the Price Stabilisation Fund are yielding benefits, and you also presented data showing how much prices have changed within three months. You named three vegetables, potato, onion, and tomato, but there are many more vegetables. You monitor 22 items, yet you only mentioned these three vegetables. You spoke about wholesale and retail prices, since you are from the Consumer Affairs Department. But what kind of coordination exists between your Ministry and the Ministry of Agriculture regarding the prices that

farmers are receiving? You are showing here that the price of potatoes has dropped from Rs. 21 to Rs. 13 per kilogram. You yourself said that pulses, rice, and wheat are procured from farmers, but there is no arrangement for the procurement of these vegetables. So, how do you think to protect the interests of the agriculturists? You say you want to increase their income, but does it not appear from this data that their income is, in fact, decreasing? I am especially referring to potatoes, because I come from Bengal, and potato farmers there are severely affected.

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY:** They are committing suicide. A potato farmer has taken his own life. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Adhir Ranjan ji, everyone here is from Bengal.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE:** That is an entirely false statement. .

. . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** What is this happening?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record.

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

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please take your seats. Shri Adhir Ranjan, kindly sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, this is not proper.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** The question was about potatoes, but you have ended up causing a dispute between the two.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** Madam, as far as potatoes are concerned, on 8.11.2016, the price of potatoes was Rs. 21.25, which came down to Rs. 13.47 on 23.03.2017. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Virendra Kumar, short question.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:** Madam Speaker, I am Virendra Singh, not Virendra Kumar. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Oh, sorry, Virendra Kumar ji is seated over there. Virendra Kumar ji asks more questions, doesn't he?

**SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH:** Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Consumer Affairs Minister to a very important matter and raise a question. In India, once produce is procured from the farmer, it is transported and dumped at district headquarters or other such locations. Then, the same grain is distributed under the Public Distribution System from there. This process makes the system of providing affordable grains to the poor more expensive. When the produce is transported from one place to another, a loss of 25 to 30 percent occurs and there are data to support this.

I would like to ask whether the Government of India can make a policy whereby procurement and distribution take place at the local level itself, so that the price does not increase and there is minimal scope for wastage?

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** This is indeed the intention of the Government, and we would be most pleased if the State Governments procure more and carry out more distribution under the PDS through

the DCP mechanism. There are several DCP States, for example, Bihar is a DCP State. In such States, the Central Government does not procure; the State Government undertakes the procurement. In Uttar Pradesh and a few other States, both systems are in operation. At present, we transport wheat and rice from Haryana and Punjab to Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, and other regions. If procurement is carried out locally, it will result in a reduction in transportation costs. I agree with the Hon. Member on this point, that State Governments should procure more, and at the very least, meet the targets allocated to them.

As far as food grains are concerned, under the law, we transport the grains up to the godowns, after which they are handed over to the State Government. The State Government is responsible for their distribution.

**(Q. 362)**

[English]

**DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:** Madam, today is *Gudi Padwa* and I would like to extend my wishes to you, to all my colleague MPs and everyone across the country.

Madam, the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) is a very good Force, which is doing a wonderful job of protecting all the vital installations of the Government of India. CISF *jawans* are dedicated, disciplined and very efficient. However, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether it is true that all the airports except that of Jammu and Srinagar are being protected by CISF. I would also like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what are the reasons thereof.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, since 2000 when the Government of India decided to hand over security of airports to CISF to till date, CISF has taken over a total of 59 airports across the country.

The Hon. Member mentioned about the airports in Srinagar and Leh. These airports are under the protection of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), which is also the Central armed police force. But the majority of the airports, as I mentioned, are under CISF protection. There is a discussion going on with the Ministry of Civil

Aviation to ensure a common command structure, where CISF can take over the entire important airports across the country.

**DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:** Madam, I have very specifically asked as to why these airports are not being given CISF protection. All the airports in the country are equally important. The terrorists will study the structure and target the soft places where they can easily intrude. I think, it is very important to have good security at all the airports.

My second supplementary to the Hon. Minister is, whenever we go at the airport, the first person that we encounter is a CISF *jawan* who is checking the airline tickets. He is trained to fight with terrorists and not to check tickets at the airport. Is it not possible to replace all these people with some airline staff and have some non-CISF persons, who are given jobs at the airport because we spend crore of rupees in training the CISF *jawans*? So, I think this is a very important matter to look into. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he will think of replacing the CISF *jawans*, who are posted today for checking the airline tickets with non-CISF people?

The second very important point I would like to raise is that when a CISF *jawan* is killed on duty, the compensation that his family

gets is very meagre whereas in case of an Army personnel, the compensation is higher. In the future course of time, is there any plan of giving a higher compensation even to the CISF *jawan's* family, when he is killed on duty?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, the Hon. Member has raised two to three important points. As I mentioned earlier also, recently we had a serious discussion with the Ministry of Civil Aviation to ensure that all the airports in India are secured.

The Hon. Member is right that terrorist threat cannot be confined to a few important metropolitan airports only. We have some of the airports across the country, especially in the smaller rural areas, which could be misused by the terrorists to act on their designs. I would like to inform the House that security audit process is going on. We have formed a committee, which is visiting at various airports. We are also integrating the State police in this task because the periphery of the airport security should be supplemented by the State police force. However, CISF has been a specialised force to guard airports. Besides, out of 494 important installations, 329 are with CISF now. We would like to ensure that every airport in India is secured.

Secondly, the Hon. Member mentioned about the way in which passengers are treated or frisked at the airports. Various experimental steps are being taken and you must have noticed now that there is a marked improvement in the way CISF is conducting security, frisking and checking in that process.

If there are good suggestions, we would welcome them from all the Hon. Members of the House.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Dhananjay Mahadik – not present.

**SHRI ASHOK SHANKARRAO CHAVAN:** Madam Speaker, you are aware that the critical national infrastructure project was undertaken by the Union Home Ministry post-2008, particularly after the Mumbai terror attacks which took place. The lack of critical national infrastructure plan hints at the Government's lack of preparedness to address the potential security challenges facing India despite the concerns being raised in this very House on several occasions.

Madam, we have all experienced that water supply to Delhi was stopped by protesters who damaged the Munak regulator which is on the Munak Canal and is responsible for providing two-thirds of water

supply to Delhi. Again, in March, 2017, there was a threat by the protesters that they would attack the Delhi Metro services.

In the background of all these things happening, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that in view of the repeated attacks by the protesters on the national infrastructure projects, which are of vital importance, what the Government has done to expedite the CNI protection plan so that such people, whether they are protesters or terrorists, cannot use such installations as a leverage against the Government to make their demands. What exactly is the Government going to do about this?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, in continuation of what I have stated earlier, recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs has re-categorised those vital installations which are very critical to India's economy as well as security. There are five categories which have been defined recently. If the Hon. Member desires, I can supply it to him because it is quite a lengthy one page, but to inform the Hon. House, I would say that it has been re-categorised.

If you see the vital installations of the country, how do we define 'vital installations'? 'Vital Installations' are those establishments, installations or units which are very critical to the citizens of this

country. It does not cover only the security, but even the food products, oil, power supply, all important materials which cannot be easily replaced if the supply chain is disrupted. So, there is a categorization of the entire process. We are very much aware of the situation.

The Hon. Member, Chavan *saheb* mentioned about water supply, canal and all that. We are abreast of the situation. There will be adequate steps taken even if challenges are there in the future also.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:** Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to ask a supplementary question on a very important issue. The Hon. Minister has acknowledged that the CISF is entrusted with the responsibility of securing the country's airports. It is a matter of satisfaction for both the CISF and the Government that since the takeover, there has not been a single incident of hijacking or any lapse in security.

Along with this, the CISF also provides security to industrial units, Government buildings, and national monuments. I would like to raise a question regarding national monuments. Under the Buddhist Circuit, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, has established

a National Museum at the birth place of Lord Buddha. There is a proposal, already approved, to place the sacred casket of Lord Buddha in this museum. However, due to the absence of CISF security, the casket has not yet been placed in the National Museum. Many followers of Buddhism visit the Buddhist Circuit. I would request the Hon. Minister to give an assurance that CISF security will be provided there. It is a National Museum under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and should be adequately secured so that the sacred casket of Lord Buddha can be housed there.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam Speaker, along with raising a question, the Hon. Member has also given a very valuable suggestion. As I have stated earlier, not only airports, but also the country's power plants, nuclear facilities, important projects, Government buildings such as the Taj Mahal, and other vital institutions are all provided security through the CISF. We have laid-down rules that if any private organisation or an important monument under the Ministry of Culture requires protection and it becomes our responsibility to safeguard it then upon receiving a formal written request, we conduct a full security audit through the Intelligence Bureau and other security agencies, based on threat perception. After that, the Ministry of Home Affairs provides the necessary security.

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Baijayant Panda, please ask a short question only.

**SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:** Madam, I will put a very short question. The Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) started out by guarding public sector industrial installations, and as the Hon. Minister has pointed out that it still does hundreds of other such installations.

The issue is that it is covering very different kinds of installations like industrial, airport, etc., which require different skills. In the rest of the world transport security has become a specialized subject such as in the USA where you have got Transport Security Authority and they are specialized for that. If we do not do that, then it is a jack-of-all-trades approach and despite the CISF having many good officers / *jawans*, it will never be fully optimal and as the Hon. Member has pointed out; it can be sub-optimal.

You are talking to the Civil Aviation Ministry. Why do you not talk to the Railway Ministry or the Surface Transport Ministry? I am saying this because transport as a whole requires a specialized security apparatus and properly trained personnel with proper infrastructure.

Will the Hon. Minister agrees that he should also initiate discussions with these other Ministries and discuss about having an overall National Transport Security Authority?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, the Hon. Member has raised various issues. Let me be very specific to one of the queries, for example, Railways. We have a special Railway Protection Force whose Director General is an IPS Officer sent through the Ministry of Home Affairs to ensure that the security system in railways is taken care of because railways is the lifeline of the country.

The Hon. Member also mentioned about specialized training for acquiring special skills to handle various situations. These are being taken care of and CISF has evolved as a very specialized Force not only for installations, but also for VIP security. CISF with its strength raised from 1,40,000 authorized now to 1,80,000 is a very big Force. It has various categories already adopted in its own way and it has its method of training its people for various purposes. So, the concern is very well taken care of.

Hon. Member, Shri Baijayant Panda, has also put certain suggestions. We have taken note of them. Yesterday only, the Home Minister chaired the Coordination Meeting with the Railway Minister

where I was also present. We have already discussed about various issues concerning railway security also.

**(Q. 363)**

[Translation]

**SHRI OM BIRLA:** Madam Speaker, under this Government, the confidence of our paramilitary forces has increased significantly. It is these paramilitary forces that guard more than 11,000 kilometres of the country's borders. Our CRPF and BSF personnel also engage in combat against terrorists in Kashmir.

Madam Speaker, I would like to request the Government to consider whether a paramilitary personnel who lays down his life while fighting terrorists may be accorded the status of a martyr? Along with this, does the Government have any plan to provide special assistance to their families?

**SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR:** Madam Speaker, in reference to the question raised by the Hon. Member, I would like to state that all soldiers who lose their lives in such confrontations are indeed regarded as martyrs.

They are also equipped with all the necessary, suitable, and modern arms and equipment required for self-defence and combat. We, on behalf of the Government, ensure such arrangements are in place.

**SHRI OM BIRLA:** Madam Speaker, in this modern era, while our soldiers fight against terrorists, we also continue to face internal security challenges in the form of Naxalism and Maoism. This fight is undertaken by our paramilitary forces as well as the State police.

I would like to request the Government that the latest upgraded equipment and technology being researched and developed both in India and abroad, which can help us confront our enemies whether the Government has any plans to procure such equipment from within the country or abroad and provide them

**SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR:** Madam, in response to the question raised by the Hon. Member, I would like to provide some details. All paramilitary forces are being equipped with modern and appropriate equipment. Whether they are soldiers deployed in LWE-affected areas or in Kashmir, we have made provisions for several modern devices. Under modern equipment, such as anti-riot gear, we are providing full body protectors, bullet-resistant jackets, bullet-resistant helmets, and other necessary items. Last year, when separatist activities intensified in Jammu and Kashmir, we had deployed ITBP and SSB to assist the CRPF. For these forces, we allocated separate funds Rs. 20 crore, Rs. 10 crore, and similar amounts to each, which were used to procure anti-riot equipment.

These included arrangements for the use of lethal weapons where necessary, as well as protective gear and other related equipment. The Hon. Member asked about technology, we have indeed provided new technologies and equipment such as unmanned aerial vehicles. We have also supplied hand-held thermal imagers, which are useful for night-time visibility, laser range finders, and PNVs, which are night vision devices. Additionally, drones are now in use, and we have approved the procurement of multi-system sensors for the future. For the detection of IEDs, we have also approved the procurement of an advanced technology called NLJD.

**SHRI SULTAN AHMED:** Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask this question.

Madam, CRPF, CISF and other soldiers are being killed — they are being martyred at the hands of terrorists. In the Red Zone areas of our country as well, they are losing their lives. The Government has announced protective measures, but there seems to be no reduction in such incidents.

Considering the social aspects of the issue, is the Government contemplating dialogue with those who are confronting us in the Red Zones? In today's environment, we are holding talks even with

terrorists; in the North-East, we have engaged in discussions with terrorist groups there. Likewise, does the Government have any proposal under consideration to hold dialogue in the Red Zone areas and bring such individuals into the mainstream? It would be appreciated if Shri Rajnath Singh Ji could intervene in this matter. Does the Government have any such proposal?

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your question is not referenced to the original question. If hon. Minister wants to respond, I have no objection. This question is different.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**(Q. 364)**

[English]

**SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:** Madam Speaker, as per birth statistics, the number of babies born with birth defects is 4,700 per day. There are many model projects under umbrella Scheme, that is, 'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme (DDRS)' for providing welfare and empowerment of the disabled. However, most of the model projects take care of persons after the detection of disease when it is too late because the disease is at a certain stage and cannot be cured soon. If DDRS focuses on early intervention projects by taking up new born screening programme, then there can be early diagnosis of the common genetic disease that can lead to disabilities.

I want to ask the Hon. Minister, through you, Madam Speaker, whether the Government is planning to focus and strengthen the early intervention project so that tests could be conducted immediately before or after the birth of the child and the disease could be cured in its early stages. This will also help to reduce the percentage of disabled, the Government will be able to save expenses on their long-term welfare and also the family will be happy and healthy.

[Translation]

**SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:** Madam Speaker, this is not directly related to the question, but on behalf of my Ministry, I would like to submit that a great deal of effort is being made in this direction. The measures to prevent disability begin with the Ministry of Health. From the time a child is in the womb, up until birth, medical examinations and monitoring are conducted. Our Department also undertakes such screenings. For example, once the child is born, by the time the child is four to six months old, tests are carried out to determine whether the child is able to hear or not, whether the child is able to speak or not, and whether there are any other signs of disability in the child's body. We have already initiated such examinations and continue to conduct them. Once a condition is identified, we make efforts to ensure that the required medical facilities are provided. We also ensure that necessary training is imparted. Arrangements are made to provide them with assistive devices. Moreover, work plans are being implemented with a view to rehabilitation as well.

[English]

**SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE:** Madam Speaker, under DDRS, the Central Government provides financial assistance to NGOs working for the welfare of disabled persons. But due to a very long process, NGOs are not able to get funds due to some

irregularities. In my Nashik Parliamentary Constituency, a well-known and dedicated Asha School working under the Defence control has not received funds for the last three years. Also, in some cases, it is observed that there is a difference in the number of beneficiaries and funds allocated for them. For example, as per the information provided in Parliament in respect of Madhya Pradesh, for 2012-13, the number of beneficiaries was 22,709 and the fund allocated was Rs. 1.2 crore. Next year, the number of beneficiaries came down from 22,709 to 767 and the fund allocated was Rs. 1.35 crore. Why is there such a difference? In other Government schemes, Aadhaar Card is being linked with the bank accounts to give the benefits directly to the beneficiaries. The Government has provided a separate Unique Disability ID for the disabled persons.

I want to ask the Hon. Minister, through you, Madam Speaker, whether the Government is planning to link Unique Disability ID for the disabled persons to avoid irregularities and to make the process transparent and smoother.

[Translation]

**SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:** Madam Speaker, there has long been a provision for the distribution of assistive devices to

Divyangjans. There used to be numerous complaints regarding this—whether or not they receive them, who receives them, how they are distributed, where they are distributed, and whether there is transparency in the process. All these issues existed. In order to address them, to prevent leakages, dishonesty, and corruption, when Shri Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister, he directed us accordingly. Based on that, our Ministry implemented the Direct Benefit Transfer Scheme. Alongside this, it was decided that applications would be submitted online. The procedure has now been formalised in such a way that the concerned NGO submits its proposal online to the District Collector. If found appropriate, the Collector forwards it to the State Government, which then sends it to the Union Government. However, following the implementation of this process, considerable delays have occurred.

Let us assume that in one year twenty proposals were received from a particular place, and in the following year only ten proposals came forward. This results in a fluctuation in allocation. Our Ministry is not at fault for this. In their region, there is the Deolali Asha School, which is operated through the School of Artillery. No funds were released to them for two years. In the year 2014-15, 27 of their proposals were approved, and in the year 2015-16, 21 proposals were

approved. For the two years, no proposals were received from their side. The proposal for the year 2015–16 has only been received recently, in January–February. We had some queries regarding this matter. We have written to them, and I would request the Hon. Member of Parliament to kindly ensure that the required information is provided. We shall certainly release the grant.

**SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:** Madam, I would like to know from the Minister how many differently-abled persons are there in the country as of today, and whether all of them are being provided rehabilitation facilities. If that is not the case, what is the reason behind it?

I would like to ask one more thing.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please take your seat. Only one question is permitted.

**SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:** Madam, regarding the estimated amount that is allocated, we have been observing the data for each year, and the amount disbursed is always less than the amount allocated. What is the reason for this?

**SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:** Madam, earlier the Hon. Member of Parliament had raised a point regarding whether we are issuing Universal Identity Cards or not. I had inadvertently missed

responding to that question. It is indeed true that our Ministry has taken a decision in this regard, and we are preparing Universal Identity Cards on a nationwide basis. At present, identity cards are issued at the district level, and an identity card from one district is not recognised in another; similarly, a card issued in one State is not valid in another State. Now, the card that will be issued shall be valid across all States. The beneficiary will be entitled to avail of all the schemes of both the Government of India and the respective State Governments.

The Hon. Member has asked about the number of Divyangjans. As per the estimates based on the 2011 Census data, the number stands at 2 crore 68 lakh. We have taken the decision to conduct a nationwide survey. Based on this, the accurate figure will be determined, and we will have the correct data. A question has been repeated regarding why the expenditure is sometimes less or more than the demand. In this regard, I would like to state that, for instance, if we allocate Rs. 5 crore, and if, upon utilising that amount, we are provided with a Utilisation Certificate, only then do we release the next instalment. Due to this kind of procedure, it is natural for the expenditure to be either less or more.

[English]

**SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI):**

Madam, according to the Census 2011, the number of people with disabilities stands at 2. 68 crore which is an increase of 22. 4 per cent from the Census 2001. A large number of the disabled, around 54 lakhs, people suffer from physical disability. Despite the increase, facilities for the disabled in public as well as private institutions are surely lacking.

A World Bank Report notes that there is growing evidence that people with disabilities comprise four to eight percent of the Indian population, that is, around 40 to 90 million individuals. In the public sector, only 10. 2 per cent of all posts in Ministries/Departments had been identified as suitable for disabled people and only 0. 37 per cent were filled up. Therefore, availability of jobs is very low and the rate of employment even lower.

May I know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government plans to make Government institutions, colleges and schools disabled-friendly? If yes, details thereof and if not, reasons thereof? How does the Government plan to increase the employability of disabled people and the number of jobs to be made available to them in the near future?

[Translation]

**SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT:** Madam, we provide such facilities only to students who are enrolled in schools. I can furnish the relevant statistics; however, while responding to the main question, I would like to state that we have a Divyangjan Finance Corporation, which imparts skilled training in approximately 17 trades. Training is provided according to the individual's interest in a particular trade. We began actively pursuing this work from the year 2014–15. Till date, we have provided training to nearly 46,000 Divyangjans in various trades. For their rehabilitation and to facilitate their entry into the field of entrepreneurship, the Divyangjan Finance and Development Corporation offers loan facilities at an annual interest rate of four percent. In the case of female Divyangjans, loans are made available at an interest rate of three percent.

Apart from this, we are also making efforts keeping in mind that they can also get the benefit of other schemes of the Government of India like Jan-Dhan Yojana, MUDRA Yojana, Scheduled Caste Venture Capital Fund etc.

**(Q. 365)**

[English]

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** Madam, Odisha has a long coastline of about 476 plus kilometres. There are reports which regularly come out in the local media, of contraband being brought in by the sea route. Illegal fishing is continuing there as also aliens are there in one district of Kendrapara. The Government estimate of aliens is around 3,987 who have settled there along the coast; in Jagatsinghpur, the estimate is around 1,649 people who have settled there. Most of them are from Bangladesh. But, now reports say that people from other countries are also moving in and settling along the Odisha coast. I would like to know whether the Government has any concrete plans to keep a watch, surveillance or tighten the Coast Guard along the Odisha coastline. What positive steps have they thought of taking especially focused on Odisha?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has rightly pointed out that Odisha has been facing certain encroachments from the illegal migrants, maybe through the coastal region or through the land route. We all know that the illegal migrants from Bangladesh are spread across the country. In 2014, the Government of India has

issued a direction to all the State Governments to constitute a Special Task Force in every district especially those that are being seen as a potential area where illegal Bangladeshis are coming and settling. The Hon. Member mentioned about Kendrapara where the largest number of illegal Bangladeshis are found. That is a coastal region. I would rather seek the support of the Hon. Member and the State Government in this regard. Since the authorization for detection, identification and interception is with the State Government, we have to work in close coordination. The Central agencies are there to ensure that the porous borders are taken care of. The coastal security measures especially the comprehensive and integrated coastal security measures adopted by the Government of India need to be supported by the State Government. So, it is a combined effort. I would agree that Odisha is facing a problem. I feel that it is not a situation that is very alarming.

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** Madam, my second supplementary is slightly removed from the main question. This is something that is happening the other way round. In Balasore District there is an area called Jaleswar where we have a River called Subarnarekha. Every day, tonnes of sand is being smuggled out by smugglers not so much from Arunachal but mostly from other border State of West Bengal and dumped across the border in Bangladesh.

We would be very happy if it goes to the North East. But it is mostly going into Bangladesh.

And this sand contains very valuable minerals. So, the State Government is losing a lot of revenue. Is the Union Government aware of this and would they like to take any action or because it is Odisha they would like to ignore it? That is my specific question.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You do not say something like ‘because it is Odisha’.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** The Hon. Member always expresses a special concern about the North-East whenever he delivers a speech or puts a question and I thank him for that. But the concern which he has raised is something not in our purview or not in the knowledge of the Home Ministry right now - I am talking about the specific incidents of sand, gravel and the other materials which the Hon. Member mentioned – but we will try to find out information about his concern and try to address it in consultation with the State Government of Odisha.

## \*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 366 to 380

Unstarred Question Nos. 4141 to 4370

**12.00 hrs**

**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

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

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN):**

Madam Speaker, A copy of the Notification No. S.O.371(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 8th February, 2017 regarding incorporation of requirement of Aadhaar Number/Aadhaar authentication for getting the benefits of subsidized foodgrains/cash transfer of food subsidy under National Food Security Act issued under Section 7 of the Aadhaar (targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O.752(E) (in Hindi version only) dated 6th March, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6758/16/17]

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[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI RAMDAS ATHAWALE):** I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) under Section 15A (4) of the Protection of Civil Rights (PCR) Act, 1955, for the year 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 6759/16/17]

- (3) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) under Section 21(4) of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities Act, 1989, for the year 2015.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6760/16/17]

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA):** Hon. Speaker Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:

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

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna for the years 1994-95, 1997-98 to 2004-2005.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bihar State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Patna, for the years 1994-1995, 1997-1998 to 2004-2005, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6761/16/17]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(i) The Insecticides (Second Amendment) Rules, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R.106(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th February, 2017.

(ii) The Insecticides (Amendment) Rules, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R.79(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st February, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6762/16/17]

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

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

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) Annual Report of the Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India, Kanpur, 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 (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6763/16/17]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of The Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, along with Audit Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) of The Indian Spinal Injuries Centre, 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 6764/16/17]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur, 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 Bhagwan Mahaveer Viklang Sahayata Samiti, Jaipur, 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 6765/16/17]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Secunderabad, 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 National Institute for the Empowerment of Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Secunderabad, for the year 2015-2016.

(8) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (7) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6766/16/17]

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION**

**(SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY):** I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) A copy of the Food Corporations (Amendment) Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G. S. R. 202(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th March, 2017 under subsection (5) of Section 45 of the Food Corporations Act, 1964.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6767/16/17]

- (2) A copy of the Notification No. G. S. R. 142(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 17th February, 2017, regarding Factory-wise FRP of sugarcane for 2015-16 under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodity Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6768/16/17]

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**12.02 hrs**

**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**42<sup>nd</sup> Report**

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL):** I beg to present the Forty-Second Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

Madam, this is my first time ever even though my name is always mentioned.

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**12.03 hrs**

**JOINT COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT**

**19<sup>th</sup> Report**

[Translation]

**DR. SATYAPAL SINGH (BAGHPAT):** Madam, I beg to present the 19th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit.

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**HON. SPEAKER:** The Adjournment Motion does not contain any matter of importance; therefore, permission is not granted.

Adsul-ji, I have received your notice on Question of Privilege. The matter is under my consideration.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPOL):** I wish to raise the issue of privilege concerning an Hon. Member of this very House, as he was arrested yesterday. The government I am about to speak of, let me be clear, we all stand with that government. I am not speaking against the government, but the manner in which the police machinery has acted, and the way such action has been taken in a democratic country, is absolutely not right. In a democracy, can it be deemed unlawful if citizens peacefully laid siege to the Vidhan Sabha or the Raj Bhavan as a form of protest?... (Interruptions) If someone is protesting peacefully, and if the Bihar Government is making mistakes in certain matters, is it wrong to protest? During agitations, people are detained and released in the evening... (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Member of Parliament was placed under house arrest until 8 p.m. He even called you. At 8:10 p.m., he was informed that a warrant was being issued in connection with the laying of siege to the Raj Bhavan on 24 January, and was subsequently taken to the CJM Court that very night. According to the Supreme Court, no arrest can be made after 6 p.m. In such a democracy, should no one protest at all? And under what conspiracy was it said that the DSP stated, “He will be severely beaten today”? Is a conspiracy being hatched to beat and kill protestors? This is a very serious matter, will the police threaten

people in such a way that no one dares to protest in the future? ...  
(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please take your seat. Your time is over.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN:** Madam, I seek your protection.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI):** Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance during Zero Hour. In my Lok Sabha Constituency, on the railway line heading towards Nashik lies Kasara, and on the line going towards Pune lies Karjat. To travel from Karjat to Kasara, one must first travel approximately 60 kilometres to Kalyan and then change trains, which causes considerable inconvenience to passengers. Even the long-distance trains that run between Ahmedabad and Pune, and vice versa, have to pass through Kalyan. Through you, I earnestly request the Railways Ministry and the Government that if a direct rail line is established between Karjat and Kasara, it would significantly ease the movement of all long-distance trains coming from or going towards Pune and Ahmedabad. Nashik is

also progressing rapidly in terms of development, and Pune is a growing city as well. A rail line connecting these two cities could be of immense value in strengthening connectivity. It would also provide great convenience to the residents of my Lok Sabha Constituency. With these words, I once again thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Shri Anil Shirol and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kapil Moreshwar Patil.

Shri Sushil Kumar Singh.

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD):** Madam, I thank you for allowing me to speak on an important matter. Through you, I wish to state that while there are regulatory authorities such as TRAI for determining telephone call tariffs, and authorities for fixing electricity rates, and even a Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices to determine the rates of food grains, there is no regulatory authority in the country for determining the prices of construction materials such as iron, steel bars, angles, cement, sand, and channels. Companies manufacturing cement or steel arbitrarily fix and increase the prices of these materials, leading to the exploitation of consumers.

