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Agrahayana 25, 1936 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Third Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. VI contains Nos.11 to 22)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Tuesday, December 16, 2014/Agrahayana 25, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, I have given a notice for an Adjournment Motion on the assault on federal structure by the Government. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Prof. Saugata Roy and Shri Deepender Singh Hooda.

The notice tabled by Prof. Saugata Roy seeks to raise many issues. Under Rule 56 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, a definite matter of Urgent Public Importance may be raised through an Adjournment Motion. Further, under Rule 58 (2), an Adjournment Motion shall not raise more than one matter on the same motion. Whatever you have written is not according to this. Therefore, the notice of Adjournment Motion from Prof. Saugata Roy is inadmissible.

The matter sought to be raised in the notice of Adjournment Motion of Shri Deepender Singh Hooda can be discussed through other opportunities. I will allow him after Question Hour and we will see to it. Therefore, I have disallowed both the notices of Adjournment Motion.

… (*Interruptions*)

11.02 hrs

At this stage, Shri Abhishek Banerjee and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Hon. Members, go back to your seats during Question Hour. … (*Interruptions*) Madam, other hon. Members are losing their opportunities of raising questions during Question Hour. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Hon. Speaker, Madam, there is no justification for disrupting the proceedings of the House daily. ... *(Interruptions)* Such conduct amounts to an injustice to the nation. ... *(Interruptions)* The matter under discussion is of great importance and remains to be deliberated upon; therefore, the House must be allowed to function in a regular manner. ... *(Interruptions)* If they are unwilling to allow the smooth

functioning of the House, then what course of action remains available to us? ... *(Interruptions)*

11.02 ½ hrs.

*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Anupriya Patel – Q. No.321

(Q.321)

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: By the Government's definition, a Central Public-Sector Enterprise (CPSE) is considered sick if its accumulated loss in a Financial Year is equal to or more than 50 per cent of its average net worth in the four immediately preceding years, and/or if it can be termed sick by the meaning given in the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

The Public Sector Enterprises Survey for 2012-13 shows that the number of CPSEs was 90 in 2004-05, came down to 66 in March 2012, but again climbed to 79. In all the PSUs the reasons of losses are surely not one but many which need to identified.… (*Interruptions*)

My first question to the hon. Minister is, in the interest of the country, what are the options the Government wants to undertake to

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

treat the sickness of the CPSEs? Is disinvestment the only option in the eyes of the Central Government or is the Government thinking of reviving sick PSUs by making some structural changes at managerial level and staffing pattern or in any other aspects that need to be done? … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Hon. Speaker, Madam, the Hon. Member has expressed concern regarding our sick public sector enterprises. I concur with the concern expressed by the Hon. Member. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, through you, I would first like to inform the House that disinvestment is not our priority. The Government is serious about revival. In this direction, several steps have been taken by the Government. ...*(Interruptions)* In response to the original question, we have provided this information. The Government is certainly making efforts to ensure that those public enterprises which can be revived are indeed taken up for revival. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL : Madam, my second question to the hon. Minister pertains to the workers who are employed in these sick PSUs. … (*Interruptions*) As per my knowledge, the combined

strength of the employees in all the loss-making PSUs is around 2,50,000, which is a very huge number. … (*Interruptions*) What is the Government's plan and responsibility towards these employees in case of sale and disinvestment of these sick units? … (*Interruptions*)

How their interest is going to be protected? … (*Interruptions*) I am particularly asking this question in respect of Triveni Structurals Limited, which is located at Naini, Allahabad in the Purvanchal Region of Uttar Pradesh. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam Speaker, all our sick industries ... *(Interruptions)* or enterprises, the Government is indeed concerned about their employees. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, since several years, approximately since 2004-05, we have been consistently paying salaries to the employees of all such sick units. ... *(Interruptions)* The Hon. Member has specifically raised a question regarding Triveni Structurals Limited. This matter is currently sub judice, and the Court has appointed a Provisional Liquidator. ... *(Interruptions)* Accordingly, we have sought legal opinion from the Ministry of Law and Justice. ... *(Interruptions)* The Ministry of Law and Justice has advised us to seek the opinion of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. ... *(Interruptions)* We have accordingly requested

the opinion of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. As soon as their opinion is received by the Ministry, a decision will certainly be taken with regard to the salaries of the employees of Triveni Structurals Limited.