Madam, it is the dream of our respected Shri Narendra Bhai Modi Ji that affordable housing be made available to the poor in the country. This is both a vision and a commitment of our Government. Through you, I wish to urge the Government of India to fix prices for essential construction materials such as cement, steel rods, and sand, so that poor consumers are not exploited. The Government must ensure that these materials are made available at prescribed rates.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shrimati Rekha Verma, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shrimati Rama Devi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Dr Virendra Kumar, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sushil Kumar Singh.

Shri P. V. Midhun Reddy.

[English]

**SHRI P.V. MIDHUN REDDY (RAJAMPET):** Hon. Speaker Madam, a firm named AgriGold in Andhra Pradesh has collected more than Rs. 7,000 crores of deposits from people and more than 19.5 lakh people have put in their money into this firm. Almost 32 lakh people spanning eight States have put their money into these deposits.

People have put their lifetime savings into this firm. This firm had committed a big scam and more than Rs. 7,000 crores have been misappropriated. The State Government in February 2015 declared this as a scam and even the High Court took serious notice of this. But, so far nothing has been done. None of the firm's properties have been sold. There has been no compensation for the people. We would like to know why there has been such a long delay in compensation. The YSR Congress Party demands a CBI inquiry into this scam. Earlier also, a Member from our party has demanded a CBI inquiry into this. There have been allegations that some politicians have bought land before this land has been confiscated and sale of land is being delayed with ulterior motives. More than a hundred people from among the depositors have committed suicide. Even the State Government has declared a compensation of Rs. 5 lakhs. The BJP Government has been advocating a 'Corrupt-free India'. Please show it in action. Please institute a CBI inquiry into this and do justice for the people.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri D. K. Suresh is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. V. Midhun Reddy.

[Translation]

**SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR):** Madam Speaker, I represent Bilaspur Lok Sabha Constituency from Chhattisgarh. In 1983, a State University was run by the state of Chhattisgarh under the name of Guru Ghasi Das Ji. It has been accorded the status of Central University in 2009. Since then, this university has been operating continuously following the criteria of the Central University. Through you, I would like to submit that just as our Government is consistently working with the vision of providing education and quality education to all, it has taken commendable steps to improve the standard of education. In Chhattisgarh, the establishment and development of institutions such as the NIT, IIT, and advancements in the field of medical education are noteworthy. For these, I extend my sincere congratulations to the Union Government. My humble submission is that in our Central University in Bilaspur, a total of 435 posts for Professors, Associate Professors, and Assistant Professors have been sanctioned. Out of these, 217 posts are currently vacant. Among them, not a single Professor-level post has been filled by an OBC candidate, and only one post is held by an SC candidate. The remaining posts are lying vacant. In such circumstances, through you, I urge the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to initiate recruitment for these vacant

positions. Additionally, there is a significant shortage of academic staff, which is adversely affecting the quality of education. Students are not receiving the standard of education they deserve. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

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

**DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR):** Hon. Speaker Madam, thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise an issue.

The fishermen community in coastal districts of Odisha, especially in my Parliamentary constituency of Jagatsinghpur is a backward Scheduled Caste community. Most of the people of this community earn their livelihood through fishing in rivers and deep sea. But due to inadequate infrastructure for fisheries in these coastal areas of Odisha including Paradip, employment opportunity has been squeezed. Hence, I request the Government that adequate provisions should be made under coastal community development programme of Sagarmala project so that development in the field of fisheries including dry fish activities, development of coastal tourism, and skill

development involving this fishermen community could take place thereby improving the economic condition of this community in Odisha, especially in the Paradip port region of Jagatsinghpur Parliamentary constituency.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Rabindra Kumar Jena is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kulamani Samal. Shri Bishnu Pada Ray – not present.

Dr. Banshilal Mahato.

[English]

**DR. BANSHILAL MAHATO (KORBA):** Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very important issue during Zero Hour.

About 30 years ago in Chhattisgarh, two CCI plants were established, one at Mandhar and the other at Akaltara. Both the Akaltara and Mandhar CCI plants have since been closed. At that time, what was the plan of the previous Government? Near Akaltara, about four kilometres away at Arsameta, the Lafarge plant is operational. It is producing very well and provides all necessary facilities to its employees, who are also working very efficiently. Similarly, near Mandhar at Baikunth, the Birla Century plant is

functioning properly. In the same way, many large industries have been shut down. These industries should be revived and brought back into operation.

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri C. P. Joshi, Shri Sudhir Gupta and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Banshilal Mahato.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Professor Saugata Roy, Saugata Roy ji, this is a state matter. But you may raise it.

[English]

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** Madam, I request that I may be permitted to raise a matter of urgent public importance during 'Zero Hour' in the House today. If permitted, I will raise the issue briefly as under.

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is a state matter but I am allowing you.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Two days after the communal clash in Patan district of Gujarat, the police have arrested 13 persons. The

clash on Saturday afternoon between Thakors of Sunsar and neighbourhood villages and Muslims of Vagjipara caused the death of Ibrahimkhan Laikhan Belim and left 20 injured. All of them are residents of Vagjipara. However, those arrested are not among the 31 accused named in the FIR lodged by Rehmanbhai Alibhai Maled of Vadavli, of which Vagjipara is a part. The complaint was lodged in Chanasama police station on Saturday. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** You yourself have said that the police has taken action.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Let me complete it, Madam.

After combing operations, those named in the FIR could not be arrested as some are undergoing treatment. Though the reason for the clash has not been ascertained, according to the FIR filed at Chanasama police station lodged by Malek, there was a verbal dispute near Vadavali High School between some Thakores and Muslims.

This incident is worrisome as it happened in the home State of the Prime Minister, only 100 kms. from Ahmedabad.

**SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE):** Speaker, Madam, last week, that is on 19<sup>th</sup> March a severe and a terrible cyclonic storm had hit several parts of my parliamentary constituency

in Balasore, Odisha, more particularly in Baliapal, Basta, Bhograi, Jaleswar and Betnoti blocks. Preliminary estimates suggest that about 23 per cent of the crop has been completely damaged and 800 villages, wherein hundreds and thousands of people live, have been badly affected. Houses have been completely damaged. Such cyclonic hailstorms have become a very-very regular affair in Odisha.

I have got three specific demands to make to the Union Government of India.

- To provide an *ex gratia* payment of Rs. 2 lakh per farmer whose crop has been very badly damaged.
- To provide houses, under Rural Housing Scheme, to those BPL families whose houses have been damaged.
- The most important demand, we must ask the Science and Technology Department to come up with a model prevalent in many countries across the globe so that such hailstorms which are unexpected in nature can be predicted well in advance.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAVINDER KUSHWAHA (SALEMPUR):** Madam Speaker, my Parliamentary Constituency Salempur consists of three districts namely Gopalganj, Siwan and Chhapra bordering entire Bihar. My entire Lok Sabha constituency lies along the banks of the rivers Gandak, Saryu, and Ghaghra. During the flood season, severe erosion occurs in our area due to the flooding of these three rivers, and entire villages get submerged. In the districts of Deoria and Ballia, extensive damage to public assets and crops takes place due to floods. The monsoon season is approaching, and people there are already living in fear. The riverbank erosion has caused the disappearance of several villages, while the existence of others remains under serious threat. Even today, many villagers have been forced to abandon their homes and live elsewhere.

I urge the Union Government to dispatch a central team to inspect the flood and river erosion problems in these districts and to arrange for permanent solutions to these issues.

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

**SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH (RAJNANDGAON):** Madam Speaker, I come from Rajnandgaon Lok Sabha Constituency of Chhattisgarh. The national highway that passes through Rajnandgaon connects two major cities of central India - Raipur, the capital of Chhattisgarh, and Nagpur. Both these cities have always been great centres of economic, trade, trade and travel and this National Highway also connects Mumbai and Kolkata. This is also the busiest railway route in the country.

Through you, I appeal to the Union Government to develop the entire highway from Raipur to Rajnandgaon and Rajnandgaon to Nagpur as a six-lane express highway and on both sides of it, we should develop business and especially logistics corridor, because after the introduction of GST, there is a possibility of change in the logistics sector in the entire country and this will give a new direction to the people of Rajnandgaon district and this entire region in economic development. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Shri Sharad Tripathi and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Abhishek Singh.

**SHRI RAJU SHETTI (HATKANANGALE):** Madam Speaker, All India Radio's programmes reach over 95 percent of the population, and every citizen of the country takes pride in these programmes and the news broadcast by AIR. It is for this reason that the Hon. Prime Minister's 'Mann Ki Baat' reaches millions of people. All India Radio has made significant contributions to agriculture and rural development. However, the previous Government overlooked its importance and utilisation, resulting in many vacancies in the programming, engineering, and accounts departments. The current Government has initiated recruitment for these posts, which has brought about a considerable improvement in quality. On the other hand, Doordarshan today faces competitive challenges due to numerous private channels. Its broadcast has been made mandatory on all service providers that offer facilities to these channels. Madam, I would like to inform the House that today, low-power TV transmitters are installed in every tehsil, staffed by five to six employees. However, it is worth considering how many television sets actually receive the LPTV signals and succeed in enabling viewers to watch these channels. This is a harsh reality.

Madam Speaker, today, with the aid of satellite technology, if all these low-power centres are operated remotely, then all technical staff

can be utilised in the production of programmes for Doordarshan and All India Radio. This would reduce the expenditure incurred by the nation on such white elephants like LPTV, thereby saving crores of rupees. This technology will not disrupt the current facilities available to the general public. Therefore, through this House, I earnestly request the Government to give serious consideration to this matter.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sudhir Gupta, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mitra and Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Raju Shetti.

**SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH):** Madam Speaker, thank you very much.

Madam, I would like to bring to the notice of the House that when Atal ji's government was in power, Atal ji's government had named Mumbai airport as 'Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport'. At that time, Anantkumar ji was the minister of that department. I would like to thank Anantkumar ji on behalf of Mumbai and Maharashtra.

But, further the Legislature of Maharashtra has sent a proposal on December, 2016 to rename 'Chhatrapati Shivaji International

Airport' as 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport'. It's been a year.

Speaker Madam, it is deeply disheartening when we travel by plane and arrive at Mumbai Airport; upon seeing the name 'Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport,' the name of Shivaji Maharaj appears diminished. This sentiment is shared by people across the country.

Therefore, the name should be changed to 'Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj International Airport.' Members from all parties have unanimously submitted a proposal to this effect. However, a year has passed since then. Through you, I urge the Government to implement this modest demand at the earliest, so that the honour of not only Mumbai and Maharashtra but the entire nation is enhanced.

Hon. Speaker, I would like to thank you. Today for the first time I am deprived of the Shobha Yatra of 'Gudi Padwa', you are also deprived. I believe I was very sad in the morning, but now I am happy that this topic of mine has come up in 'Zero Hour'.

Hon. Speaker, I would like to offer you special thanks for wearing the Kesariya blouse today, thereby sending a message from this House to the entire country and the world.

Thank you very much.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have reminded me well.

Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Rahul Ramesh Shewale, Shri Devji M Patel, Shri Sanjay Dhotre, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mitra and Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gopal Shetty.

**SHRI DHARMENDRA KUMAR (AONLA):** Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to raise a matter of public importance. My Lok Sabha Constituency, Aonla, falls under Bareilly district. In my constituency, along the banks of the Ramganga River, the municipal administration is dumping waste into a trenching ground, while the ITBP headquarters is also located there and it is a route frequently used. A large fair is held there during the months of Magh and Kartik. On one hand, we speak about the cleanliness of the Ganga and efforts to keep it clean, but on the other, the municipal administration is polluting the Ganga.

**HON. SPEAKER:** From where will you bring up matters related to the Municipal Corporation here?

**SHRI DHARMENDRA KUMAR:** Madam, but the way the Ganga is being polluted concerns us all. Therefore, through you, I request the Government to take action to stop this practice.

Thank you very much.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mitra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dharmendra Kumar.

**SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU):** Madam Speaker, in the Bikaner Division of Rajasthan, which includes Churu, Hanumangarh, Dawanagar, and Bikaner itself, the farming this season has been good. Generally, in this region of Rajasthan, only about twenty percent of the land is irrigated. Due to water from tubewells and canals, there has been excellent mustard cultivation this year, resulting in a good crop. However, despite the Government having fixed a minimum support price of approximately Rs. 3,700, procurement has not yet commenced. Currently, mustard is being sold in the market at Rs. 3,000 per quintal. Farmers are very distressed. For the farmers cultivating mustard in this relatively small area, I would like to request the Minister, through you, to ensure that procurement begins as soon as possible so that the farmers receive relief.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Harish Meena, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mitra and Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rahul Kaswan.

[English]

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

Madam, yesterday tragedy strikes at National Highways in North Eastern Region. Due to that, 22 people died and 38 were injured. This occurred on National Highway No. 2. Two accidents happened on National Highway No. 2 connecting Dimapur to Imphal.

Another accident happened in National Highway No. 37 connecting Jiribam to Imphal. In these accidents, 21 persons died including one driver. We were expecting that a condolence reference would be made in the House today but unfortunately, it did not happen. We do not know the causes of these accidents. However, the apparent reason could be, undoubtedly, the bad and pathetic road condition of the national highways. Two incidents happened on the National Highway-2 and one on NH-37.

Here I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government to the fact that there were proposals to make these National Highways all weather roads by making NH-2, a 4-lane highway and NH-37, a 2-lane highway. Hence, I strongly urge upon the Union Government and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, in particular, to take immediate steps to make these two National Highways – the life lines of the State of Manipur – all weather roads by constructing and converting NH-2 into 4-lane and NH-37 into 2-lane.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Thangso Baite is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Thokchom Meinya.

**SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA):**  
Madam, I thank you for having given me this opportunity.

With great anguish, I wish to bring to the urgent attention of this august House a very alarming situation prevailing in the State of Kerala. Of the past few months, Kerala is witnessing a series of incidents of atrocities against women and girl children. No day passes without one or more such cases being reported in the State. Nowhere in the country such a large number of atrocities have taken place during such a short span of time. Even little girls of three and four

years of age are not spared. People, at large, are alarmed and agitated. The administration has thoroughly failed to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

Since the Government of Kerala has miserably failed to curb these atrocities, it is imperative that the Union Government seek a report from the State so that the State Government is alerted and women are assured greater safety and protection.

Madam, you being the champion of woman and child rights, I seek your urgent indulgence in the matter... (*Interruptions*). It is a very important matter. Women are being attacked and girls are being abused in the State of Kerala.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Rajeev Satav, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Prof. Richard Hay, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri N. K. Premachandran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mullappally Ramachandran.

[Translation]

**SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA):** Madam Speaker, Government of India has launched a new program called Domestic Air Flight Service. For this, many airports have been selected for operation within the country. One of the airports is Satna in Madhya Pradesh.

Satna is a major industrial and tourism district of Madhya Pradesh. The Government of India has also included this area in the Ramayana and Buddhist Tourist Circuit. The region has a world-class White Tiger Safari and religious places like Chitrakoot and Maihar. There is an Inchol Art Gallery, where artisans from 14 countries of the world come every year to showcase their art. A large number of people travel by air from here, but they face considerable difficulty in commuting to cities like Bhopal, Jabalpur, and Khajuraho for air services. There has been a longstanding demand to connect Satna by air service with Bhopal, Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata, and Varanasi. Has the Union Government considered this matter? If so, when does the Government plan to commence air services here?

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

**SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA (TONK-SAWAI MADHOPUR):** Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak at Zero Hour.

In Rajasthan, currently, an amount of Rs. 100 per day is given as honorarium for the care of malnourished children, whereas this

amount was being provided at the rate of Rs. 165 per day until September 2016. The state government had requested to fix the honorarium at Rs. 165 per day in the approved PIP for the year 2016-17, but so far, the amount is being given only at Rs. 100 per day.

Therefore, through you, I request the government to approve the labour compensation for caregivers of children at the rate of Rs. 165 per day instead of ₹100, as this disease is mostly found in economically and physically weaker children. Arrangements should be made to ensure regular stay of children at the malnutrition centres.

Similarly, the operational cost of Rs. 80,000 per malnutrition treatment centre with beds has not been approved, even though most 6-bed malnutrition treatment centres are functional. Hence, the above amount is necessary for their smooth operation. Rajasthan is the largest state in the country geographically, and having a malnutrition treatment centre only at the district level is not sufficient. Considering the needs, malnutrition treatment centres should also be opened at the block, committee, and panchayat levels, so that poor children can benefit from them. Thank you.

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

**SHRI MANSUKHBHAI DHANJIBHAI VASAVA (BHARUCH):**

Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

In my Parliamentary Constituency of Bharuch, in the Narmada and Bharuch districts, people displaced and affected by the Sardar Sarovar Project, the Karjan Irrigation Project, and the Tapi Irrigation Scheme are in the process of being resettled. These individuals are receiving rehabilitation facilities and have surrendered their entire property to the Government for irrigation purposes. It is due to their sacrifice that many others are receiving the benefit of irrigation. However, they themselves are not receiving irrigation facilities.

The displaced and affected families residing near these projects should also be provided with irrigation water. In the areas where resettlement has taken place, particularly in Dediypada Taluka, there is a demand from the people affected by the Narmada, Karjan, and Tapi irrigation schemes for the construction of the Gangapur Dam to ensure access to irrigation facilities.

Through you, I request the Government to construct the Gangapur Dam for them under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Prabhubhai Nagarbhai Vasava, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Ramsingh Rathwa are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai Vasava.

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**12.31 hrs**

**PAPER LAID ON THE TABLE . . . . Contd.**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF  
CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):**

Madam Speaker, on behalf of my senior colleague Shri Arun Jaitley, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of Notification No. 10/2017—Customs (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2017, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. 12/2012—Customs dated 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2012 so as to impose basic customs duty of 10 per cent on wheat and Tur, with immediate effect under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 6769/16/17]

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[Translation]

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD):** Madam, thank you very much. I was putting up notices every day but did not get an opportunity. Today, by your grace, I have got an opportunity. [English] I am thankful to you. I have got this opportunity on this Yugadi Day.

We are all aware that the Railway Board in its circular number 11/2010 RC V(i) dated 16. 07. 2010 addressed to all Zonal Railway GMs had laid down certain guidelines in respect of providing jobs to the family members of land losers in Railway projects under the pay scale Rs. 5200, mostly, I think in the Group D posts. There are detailed norms mentioned with regard to the eligibility of the candidates for such appointments, and instructions were issued to GMs of all Zones to call applications from eligible candidates. But it is regrettable that many Railway Zones have not implemented saying that there is ambiguity as far as this circular is concerned... (*Interruptions*) This ambiguity is there since 2010 and the Government has not implemented. Why have your Government in the State not implemented? First you should reply to that.

According to sources, including South-Western Zone Hubli, they have received hundreds of applications from the families and so far, nothing has been done for the recruitment despite the circular. On enquiry from the Railway authorities, what has been given to understand is that the circular is vague in certain respects and hence they are unable to implement it in the present form and a clarification is needed.

In this process, the matter has been kept pending for the last seven years on the ground that the circular is ambiguous. My demand is that the ambiguity should be cleared irrespective of whether that circular is in force or not and whatever ambiguities are there they should be cleared and the land losers, as per this circular, should be given the opportunity to get their appointments. That is my demand.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Prahlad Joshi.

I request everyone to speak in a minute, everyone can get time.

[Translation]

**SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI (SIKAR):** Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak during

Zero Hour. There is a major issue related to the Railways in my constituency. The Railway Department is converting the Jaipur–Sikar and Sikar–Churu metre gauge line to broad gauge. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for allocating a budget for this project. However, between Sikar–Laxmangarh and Laxmangarh–Fatehpur, no level crossings or overbridges have been provided. Only underpasses are being constructed, which has resulted in trucks carrying fodder from Punjab and Haryana being unable to pass through them. There are 128 gaushalas (cow shelters) in my parliamentary constituency, and all the fodder comes from Punjab and Haryana. Since the trucks cannot pass through the underpasses, a serious problem of fodder supply has arisen for the cows and for the villagers. I, therefore, request that at least one overbridge or level crossing be provided along that section.

**12.35 hrs**

(Shri Pralhad Joshi *in the Chair*)

My second request is regarding three stations-Ranoli, Bawadi, and Kayamsar which were earlier categorised as 'B' category stations but have now been downgraded to 'C' category. Additionally, the Harsawa railway station has been closed altogether. ... Therefore, I

request that all the three stations be classified as “B” and about Harsawa station, I request that it be retained. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sumedhanand Sarswati.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Sir, since the last decade of 19<sup>th</sup> century, there was a dockyard around which the *maal* godown of Cuttack has been established and this Cuttack dockyard was developed into a *maal* godown. Subsequently, after the Bengal-Nagpur Railway came into existence and passed through Cuttack, this area was converted into Cuttack *maal* godown and came under the occupation of the Railways. Since then, the traders of Cuttack actually flourished in that area.

Today, the railway authorities of the East Coast Railways have issued notices to around 1500 traders who come under Cuttack Chamber of Commerce that they should vacate that land because it is Railway land. Earlier, they were provided this piece of land on lease and somewhere on rent also. Even today, they want to occupy that area on lease. But the problem today is, the Railway is insisting that

they should vacate that piece of land though that land is actually not in any way affecting the railway movement.

Therefore, my request to the Government is to renew their licences or issue fresh licences to such traders to enable them to carry on their business on such lease-hold land. It will not only protect livelihood of thousands of people but also generate handsome revenue for the Railways from that piece of land which is of little use for the Railways.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

Before I call the next speaker, I would remind the Hon. Members that the Hon. Speaker has already directed that within one minute, each Member should conclude their points as there are many Members to speak. I am ready to give opportunity to every Member but within one minute, the Member should conclude.

Shri Gaurav Gogoi.

**SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR):** Sir, I am very grateful to you and Hon. Speaker Madam for this opportunity given to me.

I wanted to ask a supplementary during the Question Hour on the question of immigration from Bangladesh. I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Immigrants who have entered India illegally from Bangladesh must be identified and deported immediately irrespective of their religion. To enable this process, the Government of India in Assam is supervising the upgradation of the National Registrar of Citizens. This process is taking inputs from the Registrar-General of India, from the Census Commissioner and is under the entire scrutiny of the Supreme Court.

The MHA should take note of a recent High Court order which has jeopardized the entire NRC update process by invalidating the panchayat certificate of 48 lakh married women. This is gross injustice against women. The usage of panchayat certificates has been approved by the MHA itself, by the RGI and the Census Commissioner. This order must be taken note of... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gaurav Gogoi.

[Translation]

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise a matter during Zero Hour. It is a matter of serious concern that there is a lack of adequate facilities in Delhi's hospitals for the treatment of life-threatening diseases such as cancer. Government hospitals are not even sufficiently equipped to provide radiotherapy. While the number of cancer patients is high, the availability of radiotherapy machines and specialist doctors is limited. As a result, 75 percent of patients do not receive access to radiotherapy. Even after diagnosis, patients are forced to wait for several months to receive treatment. According to a report published in an international medical journal, due to the high patient load, radiotherapy centres in many hospitals are operating machines for up to 14 hours a day. These machines are being used to treat between 50 to 90 patients daily. This raises the risk of negligence. Despite early detection, many patients lose their lives due to the lack of timely treatment.

Therefore, through you, I urge the Government to make appropriate arrangements so that no patient is left to die due to the unavailability of radiotherapy.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Dr. Kirit P. Solanki and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sharad Tripathi.

[English]

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise one of the important issues which has been creating so much trouble in the implementation of MNREGA.

Now, it has come out in the reports that the Government is cutting down the number of working days in various parts of the country. I have my own experience in Alappuzha district. In Alappuzha district, the demand was Rs. 73. 94 lakh equivalent work days. However, for 2017-18, only 39. 5 lakh work days have been sanctioned. It is just because of the unnecessary conditions imposed by the Government to release the amount under the MNREGA. This slashing of work days is happening despite the efficient implementation of the Scheme in the district. In Alappuzha, in this financial year, Rs. 79 lakh equivalent work days have been completed, against the expected number of Rs. 55. 87 lakh work days.

Now, the situation is very bad. Mr. Chairman, you also know about that. In the current financial year, the estimated Budget for the Scheme was Rs. 193 crore. But till now the current expenditure under the Scheme till now is Rs. 270 crore. Major share of this Budget Estimate was released for supplying wages for the E-4 employees. Many agricultural and rural development programmes were completed under this Scheme.

The decision to cut down the number of work days especially in the district is a serious concern. This will deny employment opportunities to many people who have already enrolled for job cards under the Scheme. There are around 2.5 lakh people who have enrolled for job cards, out of which around 90,000 people are actively associated with the employment scheme. There are a lot of pending dues under the MNREGA.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Venugopal, you have made your point. Thank you.

Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena is allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri K. C. Venugopal.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Jitendra Chaudhury, you also wanted to raise the same issue raised by Shri K. C. Venugopal. So, you can associate with him.

Shri Rajeev Satav and Shri Mullappally Ramachandran are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K C Venugopal.

**SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST):** Of course, my issue is also the same. The Government is claiming that this year Rs. 40,000 crore have been allotted for the MNREGA. Last year, my State, under the Budget for the Ministry of Labour, was given Budget only for 78 work days. But till today, we have achieved 90 work days. In the last seven years, we have been doing this continuously. But this year, in the Budget for the Ministry of Labour, as per the information published by the Ministry, provision has been made for only 38-man days for the State of Tripura.

I demand that it should be for 200 days. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Mohammad Badruddoza Khan and Shri Shankar Prasad Dutta are peremitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jitendra Chaudhary.

**SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR):** Chairperson Sir, under the “Housing for All (Urban)” scheme, a target has been set to construct 500 houses for the poor in the Sheohar Nagar Panchayat of my parliamentary constituency, Sheohar district. However, it is with great regret that I must state that serious irregularities are being committed in the implementation of this public welfare scheme by municipal officials and bank employees through middlemen. I have received information that the officials of the Nagar Panchayat are extorting amounts ranging from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 50,000 from each beneficiary through intermediaries. The level of irregularities in this scheme is such that the genuinely poor and deserving individuals or families are being excluded, while ineligible persons are being granted benefits. A discriminatory approach has been adopted in the preparation of the beneficiary list – in some wards, more than 50 beneficiaries have been included, while in others, particularly in slum and backward wards, the poor have been completely neglected. Furthermore, in some instances, individuals who had already been allotted houses under previous schemes are again being granted benefits. Due to the involvement of middlemen, corruption is spreading, and the true objectives of this significant scheme of the Union Government are not being realised.

Therefore, through this House, I urge the Government to have this matter investigated by a central team and to take strict action against the responsible officials and intermediaries.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Rama Devi.

**SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI):** Chairperson Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a critical matter. Our country is primarily agrarian. Even today, more than half of the population is engaged in agriculture. On the other hand, millions of our youth, despite being technically qualified in various disciplines, remain unemployed. Often, even after applying for multiple jobs, they do not secure employment, the main reason being that thousands of applications are received for a single vacancy. This leads to discouragement and loss of morale among the youth. At the same time, due to a lack of knowledge regarding modern techniques, farmers are incurring continual losses in agriculture. As a result, their financial condition has deteriorated significantly and continues to worsen. Gradually, people have begun to consider agriculture an unprofitable occupation and are contemplating leaving it altogether. To address both of these grave challenges – rising

unemployment among the youth and the declining viability of the agricultural sector. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Naranbhai Kachhadiya ji, you put your demand.

**SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:** Chairperson Sir, I am concluding in half a minute. To address these challenges, if agricultural education is promoted across the country, it could help reduce the problem to some extent. Currently, agricultural education is taught only up to higher secondary level in some schools.... (*Interruptions*) Some students choose this subject merely to complete their graduation, and as a result, neither they nor the agricultural sector truly benefit from it. The youth of this country are still unable to derive the full benefits of agricultural education.... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Naranbhai Kachhadiya ji, please place your demand, otherwise I shall invite the next Member to speak.

**SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:** I request you to take this matter seriously and make efforts in this direction. Thank you.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya.

**SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL):**

Chairperson Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the auspicious occasion of Gudi Padwa. Today is the first day of Vikram Samvat 2074. I congratulate you and all the Members of Parliament through you on the Hindu New Year.

New Year is celebrated according to different dates in the provinces of the country and it is known by different names. All these important dates come in the month of March and April, yet the entire country considers the new year of Chaitra month only. It is known as New Year. This day is considered to be the beginning of the Satyuga and on this day the day starts getting bigger than the night. The Hindu calendar begins with Gudi Padwa. It is said that the calendar was composed by the great mathematician Bhaskaracharya by calculating the day, month and year from sunrise to sunset. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shewale ji, you place your demand.

**SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:** Chairperson Sir, today is Gudi Padwa, so let us speak. I am talking about Gudi Padwa. . . . (*Interruptions*) In Maharashtra, this festival is celebrated as Gudi Padwa. Normally, on this day, Gudi is worshipped in Hindu families and is installed at the

door of the house and the doors of the house are decorated with bandanwar made of mango leaves. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You place your demand.

**SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:** It is believed that this bandanwar gives happiness, prosperity and happiness in the house. On this day in Andhra Pradesh, ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You place your demand.

**SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE:** Sir, I am placing my demand. New Year is an important festival for Kashmiri Hindus. It is deeply connected to our culture. After the period of enslavement, the British imposed their influence on us to such an extent that we forgot our own New Year and began to adopt theirs. . . . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shewale ji, you are reading your entire speech. That is not allowed during Zero Hour.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Sri Srirang Appa Barne are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rahul Shewale.

**SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR):** Thank you very much, Chairperson Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on a matter of great public importance. Currently, across the entire state of Bihar, Anganwadi workers and assistants have been on strike for the past three days. Their demands include an increase in their current honorarium, which is only Rs. 2,000 to Rs. 3,000. They are also demanding that they be given the status of Grade 3 government employees.

Chairperson Sir, The Anganwadi scheme is a very important initiative of the Union Government. I would like to request that the honorarium of Anganwadi workers and assistants be definitely increased.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Mohammad Badruddoza Khan, Shri Jitendra Choudhary and Shri Shankar Prasad Dutta are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Shailesh Kumar.

**SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA (MANDSOUR):** Thank you very much, Chairperson Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. Through you, I wish to demand from the Government that the Soil Health Card Scheme, which is a significant and important welfare scheme for farmers across the country, deserves greater recognition.

This scheme has benefitted farmers nationwide by enhancing the fertility of the soil and thereby improving the living standards of the farmers, reflecting the Government's commendable efforts.

Sir, I earnestly request the Government, through you, to rename this important scheme as the Prime Minister's Soil Health Card Scheme, so that its popularity and significance can be better conveyed among farmers. I would also like to bring to your attention that I had previously corresponded with the Union Government on this matter. The Ministry had indicated that a decision would be taken after the first phase. ... (*Interruptions*) The first phase of the scheme was completed in March 2017.

Therefore, through you, I request the Government to dedicate the next phase of this scheme to the public under the name Prime Minister's Soil Health Card Scheme.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sudheer Gupta.

**SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI):** Chairperson Sir, lakhs of students from across the country are appearing for the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test of Medical Entrance, i.e. NEET. I and

many MPs had demanded from the HRD Ministry that there should be NEET exam centres in every district of the country. Recently, the HRD Ministry has recognised 23 new centres, but they have included only Kohlapur, Ahmednagar, Satara, Sangli and Amravati in Maharashtra. I welcome it, but in Maharashtra, students from more than 500 km away have to come for exams. Therefore, despite this new centre, injustice is being done to the students of Marathwada, Konkan and Vidarbha.

Our demand is that if the government cannot give in all the districts, then at least recognize the examination centres in Nanded and Latur in Marathwada, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurg in Konkan and Yavatmal and Buldana in Vidarbha to help the students.

**SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA (FIROZPUR):** Chairperson Sir, I would like to raise an important matter of public interest. I would like to draw the House's attention to the roads and overbridges being constructed by the Public Works Department. After the construction is completed, the contractor takes payment and leaves. What happens is that large potholes develop on those roads, and when an unfamiliar or new person drives on such a road, the vehicle experiences such jolts that it either meets with an accident or overturns. For instance, on Muktsar Road, two young men were returning home late at night after

a wedding. Due to the negligence of the road contractor and the department, their vehicle overturned, resulting in the death of both youths. I request that whenever such roads or overbridges are constructed, the contractor and senior officials should be held responsible for at least five years to prevent such accidents and to save precious lives. This is a very sensitive issue and should be implemented by the Union Government.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sher Singh Gubaya.

**DR. BHARTIBEN D. SHYAL (BHAVNAGAR):** In my Parliamentary Constituency Bhavnagar, there is a huge sanctuary named Belavadar for the Blackbuck, which spans over 48 kilometres across two districts. The Ministry of Forest and Environment has declared an eco-sensitive zone there. This zone extends up to 28 kilometres towards Bhavnagar district, reaching the borders of Bhavnagar city and affecting 32 villages. There is significant potential for industrial development and infrastructure development in that area. Currently, state highways, national highways, and railway-related projects are underway, along with plans for agricultural development. Through you, I request the Hon. Minister that a re-

survey of the declared eco-sensitive zone be conducted and the area towards Bhavnagar be reduced so as to ensure the development of Bhavnagar. Thank you.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Dr. Kirit P. Solanki is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Bhartiben D. Shyal.

Hon. Members, my only request is that you conclude your matter within a minute so that everybody can be accommodated.

**SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA):** The Union Government has set the primary objective of improving higher education institutions under the Knowledge Scheme. I urge the Union Government to establish excellent centres for the education of students belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes along similar lines. This will enable students from the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities to enhance the quality of their education and contribute effectively to nation-building. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has emphasised the importance of the Knowledge Scheme by stating that the 21st century is the era of knowledge. In this era, only those societies will progress that recognise the true value of knowledge. Therefore, I request the

Government to pay special attention to the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

[English]

**SHRIMATI P. K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR):** Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance.

Rape, torture and sexual abuse against women and children have become a serious topic of discussion in our country. Most of the cases are not even reported, and the accused are also not being punished. The Government has taken various steps to protect women and children across the nation but then, again sexual violence, rape and crime against women and children are increasing day-by-day.

Hence, I would urge upon the Union Government to start fast-track courts in each State for a speedy trial for providing justice to victims. So, I would humbly request the Union Government to take immediate steps to make India a safer place for all women of all social backgrounds. Thank you.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati P. K. Shreemathi Teacher.

[Translation]

**SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL (SANGLI):** Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important matter during Zero Hour. I wish you all the very best on the occasion of Gudi Padwa.

Sir, through various schemes and public awareness campaigns, the government has been trying to prevent serious crimes like illegal abortion and foeticide across the country. Many schemes like Beti Bachao Beti Padhao have been started by the central and state governments. The impact of these schemes has also been seen. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government that despite the implementation of the Pre-Conception and Pre-Natal Diagnostic Techniques Act and the rules made under it, there has been no change in the sex ratio in the country, which is a matter of great concern for the country. Today we are suffering from this serious problem due to wrong-minded doctors and ultrasound clinics. Recently it came to light that illegal abortion activities have been

going on for the last eight-ten years in village Mahisal, taluka Nirat, district Sangli, Maharashtra of my constituency Sangli. Illegal abortion during this period. ...(*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please place your demand in the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SANJAY KAKA PATIL:** Through you, I request the Government to make efforts to prevent abortions and to constitute a high-level committee under the Union Government for conducting a thorough investigation in this regard.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sanjay Kaka Patil.

**SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT):** Chairperson Sir, the Allahabad High Court on 09.03.2017, while deciding various petitions, has annulled the decision of the then Samajwadi Party Government to waive the interest of approximately Rs. 2,000 crore outstanding from farmers on sugar mills for the years 2012-13, 2013-14 and 2014-15. The Court declared the decision taken by the Uttar Pradesh Cabinet on 22 May 2016 to waive the interest as tainted, stating that while the Government has the authority to waive interest, it does not have the right to disregard the interests of the farmers.

Chairperson Sir, the waiver of interest on the dues of farmers to sugar mills by the Samajwadi Party Government was entirely anti-farmer. The possibility of corruption in this decision cannot be ruled out. Throughout the tenure of the Samajwadi Party Government, which came into existence in 2012, sugarcane farmers neither received the appropriate price for their sugarcane nor received payments on time, nor were they paid the interest due to them, while farmers have always had to pay interest on their loans...  
*(Interruptions)*

Through you, I request the Government to conduct a high-level inquiry into this matter, take action against the responsible individuals involved in this decision, recover the outstanding interest amount from the sugar mills, and ensure that the farmers receive payment of their dues.

[English]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rajendra Agarwal.

Jai Prakash Yadav ji, your issue is related to the state law and order problem.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA):** Chairperson Sir, in the village Badhra, Thana Kunda, in Chhatra district of Jharkhand State, 100 houses of a particular community were set on fire by antisocial elements, acid was thrown on women, and the administration remained a mute spectator. The situation there is tense and extremely serious.

I request the Home Minister through this House to order an immediate investigation and provide a response to the House....

*(Interruptions)*

[English]

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):** Sir, in the wake of framework of agreement signed between NSCN-IM leaders and the Government of India, it was orchestrated that the six decades old insurgency problem has been solved by the Midas touch of the NDA Government. Now, conflicting claims have been started emerging out whereby the NSCN-IM leadership is claiming that integration of all Naga inhabited areas have been accepted by the Central Government. On the contrary, the Central Government has denied it.

I would like to know from the Central Government as to what is the truth behind the framework agreement signed between the NSCN-IM leaders and the Central Government.

**SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR):** Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important issue involving the integrity of Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh.

The Naga leaders are claiming that they want integration of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh, which is totally illegal. The States of Assam, Manipur and Arunachal Pradesh cannot accept it. The Government of India should stop it. Nagaland should return our territories of Dimapur, Sapekhati, Merapani and other places including Oriam Ghat. It is our demand. The people of Assam will never accept this proposal of greater Nagaland.

[Translation]

**DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):** Chairperson Sir, during the tenure of our Prime Minister, who was then the Chief Minister of Gujarat State, a grand building of the Baba Saheb National Foundation was constructed in Raniy Vistar, Ahmedabad. For the development of this building, including an exhibition, e-library,

auditorium, light and sound, and beautification, the Gujarat Government has allocated Rs. 6 crore.

Through you, I would like to request the Union Government to allocate an additional Rs. 6 crore for the development of the Ambedkar National Foundation in Gujarat, so that its development can be ensured.... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kirit P. Solanki.

**13.00 hrs**

[Translation]

**SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR):** Chairperson Sir, I extend my heartfelt greetings on the occasion of the Vikram Samvat Hindu New Year to you, to our fellow Members of the House, to the people of my Parliamentary Constituency, and to all citizens of the nation.

Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency, Buxar, there is a vacant plot of land located alongside the road within the Railway Barrack premises, which holds no utility for the Railways. This land is frequently subjected to illegal encroachments, causing significant inconvenience to the general public. The local residents wish to beautify this location and convert it into a small public park. They also wish to erect a grand statue in memory of their beloved leader, the late Shri Lal Muni Chaubey, former Member of Parliament who was elected from Buxar four times and also served as a Cabinet Minister in the Bihar Government. Shri Chaubey was renowned not only as a statesman but also as a saintly figure and a saviour of the poor.

Chairperson Sir, within the same premises, the citizens also desire to install a grand statue in memory of the late Shri Kailashpati

Mishra, former Governor of Gujarat, former Member of the Rajya Sabha, and senior Cabinet Minister of the Bihar Government, who was born in Buxar. He was one of the most revered leaders of Bihar and the nation, known as a saint of modern Indian politics. Additionally, the citizens also wish to honour the late Shri Ram Narayan Ram, former MLA, who was known as a leader of the Dalits, the oppressed, and the underprivileged, by installing a statue in his memory. Therefore, through you, I request the Railway Minister and the Government of India, to allocate a small portion of the said land to the local citizen development committee/trust for the establishment of a park and the installation of statues of these eminent social servants and political leaders, thereby earning due credit. On 25 March 2017, the Hon. Minister of State for Railways had personally assured the same on the death anniversary of the late Shri Lal Muni Chaubey.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ashwiny Choubey.

**SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency of Banda, as well as in Chitrakoot and the entire Bundelkhand region, crops are being damaged due to the prevailing practice of allowing cattle to roam freely. Owing to years of continuous drought in the region, people do not have sufficient

fodder to feed their animals. Even cattle that yield less milk are being abandoned. Today, in every village, herds of stray animals can be seen roaming freely along the roadsides, causing widespread destruction of agricultural crops.

Therefore, through you, I urge the Central Government and the State Government to jointly address this grave issue affecting my Parliamentary Constituency and the entire Bundelkhand region, and to take immediate measures for a permanent solution.

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

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAI (KODERMA):** Sir, through you, I extend warm greetings to the people of the country on the occasion of Vikram Samvat.

Sir, I have adopted the Dahap Panchayat in Koderma district of Jharkhand as an Adarsh Sansad Gram. This entire area is 100 percent covered under forest land. The problem is that the tribal population residing on forest land, for several generations, does not legally possess even a small piece of land to live on. Through you, I wish to state that both tribals and non-tribals residing in forest areas must be

allotted at least some land for residential purposes. They are not receiving electricity, they are not getting toilets, and until they are granted legal rights, their upliftment is not possible. I urge that the Forest Department make necessary provisions for them.

**SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (KHEERI):** Chairperson Sir, immediately after demonetisation, the Government undertook several initiatives for the development of a cashless society. Among these efforts, one significant initiative is the laying of optical fibre cables, which our Government is executing with great determination. However, in my Parliamentary Constituency, there are many villages that are either situated in forest areas or adjacent to forests. Due to the non-issuance of No Objection Certificates (NOCs) by the Forest Department, the work is not progressing in these areas. As a result, people living in these villages are deprived of internet connectivity.

Through you, I urge the Government to do away with the requirement of obtaining NOCs from the Forest Department for projects that have already been approved, and allow work to proceed on such schemes.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ajay Mishra Teni.

**SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISHRIKH):** Chairperson Sir, first of all I would like to say that women should also be given sufficient time to speak. We are often given very little time.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please place your point before the House.

**SHRIMATI ANJU BALA:** Sir, I will not take much time. I wish to state that while we are placing great emphasis on education, there is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in my Parliamentary Constituency of Mishrik. Through you, I wish to request the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to kindly sanction a Kendriya Vidyalaya for my Lok Sabha area.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Anju Bala.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

**13.03 hrs**

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

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**14.02 hrs**

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

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

**MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 \***

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

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\* Treated as laid on the Table.

**(i) Need to undertake electrification of villages under  
Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency,  
Jharkhand**

[Translation]

**SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA (SINGHBHUM):** Under Rule 377, I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the ongoing rural electrification works in the State of Jharkhand. There are still hundreds of villages in Jharkhand where electrification has not yet taken place, and the people are compelled to live in darkness. The Union Government has set a target to electrify all villages by the year 2018. However, if work continues at the current pace, electricity will not reach all villages of the country by 2018. In Jharkhand, the problem of Naxalism can be resolved to a large extent through electrification. In many villages, poles have been erected, but wires have not been installed. In some villages, even poles have not been set up. In my Parliamentary Constituency of Singhbhum, there are still many villages that have not been electrified. Within this constituency lies the large Saranda forest, where several villages remain without electricity. The villages that do have transformers of 10 kV or 15 kV face regular failures, as these transformers are unable to bear the load and frequently get burnt out. Once damaged, transformers or other

electricity supply equipment remain non-functional for months and are not repaired in a timely manner. Under the rural electrification scheme, if electricity is supplied to just one or two houses in a village, the surrounding villages are also marked as electrified, even though they have neither poles nor wires.

In this regard, I urge the Union Government to ensure that the new rural electrification scheme initiated by the Government to provide electricity in rural areas is implemented properly not only in Jharkhand but across the entire country. In villages facing a shortage of equipment, such equipment must be supplied promptly so that rural areas of Jharkhand can be electrified. The Jharkhand Government should be directed to ensure early electrification of villages in my Parliamentary Constituency of Singhbhum that have not yet been electrified so that electricity can reach all villages of the country by the year 2018.

**(ii) Need to include 'Kamalपुरi Vaishya' caste of Bihar in the  
Central List of OBCs**

**SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards inclusion of the Kamalपुरi Vaishya caste of the State of Bihar in the Central List of Other Backward Classes (OBC). It is known that the Kamalपुरi Vaishya community, which is economically and socially backward, is receiving reservation benefits in services under the Government of Bihar. This caste is enlisted at Serial No. 20 of Schedule-2 in the Bihar Government's list dated 18.02.1999. Several backward castes similar to the Kamalपुरi Vaishya have already been included in the Central List of OBCs; however, the Kamalपुरi Vaishya caste remains deprived of the benefit of 27 percent reservation in services under the Government of India. As we are aware, the inclusion of economically and socially backward classes in the Central List is provided for under Sections 9 and 10 of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993. On the recommendation of the first Chairman of the National Commission for Backward Classes, Hon. Justice Shri Ramanandan Prasad, the Commission had advised the inclusion of the

Kamalapuri Vaishya caste in the Central List at Serial No. 83, vide its recommendation Bihar 5/96 dated 16.08.1996/31.10.1996.

Although, as per Article 9(1) and (2) of the Constitution, it is obligatory for the Government to act upon the recommendations of the Commission, the Kamalapuri Vaishya caste has not yet been included in the Central List. It is also noteworthy that under Section 11 of the National Commission for Backward Classes Act, 1993, the Central Government may, at any time, revise the said lists for the purpose of exclusion of such classes who have ceased to be backward or for the inclusion of new backward classes. Moreover, the Act provides for such revision at the expiry of ten years from its commencement and thereafter at the expiry of every succeeding period of ten years.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take necessary steps to include the Kamalapuri Vaishya caste in the Central List of OBCs so that the people of this backward community in Bihar may avail the benefit of 27 percent reservation in services under the Government of India.

**(iii) Need to declare Hajira town in Surat district, Gujarat as 'No Fly Zone' and also to strengthen the security of the town**

**SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH (SURAT):** I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the matter of security concerning Hazira in Surat city. Geographically speaking, Hazira Port houses an LNG terminal and a multi-cargo port with a storage capacity of 2.9 million tonnes. Moreover, it is home to industrial establishments involving capital investments of Rs. 2 lakh crore. Large-scale industries such as ONGC, IOCL, BPCL, HPCL, GAIL, KRIBHCO, NTPC, VARNA CEMENT, RELIANCE, GSPL, GHPC, CAIRN, L&T, ESSAR, ADANI, CELL, and GUJARAT GAS are operational there. From a security perspective, Hazira is located 679 nautical miles from Pakistan's Karachi Port and 968 nautical miles from Gwadar Port. In view of the increasing military strength of Pakistan and the growing support extended to it by China, I demand that this industrial zone be declared a No-Fly Zone. These industries are of such magnitude that any accident within even a single establishment or any sabotage by foreign entities could result in enormous loss of life and property in a large city like Surat. The economic damage that the country may suffer is unimaginable.

Therefore, in order to ensure the safety of this region, I urge the Government to declare it a No-Fly Zone, to establish a Coast Guard base in the area, and to deploy security forces as well. This is my demand to the Government.

**(iv) Need to create awareness about eco-enzyme and promote its use in the country**

**SHRI MAHESH GIRI (EAST DELHI):** A very effective and simple method to reduce the problems of uncleanliness and filth has come to light in recent years. Eco-Enzyme, which is prepared from kitchen waste using classical methods in a very simple manner, is antibacterial and antiviral in nature and is extremely useful in eliminating chemical pollution. International-level studies have revealed numerous benefits of this method. Its use has also been found to be beneficial in several states across the country. Kitchen waste can be used through the enzyme to improve environmental and water cleanliness, agricultural development, and even personal health. I urge the Ministry of Environment to take appropriate steps to promote the widespread dissemination and use of this technique.

**(v) Need to increase the area under irrigation in Korba district,  
Chhattisgarh**

**DR. BANSHILAL MAHTO (KORBA):** In my Parliamentary Constituency Korba, the largest dam in Chhattisgarh—Minimata Hasdeo-Bango Dam — is located. The water from this dam is utilised for industrial as well as irrigation purposes. However, a major portion of the water benefits Janjgir-Champa and Raigarh districts, while Korba district receives a very minimal share for irrigation, approximately 5 percent. It is worth mentioning that the first river-linking campaign in the country has been initiated in my Parliamentary Constituency, Korba. A proposal has been submitted to link the Kawai River, which originates in Korea district, with the Hasdeo River, using funds received from the Mineral Development Trust. The approval for this project is expected shortly. Upon approval, there will be sufficient water inflow into the Bango Dam.

Therefore, I urge the Government to increase the area under irrigation in Korba district.

**(vi) Need to take welfare measures for child beggars**

**SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA):** Every Indian citizen has been granted the Right to Food, and every child up to the age of 14 years has been granted the Right to Education. Appropriate amendments have been made in the Constitution to ensure the provision of both these entitlements. Article 24 of the Constitution ensures that no child below the age of 14 years shall be employed in any factory or in any hazardous occupation such as mining. While the Constitution provides safeguards against the exploitation of children and aims to uphold their dignity and rights, on the other hand, it is a painful and unfortunate sight to witness children below the age of 14 years standing at the crossroads of major cities begging with bowls in their hands. Such scenes are not only distressing but also tarnish the image of India. I urge the Government to provide these children with facilities for a dignified life and ensure that their constitutional rights are duly protected and upheld.

**(vii) Need to provide adequate compensation to farmers whose land has been acquired for extension of International Airport at Gaya, Bihar**

**SHRI HARI MANJHI (GAYA):** The international airport in my Parliamentary Constituency Gaya (Bihar) is the only international airport in the whole of Bihar. But this airport is not being expanded because the land taken by the farmers in the construction of the airport is not getting proper compensation for their land, as a result of which the Gaya district administration has banned the sale of this land, due to which the farmers are not able to sell their own land for marriage, disease and other necessary work.

Therefore, I demand from the Hon. Minister that in view of the difficulties faced by the farmers, this problem should be solved and please expand the airport without delay.

**(viii) Need to construct platforms and overbridges at all the railway stations on Kodarma-Giridih via Kowad railway line in Jharkhand**

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR RAI (KODERMA):** A new railway line has been constructed from Koderma to Giridih via Kovad under my Parliamentary Constituency. This line is still not completed, about 12 kilometres of it is left, at present the train is also running on this route, the railway department has run the train on this route, this is a commendable step, but it is a matter of regret that the platform has not been built at any station coming on this route, the elderly, women and children are having a lot of trouble getting off the train, because they have to jump out of the train.

I request the Hon. Railway Minister to make efforts to construct platforms and over bridges at all the stations coming from Koderma to Giridih via Kovad route as per requirement.

**(ix) Regarding Problems being faced by farmers of Kheda constituency in Gujarat**

[English]

**SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN (KHEDA):** The Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) is laying oil pipelines in many villages of my Kheda constituency viz. Kheda, Matar, Vaso, Nadiad Tehsil in Gujarat. This work is going on for the last one year and not yet completed. The poor farmers have not yet received the compensation of their crop due to which they are facing hardship. The work completed on the farm land has not been levelled properly due to which the farmers are not able to use their farm land. The officials of IOC are non-cooperative and do not respond to any requests/queries of poor farmers. If the situation does not become normal then in near future there are chances of huge agitation by farmers. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister to instruct IOC to release the compensation amount to the farmers immediately and also to level the whole farm land properly so that farmers can cultivate their land.

**(x) Need to take strict action against fraudulent chit fund companies in the country**

[Translation]

**SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA (MANDSOUR):** The fraud committed by chit fund companies and their failure to return investors' money has emerged as a national issue. Numerous such cases have come to light in several states including Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and West Bengal. Due to the large number of complaints and a high number of accused, there has been a lack of appropriate action in such matters. As a result, even after cases have been registered, several companies have failed to return the investors' money. Most of the investments in such companies belong to the poor and lower middle-class sections, who save money penny by penny from their daily wages. Additionally, small-time agents, who earn commissions, depend on such schemes for their livelihood. These companies, however, have committed fraud against both categories of people. I urge the Union Government to take strict legal action against such fraudulent companies and make arrangements to securely return the investors' money.

**(xi) Regarding modernization of Fire Services in the Country**

[English]

**SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI):** I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the fact that the equipment used by the Delhi Fire Services and fire services all over the country is outdated and obsolete. Firefighters in several countries are equipped with devices that measure the intensity of the fire, so firefighters do not need to step into the fire to physically measure it. However, these devices are not yet in use in India. The suits and visors used by firefighters are also in need for upgradation. Merely increasing the number of fire vans is not the solution. The vans need to be upgraded such that firefighters can put out the fire from a distance without having to step into the fire and put their lives in danger.

**(xii) Need to enact law for reservation in promotion of SC/ST  
Government employees**

**DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI):** The Supreme Court has recently declared the Karnataka Determination of Seniority of the Government Servants Promoted on the Basis of Reservation Act invalid stating that the clauses in the Nagaraj judgment, namely inadequacy of representation, backwardness and overall efficiency must be met before reservation in promotion is permitted. I want to thank the Madhya Pradesh Government which has already spent Rs. 63 lakhs on eminent private sector lawyers to fight the judgment of the Jabalpur High Court in the Supreme Court and stop demotion of SC/ST employees. I have written several times to the Chief Minister in this regard. Demotion of SC/ST employees is going on in Several States such as Uttar Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan. It is imperative that the Union Government immediately pass a Constitution Amendment Bill under Articles 16(4) and 335 to implement reservation in promotion and stop the large-scale demotion.

**(xiii) Need to establish a Divisional Office of Life Insurance Corporation of India at Dhanbad, Jharkhand**

[Translation]

**SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (DHANBAD):** In the year 1986, the Union Government had planned to establish a Zonal Office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) in Dhanbad. However, due to the lack of consent from the then Chief Minister, this Zonal Office was not opened in Dhanbad and was instead established in Bhagalpur. Again in the year 1991, Dhanbad got another opportunity, but for some reasons, the LIC Zonal Office was established in Hazaribagh. Despite being fully qualified, Dhanbad has not yet been granted an LIC Zonal Office. Dhanbad meets all the criteria for housing a Zonal Office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India. Out of the 18 branches under the Hazaribagh Zonal Office, 13 branches are located in and around Dhanbad. The Hazaribagh Zonal Office is situated 130 kilometres away from Dhanbad, causing various difficulties to the employees, agents, and policyholders. In support of Dhanbad's development, it is noteworthy that the headquarters of B.C.C.L., regional offices of banks, a scientific

research unit, and I.S.M., which has recently been granted the status of an I.I.T. by the Union Government, are all located in Dhanbad. Additionally, a regional office of LIC Housing Finance Ltd. and several other important institutions are already operational here.

Therefore, I urge the Hon. Finance Minister to kindly grant approval for the opening of a Zonal Office of the Life Insurance Corporation of India in my Parliamentary Constituency, Dhanbad, so that not only the citizens of Dhanbad Lok Sabha but also those from neighbouring districts may be benefitted and it may contribute to the overall development of Dhanbad.

**(xiv) Need to bring railway stations at Chakarbhata, Bilha and Dagauri in Bilaspur district, Chhattisgarh under the jurisdiction of Bilaspur Railway Division**

**SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR):** The Mumbai–Howrah railway line passes through my Parliamentary Constituency, Bilaspur (Chhattisgarh), which includes Bilaspur, Chakarbhatha, Bilha, and Dagori stations, extending towards Raipur. These areas of Bilaspur district fall under the administrative jurisdiction of the Raipur Railway Division for operational purposes. Thousands of passengers, including traders and those engaged in various business activities, travel by rail from these stations. However, whenever any railway-related issue arises at these stations, the necessary actions are executed through the Raipur Railway Division, causing frequent delays. Consequently, the local population often faces inconvenience, despite the proximity of the Bilaspur Railway Divisional Office.

In case of emergency, immediate action or facilities could be provided more efficiently if these stations were under the Bilaspur Division.

Therefore, I request the Ministry of Railways that the railway stations of Chakarbhatha, Bilha, and Dagori in my Parliamentary Constituency be separated from the Raipur Division and brought under the Bilaspur Railway Divisional Office.

**(xv) Need to upgrade Tumkur railway station in Karnataka as a high-tech station with all modern facilities**

[English]

**SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):** Tumkur city in Karnataka has been selected as 'Smart City' among the 60 cities selected in the first and second phase. In addition to this, Tumkur has also been declared as 'Industrial Smart City' since it comes under Chennai-Mumbai Industrial Corridor. Tumkur is developing as an alternative city to Bangalore. More than ten thousand people are travelling daily from Tumkur to Bangalore. But unfortunately, the 'Railway Station' at Tumkur is not having basic infrastructure and also lack amenities. In view of the reasons stated above, I urge the Union Government to convert the present railway station at Tumkur as high-tech station with all modern facilities.

**(xvi) Need to introduce modern methods of cultivation among tribals of Manipur**

**SHRI THANGSO BAITE (OUTER MANIPUR):** Manipur is a hilly region except for 10% of the area in the valley. The hilly area is mainly inhabited by tribals of different ethnic groups whose livelihood is mainly dependent on Jhum & Shifting cultivation. The peak season of Jhum and Shifting cultivation which results in felling and burning of forests on a large scale starts in the months of February and March annually. This large-scale deforestation and burning of the Jhum lands have caused a lot of environmental degradation and pollution.

Hence, it is high time for the Government of India to take appropriate steps for replacing the Jhum and Shifting cultivation system through the introduction of modern and viable methods of cultivation.

**(xvii) Need to introduce a pension scheme for divorcee and single women in the country**

**SHRIMATI MAUSAM NOOR (MALDAHA):** Various schemes aimed at ensuring financial and societal inclusivity of women are being promulgated by the government through various Ministries. However, one category of women has been left out from the ambit of such schemes, they are women who are single and over the age of 30-divorced, separated or unmarried, according to the 2001 census itself, there were about 40 million women in India, identified under this category. These women have been excluded from social and fiscal inclusion by institutional neglect. I would urge upon the government to introduce a pension scheme for these women under the ambit of social Justice Ministry by the next financial year by apportioning necessary grants.

**(xviii) Need to impress upon Government of Kerala to stop construction of check dams on river Bhavani in the interest of farmers of Tamil Nadu**

**SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR):** It is very shocking to know that the Kerala Government is illegally constructing check dams to prevent the flow of Bhavani River to Tamil Nadu. The Tamil Nadu Government has sought the intervention of the Union Government to prevent Kerala from going ahead with its move which is a gross injustice to the poor farmers of Tamil Nadu in the districts of Coimbatore, Tirupur and Erode affecting irrigation in three lakh hectares.

Notwithstanding stiff opposition from Tamil Nadu, the Kerala Irrigation Department has completed work on the first of the six check-dams proposed across the inter-State River Bhavani. In spite of strong opposition from Tamil Nadu, the check-dam at Thekkuvatta is under progress. This is totally unwarranted and against the interests of farmers in Tamil Nadu.

Bhavani is a tributary of the river Cauvery and any diversion from it should be decided on the basis of inter-State conciliatory talks.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to take appropriate steps immediately to stop the illegal construction of Check Dams across river Bhavani.

**(xix) Need to provide better remuneration and extend retirement benefits to Asha Workers in the Country**

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR):** Asha workers have been playing a pivotal role in the field of rural and sub-urban health sector. Their active and laborious participation is the main cause of increasing the number of institutional deliveries. It is because of their efforts that we got success to minimize the number of malnourished children across the country. But these Asha workers get very poor remuneration and they are not entitled to get any retirement benefit.

So, I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister of Health and Family Welfare to consider this matter and take necessary steps in this regard.

**(xx) Need to set up Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (FMTTI) in Bargarh constituency, Odisha**

**DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH):** This is regarding establishment of Farm Machinery Training and Testing Institute (FMTTI) in my Parliamentary constituency, Bargarh in Odisha and sponsoring of extension personnel and farmers outside the country for capacity building. Bargarh is the rice bowl of Odisha. Farm mechanisation programme gaining momentum in Odisha is resulting in increase in demand of farm machineries and equipment manifold. Since Government of India is actively considering establishment of FMTTI in Odisha to cater to quality control and capacity building of farmers, I would like to urge upon the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to establish one such institute in my Parliamentary Constituency, Bargarh, Odisha. I also urge upon the Ministry of HRD/Agriculture and Farmers Welfare for sponsoring agriculture extension personnel/farmers outside the country for exposure and capacity building.

**(xxi) Need to permit sale of eatables and packaged water at fruit/juice stalls at railway stations in the country**

[Translation]

**SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL):** Government has allotted fresh juice/fruit stalls to many needy persons at railway stations in the country under “Railniti” (Rail Policy) so that they can provide proper education, good living to their children. At present, their income is negligible and they are facing a lot of difficulty in providing for their families. Therefore, it is necessary that these booth holders be permitted to sell Rail Neer, biscuits, chocolates, and other such items, so that they can generate sufficient income to take proper care of their families and children.

Small stalls at railway stations are a source of livelihood for many. However, the current rail policy appears to be phasing them out in favour of larger vendors, which should not be the case. Several Members of Parliament have already written to the Government in defence of these vendors, but no decision has yet been taken. On one hand, we speak of promoting employment, and on the other hand, we

are depriving small vendors of their means of livelihood. The Government must take cognisance of this issue.

Therefore, I urge the Government to seriously consider both the above matters and make necessary amendments in the Rail Policy to permit fresh juice/fruit vendors at railway stalls to also sell Rail Neer, biscuits, chocolates, and similar items across the country. This will help resolve the issues faced by small vendors, thereby enabling them to provide for their families and fulfil their essential needs.

**(xxii) Need to improve the Orderbook position of Hindustan Shipyard Ltd**

[English]

**SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI):** I want to raise an issue concerning Hindustan Shipyard Ltd. The company was under the administrative control of the Ministry of Shipping until February, 2010 and then, it was transferred to the Ministry of Defence. This was done to enable the company to play a major role to undertake construction of high-tech warships and submarines. But the present balance order book of the company requires a minimum order book of Rs. 5,000 crore to break even. Other DPSU shipyards have orders far in excess of this amount. By mid-2017 majority of the production facilities in the company would lie idle.

Therefore, it is requested that the orderbook position of the company has to be improved immediately to enable the company to sustain itself by giving 08 x CS IPVs on reassignment at new bench market price and 03 x Cadet training ships until big orders materialize.

**(xxiii) Regarding the problem faced by employees of  
Instrumentation Limited, Palakkad in Kerala**

**SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD):** Instrumentation Limited (IL) Palakkad has been making profit since its inception in 1974. However, the main unit of IL in Rajasthan is incurring losses since long and the Government of India was forced to shut it down. At the time of closure of Rajasthan Unit, I had proposed the handing over of profit-making unit of IL Palakkad to the Government of Kerala. I had met the Hon'ble Prime Minister with this proposal and requested to take favourable decision. The Government of Kerala has offered to take over the profit-making unit at Zero cost and Zero debt. Though the Palakkad Unit is profit making, due to the overall losses of the company, salary revision has not been undertaken in Palakkad since 1997. Hence, unsettled dues are pending for the employees. I request the Government of India to immediately formulate a financial package to settle and expedite the procedure in this regard.

**(xxiv) Need to withdraw the decision to shift the office of Inland Waterways Authority of India, Bhagalpur, Bihar to Sahebganj, Jharkhand**

[Translation]

**SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR):** In my Parliamentary Constituency Bhagalpur, there is an office of the Inland Waterways Authority of India, which has been established since the year 1992 on National Waterway No. 1. This office oversees all operations conducted in the Munger–Rajmahal sector. The headquarters of the Authority has issued instructions to shift this office to the Sahibganj area in the State of Jharkhand. The present office was constructed on land acquired from a farmer. If the office is relocated, the government-acquired land and building will remain unused, and relocating the office to another place will necessitate the construction of a new building, which would not be appropriate. All operations are currently being conducted smoothly from the existing office. Therefore, I urge the Government to issue appropriate directions in public interest to halt the transfer of this office.

**(xxv) Need to provide road connectivity to some villages of  
Karimganj in Assam under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak  
Yojana**

[English]

**SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ):** Ministry of Rural Development sent advisory to the government of Assam for completion of PMGSY targets of unconnected habitations which is enlisted with core network as per census population of 2002. In my constituency Karimganj there are some unconnected inhabitations situated in remote and hilly areas with terrorist problem enlisted with core network, where it was shown that the population is less than 250. In fact, now the population has crossed the previous limit and become above 250 numbers as per census of 2011. In Hailakandi district some villages were not enlisted with core network. Now the surveyor engaged by the Department is not undertaking survey of these roads for lack of requisite population, some for higher cost and some for not enlisted in core network. But it is highly essential to connect these villages with better road network for all-round development as well as to curb terrorist problem. I request the Ministry of Rural Development to put these villages under PMGSY road connectivity and direct state government to do the needful.

**(xxvi) Need for early completion of Angamaly-Sabari railway  
Project in Kerala**

**ADVOCATE JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI):** Though the work of Angamaly-Sabari Railway Project commenced 19 years ago, the railway could complete only 5 kilometres of railway line out of 116 kilometres length. After settling the dispute on cost sharing, the Government of Kerala and Railway has entered into an agreement and a joint venture company has been incorporated. In the current year's budget, Rs. 213.59 crore is allotted for the project. Hon'ble Prime Minister included the project in PRAGATI. During the 16th PRAGATI interaction on 16th October 2016, the Hon'ble Prime Minister agreed to complete the project with full Central Government fund. The Hon'ble Railway Minister also agreed for the same during the discussion with the Chief Minister of Kerala. The railway has not approved the revised estimate and is not taking steps to proceed with the work due to the ambiguity in cost sharing. Hence, the intervention of the Government is requested.

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**14.04 hrs**

**NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF TECHNOLOGY, SCIENCE  
EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (SECOND AMENDMENT)  
BILL, 2016**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, item No. 9 - National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Sir, I have a point of order.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Under what rule, are you raising the point of order?

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** My point of order is under Rule 80(4) and Rule 376 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of the House.

Sir, now the House is going to discuss the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016. This is being piloted by the Hon. Minister for HRD. The

aims and objectives are to incorporate two more institutes to declare it as Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, one is at Tirupati and the other at Behrampur.

My point is this. In today's list of business, there is one other item, that is, the Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017. That Bill is also slated for discussion today. If you go through that Bill, that is Repealing and Amending Bill, 2017, a number of Acts have to be repealed and the three existing Acts have to be amended.

Sir, kindly see today's list of business. In the Second Schedule, the first item is 2007 Act No. 29 the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act of 2017. Sir, the contradiction is that the Hon. HRD Minister is piloting a Bill in order to amend the existing Act, that is, the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act and, at the same time, the Hon. Law Minister is going to pilot another Bill to amend the same Act where the Schedule is going to be amended. You may kindly notice in that Act of 2007 which is going to be amended in order to amend the constitution of the Council and the powers of the Council, that is, under Sections 30A and 30 of the Act. It is going to be amended by the Hon. Law Minister through the Repealing and Amending Bill.

My point is whether the HRD Ministry is aware of this amendment. As the HRD Ministry comes absolutely under the administrative control of HRD Ministry, how can the House take up two amendment Bills on the same Act in two different instances in one Session on one day, that is, today itself. It could be done only if the amendment in the Repealing and Amending Bill had been entirely different and distinct. But the Hon. HRD Minister is piloting another Bill to amend the same Act to incorporate two more institutions under the category of National Institutes of Technology. How will this come? This is totally improper. That is why, I am quoting Rule 80, where a very detailed description is given in respect of the scope of amendments to the Rules and Schedules. Here, the Schedule is being amended and the clauses are to be amended.

There is absolutely a contradiction in amending the Act in such a way. I would like to know from the Hon. Chair, the Hon. Deputy Speaker, whether it is proper and fair on the part of the Government to amend the same Act in two instances on the same day. In the Repealing and Amending Bill the same Act is there. It is not *errata*; it is not a corrigendum and it is not a correction. In the Repealing and Amending Bill, if it had been *errata* or a corrigendum or a correction, I would definitely agree with it that it is a correction which has come

within the ambit of the Repealing and Amending Bill. But this is not the correction. The proposed amendment is about omitting the words 'as the case may be'. It means that powers of the Council have been increased. So, increasing the powers of the Technical Council under the Act of 2007 means a material amendment is being brought in the House in the name the Repealing and Amending Bill and that is also coming as next item of the business. I also want to have a clarification from the Hon. Minister as to what the role of the Hon. Minister is in having amended the other Act.

Sir, the Hon. Minister is amending the Act of 2007. He could have very well come along with this amendment of omitting 'as the case may be' in clause (d) of Section 3. This could also be brought within the purview of this Act. It is not only a wasting of the time of this House but also repetition of amendments of the same Act on the same day in two different items of the same business. I would like to know from the Hon. Chair whether it is proper on the part of the Government in having the legislative process being taken in such a way.

**THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR):** I am very happy that the Hon. Member reads all the agenda items in detail. But I think he is a bit

confused and is also confusing the whole House. The Repealing and Amending Bill clearly mentions as to what we need to repeal. It is the original Act of 2007 where the words ‘as the case may be’ shall be omitted. These words are being omitted because they have different connotations. We will explain that when the Repealing and Amending Bill will be placed. It can also be explained at that time as to why we took it on the same day. So, it will be entirely different from the present Bill.

The present amendment Bill, which we are going to discuss, is about establishment of two institutes. One institute is going to be set up in Andhra Pradesh. This is being done as per the promise given at the time of reorganization of Andhra Pradesh at Tirupathi. The second institute is being set up as it was announced in last year’s Budget. These are extremely important national institutes of research. So, establishment of these two institutes is different from what is mentioned in the Repealing and Amending Bill. The Bill of 2007 has already been amended twice in 2012 and 2014 to include one institute each. So, these are two different matters.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** The Hon. Minister is making an unnecessary allegation that I am confusing the House. ...  
(Interruptions)

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** This is not an allegation. ...  
(*Interruptions*)

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** I do agree, but my point is that those two amendments are distinct and separate, but coming under the same Act. I am only questioning the propriety of the Government in moving such an amendment because two amendments coming under the same Act are being piloted by two Ministers and the time of the House is being spent. So, I would like to know whether it is proper. Only the propriety is being questioned. I do agree that the matter is different, but it is coming under the same Act. The two amendments are coming under the same Act.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Since you raised the point, the Hon. Minister has explained.

There is no bar because different amendments are being made. Therefore, I rule out the point of order.

Hon. Minister.

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I beg to move: -

"That the Bill further to amend the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007 be taken into consideration\*."

Sir, this bill is important for three reasons. First, we need to have the best of the best institutes more and more in number in our country which will do essential research. There should be research in the country and centers of higher education should be such that they are institutions of very important research, research and innovation. At present we have IIT, that is essentially engineering education institute, IIM is essentially management institute, but which is basic science, chemistry, biology, earth science and others, which is the institute for doing that? That institute is the National Institute of Science Education and Research. This NITSER is a combination of NITs. The National Institutes of Technologies are different NITs. Actually, they are regional engineering colleges converted into NITs. IISER is a very prominent institute.

When we pass this Bill, we will have seven IISERs. So, this is a very important milestone. What this Government under the

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\*Moved with the recommendation of the President.

leadership of Prime Minister Modi has done in last three years is expansion of quality education. Seven new IIMs are opened. Six new IITs are opened. Two new IISERs, what we are discussing today, are opened. One hundred and four Kendriya Vidyalays are opened and 62 Navodaya Vidyalays are opened. This is to ensure expansion of quality education right from primary stage to higher education level. This is one good effort this Modi Government led by Shri Narendra Modi is doing.

We have two kinds of institutes. One, there are State Universities or even Central Universities and some are affiliating universities also. So, omnibus affiliating universities with multi-disciplinary studies are important, but they are part of the general education, mainstream education. We need Centres of Excellence because in affiliating universities, only local students can participate. But these are all India institutes in which the best of the best students come from all over India to join research and innovation.

How is admission to IISERs given? Direct admission is given to top one per cent of all state board examinations. Who got the best marks in 12th. If someone wants to pursue top 1 percent in science education, they can take direct admission in IISER, but we have here the Kishore Vaigyanik Yojana. There are children science innovation

club and many other initiatives. so, with that examination also, people come. JEE (Advanced) is there. What is required for admission in an IIT is also the requirement for admission in an IISER.

Today, we have seven IISERs because these two, which we will be enacting today, have already started functioning through a society model. They have already started functioning in Tirupati since 2015 and in Berhampur since 2016. What these institutes are achieving is excellence in science and research. There are more than 5,500 students. This is a huge number. We have also made expenditure till today on these seven IISERs. This started ten years ago in 2006. First one was in Kolkata followed by Pune, Mohali, Thiruvananthapuram and others.

So, all these followed up. Now, we have added Shibpur, Mohali and Bhopal also.

We have incurred an expenditure of nearly Rs. 4,600 crore for all these seven IISERs, but we must remember that we must incur public expenditure for highest quality education. I am saying this because it is the real investment that a nation makes in its future. Therefore, this kind of investment of such a large amount for so many students is necessary because we create scientists there.

We have this basic science education where we have BS-MS course. Once students come, it is a five-year integrated course. So, he becomes a Master. There are 3,891 students in it. Then there is integrated Ph. D. course also. There are 479 students in the integrated Ph.D. course. There are regular Ph. D. programme where there are 1,375 students.

What do these institutes achieve? These institutes achieve 5,746 students who are the brain and we must be proud of these students. I have gone to two or three IISERs and I have seen how intellectually they are working. We must be proud of these institutes, and I would request all our Members also to visit IISERs, IITs and IIMs because when you go and have an open dialogue with students, then you will feel proud that, yes, everything is not waste in what we are doing and there is an amount of pride, which we can take in our efforts.

As I said, [Translation] every year we spend nine hundred crore rupees on these 'IISERs', it is not a low cost and the Indian Institute of Science is at number one in the world ranking of Bangalore in India. In that also, three hundred crore rupees are spent every year in an institute, but we will never let there be any shortage of money. The program that runs in 'ISER', as I said is biological, chemical, engineering, science, mathematics, physics and computer science.

[English] More importantly, there is humanities and social science because we believe that just technology / science education is not enough. After all, what is the purpose of the education system? The purpose of the education system is to bring out a good human being out of them. Therefore, we must also have humanities and social science awareness in all kinds of students that we produce. Therefore, in IITs, IIITs and NITs also we have done much to improve the humanities faculty also.

We have eminent 450 faculties. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Sir, is the Minister going to give his reply right now? ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** I am just introducing it. I will reply to your questions.

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** Since we have to leave, that's why I asked. **SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** I will take your five minutes. But it's a good thing. You will welcome it. Shri Kharge, you are welcome in any of these IISERs.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Since it is a good thing, that's why I had asked you to give one to Raichur as well.

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** I will do justice to you. Not all institutions can be in Karnataka. Research is important. They have also achieved excellent patents, scholarships are also given here, and in all research work, this is one of our prestigious institutions. As I said, the one started in Tirupati, when the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana took place, it was promised. The Act was passed by Parliament. [English] In a way, it is a consequential new addition, but it is a good addition. I have gone there. We have the best faculty there.

As regards Berhampur, Odisha, we must look to the East. We must develop our Eastern States and, in all respects, Berhampur was the best location found for it and from all over India students have come to Berhampur also. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** It is not Berhampur. It is Brahmapur. ... (*Interruptions*) Berhampore is in West Bengal.

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** So, I stand corrected. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** What you are saying is all right, but he is mentioning the ancient name of it. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** No, it is Brahmapur. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** See, officially, it is Berhampur, but I agree to his logic also.

So, I want that more and more people participate in this discussion in order to know how to improve the quality of higher education. With this, I move this Bill for consideration and passing.

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

“That the Bill further to amend the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007 be taken into consideration.”

**KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR):** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir. Hon. Minister has given us a lengthy introduction. In that introduction, like any government of the day would do, he has highlighted the achievements of this Government in setting up institutes and said that they must be made into institutes of excellence. But I have to say that in any democracy while the Treasury Bench is bound to highlight the positives of any policy or any ministry, we owe to the nation as Members of the Opposition to point out the challenges of that very ministry of that very field. I think the entire House will agree that education is the backbone of this country and technology and technological capabilities will be the backbone of this country.

Today, I congratulate the people of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh that, I am sure, a long pending dream is being fulfilled and I hope that these two Institutes that are being recognised by way of these amendments as Institutes of national importance will help, not just those states but, I realize as I come from a Cachar Parliamentary Constituency in Assam where we have an NIT, that when a good institution comes up in any state or in any part of the country, I would say, the students or children or people who want higher technical education get benefited because we can go and take admission in the other states of the country. So, these two Institutes, I hope, in the

future, will become an asset, not just for the State of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh but for the entire nation.

Hon. Minister has very carefully and meticulously told us as to what are the criteria for admission to these Institutes, what are the basic science courses that will be held in these institutes and what he aspires these institutes will grow into. I feel compelled to point out that, in the recent media reports, the problems that these two Institutes have been facing in the past after the decision of the Cabinet to declare them as Institutes of national importance must be highlighted on the Floor of the House and I would like to state that in Odisha, Members of Parliament from there would agree with me, that connectivity is a problem in Brahmapur like Mahtab ji said. There is a demand that the nearest airstrip which was made during the British time must be upgraded and updated so that access to this world-class institution that we all are dreaming of has access to the rest of India.

Apart from that, many local newspapers in Odisha and the Times of India have reported that there is an 11 km road that connects that airport to the campus and a DPR must be made immediately so that the national resources of the country are properly used which we all would agree is an important aspect.

Apart from that, I would like to point out that the admissions for research programmes were delayed by a year in the Tirupati Institute whether it was physics, chemistry, biology or mathematics. Several vacancies for the posts of Professors and Associate Professors have emerged in the Tirupati Institute. I hope the Hon. Minister will take interest in that and solve that problem.

Sir, I am bound to say that the excellence of an institute, especially a technical institute and institutes like NIT, IIT and IISER, is the research work that what is their innovation and what is their contribution in the area of innovation and research. Flowing from that, I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that neither of these two IISERs in Tirupati and Odisha have doctoral degrees or post-doctoral fellowships. If we really want these Institutes to grow in the next five years or six years into Institutes of Excellence, this is something we have to facilitate in these two Institutes.

Coming from the north east states, the Hon. Minister has only encouraged me to say it more emphatically on the floor of the House that [Translation] Sir, you mentioned the Look East Policy, I found that very encouraging. Our Minister also frequently speaks about the Look East and Act East Policies. I would like to say that in the 2015 Budget, Shri Arun Jaitley had proposed that an IISER would be

granted the status of an Institute of National Importance in Nagaland. However, what we see now is that neither has it received any Cabinet approval, nor is there any mention of such an institute for Nagaland in this bill.

? I have seen in the media that the Government of Nagaland has stated that instead of including an IISER, they have now requested for a School of Architecture. I hope that when you give your reply in this House, you will clarify what happened in this matter. Can we expect that such an institute will be granted to Nagaland in the future?

[English]

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there is a huge need or there is an increasing need not just to emphasise on opening new institutions and declaring new institutions as institutions of national importance, but what I would be worrying about if I were sitting in the position of Hon. HRD Minister is the challenges that these institutions face.

Today, whether it is IITs, whether it is NITs, whether it is IIITs, all of them have a certain generic nature of problems and, together, if we do not focus on those problems, I feel we may not be able to solve it. Therefore, I choose today not to criticise the Government or the workings of the Government – it is a happy day for Odisha and

Andhra Pradesh – but to be fair to several institutes in this country which are facing difficulties, I would like to raise certain important issues.

First of all, despite the skills that we equip to our engineers or students who go to these institutes of excellence and institutes of technology, the question is: do they fit the job market? If we look at it, there are 3300 engineering colleges in the country. more than 14 lakh engineering seats are available today, but the question is that when these students pass out of these engineering colleges, what is their level of employability? Today we talk about demographic dividend. Today India boasts about its demographic dividend. If we do not convert this dividend into an asset, then I feel that we are actually wasting another important national resource, which is our youth dividend.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, in 1981, there was a time when there were only 20,000 admissions in a year. Today that number has gone up to 14. 7 lakh seats all over India, whether it is Government or private institutions. But the question is: is this an opportunity for the youth? A recent AICTE report has stated -- and I am sure the Hon. Minister is aware of it because I have read that the Government is planning to take this report very seriously – that out of eight lakh

engineers passing out every year, nearly five lakhs remain unemployed. So, the question is: where is it that we are going wrong? Despite passing these significant Bills in trying to create institutions of excellence, our engineers are remaining unemployed.

Further, the dismal situation to my mind is that only one per cent of those students participate in summer internships. I am very happy to say that IIT Delhi has done some out of the box thinking and they had told the students that they need not go for a summer internship but to promote entrepreneurship, you can do an independent project. Having said that, today, only 15 per cent of the 3,300 engineering institutions have been accredited by the National Board of Accreditation. If these are the figures, is it enough for us as a nation to simply create institutions? It is not because what institutions will actually give to the nation is to turn out into an asset. We want India as a country to beat other nations with the technological edge.

I would like to say that often we hear in this House about how well the state of Gujarat is doing. I would not like to undermine the performance of a State like Gujarat. Sometimes I ask myself, Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, when we praise a State too much, and over and over again, do we as a natural consequence of that, ignore some of the problems that it may be facing? By way of that, something relevant to

the HRD Minister, and without undermining the performance of Gujarat as a State, I would like to point out that in 2014-15, 47 students who passed out engineering, found placements on their campuses across engineering colleges in the country. The figure in Gujarat is only 26 per cent; 74 per cent had to fend for themselves and when they did find a placement, their income was less than Rs. 2 lakh per annum.

I would like to state that the amount of enrolment in engineering colleges has fallen by 22 per cent. If they really want to hail the Gujarat model, I hope the HRD Minister will look into this aspect. I am happy to say that the HRD Ministry is taking the AICTE Report very seriously, and they are planning some reforms and they have kept for themselves certain targets that by 2022, 50 per cent of the programmes shall be accredited by the NBA. If there is no progress, then approval will be refused. This is one of the steps the Ministry is trying to take.

All of us, as Members of this House, are aware of the Kakodkar Committee Report on IIT and NIITs. I am sure the HRD Minister will take these into consideration and will implement them because this Committee was actually set up during the tenure of his predecessor, and I am sure it is part of the record.

You mentioned about the North-East, I would only say that I am happy to see that the World Bank has given US\$ 201. 50 million as the part of the Technical Education Quality Improvement Project, which is commonly called TEQIP, Phase III. I am even happier to see that World Bank Country Director in India has specifically said that this funding will concentrate on equitable distribution of skills across India, and with the focus on under-performing States. I am even more elated to see in this list, all the North Eastern States found place, apart from Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Andaman & Nicobar. So, I would request the Hon. Minister that the biggest challenge of these institutes is capacity building.

Today the faculties of IITs, NIITs, and other engineering institutes, unless they synergise, unless they increase collaboration in teaching, I feel that we may not be able to give our students in these institutes the kind of technological know-how, the kind of exposure which is competitive with the world at large, may not be possible without this. Apart from that, I had to bring to the notice of the House that World Bank is saying that demand for intake is going up every year. So, it has actually gone up by 16. 5 per cent annually between 2006-17 and 2013-14. Now, look at the anomalies.

On the one hand, we are talking about unemployability of engineers and technicians who are coming out, on the other hand, the world bank is saying that there is a growing demand for engineers. therefore, although this is a small bill and the message we have to take from here need to open an institute. Hon. Minister has said that there is no shortage of money, but the students who pass out from that institute despite the growing demand, as per the world bank, for engineers, why are our children not getting jobs?

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Our syllabus is an old syllabus. We are still following that. That is the problem.

... (*Interruptions*)

**KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV:** I met shri Javadekarji last year with a very heart-breaking problem. the heart-breaking problem was that last year 3,195 seats feel vacant, whether it is NIT, IIT, IIIT and these institutes. It is a huge waste of national resources. I had met you. It is my request that It's been quite a while since 'Jausa' was made. If we are not able to fill vacancies in engineering college even after making 'Jausa', then perhaps there is a need to change the working of 'Jausa'.

I would request, through you, the officers of your department and sometimes I feel that they did not emphasise enough. Whenever i have

worked with you, my experience with you has been that you have never said 'no'. When you were the Environment Minister, you helped us with the construction of the expressway. But, I felt that despite the fact that it was in the knowledge of the department, JOSAA, CSAB. After six rounds of JoSAA and CSAB on July 20, 2016, what vacancies were there, and the Supreme Court's directive is to fill them before August 15. What was your department doing from July 20 to August 15? Then you became a new minister.

That is why, I am not saying anything to you today. I have great respect for you. But I am sad to say that people in your department did not apprise you properly because of which we actually lost huge amount of resources. I cannot tell you how many students from different corners of India have come to me. I went to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court did not issue notice in that petition. But I can tell you that the supreme court judges were not happy with the action replay of what has happened in the past. where there is a problem, there is a solution. we have solved many problems in the past. I hope that this problem will be solved by the Hon. Minister. It will not repeat itself. I will definitely meet you before that time comes and remind you that this should not happen again. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

**DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAK NISHANK (HARIDWAR):** Deputy Speaker, Sir, The National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016, which has just been introduced in the House by the Hon. Minister, seeks to declare these two institutes of technology, science education, and research as Institutes of National Importance under the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007. I would like to sincerely congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister, our esteemed Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar Ji, and his entire team on this significant achievement. I would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Honourable Prime Minister, our distinguished Minister of Human Resource Development Shri Prakash Javadekar, and his entire team for this significant initiative. I also congratulate the people of Odisha and Andhra Pradesh, as the youth from these states will now have the opportunity to attain the highest levels of progress in the fields of engineering, technology management, science, and the arts. Through these institutions, our young generation will be able to further empower the nation through science and knowledge. Therefore, this

Bill is extremely important, and I consider it to be a cornerstone in the progress of the nation. In the success of any country, the greatest contribution comes from its education, science, and technology.

America reached the top position solely because its science and technology are the best. Today, Germany has been able to prove its excellence in engineering worldwide because its engineers and technicians hold the foremost positions globally. Japan, which was on the brink of destruction during the Second World War, has now planted the flags of success in the world because its science and technology, its technology and universities, are of international standards. Whether it is France, South Korea, Denmark, Canada, or Singapore, the success of every nation has been achieved by treading the difficult path of science and technology. I wish to heartily congratulate the Hon. Minister for the Bill he has introduced. This Bill, which comes as an amendment to the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007, has the primary objective of ensuring arrangements for undergraduate, postgraduate, and research education in various branches of engineering and technology, and to address the urgent shortage of technical manpower required for the country's industrial development.

I believe that institutes of national importance will lead their respective states by setting high standards, as the Hon. Minister has said, earlier there were regional engineering colleges, some of which were granted the status of NITs and others declared as institutes of national importance. This Bill has been introduced with the vision to realise the Government's concept, which is very important. The Act of 2007, under which this has been brought, had earlier undergone amendments in 2012, which included some important institutes. Today, we are pleased that two more institutes have been declared of national importance. Previously, Bhopal, Kolkata, Mohali, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, and others were included—five older institutes—and now two new ones have been added, making a total of seven such important institutes.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, our Government is committed to science and technology. Today, the country has 31 national institutes of technology and seven Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research functioning successfully. It is a matter of pride that, overall, there are 38 premier science and technology institutes in the country that not only meet the growing demand for human resources but also serve as a milestone in establishing India as a global power on the world stage.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, in ancient times India led the world in the fields of knowledge, science and technology. Due to various reasons, we fell behind somewhere along the way, and as a result, we lagged behind Western countries in the race for development. However, our Government is now rapidly bridging that gap, and this Bill is a result of that effort. The development of any nation is not possible without science and technology. To realise the vision of development, a strong foundation of science and technology is essential. In this context, the Parliamentary Committee on Science and Technology in the United States stated in its observations that more than 50 percent of the growth in the American economy after the Second World War was due to the implementation of science and technology-based development programmes. The America acknowledges that its progress is based on the path it charted through science and technology, which established it in a leading position.

I take pride in our Prime Minister. Under the leadership of our illustrious Prime Minister, India is striving on a war footing to reclaim its lost prestige. Today, an important institute is being approved in Tirupati, and the announcement is being made. I recall that in January 2017, while addressing the 104th session of the Indian Science Congress, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that if mutual

cooperation is established, by 2030 India will be counted among the three leading powers in the field of science globally.

Our Prime Minister said this in January. It is worth noting that the global average growth rate of scientific publications is 4 percent. I am pleased and would like to congratulate the Government that over the past two and a half to three years, this rate of publication has increased very rapidly, and today we are advancing at a remarkable rate of 14 percent. I have full confidence that due to the skill and foresight of our scientists and policymakers, India will establish itself as a leading scientific power on the global stage in the coming decade.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I congratulate the Minister for allocating Rs. 7,9685 crore for the year 2017-18, which is 9.9 percent higher than the previous year. Moreover, I commend the Minister for the record allocation of Rs. 250 crore for the financing agency in the field of higher education for the first time, whereas earlier it was only Rs. 1 crore. For the first time in the history of independent India, Rs. 75 crore have been approved for enhancing scientific research under the Prime Minister's initiative, and Rs. 50 crore have been allocated for the construction of a world-class institution. I also congratulate the Minister for this.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the record increase for the Indian Institutes of Management (IIMs), with the allocation rising from Rs. 730 crore last year to Rs. 1,030 crore this year, and the increase for the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) from Rs. 5,000 crore in the previous budget to Rs. 7,856 crore, are clear indications that this Government is committed to elevating the nation to global excellence in the fields of science and technology with full strength.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, just now the Hon. Member raised the issue of employment after engineering. I would like to say to her that our Prime Minister has implemented dozens of revolutionary schemes such as 'Make in India', 'Digital India', 'Skill India', 'Start Up', and 'Stand Up', which will chart the course to take this nation to its pinnacle. The skills that our youth will develop through these institutions in a few years will ensure that in the future, neither 'Make in Japan' nor 'Make in China' will be visible. If anything will be visible in the future, it will be 'Make in India' across the world.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the path of science is very important. We wish to congratulate Shri Javadekar for this. You have approved Rs. 40 crore for the Tirupati institution in the current year and have spoken of its allocation. I also congratulate you for this. For the institution at Baharampur in Odisha, which is being declared a significant

institution of the country, an expenditure of Rs. 137.30 crore as non-recurring capital and Rs. 152.79 crore as recurring capital has been approved over three years. For this as well, I extend my sincere congratulations to you.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I believe that Hindustan, which once commanded respect in the fields of knowledge and science across the world, is now rapidly progressing once again on that very path. I am fully confident that the manner in which our government has advanced this cause over the past two to three years has captured the attention of the entire world on Hindustan. The talents that once emigrated are now standing firm in Hindustan and will lead the nation to the pinnacle of global excellence. Hindustan is the birthplace of the Vedas, Upanishads, and Puranas; it has been the abode of sages and ascetics, and it is also the origin of Ayurveda. It is a vast ocean of knowledge. Therefore, I request that an institution of this nature also be established on the soil of Uttarakhand, which, as a centre of knowledge connected to the Himalayas and its associated ranges, can leave an indelible mark. Once again, I congratulate the Minister on this Bill and conclude my remarks. Thank you.

[English]

**DR. MRIGANKA MAHATO (PURULIA):** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir.

The National Institute of Technologies, Science Education and Research Bill, 2016 is a very important and welcome Bill in the context of engineering education in India both in the undergraduate and postgraduate levels and in the context of research.

A Bill was first introduced in the year 2007. The motto behind the National Institute of Technology Act was to provide for declaration of certain institutions of technology, engineering, and science and to give national importance to them so that they can provide or carry out quality education both in the undergraduate and postgraduate level of engineering, and do research work in the frontal branches of engineering.

The Act was first amended in 2012. In 2007, there were 20 such institutions run by different societies across the country which were included and they were mentioned in the First Schedule. In 2012, when the amendment was done, another ten institutions run by different societies were included and their names were given in the First Schedule. At that time five Indian Institutes of Science Education

and Research were incorporated and mentioned in the Second Schedule. In 2014, another Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology in Shibpur was included in the Third Schedule. All these endeavours are very good in promoting engineering education and research.

In 2016, this Government incorporated two new IISERs to meet the regional imbalance on bifurcation of the State of Andhra Pradesh into Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. One of them is at Tirupati in the State of Andhra Pradesh and the other at Behrampur in the State of Odisha. So, to meet the regional imbalance and to promote engineering education, this endeavour of the Government is very good.

At present, there are a total of 31 National Institutes of Technology; five Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research; and in this Bill, two more would be included to have seven IISERs. This approach is a welcome approach but I would like to make a humble submission on the floor of the House on the points of my concern.

My first concern is the quality of education. That is the prime focus of the Government and the Government is providing a

substantial amount of finance to these institutions. So far as my information goes, the global ranking of these NITs is between 3,500 and 4,000. That is far below in the rankings. The global ranking of IIT Delhi and IIT Bombay are between 400 and 450. Only the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore has a ranking between 300 and 350. So, in the global rankings we are far behind. In the Asian standard, the ranking of NITs is not within 1,000; only IIT Bombay and IIT Delhi are within 300 in the Asian standard. So, my humble submission to the Minister and the Government is that there should be an expert committee which should monitor the quality of engineering education in India and this huge gap between the global ranking and the Asian ranking should be bridged.

We should have a committee to monitor the quality of education in NITs and the 31 NITs in India should get a ranking. The gap between these institutes should be bridged. Faculty from one NIT should move to other NIT. Similarly, students from one NIT can go to another NIT. All these would help in maintaining parity in engineering education in the whole country.

The next point of concern is the research work. The Minister has said that the IISER's focus area is research work. Is there any report with the Government as to how many research papers are being

submitted every year by the engineering students studying in these institutions in the Indian Journal and the International Journal?

A number of scientific programmes and scientific competitions are being organised in the country. How many students of NITs and IITs participate in such competitions? Do you have any such record, as this is very important in the research work?

We appreciate the research work done by the space technology or by the DRDO. I would like that all these engineering institutions should also do research work.

Brain drain is a long-standing problem of India. We all know that a large number of students after passing out from these institutions go abroad to do their research work. One day we read in the newspaper or watch on TV that one Indian scientist doing research work in the MIT or Harvard University has got the Nobel Prize in Physics or Chemistry. This should stop. We should create an environment where all the brilliant engineering students do research in India and be the pride of our institutions. We should think on these lines.

Is the Government thinking of having a common test before giving the pass out degree or the final certificate to the students who

pass out from these NITs? The Government should consider this proposal so that we could know that there is parity of education in all the engineering institutions in India. Before giving the graduation certificate, a common test should be held to maintain parity of education in all the engineering colleges of India.

With these words, I congratulate the Minister for giving a new IISER to Andhra and Odisha to maintain the regional imbalance. I welcome this, Bill. Thank you.

**15.00 hrs**

**DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH):** First of all, I must congratulate and thank the Hon. Minister for bringing the National Institutes of Technology, Science, Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016 because it is quite befitting to the time. I once again thank him for giving one IISER to Berhampur, Odisha and one at Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

These institutes of national importance are very important so far as the scientific, industrial and technical research are concerned. The National Institute of Technology, Science Education and Research is an Act of 2007. Again, NITSER declares certain institutes of technology, science education and research as institutes of national importance and provides for further research, training and dissemination of knowledge in these institutions. My earlier speakers were speaking about the challenges before the higher education, NITs, IITs, IISER and institutes of national importance like IIM and all the Central Universities.

Now, a number of students in our country are going abroad every year. After passing out from our institutes, they are not getting jobs in our country and as a result, they are going abroad. This matter is of

great concern for all of us and is a big challenge for higher education. I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the crisis of higher education in our country.

The Government is keen to create world-class universities, which is a welcome move. But the Government must understand that the world-class institutes are not created. Quality universities are evolved over decades and centuries and are nurtured through curiosity, research, knowledge and policies. Funds are important too, but the soul of the university lies in the knowledge culture. The knowledge creation and dissemination are crucial for the economic growth and development of our country. The colleges and universities are central to this enterprise. Ease of doing business and such economic policies will follow behind good quality of education. Their implementation depends on the quality of human resource being created in India.

In a reply to a Question on 5<sup>th</sup> February, the Minister of State for Planning, Shri Rao Inderjit Singh said that the overall unemployment is rising. He said that unemployment rate is now five per cent. That is an alarming two per cent increase in the last two years. Our focus should be on improving the quality of education so that our young population not only become more employable, but also become more enterprising. If youths are enterprising, they will have the capacity of

creating employment for themselves and for many others. I request the Hon. Minister to tell the House as to what the Government is doing to improve the quality of higher education.

Regarding the IISER of Berhampur, our Hon. Chief Minister has given me local support. He has given good land at prime location next to the NHs and to airport and provision for uninterrupted power and water supply. But yet there is non-availability of full-time director. So, a full-time director should be appointed.

Again, I would like to bring to the kind attention of Hon. Minister regarding VSSUT, Burla. This is in western part of Odisha and is one of the pioneering engineering colleges established long back in the year 1956. This year, it is celebrating its diamond jubilee. It is the first institute of Odisha to be granted autonomous status in the year 1991 and awarded 12B status by UGS in 2012 and all the engineering courses of VSSUT are AICTE approved. It has a big campus of 203 acres and another expansion of 503 acres. The total students' strength is about 3,900. The total teachers' strength is about 326 and student-teacher ratio is 1: 13. At present, the university offers 11 B. Tech programmes, 20 M. Tech programmes, Degree Programmes, M. Sc. Programmes and Integrated MSc. Programmes, 3 M. Phil Programmes, MCA Programmes and Ph.D. Programmes. It has an

alumnus of around 30,000 throughout the world and there is every scope for best research in this university. It is very close to Hirakud Dam which is the longest earth dam of the world. This University can collaborate with this dam for further studies. The other institutions which are close to this university are IIM, Sambalpur and VSS Medical University. A number of industries like Vedanta, Hindalco, Mahanadi Coal Fields, are also there. The students can take practical training there.

**15.05 hrs** (Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair*)

I want to request that this Institute of Technology should be upgraded to the rank of IEST (Indian Institute of Engineering, Science and Technology) of National Importance because it is a long-standing demand of the people of this locality. Our Hon. Chief Minister has requested the Hon. Minister for upgrading this university to the status of a university of national importance. Its upgradation has been recommended so many times by the UGC and other committees. I once again thank the Hon. Minister for bringing such a Bill.

Sir, higher education in our country is in a very challenging position. None of the 200 universities of our country including IIT and IIM figure in the top 200 universities of the world. We have to think about this. We have to give employment to our younger generation.

Our focus should be on filling up of vacancies. A large number of vacancies are there in most of the universities including the central universities and State universities. So, these vacancies should be filled up and the best students and academicians should be appointed as teachers and faculties of these universities. We should bring more transparency in employment. I have heard about one rule that for appointment to universities one cannot go to the court of law in case

of any injustice. So, there should not be such questions and the best students and academicians should be appointed as Professors and Assistant Professors. As regards selection of Vice Chancellors, we should be more careful. The persons who may be appointed as Vice Chancellors should be of high calibre, good academician and good administrator so that they can be the pioneer in bringing reformation in those universities.

The entire House is concerned about higher education. Once again, I would request you to upgrade VSSUT to a university of national importance (IEST) because it has the entire infrastructure. It has wide scope for research and employability. I think Hon. Minister will consider this point.

I once again thank the Hon. Minister for bringing such a good Bill.

**SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI):** Sir, I rise to support the National Institute of Technology, Science Education and Research (NITSER) (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.

The amendment of this Bill seeks to amend the NITSER Act, 2007. In fact, the NITSER Act, 2007, was adopted to declare India's

National Institutes of Technology as Institutes of National Importance. It enables NITs to receive additional funding from the Central Government over and above the funding received by the State.

The Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Tirupati commonly referred to as IISER, Tirupati, is a public research and education institute in Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh.

It was allocated to the new State of Andhra Pradesh as a part of the promises made under the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014. I thank the NDA Government, on behalf of the Andhra Pradesh Government for fulfilling one of its promises. Already they have given five Institutes and two more Institutes are left out. On this occasion, I would request the Hon. Minister to consider a central university and a tribal university also. During this Session itself, please pass the Bills concerning the central university and a tribal university also.

IISER Tirupati is recognised as an Institute of National importance by the Government of India. It was established in order to promote higher scientific learning and research as well as scientific exploration at the Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate levels of

education and to create scientists and academicians of the highest quality.

The State Government of Andhra Pradesh has earmarked 244 acres of land at Srinivasapuram, Pangur and Chindepalli villages of Yerpedu Mandal for construction of a permanent campus of IISER, Tirupati.

These institutes are envisaged to carry out research in frontier areas of science and to provide quality science education at the Under-Graduate and Post-Graduate level. Initially, 20 institutes were incorporated under the first Schedule.

The NIT Act came into effect on August 15, 2007. It was further amended in 2014 to include Bengal Engineering and Science University, renamed to Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology under its purview. The Act was renamed to the NITSER Act, 2007. IISER was declared as an institute of national importance under the National Institute of Technology Science and Research Act, 2012. An amendment in 2016 was made to establish an NIT in Andhra Pradesh as an institute of national importance. The amendment seeks to incorporate two more IISERs under the Second Schedule at the following locations. In Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, a sum of Rs. 40

crore have been allocated with an outlay of Rs. 137.3 crore over the next three years. The State Government has already started the institution at a temporary location. I would like to request the Central Government to give the DPR and allocate more funds for this institute as early as possible so that before the first batch passes out if the infrastructure is completed, faculty is appointed and the Director is appointed and the placement officer is appointed, then there will be no justice for students the students passing out in the first batch.

Meanwhile, pending construction of the permanent campus for the institute, on the recommendation of the State Selection Committee, it has been decided to commence its functioning from the academic session of 2015-16 from the transit campus at Sree Rama Engineering College, Tirupati.

Sir, I would like to mention here that a temporary campus has become functional since August, 2016 with IISER, Pune mentoring this institute till a new Director for it is appointed.

Sir, before I would conclude I would like to make a few points. I am basically an educationist. I have been in the sphere of education since the last 25 years. The first thing relates to the problem of my State. Owing to the unscientific division of the State, Andhra Pradesh

was subjected to a lot of injustices. Due to bifurcation of the State, all the premier institutions of the State have now gone to the State of Telengana. On behalf of our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri N Chandrababu Naidu, for sanctioning institutes like IIT, IIM. But I would like to request the Hon. Minister to allocate funds so that the building construction and other infrastructure facilities are in place before 2019.

Sir, before I conclude I would like to make a few points. I am basically an educationist. I have been in the sphere of education since the last 25 years. The first thing relates to the problem of my State. Owing to the unscientific division of the State, Andhra Pradesh was subjected to a lot of injustices. Due to bifurcation of the State, all the premier institutions of the State have now gone to the State of Telengana. On behalf of our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri N Chandrababu Naidu, for sanctioning institutes like IIT, IIM and other institutes to the State of Andhra Pradesh. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to expedite the completion of these institutes before 2019. I have already mentioned about the Central University and the Tribal University. Three years have already elapsed. This may kindly be expedited.

I would like to refer to some of the problems plaguing the educational system nation-wide. Many Hon. Members spoke about engineering colleges, education, training and placement. I want to mention here one thing and that is education is compulsory for all the people in the country not merely for reasons of employment. Education is for knowledge. Education endows wisdom and confidence amongst people. It helps the society to grow. Owing to privatisation, liberalisation and globalisation, many private colleges have come up. But with many colleges, the industrial growth of the country is not commensurate. Previous speakers mentioned that around 30 per cent of people are employable and 70 per cent of them are not employable. What is the reason for this? It is not only because of lack of skills but it is also because of lack of opportunities. This country needs more and more industrialisation, It is then only we can provide employment for the engineering graduates.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister to implement a uniform education policy throughout the country. There should be uniform syllabus; there should be uniform fee structure and uniform rules. It is because the syllabus varies from State to State and from university to university. The rules also are different and the fee structure also is different. AICT prescribes the norm and according to

the norm an institute has to charge the fees which amounts to Rs. 60,000 to Rs. 70,000. But the State Government is allowing only Rs. 35,000 to Rs. 50,000. How can we get quality education? So, we should focus on this issue.

Secondly, we are talking about international standards. Once upon a time, this country was imparting education to other countries but unfortunately, our people are going to other countries for education. What is the reason for this? It is because the earlier rulers were not giving that much of importance to education. At least, in your tenure, you may kindly focus on all IITs, NIITs, etc. and get them into international standard. If necessary, you may invite international professors, academicians and appoint them and try to bring some of our Centers of Excellence, which are four in number, up to the required standard because there should be uniform growth in the country. Only education will lead to growth and development to the country than the politicians and any other system. At least, you should try to improve the four Centres of Excellence which are there in the South, North, West and Eastern parts of India.

As regards the employability, we have skill development. I convey my sincere thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister for establishing a separate Ministry called the Ministry for Skill Development. Please

try to synchronise the HRD Ministry with the Ministry for Skill Development so that all students of Engineering Collages will get sufficient training of skill development at the time of completing their courses. By this, the gap will be filled by the Ministry for Skill Development as there is a variation between the University syllabus and the industry requirement. There is a lot of gaps between the two. Hence, to fill that gap, this Ministry should take steps.

We including the parents, students and the Government should change our attitude. We always give preference to the quantity of education like intermediate, degree, PG and research. But I would request you to focus on quality education and moral education. We read in the newspapers that IAS officers, IPS officers, engineers and doctors do not behave properly in the society. Why? It is because we are not giving moral education to students. Even in the schools, we have English medium right from LKG but we do not give importance to moral education. Hence, try to focus on moral education also. We have a lot of morals to be learnt from our Puranas, Mahabharata and Ramayana.

**SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD):** Sir, this Bill seems to amend the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007, the NITSER Act.

The NITSER Act declares certain institutions of technology, science education and research as Institutes of national importance and provides for research, training and dissemination of knowledge in these institutions.

The 2007 Act was amended in 2012 to include a number of new institutes within its ambit. The Second Schedule was added to include new Indian Institutes of Science education and Research under the 2007 Act.

This Bill incorporates two Institutes namely, the Indian institute of Science Education and Research, Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh) and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Berhampur (Odisha). These steps of the Government are welcome.

I support the Bill but I would like to bring to the notice of the Government few demands of our State, which have been promised but not fulfilled. The Government has been instrumental in fulfilling its promises to the State of Andhra Pradesh but in this process, Telangana is being neglected.

As the youngest State of the country, I would request the Central Government and the HRD Ministry to prioritize education in the Telangana State and provide the people of Telangana world-class

education by recognizing the institutes in the State, providing medical colleges in every district and giving other important institutes to the Telangana State like the IIMs.

**SHRI P. K. BIJU (ALATHUR):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, this is a very important subject. Today we are discussing about the higher education of this country. Education is a tool to create a new society, which will result in good people emerging in our country and that would reflect the growth of our country.

This is a very small amendment. We have amended the same Act in 2012 to include certain institutions in the ambit of this Bill. The Bill amends the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007. This Act declares certain Institutes of Technologies, Science Education and Research as institutions of national importance and provides for research, training and dissemination of knowledge in these institutions.

I would bring it to the notice of, through you, the Minister of HRD that we have given this status to so many institutions. What is the state of such institutions? In our State there was one Regional Engineering College in Calicut. We have changed that REC into an NIT. The rank of that College is very close to the institutions of higher

rank. But that rank has come down. So, I asked the students and teachers of that Institute about it. Their reply is very alarming. If the Government of India gives some assurance to give more money, more faculty and more technological advancement in such institutions, that would be helpful. That is true for not only for this REC which was converted to NIC but also for other institutions. We have already 75 institutions in this category. The IEST, Shibpur was also included in this category. But the Government has failed to honour the promises made in regard to allotting funds and other things.

The Financial Memorandum also reflects the same situation. It says that an amount of Rs. 40 crore have been allocated for establishment of the Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research, Tirupati and a sum of Rs. 137.30 crore has been allocated for the establishment of other institute in Odisha spread over three years have been made with the stipulation that sanction of funds would be on incremental basis after assessing the requirement as part of the annual budgetary exercise. How can such institutions survive without proper funding at proper time?

So, I would like to raise this question before the Minister. We should see to it that the quality of such prestigious institutions does not decline in the future.

This Bill incorporates two Institutions. One is the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research at Tirupati and the other is the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research at Berhampur in the State of Odisha. I am not against this. I have raised some more questions relating to higher education. I have worked along with the Minister of HRD. He was a Member of the HRD Committee. We have discussed many Bills and we have placed many Reports before the Government at that time. We have discussed many Bills. Last year also, I think, I raised this issue before the Minister regarding the shortage of faculty in the IITs, IIMs, NITs and other Central Institutions.

As we go through the Budget, we see that 95 per cent of the money goes to these institutions. But the number of students studying in these elite institutions is very meagre. In terms of percentage, it is only two or three per cent. But the majority of students are studying in the State Universities and other educational institutions.

The research activities undertaken in the State level institutions are very good. Some of the State level institutions are functioning better than national institutes. So, I would request the Minister to look into State level institutions also.

[Translation]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now you conclude your speech.

[English]

**SHRI P. K. BIJU:** Sir, this is a very important subject. I am doing some work in this field since 2009 onwards. That is why, I may be given a little more time to speak.

Sir, it is very important to look into the problems in the field of higher education in our country. The rate of suicides among the students is increasing even in higher educational institutions in our country. Why is it happening? Every day, 20 students are committing suicide in India. This is a very sad situation. This is not my statistic. This is the statistic given by the National Crime Records Bureau. This is a serious concern. This is not only happening in JNU or Hyderabad Central University, but this is happening in other universities and other educational institutions. What is the reason for this? In one such case, the students have approached me. A large number of Dalit students have been dismissed and removed in Roorkee University. This is happening especially in premier science and professional colleges and universities. This is a matter of serious concern. The new generation of this country is going in the direction of suicide. About

90 per cent of suicide is happening among the students belonging to the Reserved Category. Why is it happening? We should take strong action against people concerned. The Government has not filled up the vacancies of the teaching faculty in the Reserved Category in IITs, IIMs and other institutions.

Sir, we are going to give the status of institute of national importance to two institutes through this Bill. But what is the status of reservation there? In 2007, an Extraordinary Gazette published in our country.

[Translation]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** There is a time limit. You wind up your speech.

**SHRI P.K. BIJU:** Sir, I will conclude.

[English]

In the Extraordinary Gazette issued on January 4, 2007, in Section 3, it is stated that SCs are given 15 per cent reservation, STs are given 7.5 per cent reservation and OBCs are given 27 per cent reservation. But Section 4 of the same Gazette says that institutions of excellence, research institutions, institutions of national importance and strategic importance specified in the Schedule are not include in

the list. What is the reason for this? I want a direct answer from the Minister as to why reservation is not allowed in these institutions. What is the stand of the Government in this regard?

Sir, mushroom growth of private institutions is very alarming. The private institutions are harassing the students. There is a complaint of harassment of students in all private institutions. So, I would request the Hon. Minister to look into this matter and do the needful in this regard. With these words, I conclude.

**SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL):** Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.

I welcome this Bill because this Government is fulfilling the commitments made at the time of bifurcation of the State of Andhra Pradesh. As part of this, the National Institute of Technology was established in the State of Andhra Pradesh. This Bill is part of one such provision in the Andhra Pradesh Re-organisation Act, 2014, which stipulates that Indian Institute of Science Education and Research is to be set up in the newly created State of Andhra Pradesh. I am happy that it is being set up in Tirupati, the abode of Lord Balaji.

Tirupati is a centre of educational institutions and many of them are supported by Tirumala Tirupati Devasthanams, and Tirupati has got all the potential to become one of the national hubs of education. I may state that the recent All India Science Congress held at Tirupati and inaugurated by the Hon. Prime Minister was a huge success. Sir, I would request this Government to promote and develop Tirupati as an educational and devotional centre by developing the necessary infrastructure.

Sir, I am also happy that another such institute is being set up in Berhampur in Odisha. This indicates the focus on the backward areas as both these centres are part of backward regions.

The main objective is to make available facilities for higher education, research and training in various fields of science and technology.

Science education needs to be implemented across all layers of society and the benefits be made accessible to the large population of this country.

Sir, our investment in scientific research is very low as compared to other developed countries. The contribution of private

sector towards research is insignificant in our country whereby the dependence on the Government is more.

The fruits of scientific research are visible in this country and have immensely contributed to the improvement in standards of living.

The vision of the institutions like Indian Institute of Science Education and Research is creation of educational centres of the highest calibre in which teaching and education in basic sciences will be totally integrated with state-of-the-art research.

Though we have made progress in setting up institutions of higher learning, they are not able to cope up with the growing population. We must further note that the aspirations of the people are growing and we need to cater institutions to meet the expectations.

Science in India has significant potential for further development.

I am happy that this Government is implementing and fulfilling the promises made at the time of bifurcation one-by-one. However, one important promise made on the floor of the House remains unfulfilled, which is keeping the people of Andhra Pradesh disturbed and depressed.

This issue is causing a lot of anguish in the minds of people of Andhra Pradesh. I would request the Hon. Prime Minister to honour all the commitments made in Parliament including special category status to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI MANOJ TIWARI (NORTH EAST DELHI):** Hon. Chairperson, you have kindly given me the opportunity to speak on such an important subject as education, for which I am deeply grateful.

First of all, I would like to thank our Union Minister for Human Resource Development, Shri Prakash Javadekar. Recently, he inaugurated a Kendriya Vidyalaya in our Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency. You may be surprised to know that until now, there was not a single Kendriya Vidyalaya in the North-East region of Delhi. Not only has he provided a Kendriya Vidyalaya, but he has also implemented a rule which has made students and guardians in six metro cities across India so happy that they are literally dancing with joy. Previously, the rule was that a Kendriya Vidyalaya could not be established on land measuring less than four acres. ... (*Interruptions*) they are dancing with joy. The earlier rule was that if there was less than four acres of land in a metro city or anywhere else, a Kendriya Vidyalaya could not be established. We faced the same problem in our area where we had only about one and a quarter acres of land. Our Hon. Minister for Human Resource Development not only sanctioned the establishment of a Kendriya Vidyalaya in our area but also passed

a ruling that Kendriya Vidyalayas can now be set up even on one and a quarter acres of land in metro cities. This demonstrates how work should be carried out to realise the goal of universal education in India.

Hon. Chairperson, a little while ago, a colleague from the Congress was saying: “we know, education is the backbone of any country.” I could not help but laugh at that statement from the Congress colleague. They say education is the backbone of a country, yet it is saddening that in the very country whose education is supposedly the backbone, the Congress government in 2004 enacted a rule stating that whether a child studies or not, they will be promoted up to the 8th standard. There is such a contradiction between these two statements.

I would like to remind all my colleagues that Lord Macaulay toured India in 1835. After visiting from north to south, east to west, and even the North-East, when he spoke in the British Parliament, he said that India’s education system was so strong that if India were to be defeated or weakened, it would have to be by attacking its education system. What Lord Macaulay, the entire British government, and the English could not achieve, was done in 2004 by the then Education Minister—I do not consider it appropriate to

mention his name here, but you all know what kind of person he is. When we came to Parliament, we got the opportunity to say that whether a child studies or not, they will be promoted just to eat the mid-day meal. So how can we then say that education is the backbone of any country?

Sir, I would also like to draw your attention towards the education system in Delhi. . . . (*Interruptions*) This is all true. It's not a bad thing. . . . (*Interruptions*) I would like to thank Narendra Modi ji, I would like to thank the Hon. HRD Minister who has now started this effort to dismantle that system. Now the children will go to the next class after studying, such a system has also started. I want to thank you for that.

I would like to draw your attention to the state of education here in Delhi. You will be surprised to know that in many schools in Delhi, children study only three days a week because the other three days are allotted to other children. There is simply no space to accommodate all the students. I earnestly request the Hon. Human Resource Minister to please pay attention to the mismanagement happening in education across the States, especially in Delhi, and consider what the Union Government and this Parliament can do about it. In one school where classes are held both in the morning and the evening, still, half

the children study for three days and the other half for the other three days, effectively studying in four shifts. The situation is such that the Delhi Government, whose Chief Minister is known for making false promises and engaging in political theatrics, claims they will build 500 new schools and open 20 new colleges... (*Interruptions*) I would like to inform you... (*Interruptions*) This is NCT Delhi, the National Capital Territory, it is the National Capital... (*Interruptions*) I am making this request. Our friends from Congress are getting disturbed because they form the government in coalition with them, which is why they are unsettled... (*Interruptions*) Why are you so upset? We know you two are one and the same. I say, if anywhere in the entire country children study only half the time, attend school only three days a week instead of six, this is a serious issue. I want to tell you that not only does the Delhi Government promise to build 500 new schools, but they do not recommend land for even one school, nor do they make any effort. Therefore, as the debate on education is going on today, I felt the need to bring this to your attention. Whatever the State may be, the government of Narendra Modi is progressing forward with the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. Education for all is the right of every child in this country, and this is why I am sharing this with you.

You may never have heard of a situation where a teacher speaks up for their rights, and the Chief Minister of a State says, “Come to your senses, or you will be suspended.” Such statements are being made in Delhi. There are 60 thousand teachers working on contract here. My purpose in placing this matter before the House is simply that it should reach the ears of the Union Government. These are teachers who have been teaching for 15 years and more, they have become experienced. Promises were made that they would be regularised, and yet, when they demand their rights, there are provisions being made to terminate their employment. This kind of injustice should not occur in Delhi or in any other State.

I would also like to make a proposal, it is often said that education is the backbone of any country. If education is indeed the fundamental foundation, the backbone of a nation, then why should we not consider granting at least high school teachers a VVIP status? Why should we not consider how teachers can be honoured even more, so that they are further motivated and committed in educating our children? They should be given VVIP status — just like us, they should be provided special access at airports; they should not be barred from such places. A proper system should be put in place to ensure this. ... (*Interruptions*)

I am about to conclude my remarks. Through you, I appeal to the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development that whether it is the Delhi Government or any other State Government, if even a mouse is found in a Mid-Day Meal, strictest possible action must be taken.

Our country's education system is very strong. We are the ones who gave 'zero' to the world. Why then do we not have confidence in ourselves? We come to this Parliament from a background that is often associated with the world of cinema. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now, please conclude.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MANOJ TIWARI:** I am concluding. ... (*Interruptions*) We must have faith in our education system and understand the depth of our meaningful educational legacy.

I want to sing a line of songs. . .

Jab zero diya mere Bharat ne, insaan ko tab ginti aayi,

Taaron ki bhaasha Bharat ne duniya ko pehle sikhlaayi.

Deta na dashamlav Bharat to, phir chaand pe jaana mushkil tha,

Dharti aur chaand ki doori ka andaaza lagaana mushkil tha.

(When India gave the world the zero,

Man learned to count, from there did grow.

The stars were taught to speak, you see,

By India first, to all humanity.

Had India not shared the decimal's might,

The moon would've stayed beyond our sight.

To measure distance, space, and more,

We'd still be guessing, lost in lore.)

The Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development is working diligently to revive and re-establish such a great education system, but those who attempt to undermine it must be stopped.

Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister for his commendable initiative of establishing Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) in Tirupati and Berhampur (Odisha). It shows the clear direction in which the Hon. Minister wants to take education forward. I extend my congratulations to him.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, you are from Bihar, and so am I. Bihar has a population of around 12 crore, and students from Bihar are constantly migrating to other parts of the country for education. In fact, there is hardly any educational institution in India where Bihari students are not present. Therefore, through you, I request the Hon. Minister to kindly establish such an institute in Bihar. The Nalanda University in Bihar was once a beacon of knowledge and a source of pride for the entire world. Bihar has always held a prominent place in the field of higher education. In all national-level competitive examinations, students from Bihar consistently perform excellently. The students of Bihar are hardworking and dedicated.

Sir, through you, I earnestly request the Hon. Minister to kindly consider setting up such an institution in Bihar, and with this, I conclude my remarks.

[English]

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Thank you very much Sir for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Bill.

I rise to support this Bill though I have raised objections regarding the procedural matters. By the original Act of 2007, the National Institute of Technology has been constituted and it is incorporated in first Schedule of the Act and subsequently in the year 2012, again the Act is amended and a new Schedule is incorporated by which Indian Institute of Science Education and Research institutions were created and incorporated in the second Schedule.

Again, in the year 2014, another institute - Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology was created. So, we have now National Institute of Technology, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research (IISER) and Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister by having these three Schedules and three types of educations, what is the difference among these three institutions namely, the National Institute of Technology, IISER and the Indian Institute of Engineering Science and Technology. On the nomenclature itself, it is engineering, science technology and research. This is the concept of all the three

types of institutions. My simple question or my doubt or my apprehension is this. I would like to seek the clarification from the Hon. Minister. Why these multiplicity of institutions under the same Act with three Schedules are created instead of having one organization of high standard, high excellent educational institutions of having research and science? That is the first point which I would like to make.

Coming to the higher education, most of the Hon. Members have already cited here that education is the reformative process by which a nation or a society is built up in which definitely, the higher educationists also have a significant role in building up the society and in building up of a nation. The higher education is facing so many challenges. I would like to state the problems that confront higher education in India today and these are as follows.

First, low rate of enrolment, second, unequal access, third, poor quality of infrastructure, fourth, poor quality of education and fifth, the lack of relevance.

Coming to the first point – it is low rate of enrolment - the first challenge has to be overcome by increasing the rate of enrolment.

Now, in the higher education sector, the rate of enrolment is 20 per cent and that has to be increased.

During the Eleventh Plan, a twofold strategy has been adopted by the then Government in order to increase in the number of new institutions and the intake capacity of the institutions has to be increased. This was the two-fold strategy taken by the then Government so as to increase the rate of enrolment.

According to the National Knowledge Commission, we are having only 722 universities in India. According to the National Knowledge Commission recommendations, it should be 1,500. But we are only having 722 universities. So, this issue has to be addressed at large.

In view of the above, I would also like to make another point regarding research and imparting education. Formally, there was no thrust given to the research work. But, nowadays, you are giving a lot of thrust to the research work. I do accept and appreciate it. But in the name of research, imparting education is getting only little significance or is not being considered as much it requires. So, I request the Government that in the name of research and innovation they should not forget the significance of imparting education. My

suggestion and submission to the Hon. Minister is that the number of graduate and post-graduate institutes should be increased so as to give required significance to imparting education.

The second challenge, as I mentioned, disparity in access to education is especially in terms of economically backward class, gender, caste, ethnic and religious belongings. If you go through the demographic statistics of the higher education scenario, it is a pitiable picture. One Hon. Member was very right when he said that if you go through the statistics in relation to SCs, STs, OBCs and economically backward classes, their condition is a pitiable. I will not go into detail because of paucity of time but these statistics are with me. Why is it so? The downtrodden people of the country, especially the socially backward communities are deprived from excellent higher best quality education because of commercialization of education in the country. The expansion of private self-financing education sector with its aim of commercialisation has been another reason for propagation of this disparity. So, this disparity in higher education has to be addressed to. If you are not able to address the disparity in higher education, the poor downtrodden and working-class people of this country will be deprived of the right to have best education. This will be creating an economic and social disparity, which, unfortunately

create big problems in the country. So, that is the point which I would like to make.

Sir, if you allow me, I would like to substantiate it. Between 1996 and 2008, the private institutions expanded every year at the rate of 10 per cent. But at the same time there has been a corresponding decline in the Government and Government aided institutions. On the one hand, the number of private institutions was increasing, on the other hand, declining rate of the Government and Government aided institutions was alarming, that is, by 1.65 per cent per year. As a result, the share of students also has come down. In the self-financing private education sector, there had been an increase of about 7 per cent in 1996 and in 2008, it jumped to 25 per cent.

Coming to 2013, the Ministry of Human Resource Development put the share of private undergraduate colleges and Government aided institutions as 59 per cent and 37 per cent respectively. That is why, I am saying that the poor will be deprived of education because of this policy. This unequal opportunity has developed unequal human capabilities and converted education into an instrument for further economic inequalities. Now, the question is, how to address it.

Sir, my submission is that, first of all, the public and private aided institutions must be strengthened and expanded and the expansion of self-financing private institutions must be restricted to a reasonable level. Uncontrolled growth of the private self-financing institutions will be a curse to the nation, which will be directly and adversely affecting the poor downtrodden people of this country and the economically poor strata will also be affected.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** Sir, I am just going to conclude.

The third challenge is the issue of quality and faculty. I will not go into the details. But there are three areas to work upon – physical infrastructure, academic reform and ensuring adequate faculty. To work on these three areas is the need of the hour in order to upgrade the excellence and the standard of higher education in our country.

The fourth point which I would like to make is regarding global collaboration. We are well aware that a number of students from our country are going abroad especially in UK, USA and even European countries for better higher education. Why does not the Government of India have the collaboration with the foreign universities and let the Indian universities have collaboration with the foreign universities so

that Indian students will be getting an opportunity to have best education.

Then, there is also a challenge of enabling education that is relevant to the economy and society.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** Sir, I conclude with my last point, which is regarding UGC reforms. Why I am saying it because the Hon. Minister is very much interested in making a new education policy.

Sir, my last point is about the UGC. I am saying this because the Hon. Minister is very much interested in making a New Education Policy. The Education Policy was first brought in the year 1986 and it was updated in the year 1992. Subsequent to 1992, the Education Policy has not been revised. I appreciate the endeavour taken by the Government. So, my suggestion is that the structure of the UGC has to be revised *in toto*.

With these suggestions, Sir, once again, I thank you very much for giving me this much of time. I do support the Bill.

Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI NIHAL CHAND (GANGANAGAR):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to support this Bill. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development for having initiated two new institutes in the country.

Under the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research Act, 2012, the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research have been declared as Institutes of National Importance. These institutions were envisioned for conducting research and offering graduate and postgraduate level education in the field of science. I congratulate the Government for establishing these institutes not only in Kolkata, Pune, Mohali, Bhopal, and Thiruvananthapuram, but now also in Tirupati and Berhampur, Odisha. An amount of Rs. 137.30 crore has been allocated for the Tirupati institute and Rs. 152.79 crore for the Berhampur, Odisha institute. I believe this is a substantial financial sanction by the Government. With a budget of Rs. 7,000 crore, the Government has launched a robust initiative for the Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research. The Government has made commendable efforts to improve the future of this nation's children and to further cultivate the values and character of the coming

generations. For these efforts, I extend my congratulations to both the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister.

Technical education in India provides an important part to the entire education system, which is playing an active role in economic and social development in the country. I understand that recently the development of technical education in India has happened very fast, it has happened in the last two and a half to three years. To develop any country, the education of that country has to be taken forward and its importance has to be understood. I understand that good institutions and higher education centres, which were earlier four percent, at present, in the last two and a half years, the work of increasing it to 14 percent has been done by the Union Government and the Hon. Minister. We live in the technological age of science. Scientific inventions and modern technologies have completely changed human life, making a way for our future. A lot has been added to our material pleasure by science and technology and has also accelerated the pace of life. I understand that in this era, with the addition of this institution of education, we will be able to learn a lot, our learning ability will increase and technical tools will make the classrooms fun. A lot of information is regularly updated on the internet. I understand that we can search for information on the

website, compare the views of the authors. Students and instructors can now easily share information from any location. Students' skill development can be accelerated. For a multimedia approach to education, the use of film systems, audiotapes, computers, etc., is very essential, and this can be fulfilled through this Bill. Regarding skill development, the Hon. Prime Minister's vision is that by the year 2030, India should become the country with the highest skilled workforce in the world. I believe that by 2030, India will become a global leader in this area.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, you come from a rural area. I, too, come from a rural area. I believe the standard of education in villages has significantly declined. I say this without any hesitation — if we speak of NITs and IITs, the state of government education in rural areas is deplorable. The condition of primary and middle schools is before us all. I believe that if children are given quality education at the primary level, they can become the future of this country. After Independence, for 60 out of the 70 years, the Congress Party governed this nation.

**16.00 hrs**

A previous speaker mentioned that passing children up to Class 8 without them actually learning is akin to playing with their future. I wish to congratulate the Government for emphasising, under this legislation, the importance of proper education, studying in good institutions, becoming competent through learning, and thereby attaining gainful employment to improve one's future.

Today, two different standards of education exist — one in rural areas and another in urban areas. Rural education is not of good quality — I say this without reservation. Private education is overtaking government education. There is a vast difference between the marks obtained by students in private institutions and those in rural or government schools.

Chairperson Sir, I would like to request the Government that a lot needs to be changed in this. If we do not monitor the education of the children of the village, then those children will lag behind forever.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, today the children in villages do not have access to textbooks, there are no toilets in the villages, no toilets in the schools, no drinking water, and no electricity. I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister of the country for having made provisions

for toilets in rural areas. Constructing toilets may not appear to be a great feat, but the manner in which he has ensured their provision deserves appreciation, and I express my gratitude for the same. The vision of our Government is to elevate the country to the category of developed nations. I believe that the world once used to mock a nation like India, which was once called the Vishwaguru, but within two and a half years, India has made its mark globally and compelled the entire world to take notice and bow before it. The credit for this must go to the Hon. Prime Minister of the country.

Sir, without taking much time, I would like to offer three suggestions to the Government. The Government has initiated several flagship programmes. Under the National Supercomputing Mission, it has proposed to set up 70 National Supercomputing Centres across the country. These Supercomputing facilities are being provided in premier institutions, research institutes, and key sectors. Out of the 70 centres proposed, not even one is being set up in Rajasthan. Through you, Sir, I would request the Government to establish such a centre in Rajasthan as well. The Hon. Chief Minister had also met you and made this request. Rajasthan stands fifth in the country in terms of educational institutions. Rajasthan is in no way behind other states

when it comes to education. Therefore, I urge the Government to allocate a National Supercomputing Centre to Rajasthan.

In today's technological era, the Government of Rajasthan had submitted a proposal under the Nano-Initiative Programme to establish laboratories in senior secondary schools. However, the Union Government returned this proposal. I believe that had this proposal been approved, Rajasthan—currently ranked fifth in the country in terms of education—could have progressed further in the field of education in a more effective manner.

My third suggestion to the Government is this: the Government of Rajasthan has submitted a proposal to the Government of India to establish a Biotechnology Finishing School. Under this policy, the Rajasthan Government has sought central assistance amounting to Rs. 156 crore. We are planning to develop model colleges. In order to provide proper education to children, to raise the standard of education, and because the future of the nation rests on the shoulders of our children, the Government of Rajasthan has submitted this proposal to the Union Government. I would urge the Hon. Minister to kindly approve it.

I would like to make one more request to the Hon. Minister: for a National Institute, we already possess a Central Farm of one thousand acres in Sri Ganganagar. You require only three hundred acres of land. If you could approve an institute in Sri Ganganagar—which is a border region—it would secure the future of our children, and the coming generations would remember you with gratitude. I would once again like to congratulate the Government for bringing this Bill, the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016 and, supporting it, I conclude my remarks.

[English]

**\*SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA (FEROZEPUR):** I thank you Hon. Chairman Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important bill, “The National Institutes of Technology, Science, Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.”

Sir, for the progress of any country, development in the fields of technology, science, education and research is needed. Under the able guidance and leadership of Shri Modi, our country has grown in these fields by leaps and bounds. Many higher institutes of learning like IITs and IIMs have been set up in various states, including Punjab.

However, sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House and the Central Government towards the shortcoming and lacuna that are there as far as education of the poor and the downtrodden is concerned.

Sir, I hail from the border district of Ferozepur. It shares approx. 150 kms. long border with Pakistan. I have raised this matter earlier too. River Sutlej flows through this area and is a matter of concern during monsoons. Our area is very backward and no such institutes of

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

higher learning are there in our area. The Hon. Minister had talked about ‘Skill Development’ schemes. If it helps the children give vocational training, it will go a long way in providing employment to them. Education must be made available to the poor and deprived sections of society. A large number of Scheduled Caste people reside in my constituency. 42. 23% people of Ferozpur belong to this section of society. This is the second highest percentage of reserved category throughout India. The students of this area trail behind others as far as education is concerned. So, the need of the hour is to provide educational facilities to these children. The students are intelligent enough. They just need proper guidance and exposure to knowledge.

Sir, a college in my area named M. R. College was set-up even before the time of India’s independence. 10 years ago, this private college was taken up and converted into a government college by the government. It falls in the Fazilka district. However, the post of Principal is lying vacant in this college for the past 10 years. Posts of lectures are also lying vacant in this college. Over 3000 students are enrolled in this college. The college buildings are in a dilapidated condition. So, I urge upon the Government to provide a package for proper maintenance of this college. The Central Government must come to the aid of this college. Opening up new institutions of higher

learning is good but the existing schools and colleges should also be maintained properly. Specially, when the fate of children of deprived sections of society is at stake.

Hon. Chairman Sir, thousands of students who have studied in technical education institutes have not been able to get employment. What is the reason for this development? So, employment avenues must be provided to these educated youth.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA:** Sir, this is an important matter. If the Government cannot provide employment to educated youth, there is no need to open institutes of learning. So, the Government ensure that employment opportunities are generated for our educated youth. It will stop the spate of suicides committed by unemployed educated youth. Hon. HRD Minister Sir, you have a great responsibility on your shoulders.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA:** Sir, scholarships are not being provided to the eligible students in various institutes for the last 3 years. The Government must ensure that this anomaly is removed at the earliest.

Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important Bill.

I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister Shri Prakash Javadekar and his team. Today, they have brought forth a very significant Bill. Almost the entire House has, in one voice, extended their congratulations for this initiative. I am confident that a day will come when India will stand at par on the global stage and we will proudly proclaim that in the field of science and technology, we are second to none. We have made notable progress in this domain, and we are fortunate to have such capable leadership.

Sir, I would like to make a few suggestions. I shall put forth my points briefly before concluding. In your address, you mentioned several matters. You also stated that new Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas have been established. I would urge you to undertake a review during this tenure to see how many of these institutions have actually commenced functioning in their respective areas. Many schemes are approved and dispatched from here, but it is then left to the discretion of the State Governments to allocate land

for the purpose or not. As a result, the institution often never gets established. I can cite examples where, even after a lapse of two years, such institutions have not yet begun operations.

Secondly, one notable feature of Kendriya Vidyalayas and Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas is that they offer opportunities for the holistic development of students. The children are not limited to classroom learning alone, but also benefit from residential facilities, sports, debates, and other activities. Therefore, I suggest that a review be conducted to identify how many Kendriya Vidyalayas still lack hostel facilities.

Sir, I want to draw your attention to this. In my parliamentary constituency, there is a central school at Sarasawa. Within a radius of approximately 125 kilometers, there is no other such institution where children can get admission. Sarasawa central school does not have any hostel facility. Please note, in a small town where there is no hostel facility, no accommodation available within 125 kilometers, there is no alternative arrangement possible. Therefore, where hostels have not been constructed, based on highest priority, please assure us in your speech that hostels will be arranged there. I request you to seriously consider this.

When you conduct reviews, please keep maps handy because geographical considerations are important. It should not happen that one area becomes overcrowded with institutions, while large regions are left deprived. Uttar Pradesh is the largest state in our country. If we compare it, it comes fifth in the ranking. Sir, millions of students in Western Uttar Pradesh are deprived of education simply because only private engineering colleges exist there. These colleges are fake and have no real existence. These colleges neither have laboratories nor proper faculty. They exploit students by charging exorbitant fees, but provide no proper education.

Sir, when I go to my constituency, hundreds of children gather around me. They ask me whether they will continue only with wheat and sugarcane farming, or will they also get a chance to study and progress like children from the South or other places. These children say that they too should have a system where good education is available, and they can be protected from the exploitation by these private colleges.

Sir, 10-15 years ago, admission in these institutions was taken mostly so that the child could have a good marriage prospect. It was said that the child is studying engineering or MBA. But today it is seen that children studying in these institutions are not even able to

get a class-four level job. Because of this, these institutions have lost their appeal. I would like you to pay some attention to this issue.

Sir, today the entire Western Uttar Pradesh is completely deprived of education. There is no educational institution there that provides proper facilities for education in science and technology. I would be very grateful if you could also look into this matter. I do not want to speak on all the topics that have already been discussed here. However, our Manoj Tiwari Ji has created a good atmosphere here through his music and songs. Wherever he comes from, he leaves his mark. Here too, he has left his impression. This is a very serious matter. We have full faith in your leadership. Since this department has come under your charge, people have awakened. There is a belief among people now that work will happen, which will certainly bring progress. With this belief, I also say that one day we will proudly say that the institutions of our Bharatvarsh (India) are not inferior but superior to the institutions of America, Europe, or Australia.

Sir, today lakhs of our children are going out of the country. No matter which embassy you go to, you will see that there are queues to get a visa. Whether you go to the U.S.A. or U.K. Embassy, there is a queue of children to get a visa. These children arrange lakhs of rupees to study abroad and go there. Will the day come when students from

Europe, USA, Australia, Japan and Korea will say that they have to go to India for studies? Will they ever say that India has a very good system of economics, science and technology and laboratories?

Sir, one topic on which the right emphasis has been laid is that of research. Today our children are confined to taking degrees. They take degrees of B.Sc, M.Sc etc. You got this topic right. We must see how many children have shined in Chemistry, Physics and Maths and what achievements they have achieved after doing research in these areas. This is a very commendable thought and step. Please review the basic things that you had mentioned regarding Navodaya Vidyalayas and Kendriya Vidyalayas. You see why studies have not started there even after three years. It has been two years since the money was sanctioned to these institutions, but so far studies have not started in them. If education does not start, then this money will go waste.

**16.19 hrs** (Dr. Ratna De (Nag) *in the Chair*)

Madam, today many private institutions have received recognition. Please consider what standards are used to grant recognition to these institutions. I say with great pain in this House today that innumerable amounts of money are collected from these institutions for granting recognition. After that, fees are collected from

the students. The future of these students is now in darkness. Isn't it our responsibility to ensure that these students are not exploited and their future is not plunged into darkness? These institutions obtain recognition by paying money. You should also look at the institution that grants recognition to these colleges. Check if that institution has ever actually visited them. Nowadays, all these visits are sponsored. Whether their offices are in Delhi or elsewhere, everything is decided there—who gets recognition and how much money is taken for it. In this way, our education system has been completely commercialized. We used to hope for a certain level of education, where institutions maintain standards, children study, are attracted to learning, and excel—sometimes in science, sometimes in mathematics. They would even become eligible for the Nobel Prize one day.

Today, doesn't it pain us that whether it is science, mathematics, or any other subject, for such a long time no Indian has succeeded in reaching the Nobel Prize in any field? The reason is that our institutions were lacking, our thinking was limited, and our system was insufficient. Today, it is your responsibility to fulfil these gaps. There is a huge burden on your shoulders, but I believe that with your teamwork you will be able to bear this burden and advance our institutions. I do not want to take more time. I hope that the issue I

raised, especially about Sarasawa where there is no hostel facility, will be addressed by constructing hostels there on the basis of highest priority. Thank you.

[English]

**SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL):**

Thank you Hon. Chairperson for giving me an opportunity to speak on the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Second (Amendment) Bill, 2016. I and my Party Shiv Sena support this, Bill.

The National Institute of Technology has a total of 30 colleges in India of which only one is in Nagpur and there is not a single one in Mumbai. Institutes funded by the Central Government in Mumbai are as follows: Central Fisheries of India, Centre for Excellence in Basic Science, Indian Institute of Architects, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Indira Gandhi Institute of Development, International Institute for Population Sciences, National Institute of Construction Management and Research, National Institute of Fashion Technology, National Institute of Industrial Engineering, National Institute of Maha e-Learning and Dignity Skill Development, National Institute of Oceanography, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research and Tata Institute of Social Sciences. Out of approximately 190 institutes funded by the Central Government,

Mumbai has only 13 Institutes, which comes to not even ten per cent. The requirement of Mumbai is 25 per cent. Mumbai is paying the maximum tax to the Central Government as it is the financial capital of India.

I would like to draw your kind attention towards two important issues of Mumbai. The first one is about the relocation of Mumbai National Law University at the CETTM Campus of MTNL at Powai, Mumbai as a temporary arrangement till the campus is properly established at land No. 115/A at Gorai, District Borivli, Mumbai. In this connection, I have to submit that the team of higher officers of the University led by the Vice Chancellor of the Law University visited the CETTM Campus, Powai and found the campus suitable for the temporary relocation of Law University there. The aforesaid premises would be required by 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2017 for next three years and extended up to five years. I would request the HRD Minister, through you, to instruct the concerned authorities of the MTNL, Mumbai to allot the CETTM campus for relocation of Mumbai National Law University as per their requirement.

The second issue is about the SNTD Women's University in Thackersey Road, Mumbai regarding a proposal for granting the status of the Central University by the Central Government to the

SNDT Women's University. The representation is self-explanatory. Now, the University is celebrating its centennial year during 2016.

Established in 1916, the SNDT Women's University is the oldest and the largest Women's University in the country. The University was founded by the Bharat Ratna Maharshi Dhondo Keshav Karve, a forward-looking reformer who worked fearlessly for the upliftment of women in Western India. The University has grown from five students enrolled in 1916 to 60,000 students enrolled with us today. It received the statutory status in 1951 and as such is recognized under section 2(f) and 12(b) of the UGC Act. Accredited as A grade by NAAC, this University already has a national presence. Today, the University offers over 200 full-fledged programmes ranging from under-graduate to Ph. D. They are keen to make their students skilful to meet the challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> century and have entered into an arrangement with NASSCOM. Central University status will strengthen SNDT Women's University's position to serve the wider community of women beyond the State of Maharashtra and across the nation. I would request the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to consider granting of Central University status to SNDT University and look into the Law University issue and the National Institute of Technology in Mumbai.

Thank you.

**SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL (BARPETA):** Thank you very much, Madam Chairman, for giving me this opportunity to speak on the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.

It is a fact that technical and science education is the key for success. The countries that have concentrated on science and technology are topping the world. I appreciate Hon. HRD Minister for bringing this Bill to declare the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Tirupati, Andhra Pradesh, and the Indian Institute of Science Education and Research, Berhampur, Odisha as institutions of national importance. It is a very commendable effort by the Minister. At least the North-East has started getting from Odisha and I am very hopeful it will go right up to Assam. With a dynamic Minister like Shri Javadekar heading the Department, we are very much hopeful that Assam will get something very soon.

It is an acceptable fact that Indians have the capability and the capacity and talent to rule the world of science and technology. I am saying this with proof. Today a large number of Indians are either COOs or CEOs in international companies. The list is of course very

long but I will just mention a few of them. Sundar Pichai is the CEO of Google, Satya Nadella is the CEO of Microsoft, Shantanu Narayen is the CEO of Adobe, Fransisco D'Souza is the CEO of Cognizant, Rajiv Suri is the CEO of Nokia, and there are many more such examples. In fact, I believe that given the proper opportunities in India, our scientists will excel anywhere in the world and will go a very long way in making India the number one country in the world as far as information technology or science is concerned.

While the world is using the talents of Indians for their purposes but why do we fail to provide them opportunities and to utilize their talents here for our purpose, it is very difficult to understand. Madam, it is time to concentrate on higher education and provide opportunities to our youths to go ahead in the field of science and technology. We have to establish more institutions of higher education in the country, especially in rural areas like the North-East of India. We need to establish more IITs and NITs in the country.

Assam is one of the most backward States as far as education is concerned. One of the main reasons is lack of institutions of higher education and science and technology. Of course, I am saying this at the cost of repetition as other Members must have also said this. We run dozens of educational institutions in Assam and we know youths

are looking for opportunities for higher education. In fact, they are going all around India just to get higher education and not everyone can afford them. So, many students end their journey of education because they are not able to afford the high cost of education outside Assam.

I would request the Hon. Minister to initiate action for establishment of more NITs and IITs and educational institutions for technical and higher education. Simultaneously we need to provide the required facilities to those NITs that are already available. We have got one NIT in Silchar and they have got some requirements which I would bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister. E-connectivity there needs to be addressed for better performance. NIT has robust fibre optic and wireless networks. It has to act as a resource centre for the NITs in the North-East for early resolution of the problem. They need technical assistance. I am talking about NIT Silchar. An NIT cloud storage of academic material should be established at NIT Silchar. Tele-medicine project and other projects should be implemented so that the faculties get social recognition. Although the management of NIT, Silchar tries its best to woo the teaching talent but due to the faraway location of the institution, they are unable to do so.

I would like to end my speech with the request for establishment of more NITs and IITs in Assam. Of course, they should be established in other parts of northeast India also. But since I am from Assam, I am pitching for my State. I know the Hon. Minister very well; we are both from Maharashtra. I am hopeful that Shri Javadekar will consider Assam. Of course, I was born in Assam. So, I would request him to look into this at the earliest. The people of Assam will be highly grateful to him.

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** Hon. Chairperson, I am very happy that so many speakers have spoken their minds and have given valuable suggestions. Kumari Sushmita Dev, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Shri Mahto, Shri Prabhash Kumar Singh, Shri M. Srinivas Rao, Shri P. K. Biju, Shri Manoj Tiwari, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, Shri N. K. Premachandran, Shri Nihal Chand, Shri Sher Singh Ghubaya, Shri Hukum Singh, Shri Sirajuddin Ajmal etc. have contributed immensely to the discussion on this National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research (Second Amendment) Bill, 2016.

**16.32 hrs** (Shri Pralhad Joshi *in the Chair*)

Hon. Members have raised a number of issues. Some of them are local issues. On local issues, I will inform the Hon. Members in writing about the status and what we are doing. But there are bigger issues also. The main issue is the quality of education and that is very important that there should be improvement in the quality of education. As though a festival of excellence, a Gunosav, is celebrated everywhere. For that purpose, four initiatives have been developed. I will, for now, mention them briefly.

The first initiative is the Higher Education Financing Agency. An allocation of Rs. 250 crore has been made for it in this Budget. In total, it will receive a budgetary support of Rs. 2,000 crore. With this budgetary support of Rs. 2,000 crore, the Higher Education Financing Agency is now operational. Canara Bank has become its agency, and it will raise funds from the market through debt instruments. Over the next three years, a plan is in place to invest Rs. 20,000 crore to improve the quality of higher education. This is a very important scheme. The most significant feature of this scheme is that it will primarily enhance research infrastructure. It is not meant for simply building gardens in universities, but to strengthen research

infrastructure, improve student facilities, and expand academic facilities. The funds will be utilised for these purposes. The priority is to ensure that work which would otherwise take ten years under budgetary allocations can be completed within three years.

The second initiative is G.I.A.N. (Gyan). Many Hon. Members have raised the issue of world rankings. I shall address that shortly. Gyan is a scheme under which distinguished foreign teachers and professors come to India and stay for three weeks to complete a course. Last year, approximately 200 such professors came, and this year around 600 are expected to come. [English] Exchange of professors, exchange of academics also helps in improving our ranking all over the world because the perception about Indian institutes improves as they have first-hand experience. [Translation] This yields three benefits for us as well. Firstly, students receive a new form of education — an education that is relevant across the world and imparted through new methodologies. They gain access to such courses, and they also receive academic credit for them. So, they are very enthusiastically participating.

The third initiative is the Uchchatar Avishkar Yojana. Until now, research institutions and industry functioned separately. We have now brought them together. Under the Uchchatar Avishkar

Yojana, industry professionals have submitted over 200 demands to IIT campuses, stating the need for specific experiments and research. There is another facility as well. We have granted permission to start start-ups from hostel rooms in IITs. As a result, I am pleased to inform the House that today, students have launched over 400 start-ups using their hostel room addresses. There are several such schemes through which research and innovation are advancing. When does a country truly progress? A country progresses when research takes place. This was not the case earlier, but now it is happening. Through continued improvements and value addition, national wealth increases. This is how the wealth of a nation grows. Therefore, research is absolutely essential in every field. There is immense talent in our country. As someone rightly said, we are facing the problem of brain drain. Our brightest students go abroad to conduct research, where they receive patents, and eventually work for companies there. Those companies become wealthy, while we simply watch. To address this, we have launched a new scheme under which the best of the best talented students will stay in this country. Good institutions will have good infrastructure and quality laboratories. Among them, the top 500 students will be awarded the PM Scholarship, under which they will receive a scholarship of Rs. 75,000 per month. Based on this, they will

get the opportunity to stay here, to pursue quality education, and to receive good guidance. They will have the opportunity for education and proper guidance. If there is any prestigious international institution or a renowned research lab abroad, these students will also be allowed to go there and study for six months during their five-year tenure. We will provide this facility to our students as well.

We have launched an initiative called the Global Research Interactive Network (GREEN). This will lead to brain gain and help prevent brain drain. The talent of India will serve the nation. I am confident that this is a new initiative and it will yield good results. Shrimati Sushmita Dev raised a very important issue regarding reforms in engineering colleges, and she also referred to the AICTE Committee. It is true that engineering colleges have proliferated across the country. Most students think that they must either become engineers or doctors, these are the only two options for them. I would like to say that studying history is also very important; studying geography is equally significant. I travel to many places and ask who wants to become a teacher. If no one becomes a teacher, then who will teach in the future? That is why we must also have individuals who aspire to become teachers. In every profession, we need good people, and that is essential. Today, engineering has become a fashion. People

went into it, came out from such institutions, some of which were extremely substandard. Today, there are unemployed engineers who hold certificates but are not employable, because they lack the necessary skills. This is a very unfortunate reality. Now what is the solution, there are three ways. One has been brought about by market forces. In the past three years, students themselves have shut down around 400 substandard engineering colleges. Had the Government taken the step of closing these 400 colleges, there would have been a hue and cry, people would have questioned the decision, claimed the institutions were good, and so on. However, students today are empowered through the internet. They visit websites, check the placement records of institutions, and based on that, they decide whether to take admission. Now, the message from the students is clear: "If good will persist, good will flourish; and bad will perish." That which is substandard will be phased out of the system, and that which is good will grow, flourish, and move forward. This is a market force. But what are we doing in this regard? As the AICTE has reported, we are undertaking a comprehensive reform of engineering education.

What our Hon. Chairperson Dr. M. Thambidurai stated is absolutely correct, there is no syllabus reform happening. Autonomous colleges revise their syllabi every two years and make them relevant. However, the older universities and traditional colleges, if their syllabi are not changed for as long as ten years, how can the system function? This is something that needs constant updating, and for that, we are preparing a comprehensive roadmap for the reform of engineering education. As soon as it is finalised, we shall inform all of you about it. We also seek your suggestions on this matter.

Regarding the vacancies in NITs, Shrimati Sushmita Dev had strongly raised the issue last time. I had supported her as well, though she did not mention it today. I would like to inform the House that following that, we constituted a Committee. When you have informed then a Committee was constituted under the Chairpersonship of P.P. Chakraborty, Director, IIT Kharagpur to suggest measures to minimise vacant seats in IITs, NITs and other central institutes. The Committee has submitted its recommendations. What are the suggestions? They are, early beginning of counselling, more rounds and removal of unattractive courses. There are some courses that have become obsolete; people are not taking admission in them. These

courses have vacancies, but no one wants to join them. Why should we retain such courses? We will discontinue them and introduce new, relevant courses. We have devoted an entire year to these reforms. I can assure the House this year, and I am confident, that there will be no vacancies in the NITs this year. Every seat will be filled, and every effort will be made to ensure this, and we will accomplish it.

An Hon. Member spoke about capacity building. Take the example of IIT Guwahati; we have instructed all good institutes like that to build capacity in the neighbouring universities or other colleges. They should organise programmes with their teachers, professors and students so that the level of education in that region improves. This needs to be done. Therefore, capacity building is also a significant issue.

We often discuss global rankings and feel disappointed that our institutions do not appear prominently. However, the truth is that we have studied the global rankings. In some global rankings, perception plays a very important role. Our NRI community and the approximately 30 million-strong Indian diaspora include many who work in education. They should have accurate information about our institutes, and this perception must be properly reflected. Efforts will also be made to improve the actual quality of our institutes. Regarding

global rankings, I was pleased to see that among the top 50 small universities, in the first list of the top 10 small universities, the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore, secured the 8th position. We are the first Indian university to achieve the 8th rank. This is a good beginning, but we have to move much further from here. How will our rankings improve? Rankings improve only when there is an improvement in quality. The core objective of all these educational reforms will remain the enhancement of quality.

An Hon. Member made a very important suggestion, I believe it was Mahato Ji, that an exit examination should also be conducted. Students obtain engineering degrees, but later they do not get jobs because, in many places, there is no uniform standard of examination. The suggestion of an exit exam has been proposed. However, no decision has been taken yet, because in that case, universities would conduct exams, and if each student has to appear for an exit examination, then how would the system function? Therefore, we are considering it, but no decision has been taken so far.

World-class institutes do not become world-class merely by calling them so. Therefore, in the beginning, we shall refer to them as Institutes of National Eminence, 10 in the public sector and 10 in the private sector. However, the objective will be that world-class

institutes emerge from among them. A world-class institute is not built in a day or even in a year. It requires dedicated effort for 10 to 20 years. We are asking them to submit a roadmap for the next 20 to 25 years. Existing good institutes may also apply, and new ones too, both from the public and private sectors. In public institutes, the Government will invest significantly. In private institutes, the private sector will invest. These institutes will have autonomy and the freedom to experiment. India's name will truly shine only when people work with this objective and establish excellent Institutes of National Eminence.

A matter was raised regarding vacancies. It is true that many universities have vacancies. To address this, we have implemented a 24x7 process for recruitment. By 24x7, I mean rolling advertisements. These advertisements will never close. They will be continuously available on university websites, and we are now integrating them with the UGC website as well as the AICTE website. On any of these websites, one can see, in a continuous scrolling format, the vacancies available across institutions. This will effectively lead to a walk-in interview environment, anyone can apply at any time, and their interview will be conducted accordingly.

I have instructed the IITs and other institutions that recruitment must also take place abroad. Indian students who are engaged in quality research abroad must be brought back to India. But go there and conduct their interviews. Tell them that the situation in India has changed, they will now have freedom here; they will have opportunities for research, and they will enjoy teaching. They will also enjoy living in their own country. Moreover, they will have greater flexibility and can pursue other activities as well. Efforts must also be made for our talented students who would otherwise seek jobs in foreign countries. I am pleased to inform the House that a large number of faculty members are now joining the IITs. The best of the best brains to be brought in either for employment or for research. That is our objective, and we are working towards it. ... (*Interruptions*)

There is another aspect of the vacancies. Shri Biju raised the issue of reservation. He has always raised this, and both of us used to fight for it together in the HRD Ministry. ...(*Interruptions*) I am coming to that. ... (*Interruptions*) JNU is a premier institution, but for years, hundreds of posts reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes were never filled. Posts reserved for the physically handicapped, whom we now refer to as Divyangs, were also left vacant. There are excellent students, highly capable individuals who

deserve to become Professors, but institutions like JNU did not fill these posts. We have now initiated a programme for this. I am pleased to inform the House that more than 100 Professors belonging to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will soon join JNU. There are 25 Divyang candidates as well. That provision will also be ensured.

You raised a very important issue concerning suicides. ...

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** While replying to a starred question, you had provided the complete list of vacancies. Leave JNU aside, in your Central Universities, in some cases, even 50 percent of the posts are not filled. There are hundreds of vacancies. Therefore, do not isolate one case. I know why you are referring to JNU. ...

*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** I am not making this a political issue. I am not singling out any one university. JNU has recently been awarded by the Hon. President as the top university. I was referring to a top university, and I am also speaking about Central Universities in general. I have not yet completed my statement. The Visitor has conferred the award. In my speech on that day, I mentioned that JNU received the Visitor's Award as the top university not because of the

slogans raised in support of Afzal, but because of the quality research and commendable academic work conducted there. This distinction must be understood. ... (*Interruptions*) The award conferred upon JNU was not for the act of holding the Vice-Chancellor hostage for an entire day and night. It was awarded for the excellent work done there, work that often goes unreported in the news. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** No cross talking please. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** No cross talking. Nothing will go on record.

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

[Translation]

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVEDKAR:** Kharge Sahab has raised a very important issue. As I stated in my reply the day before yesterday, there are a large number of vacancies in Central Universities, in State Universities, and even in Private Universities. We are making efforts on three fronts. First, to create an environment that encourages interest

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\* Not recorded.

in the teaching profession. I would like to share something here, because education is a collective responsibility. When I sit in this House, I learn something new every day from each of you, because everyone contributes new experiences. In many industrial families, I have observed a strong sense of commitment towards their industry. They ensure that future generations of the family continue in the same profession. They build interest, structure support systems, and nurture that dedication. Likewise, we must also instil a sense of commitment towards becoming a teacher, we must inspire the spirit of teachership. We are making provisions for this as well. At the same time, we have directed the Central Universities to establish contact with Indian students currently engaged in research abroad including those from the NRI community. Build those connections now and begin efforts to bring them back to India. Our goal is to increase capacity in the country and to have more qualified Professors here. Wherever I go, I feel encouraged. Recently, when I visited IIT Delhi, out of 200 students, 80 expressed their desire to become Professors that made me very happy. I said this is the right direction, and it should be encouraged. We are not singling out anyone. All Central Universities, State Universities, and Private Universities must be encouraged. Merely inviting Visiting Professors and utilising them at low costs is

not correct. Permanent posts must be filled only then will education be meaningful. That is our conviction.

A very important issue regarding suicides has been raised. If even a single student commits suicide on campus, it is truly unfortunate. Therefore, I would like to inform the House that based on the report of the Committee, we have added six more measures to address this issue. The induction course must be well-structured and effective. At Banaras Hindu University (BHU), for instance, a three-week-long induction programme is conducted so that students coming from rural areas or diverse cultural backgrounds can blend in, properly understand the college environment, and become familiar with the university. A good induction course is essential for this purpose. There must also be a concept of a local parent. When I was in college, one had to fill out a form, if a student was coming from outside, the form required details of a local parent or relative. There was a clear provision for a local guardian.

I have written to all universities to reinstate this practice. There must be some form of connection, someone local whom the student can turn to. There should be counsellors. Universities must create an environment that encourages students to approach counsellors. If someone is experiencing depression, he must go, he must approach a

counsellor. Scientific studies have shown that such mental states can sometimes develop as a trend or as a phase of emotional distress.

Yesterday, we were discussing the Mental Health Bill, and this matter was also raised. There are twelve stages related to this, and I shall send them to all of you. We have already issued a circular to the universities, and I shall also provide each of you with a copy of the same. There must be an effective system in place across all colleges, so that not a single suicide takes place on any campus. This must be our collective endeavour, that is my vision.

Today, although the Bill under discussion does not pertain to school education, many Hon. Members have spoken about it and rightly so, because if schools are not good, then colleges cannot be good either. If there is no inquisitiveness or curiosity at the school level, there will be no research or innovation later. The quality of public schooling, public institutions, and public colleges is critical. How do we improve the quality of public institutions, particularly when the Union Government is incurring such significant expenditure? The Union Government is spending Rs. 25,000 crore on the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, and the State Governments are contributing Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 crore. This amounts to Rs. 50,000 crore being spent across the country. If this spending yields no

tangible benefit, it is not acceptable. Therefore, the proper utilisation of this money must lead to improved quality. For that purpose, we have taken four steps. The first step is learning outcomes. Until now, from Classes I to VIII, there was no clear framework, there were no examinations, but also no definition of what a child must know in each class. Over the past ten years, it was not defined what a student should learn in Class I, what should be expected in Class II, or what level of language and mathematical capacity should be achieved in Class III. Although the Right to Education mentioned learning outcomes, they had not been defined for ten years. We have defined them this month. From this year, they shall be implemented in all schools, learning outcomes are defined. We will share this information with every parent, for instance, if a child is in Class IV, the parent will know what learning level is expected. These learning outcomes will be displayed on the school walls. This is a major reform.

The second point is that we are going to undertake complete reforms in teachers' education, because the quality of teacher education has deteriorated, as all of you are aware. The best B.Ed. university colleges have shut down. Today, one can obtain a degree in the market for Rs. 1,00,000. Attending classes is not compulsory,

taking lessons is not compulsory, and even appearing for exams is not compulsory, certificates are issued directly.

I have called for affidavits from all such institutions. We have received around 8,500 affidavits from B.Ed. colleges. Scrutiny of these is underway. About 2,500 colleges have not submitted their affidavits, and we have issued them notices. If they do not submit their affidavits within 15 days, their institutions will be shut down, because we do not want bad colleges. Only those colleges which are good will be allowed to function. This is a major step we have taken. ...*(Interruptions)* [English] I am telling you. NCT and NCERT, these institutes are important since they are dealing in teacher's education. there are four regional offices of NCT. There were many complaints about the regional offices. we are bringing all regional offices and making it into a central office at Dwarka from next month. So, we are bringing NCT, like AICT and UGC, here. NCT will also function from Delhi. This is one more reform we are doing.

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** You are bringing back centralization. Is it good?

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** It is decentralized online... *(Interruptions)* In every district they will file online. It will be

transparent. It is not man to man contact. It will be online. It will be a scientific and transparent process. We will show you how we are doing it. That is not an issue... (*Interruptions*)

The third problem was that in CBSE some students were allowed to sit for 10th Board examination and some had no Board examination for 10th standard. We have decided to have mandatory board examination at the 10th level. Let me tell you how one decision of the Government is taken. If you take everybody into confidence, this decision to have Board examination for 10th standard students from the year 2017-18 has been upheld by all parents and everybody. Now, the approval rating for this decision, whichever TV channels have asked questions for this decision and whichever newspaper have asked questions against this decision, there has been a 90 per cent approval for this decision. So, that was the third step.

The fourth step which we took was that [Translation] to address the issue that students were being promoted automatically from Class I to Class VIII. A Bill regarding this matter will soon be placed before you. I held a meeting with the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG), which was attended by Education Ministers from all States, including Kushwaha ji. In that meeting, 25 States requested that they be granted permission to detain students in Classes V and VIII. We

agreed to a provision where an examination would be held in March. If a student fails, he shall be given a second opportunity in June. If the student fails again in June, he may be detained. For this, regular study will be made compulsory, and there shall be accountability for teachers as well. On the Bill related to detention in Classes V and VIII, 25 States were in favour, while 4 States opposed the proposal. ... [English](*Interruptions*) Four States said that they did not want it. We left the decision to the States. So, States will decide whether to detain or not. That is how we deal in cooperative federalism.

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** Congress Government decided for detention in 2004. I would like to know if the Hon. Minister is agreeing for detention or not... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** First let me complete and then I will answer your question. We had promised one IISER in Nagaland. But the Government of Nagaland said that they wanted SPA and then they said that they wanted an engineering college. So, we are discussing with the Government of Nagaland as to what exactly they want. But we are definitely giving one important institute to Nagaland. Our commitment to the cause of the North-East is full and final and we will do everything.

[Translation]

**SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA (RATLAM):** Minister ji, you just said. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** You ask later. . . . (*Interruptions*)

**17.00 hrs**

You asked about TEQIP. . . . (*Interruptions*) [English] This time, I am happy that in the earlier days, the so-called states like Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan and BIMARU states are growing very fast. now, Uttar Pradesh will also grow very fast. . . . (*Interruptions*) that is how things happen and this is how things change. that is why, people changed. so, TEQIP-III is fully concentrated and given to the North-Eastern states, Andaman & Nicobar islands and the so-called BIMARU states which we say are really developing states now. so, we have given TEQIP full assistance in these states only. [Translation] New institutions will also be fully supported. Today, if Rs. 40 crore has been allocated for the institute in Tirupati, it does not mean that only Rs. 40 crore will be provided. As soon as their Detailed Project Report (DPR) is ready and the work commences, whatever funds are required shall be provided. We are

considering a new mechanism whereby the work of the institute can be completed within two years.

We have sanctioned several institutes in Bihar. Through you, I wish to inform the Hon. Member that we have granted a Central University at Bodh Gaya, a Central University at Motihari, an IIT in Patna, an NIT in Patna, and an IIM in Bodh Gaya. Regarding these institutions, the matter of land is pending with your authorities. Kindly expedite the process of land allotment... (*Interruptions*) We shall proceed with your support. I have spoken to the Hon. Chief Minister, and with your assistance, we shall ensure that land is made available at the earliest... (*Interruptions*) You need not worry... (*Interruptions*) Regarding Andaman, discussions are underway.

It was asked whether NITs have rankings or not. Yes, they do have rankings. The National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) is now in its second year. Next Monday, the 3rd of this month, we will announce the rankings, and on the 10th, the awards will be presented by the Hon. President of India. Rankings are done for all institutes everywhere. For those whose annual income is less than Rs. 5 lakh, a two-thirds waiver has been granted on the NIT fees. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes students do not have to pay any fees there. All other issues raised will be taken into consideration. Everyone has

supported this bill, and I thank all of you. I, therefore, request the House to pass this Bill.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007 be taken into consideration.”

*The motion was adopted.*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

**Clause 2                      Amendment of First Schedule to Act 29 of  
2007**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Shri N. K. Premachandran – not present.

The question is:



*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 1, -

*for “Sixty-seventh”, substitute “Sixty-eighth”. (1)*

(Shri Prakash Javadekar)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That Enacting Formula, as amended, stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Enacting Formula, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*The Long Title was added to the Bill.*

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** I beg to move:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed.”

*The motion was adopted.*

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**17.05 hrs**

**COLLECTION OF STATISTICS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017**

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The House will now take up Item No. 10, the Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

Hon. Minister.

**THE MINISTER OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA):** I

beg to move:

“That the Bill to amend the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 be taken into consideration.”

The Principal Act that is the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 as of now extends to the whole of India except the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The Jammu and Kashmir Collection of Statistics Act, 2010 passed by the Jammu and Kashmir Legislature extends to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. Both the above laws do not cover matters specified in the Union List, that is List I, in the Seventh Schedule to the Constitution as applicable to Jammu and Kashmir under the

Constitution Order, 1954. The Principal Act is not applicable to matters of the Concurrent List, List III, as applicable to Jammu and Kashmir.

There is a small legislative vacuum because of these two Acts, the State Act and the Central Act. The Central Act does not extend up to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. So, we want to extend its jurisdiction. For that reason, I am bringing this Bill.

The other amendments in the Bill are on three issues. The first one is designating a nodal officer at the Centre and in each State for providing guidance to line Departments in avoiding unnecessary duplication in collection of statistics.

The second one is intended to provide for an appropriate enabling provision in the Principal Act to provide for rule making power in the manner in which information collected shall be used.

The third one is intended to provide for an appropriate enabling provision in the Principal Act regarding the condition of previous publication of rules made under the Act. This makes the rule making process more transparent.

Totally, we want to see that this collection of statistics and data collection should be very transparent and we should get the real time

data. So, it needs to be extended up to the State of Jammu and Kashmir also. Of course, earlier we made a request to the State of Jammu and Kashmir to pass a Resolution in their Assembly so that we can extend this to the State of Jammu and Kashmir. But we could not get a positive response from the State Government.

**SHRI K. C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Why?

**SHRI D. V. SADANANDA GOWDA:** The Constitution does not permit it. Article 370 says that there are certain privileges for them. For that reason, we need to have a Resolution passed from the State Assembly. But that Resolution did not come.

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

“That the Bill to amend the Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 be taken into consideration. “

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you.

The Hon. Minister has just pointed out that there are three basic features in this particular amendment which has been brought in. The first one relates to the extension of jurisdiction of collection of data to the State of Jammu and Kashmir as regards to the articles contained in the Union List and the Concurrent List. The second one relates to

the provision of appointing nodal officers for better collection of data, more efficiency and production of efficient and more reliable statistical information for the Government. The third one is an enabling clause.

Let me talk about each one briefly and then talk about some of the other issues. The first point is very important. The Government is trying to extend the jurisdiction. The Government is trying to fix a small legal lacuna which has been left out by the provisions of the Collection of Statistical Act 2008, which our Parliament enacted.

[Translation]

Jammu and Kashmir has its own Act. Under the Constitution (Application to Jammu and Kashmir) Order, 1950, it was necessary to enact an order which the Assembly there would also pass. Subsequently, in 2008, a law was made here, and in 2010, their Assembly enacted its own law. The NSSO collects data from there because they gather data from their own State. However, with subjects in the Union List and Concurrent List, there was no single legal provision for data collection available to us. To address this, you have brought this Bill. We have no objection to this provision, but we do expect that you have taken everyone on board. The coalition

government is in place in Jammu and Kashmir, your Chief Minister is there, and no one has any objections. We too have no objections, but we hope that all parties have been on-boarded in this process. Because earlier, under constitutional provisions, our Parliament legislated in 2008, and in 2010 their State Assembly also passed a similar Statistics Collection Act under the relevant constitutional articles. This was the only feasible legal option.

As far as the efficiency of the other provisions regarding nodal officers is concerned, we have no objection. However, we believe that there was no need for you to legislate in Parliament to appoint nodal officers; this could have been done through delegated legislation. Nonetheless, since you have brought it here, we have no objection to that.

The third important feature of this Bill, which is quite surprising, is that in the Statements of Objects and Reasons you have provided, there is no mention of this crucial third feature. You have changed the language, which you are calling an enabling clause. The nature of the language change causes us concern. I would like to draw your attention to Section 9, Sub-section 1 of the existing 2008 Bill. It states—

[English]

“Any information furnished to the Statistical Officer or person or agencies authorized under this Act shall only be used for statistical purposes.”

[Translation]

It was clarified that the data collected by NSSO for statistical purpose will be used for statistical purpose only, but by changing it you have given a new language that -

[English]

“The Statistical Officer or any other person or agencies authorized under this Act shall use any information furnished under Section 6 in such manner as may be prescribed.”

[Translation]

You mentioned that earlier it was clear that the NSSO surveys were conducted only for statistical purposes and that the information collected would be used accordingly.

**SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOHO):** What is the point of objection in this?

**SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA:** Many questions arise as to who will prescribe. It also states that data is not only with the government Statistical Officer or any other person or agencies authorised under this Act.

You have observed that last month, in the matter concerning the theft of Aadhaar card data, your Government was compelled to file a case against Axis Bank. Biometrics were used for impersonation, necessitating a police complaint from the Government. In this context, we demand clarity regarding the specifications, particularly, who is to prescribe them. This must be explicit, along with a clear statement of how this data will be utilised. Until now, NSSO data has been collected strictly for statistical purposes, and I regard this as a matter of importance, because the NSSO Act mandates confidentiality. As stated in Doordarshan advertisements, any data collection is to be kept completely confidential. The Act also provides that anyone who refuses to provide accurate data may face a fine ranging from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 15,000, along with a possible six-month prison sentence. The Government may mandate information, but we are of the opinion that data subjects have a right to know how their data will be used. Otherwise, this becomes akin to a finance Bill scenario. I wish to voice my concerns regarding data matters.

First, the Government must respond to the questions raised in connection with this Bill, but there is also a major national debate ongoing regarding Aadhaar. Even in the Finance Bill, you introduced an amendment later which stated that Aadhaar would be mandatory for filing income tax returns. Your objective may be valid, but we are in the era of big data. You are collecting an enormous amount of data. The Unique Identification Authority of India had to file a report with the police stating that three companies, Axis Bank, Suvidha, and e-Mudhra, used Aadhaar biometric data for unauthorised transactions, and employees from all three entities were involved in its usage.

Similarly, the employees of these three banks were using Aadhaar data for illegal authentication and impersonation. You are speaking of digitisation, you are moving towards digital payments, and similarly, you have also made a provision in the Finance Bill. On one hand, you seek all kinds of information from the people, and on the other hand, you have made a provision in the Finance Bill that corporate houses who donate to political parties are not required to disclose their contributions. The public does not have the right to know who is donating how much to which political party. While you demand complete transparency from the public, you are not willing to share information in return. You are not prepared to give them the

right to know. This matter is also under debate in the Supreme Court, which has to decide a very important issue, whether, under our Constitution, the right to data privacy is a fundamental right or not. Our Government, through the Attorney General, Shri Mukul Rohatgi, has taken the position that it is not a fundamental right. It is a right to data privacy, but not a fundamental right. He has presented two judgments of the Supreme Court, one from 1954 and another from 1962, and stated that the Supreme Court had earlier ruled that this is not a fundamental right. Ultimately, the larger Bench of the Supreme Court will have to decide whether or not this is a fundamental right. This debate is ongoing, and this is a crucial question. In this era of big data and digital economy, when even the NSSO data is intended to be used for purposes other than statistical purposes, I believe that before the Supreme Court gives an answer to this question, this House must be provided answers to at least ten other related questions.

I would like to bring one more matter to your attention. If we study the international practices concerning data privacy across the world, we will find that in the last five to ten years, almost all countries have enacted data privacy laws. However, in our country, no such data privacy law currently exists, and that is precisely why these questions are being raised.

You will have to provide answers regarding consumer protection as well. Let me give an example. The European Union became the first organisation to declare data protection as a fundamental human right. The EU also implemented the General Data Protection Regulation Act. Similarly, the United Kingdom also enacted its own Data Protection Act. In Canada, certain rights have been provided under the Privacy Act. In fact, Canada has two Acts—one under which government agencies collect data, and the other under which private agencies collect data. The data collected by government agencies falls under the Privacy Act, whereas data collected by private companies is governed by the Personal Information and Protection Act. Regulations have been introduced regarding the purpose for which the data was collected and how it is to be used. However, no such regulation exists in our country. The Aadhaar number has now been introduced, and you are expanding its scope through the Finance Bill.

You have also included a provision in the NSSO whereby, for the first time, its data can be used beyond statistical purposes. I am not questioning your intent. However, given the direction this is heading, we must also acknowledge the need to categorise data in terms of privacy what types of data fall under which category. There

are many such questions that will need to be answered. The data being collected under which category does it fall? There is data related to banks, especially since now bank accounts are also being linked with Aadhaar numbers. Secondly, there is data related to farmers. Similarly, there is data pertaining to health information which doctor you visited, what your health record is. When an NSSO survey is conducted, all such information is included.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, if complete information is not provided, as I have pointed out, there is a provision for six months of imprisonment. Therefore, our demand is that the Government formulate a policy by classifying different types of data. There was one question raised even at the time of the Aadhaar debate, which remains relevant today: is consent to be obtained or not? Here, the question of consent does not even arise. If a person refuses to provide the required information, there is a provision for fine and punishment. You must also decide whether obtaining consent before collecting such comprehensive information is necessary or not.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, it must also be decided whether the purpose for which data is being collected shall be specified or not. You have effectively handed a blank cheque to the NSSO. They are not disclosing the purpose for which the information is being

collected. I believe that our citizens should have at least the right to know the objective behind the information being sought from them. If you use that information for purposes other than the one specified, then there must also be a grievance redressal mechanism established to address such misuse. Regarding the third part of the amendment that you have brought forward, our suggestion is that it be clarified who shall prescribe it and what rules and regulations shall be framed in the future. At present, you have left it open-ended, such that the information may be used not only for statistical purposes but also for other unspecified objectives. You must bring a comprehensive law on data privacy.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would also like to speak about the NSSO. The three components of the statistics department the National Sample Survey Organisation, the Central Statistical Organisation, and the Computer Centre, were constituted in the year 1950, when Pandit Nehru, in the context of establishing the Planning Commission and planning the economy, recognised the need for accurate data in order to formulate national policies.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to illustrate this by providing an example regarding the surveys conducted by the NSSO. As the Planning Commission used to operate on a five-year time

period and had long been formulating the country's plans, similarly, the NSSO was also mandated to conduct its surveys within a five-year cycle. The Employment and Unemployment Survey is conducted by the NSSO once every five years. The Social Consumption Survey is also conducted once in five years. The Unorganised Manufacturing Survey is conducted once every five years, the Services Sector Survey every five years, and the Land and Livestock Holdings, Debt and Investment Survey once in ten years. The Open Round Survey is carried out once every two years. Almost all surveys conducted by the NSSO are done at five-year intervals. I have raised these issues in the House several times.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would also like to mention the statement made recently by the Hon. Agriculture Minister. Shri Radha Mohan Singh had pointed out that the Agricultural Survey is being conducted once every ten years, which is too long an interval. It ought to be more frequent, because within ten years, several Budgets are presented and many policies change. The Employment and Unemployment Survey is considered the most important survey conducted by the NSSO. I wish to draw your special attention to this fact, because any economist evaluates a nation's economic policies based on three parameters: first, the rate of economic growth; second,

the inflation rate; and third, the unemployment rate. Based on these indicators, the economic policies of any country are framed. If we look globally, among these three indicators, the one that receives the most focus is the unemployment rate.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, if we look towards the United States, we will find that the unemployment rate there is assessed every month. For example, the data is released regarding how many new jobs were added to their economy in the previous month. Every month, every quarter, and every year, an assessment is made stating whether unemployment has increased by 0.1 Percent, and how many individuals have become unemployed.

In the United States, this task is performed by the Bureau of Labour Statistics, in the same way as our NSSO functions. Their Bureau of Labour Statistics conducts a sample survey every month, and based on that data, the United States formulates its economic policies. Their Reserve Bank also sets monetary policy based on this data. The primary focus of their economic planning revolves around whether unemployment is increasing or decreasing. Similarly, if we look at Europe, there is Eurostat. Eurostat also presents this data before the European nations every quarter and every month. These countries consider this data central to their policymaking and

accordingly formulate their economic strategies. What is the situation in our country? In our country, the most urgent need is to pay attention to unemployment, because in the year 2017, 80 Percent of our population fell within the age bracket of 18 to 60 years, which is considered the working age. In the year 2020, the average age of an Indian citizen will be 29 years. This was the reason why, during our Government's tenure, we made earnest efforts in this direction, and your Government too has prominently promised to provide two crore jobs every year. On what statistical basis should we or the public evaluate that promise? The public has the right to assess whether you are succeeding or not in fulfilling the promises you have made.

You mentioned Make in India and said that the objective of Make in India is to generate jobs and employment. The public and our youth have the right to see how successful you are in this endeavour and what the actual situation is. Other countries release data every month, every quarter, and every year. They formulate their economic policies based on that data. In our country, earlier, the NSSO conducted a survey once in five years. The NSSO gave its unemployment rate only once every five years. The next NSSO survey is scheduled for 2020. You have deliberately promised two crore jobs, but there will be no NSSO survey in 2019.

Secondly, when we raised this issue during our Government, the Labour Department had started an annual survey, which is now ongoing. However, different surveys present different figures. For example, the NSSO reported an unemployment rate of 2 Percent in 2009-10, and 2.2 Percent in 2011-12, whereas the Labour Bureau reported an unemployment rate of 9.4 Percent in 2009 and 3.8 Percent in 2011-12. Which one should we believe? Another report has come out stating that the highest job loss and increase in unemployment since 2009 occurred in 2016. We are questioning this, because your promise was different, but your data shows the highest job loss occurred in 2009. The International Labour Organisation has also estimated the same. Among all the BRICS and developing countries, India alone is projected to see continuous increases in unemployment in 2017 and 2018. Their figures estimate unemployment rates of 8.4 and 9.4 Percent for these two years respectively. The ILO has stated that the unemployment rate in our country will increase further. I feel that I should quote the ILO data here in the House and hold the Government accountable. It would be far better if there were official data from India or your Government that you could present here.

The objective should be such that when our Finance Minister presents the Budget, instead of focusing on GDP growth and other

matters, he should first state that in the past year, our economy has generated at least 50 lakh new jobs, if not 2 crore. Only then will employment and the unemployment rate become the focal points of our economic policies. I believe that if the Hon. Minister accepts the suggestions we have made, there is a need to revamp the NSSO. The survey currently happens once every five years, but nowadays we live in a connected world. A survey can be conducted in one minute. Everyone is very well connected. Yet, these facts do not seem to matter. You conduct an agricultural survey once every ten years, while so many economic policies change within that period. Shrimati Radha Mohan has also made the same request to you, and we reiterate that request as well. We once again urge you to bring forward new legislation on data privacy, so that you can effectively address all the questions that are being raised in the country. Thank you.

**SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you and my party Bhartiya Janata Party for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Statistical Collection Bill, 2017 (Amendment).

Our colleagues from the Congress were just presenting their views on this Bill. However, they paid very little attention to the meaningful amendments made in this Bill. They said that it will be applicable in Jammu and Kashmir. The truth is that the greatest feature of this Bill is that, in the State of Jammu and Kashmir, very few laws could be directly effective. The foresight of this Government, its determination, and the manner in which our Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Modi Ji, has sought to view the Nation as one, has enabled us to extend through this Bill what was not achieved under the 2008 Act. Therefore, I would certainly congratulate the Hon. Minister, Shri Sadananda Gowda Ji, for bringing this amendment, because the 2008 Act, which came into force on 11 June 2010, was not applicable across the entire country. It was not effective in Jammu and Kashmir either. Hence, the Union Government has amended the 2008 law to include Jammu and Kashmir, especially regarding data collection. Through this amendment, the natural difficulties and lack of coordination that arose between the State Government and the Union Government, in

the Union List and the Concurrent List both, in respect of data collection, are sought to be addressed. For this, the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, had recommended in the meeting of the Union Cabinet held on 15 February 2017 that the proposed amendment to extend the Data Collection Act, 2008, should be laid before the House for approval. It was clearly stated by the Government that the proposed Bill relating to the extension of the Data Collection Act, 2008, should be introduced and passed by Parliament, and that the entry in the Union List and Concurrent List relating to Jammu and Kashmir, as mentioned in the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, will be applicable to the relevant data on any matter. This will be in accordance with the Jammu and Kashmir Constitution Order, 1954, which is applicable in Jammu and Kashmir. Especially after this amendment, the all-India mechanism for data collection will be strengthened.

Especially after this amendment, the all-India mechanism for data collection will be strengthened. Specifically, under this, while the Constitution will extend the scope of this Act to all non-reserved matters in Jammu and Kashmir, data has been collected in all States of the country since 1953. Yet, why has there been a need for laws at different times, and why is the reliability of our data lacking?

Therefore, effectively through this Bill, our Government has identified officers as nodal officers, empowered them by delegating powers, and at the same time fixed responsibility upon them.

Sir, our Congress friends were repeatedly quoting unemployment figures. They said that what matters in a country's progress are the growth rate, inflation rate, and unemployment. They did not discuss the growth rate or inflation rate much; their focus was mainly on unemployment. We too are aware that currently the number of unemployed is increasing even in the political sphere of the country. Naturally, we also keep this concern in mind. However, they did not mention how the data was collected in the country, that even after almost 70 years of independence, no uniform standard for determining the poverty line has been established. At different times, different committees were formed. Sometimes the limit was said to be Rs. 22, sometimes Rs. 32, and sometimes one dollar. If these data had been reliable, then why was it necessary to revise it in 2008 after the figures of 1953-54? We are not against the amendments of 2008. We also believe that during your regime, the processes of liberalization, globalization, and privatization-the processes of globalization and privatization you implemented-weakened the old methods of data collection. We needed various kinds of data in that context. Many

subjects, which exist both in Jammu and Kashmir and the rest of the country, were not previously included in data collection, especially in the transportation sector. If today we want to develop airways, increase road traffic, or expand the railway network, we will need new and varied data. Especially, this expansion did not happen in Jammu and Kashmir, although it is not that laws passed by the Government of India were not accepted there. Particularly regarding the census and birth and death certificates, they adopted the laws of the Government of India. Still, in 2010, they made a separate law for Jammu and Kashmir and established a system accordingly.

In this form, regarding the current Bill, from the perspective of data collection, we can say that the legislative vacuum that had arisen in Jammu and Kashmir, especially between the Concurrent List and the Union List which was an attempt to encroach upon each other's jurisdiction and because of which both governments could not function effectively has been addressed through this amendment. Our predecessors did not consider this legislative vacuum, which truly arose and the public had to bear its consequences. Therefore, from this perspective, after this amendment, the data collection mechanism in Jammu and Kashmir will be strengthened, and there will be uniformity as well as reliability in the data. This Bill will be applicable

throughout Jammu and Kashmir and will apply to all non-reserved areas there in accordance with the Constitution Order of 1954. Hence, we can say that this amendment is a commendable effort to systematize the collection of data related to economic, demographic, social, scientific, and environmental aspects. Alongside this, the reliability and truthfulness of data are essential for the construction of the New India envisioned by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, because previous governments, over nearly 70 years, have played games with data. Based on data, whether in the North-East or Jammu and Kashmir regions, the funds allocated for the development of the country have been subject to misappropriation and manipulation.

From this perspective, we can say that the current amendment is certainly a meaningful step towards eliminating this legislative vacuum. Through this amendment, there will be clarity in data-related work and it will pave the way for good governance. The clearer and more reliable our data will be, the more transparent our system and financial management will be, leaving no room for manipulation. Hence, through this amendment bill, we will be able to have access to data related to citizenship, education, banking services, labour, forestry, and so on, and the government will be able to use this data to enhance welfare schemes.

Along with this, I would also like to say that the appointment of nodal officers mentioned in this Data Collection Amendment Act will address the duplication and repetition that used to occur in data collection so far. Once responsibility is fixed and accountability established, the nodal officer will coordinate data collection across all departments. We can say that through the nodal officers, the coordination and supervision of data collection will be at a better level. The NSSO has been repeatedly cited as an example. Who said that it should only collect data every five years? Why didn't you create such a mechanism?

We often cite the example of America, the USA, and Canada, but we do not frame our laws in a similar manner. Have you ever made an effort to understand that in Canada, there are different laws for different regions, and the laws are tailored to the individual? Truly, this amendment aims to bring uniformity through data collection. It has been repeatedly stated that there is no mention of this in the Bill. The truth is, if you had read the memorandum regarding the purpose and objectives, besides the sponsored legislation, you would have noticed this, or perhaps you do not wish to disclose it. It is clearly written in the second point of the sponsored legislation that Sections 5 and 6 of the Bill empower the Union Government to make rules

related to the manner in which the statistics officer or any person or agency may use information for statistical purposes under Section 6 of the Act. The manner in which you are speaking is clearly stated that this was already in place for statistical purposes, meaning the utilisation of data. Given the increasing requirements today, if we collect this data but do not use it for welfare schemes, then what is the purpose of undertaking such a large exercise, or why is there a need to establish such a vast system? It is clearly written, and furthermore, the third point of the memorandum on the sponsored Bill states that Section 6 empowers the Union Government to make rules subject to the condition of prior publication of those rules. That is to say, the rules must be published first, and naturally, there will be a process of seeking opinions on them. Therefore, to claim otherwise or to base arguments on other matters is not appropriate. You yourselves initiated the Aadhaar scheme. All we have done is to rectify its flaws and, from the perspective of public welfare, extended benefits such as providing energy and petroleum products to the women of the country through Aadhaar. Many people across the country have relinquished their subsidies based on those data. This is a matter of perspective and viewpoint. When the perspective changes, the scope of vision also expands. Regarding the data they speak of, the truth is that by working

in this manner, there will be no duplication in the data. The reality before was that data in the country was never accorded importance under a statutory process. The organisation that conducts the National Sample Survey, when does it come and when does it go, and what have you done to its status? It is good that our friends from the Congress reminded us of the National Sample Survey Organisation. In my state of Jharkhand, in Giridih, the National Sample Survey Organisation had a large office 10, 15, or 20 years ago. When our state was formed and our needs increased, that office gradually shrank to such an extent that it has now been slowly relocated from there to Kolkata...*(Interruptions)* I am referring to that office which once collected data for the entire Bihar. There is no need to elaborate on the condition of the organisation responsible for data collection under the government of the past ten years.

Undoubtedly, this amendment also reflects our commitment. Until now, there has never been an effort to integrate Jammu and Kashmir into the mainstream of the country. The truth is that under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi Ji, the Bharatiya Janata Party government has extended its reach to Jammu and Kashmir, with a view to addressing the problems of the region at an all-India level. Many laws, Acts, and provisions of the country require amendment,

and when the time comes, we will undertake this task gradually, in the interest of the nation. When two kinds of legislations and two kinds of symbols exist within the same country, such matters cannot continue. In this regard, I would particularly like to quote the ideology behind the commitment of our Prime Minister, which is the source of his energy, especially as this year we are commemorating the birth centenary of Deendayal Ji. I would like to quote here from his book *Ekatma Manavvaad* regarding the process of law-making and the Constitution in India.

‘The primary characteristic of Indian culture is that it encompasses the entirety of life and the entire creation in a consolidated thought. Its perspective is integrative and holistic. We are one nation; we are one people. Therefore, we have not accepted any discrimination in fundamental rights on the basis of language, province, caste, religion, or the like. We have adopted the principle of a single citizenship. Despite having different provinces, unlike in America, the states and the Union here do not have separate citizenship. We are all citizens of India. Similarly, we have not granted the states the right to secede from the union. Moreover, the decision

regarding the boundaries and names of these states can only be taken by Parliament, not by the state legislatures.'

70 years after independence, the country has still not been able to enact a single law for the entire nation. Our Prime Minister, through this birth centenary celebration, has worked to promote that ideology, the philosophy of integrative humanism. Therefore, this amendment may seem small in appearance, but through data collection, Hon. Prime Minister Ji has laid the foundation for a new India, an integrated India, a strong India, and an India that conveys its message to the world. Hence, I strongly support this amendment and extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon. Minister. Thank you.

[English]

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** Thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, for allowing me speak on the Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017.

The amendment in the Bill is to strengthen the data collection mechanism in the State of Jammu & Kashmir. The Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 was enacted to facilitate the collection of statistics

on economics, social and environmental aspect. The Act extended to the whole of India except Jammu & Kashmir. Similarly, the Jammu & Kashmir State Legislature enacted the Jammu & Kashmir Collection of Statistics Act, 2010. The Collection of Statistics Act, 2008 and Jammu & Kashmir Collection Statistics Act, 2010 following in the Union List have created a legislative vacuum. Moreover, the concurrent jurisdiction to be exercised by the Centre in Jammu & Kashmir has not been provided. The amendment is intended to address the vacuum which will help the social upliftment of the people residing in Jammu & Kashmir. But it should be taken care of that after the implementation of this legislation, there should be no conflict with the setup of Jammu & Kashmir in collection of data and input of statistics.

In this Bill, it has been said that nodal officer is appointed at the Centre and in each State to effectively coordinate and supervise the data collection activities for avoiding unnecessary duplication.

I, on behalf of my Party, welcome the Bill, I suggest to incorporate a provision into the proposed Bill that there should be a timeframe for furnishing data or statistics and it has to be made binding on all because the current status of statistics of some departments with regard to adequacy, timeliness and reliability are far

from satisfactory. Sometimes, the advanced estimates are made simply on the basis of the visual estimates. Until the final results are available which is almost is one year after, only rough estimates are supplied which have been the reason of sustainable revision in the estimated one.

Coming from the State of West Bengal, it makes me proud that the Indian Statistical Institute is an academic institute of national importance as recognised by 1959 Act of Indian Parliament. Prof. Prashant Chandra Mahalanobis, who is the founder ISI, was deeply influenced by the wisdom and guidance of Shri Rabindranath Tagore and Shri Brajendra Nath Seal. Under his leadership, the Institution initiated and promoted the statistics with natural and social science to advance the role of statistics. The Second Five Year Plan of India was the brainchild of Prof. Prashant Chandra.

Timely availability of statistics is the essence of the efficiency of the National Statistical System. Statistics with a long-time gap may not be of much use for policy-making. The efforts to improve agricultural, industrial and other statistics at the ground level will have to be quick and only then, the impact of statistical data at the national level would earn desired and proper result which will help to improve

the quality of life of the people in the valley for broad-based social transformation in development.

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL):** Sir, I start by saying that I have tremendous amount of reservations about this Bill and let me put it as succinctly as I can that I oppose this, Bill.

This is a seemingly very innocuous piece of legislation. The Statement of Objects and Reasons is very simple and very easy to understand. What the Hon. Minister has said, a man that all of us respect, the way he put it as if it is something to do with Jammu and Kashmir, so it does not really matter.

But I start by quoting something. It is an Approach Paper on Privacy by the Department of Personnel and Training of his Government. This says,

“As more and more agencies of the Government sign on to the Aadhaar Project, the Aadhaar number will become the common thread that links all those databases. There is more and more scope for commercial exploitation of this information without the knowledge, consent of the individual.”

This is the driving aspect that bothers me. In the Bill, the colleague from the Congress spoke earlier. He did not eventually spell out whether he supports or opposes the Bill. But I said right at the beginning that I oppose it. Clause 5 (i) says,

“The Statistics Officer or any person or agencies authorized under this Act shall, for statistical purposes, use any information furnished under Section 6 in such manner as may be prescribed.”

Who will prescribe it? Who is the authority? How will that data be used?

Sir, we are not understanding how privacy is of utmost importance in a modern world. If we are a party affiliated to the Government, then we all go along with whatever the bosses have said. If we are a party not affiliated to the Government, we are unwilling to study and understand the import, the dangers of such a Bill. Aadhaar, as you know, Sir, I have been consistently saying from the very beginning – not only now, but earlier when the idea was mooted by the UPA, at that time also, I had opposed it -- that even now also I oppose it because Aadhaar is a deadly thing which you are dumping

on the unknowing individuals of this country -- the illiterate and the uneducated.

As you know, Sir, due to our social customs, a family without too much of an income, many a time, you will see the father, mother, a married son and his wife, sometimes, a grandchild all living in one room. So, the concept of privacy, as we have seen in the western world, really does not exist much in the Indian mind. So, what happens is we all rush to make Aadhaar Cards. I have seen in villages how people rush to make Aadhaar Card because they think that if they make the Aadhaar Card and get that document, then, they get some money from the Government. That is exploiting our poverty and our backwardness.

This reminds me about the saying. It is a very small line which was uttered by one of the most powerful industrialists, businessman of India. Earlier, I had mentioned in this House that I would prefer not to take his name because he is not a Member of this House, and everybody keeps on repeating the name of Shri Mukesh Ambani. He had said: “*Data*, I underline it, is the new oil”. This is a very important statement: “Data is the new oil”. A man understands how much wealth lies there.

**18.00 hrs**

I am sorry to say, many of us, even in this House are unwilling or incapable of comprehending what kind of data is being collected from all of us under the guise of Aadhar. I have been able to resist it till now. I did not even go when this four-day camp was set up in Parliament, which ended on the 24<sup>th</sup>. How long can I run away from Aadhar? Because when I had to file my income-tax, the income-tax people would not take it without my Aadhar number. My bank is constantly sending me SMSs asking me to provide my Aadhar number or else my account will be put to dormant situation. So, you are forcing the citizens to give all the data, my fingerprint, etc. ...  
*(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Now, it is 6 0' clock. Can you continue your speech tomorrow?

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** No, Sir, I would finish my speech within one or two minutes. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** We would continue till he completes his speech.

**THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND  
MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI**

**ANANTHKUMAR):** Shri Satpathy is a very dear friend. Let him complete his speech.

**SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY:** Thank you, Sir. I have great respect for the Hon. Minister, Shri Ananth Kumar *ji*. He is very nice to me.

Section 9(1), which has earlier been mentioned, states that statistical purpose is the only usage for data. However, this Bill adds another phrase, 'used in a manner that may be prescribed'. The Government, as you know, is pushing Aadhar in a very arbitrary and illegal manner. Starting from mobile phones, to mid-deal meal scheme, and newspapers, we simply had it. For the driving licence also, you will need Aadhar. ... (*Interruptions*) So, the Collection of Statistics (Amendment) Bill, 2017 is something that deserves extreme opposition from Members of this House. This takes away the power of legislation from Parliament. This Bill 'hands over' all the data to the bureaucracy, to the *Babus*, and I oppose this.

I hope and pray that good sense will prevail on this Government. They will not be in power, this particular party will not be in power, for ever. So, do not forget that you should not hand over this kind of

unilateral and arbitrary powers to the *Babus*, who will mis-utilise it against the citizens of this country.

Thank you, Sir, for giving me this opportunity.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again on Wednesday, the 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2017 at 11. 00 a. m.

**18.03 hrs**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on  
Wednesday, March 29, 2017/Chaitra 8, 1939 (Saka).*

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