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. As the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply, efforts are being made to support our PSUs and sick industries. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Madam, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that, in the case of loss-making PSUs in the public sector, our Government has made efforts to extend assistance through other PSUs. This is the policy of the Government. ... *(Interruptions)* There is a clear policy of the Government with regard to public sector enterprises, and we are in agreement that our Government is making better efforts. For the revival of our sick PSUs, sincere efforts are being undertaken. ... *(Interruptions)* In this regard, the Government has recently provided assistance of approximately Rs. 32 crore to four PSUs. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Madam, through you, I would like to enquire about the industries established in the private sector. These private sector industries often obtain substantial loans from banks and receive

subsidies. However, sooner or later, without due regard for their employees or the nation, such private institutions, after availing loans and subsidies, abandon these industries by declaring losses and shutting them down. ... *(Interruptions)* As a result, employees feel ... *(Interruptions)* and the workers employed in such establishments suffer significant losses. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker, Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government has any policy in place to take concrete action or make a firm decision regarding sick industries in the private sector. In such cases, after making profits, private industrialists abandon these institutions midway, causing significant losses to the employees. ... *(Interruptions)* Will the Government make any effort to assist those affected?

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Hon. Speaker, Madam, this question is not related to the original question. The original question pertains to public sector enterprises, whereas the Hon. Member is seeking information regarding private industries. ... *(Interruptions)* If information is sought in this regard, a separate question may be submitted. Moreover, this matter pertains to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. ... *(Interruptions)* This question does not fall under the purview of my Ministry. ... *(Interruptions)* If a separate

question is raised, the relevant information will certainly be provided. Thank you. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Madam, HMT Holdings Limited has five units out of which Kochi Unit is the only one which is making a profit. The consultancy firm which has been appointed has recommended to the Government that the Kochi Unit should be separated and it should be developed. Will the hon. Minister take a positive decision on the Kochi Unit at Kalamassery?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Hon. Speaker, Madam, the information provided by the Hon. Member is indeed correct. Of the five units of HMT, the Kochi unit is generating profit. The Hon. Member has suggested separating the Kochi unit. We will certainly give due consideration to the suggestion made by him here today. ... *(Interruptions)*

11.12 hrs

At this stage, Shri Abhishek Banerjee and some other hon. Members left the House.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Madam Speaker, a review was made relating to the Department of Heavy Industries at end-March 2012. With a gross block of Rs. 16,639 crore, employing 88,894 people, they generated a profit of Rs. 5,611 crore. This is not bad at first sight, but on a closer look, the accumulated losses of 23 of these Public Sector Enterprises were Rs. 22,976 crore and only nine had accumulated profits. Seventeen of the 32 Central Public Sector Enterprises had negative growth. If this is the case, would the Government agree that these seventeen Public Sector Enterprises are promoting growth-less jobs?

[Translation]

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Madam, I am in complete agreement with the information furnished by the Hon. Member. As regards our sick units, in respect of the 23 undertakings to which he has referred as running at a loss, efforts are being made to bring them out of loss, and the Government is fully vigilant in this regard.

SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that this…

HON. SPEAKER: One moment, please.

11.14 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS

(i) Re : Union Government acting against federal principles

… (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): I respectfully submit that this practice of raising slogans and using abusive language, while the entire country is watching the live telecast of our proceedings, and then walking out thereafter, needs to be reconsidered. What message are we seeking to convey by this? I would like to state specifically that, if a debate is desired on the Saradha scam, on the conduct of the CBI and on the maintenance of the federal structure of the Constitution, we are fully prepared for such a discussion. ... *(Interruptions).*

[English]

They cannot accuse the Government and go away, Madam. The Government is ready to discuss the issue. I want to put it on record. Corruption cannot be shielded by ‘federalism’ slogans in the House.

That is what I want to say. Let them give a notice and let there be a debate in the House. The Government is ready for a debate any time, whatever you decide. On Sarada scam, let there be a debate, but this is not the way. … (*Interruptions*)

11.15 hrs.

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS-Contd…

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Koshyariji.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: Hon. Speaker, Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that there is an HMT factory in my Parliamentary Constituency. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, such things can be raised not in the Question Hour. It can be taken up at other time. How can the Parliamentary Affairs Minister raise it? … (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: He is only pointing out.

… (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: How can he do so? You never allowed us.

… (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have allowed him.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It was not a Point of Order or clarification or anything. No. He wanted to put it on record that they are ready to discuss it. I have allowed him.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ... *

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGAT SINGH KOSHYARI: I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that the HMT company in my Parliamentary Constituency has been closed for several years. ...*(Interruptions)* Apart from manufacturing watches, ... *(Interruptions)* the HMT company has been producing a large number of components related to the Army. May I know whether, by entering into an arrangement or consultation with the Ordnance Factory, the Hon. Minister will be able to ensure that this company is revived properly so that the company can function effectively and neither the workers nor the country suffers any loss?

* Not recorded.

SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE: Hon. Speaker, Madam, the Hon. Member has expressed concern regarding HMT Watches. ... *(Interruptions)* He has made certain suggestions. ... *(Interruptions)* The Government is making efforts in this direction. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to assure the Hon. Member that the Government will certainly endeavour to address this matter. ... *(Interruptions)*

(Q. 322)

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Madam, the hon. Home Minister while addressing the Conference of DGPs and IGPs in Guwahati at the end of last month stated that the growing threat of Islamic State or ISIS is the biggest challenge faced by our country especially in the wake of some Indian youths being lured by these forces. Yesterday, hon. Home Minister had made a *suo motu* statement in this very House regarding the case of a young engineer from Bengaluru arrested by Intelligence Agencies for his role in circulating ISI material through a twitter account. We also have the case of a Mumbai youth brought back from ISIS to India. The other day, hon. Home Minister made it clear in Guwahati that Al Qaeda had recently announced the formation of a new outfit, that is, Qaeda-al-Jihad with the intention of specially targeting Gujarat, Assam, Bihar, Jammu and Kashmir and Bangladesh. Under these circumstances, I wish to know from the hon. Home Minister what effective steps have been taken by this Government to check the threat of terrorism being posed by ISIS and Al Qaeda … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: Madam, the Home Minister should reply. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: He is also capable.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: It is such an important question.… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: How can you say? He is also a young man from North East.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: How can a young Minister be disregarded?

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: A young person is ready to respond, yet you are declining to hear him. Deepender ji, [English] Is it O.K.?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Madam, the question being raised is very important. The agencies especially dealing with the subject on which the question is being raised, are dealing with it. This subject is very very sensitive. That is why, the detail of the subject is not possible to

be discussed here. But to mention the points on which the hon. Member wanted to know specifically about the steps being taken by the Government of India, there are series of action being initiated right from augmentation of the strength of the Central Armed Forces to creating and enhancing the capacity of various agencies like the National Security Guards and the Multi Agency Centre (MAC) which is there, which is working as a coordinated agency between the Central and the State agencies to share the intelligence information and the steps to be taken thereafter, the tightening of the immigration control, effective border management and so on. There are series of actions that are in place. There is nothing much to worry about. At the same time, the two cases which the hon. Member mentioned, that are not being found, are about a large number of Indians particularly from that community who have been taking part in ISIS activities in Iraq and Syria. That being the case, we need not very much worry about the situation which is prevailing at the moment.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Madam, my question has not been fully answered. My question was specifically about Qaedat al-Jihad, a formation which is targeting Gujarat, Assam, Bihar and Jammu and Kashmir. It was a statement made by the hon.

Home Minister while he was attending the Conference of the DGPs and IGPs at Guwahati at the end of the last month.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to clarify to the House that, as far as the issue of ISIS is concerned, we have taken the activities of this terrorist organisation across countries worldwide with the utmost seriousness. It is true that the number of youths from India involved in or connected to ISIS activities is but a handful, which I would describe as negligible. It cannot be asserted with certainty that they have any involvement with ISIS or its activities. I sincerely would like to congratulate and express my gratitude to the minorities of our country, for it is they who are dissuading young individuals influenced by radicalisation from participating in ISIS activities in countries such as Syria or Iraq. While minorities or heavily populated Muslim communities in other countries may be encouraging such involvement, here in India, fathers and mothers from minority communities are actively dissuading their children.

I would also like to clarify to the Hon. Member that as soon as ISIS activities commenced in other countries, we promptly took cognisance of the matter. The first step taken was to ban this organisation in India. I would also like to inform the House under which Act it has been banned. It has been prohibited under Section 62

of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Amendment Act. This Act specifies, at Point 33, which organisations are to be banned.

[English]

> "Organisations listed in the schedule to the UN Prevention and Suppression of Terrorism Implementation of Security Council Resolution Order 2007 made under section 2 of the United Nations (Security Council) Act 1947 and amended from time to time."

[Translation]

It already stands proscribed in our country. We are fully vigilant to ensure that the activities of ISIS do not spread here. Our Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju, has very appropriately indicated that, to prevent such activities from expanding and to deal effectively with any incident that may occur anywhere, the Ministry of Home Affairs has examined the matter with due seriousness and has taken the requisite measures.

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN : Madam, while I do not contradict what the hon. Home Minister stated here, I have some apprehension about some matters. It has been widely reported that ISIS is spreading its wings across the world and they have a very strong financial backing to carry on their activities. Lashkar-e-Tayyiba and Indian Mujahideen, it has been admitted by the Home Ministry itself, are very active in our country. Reports say that some radical youngsters were recruited from Kerala and elsewhere and given training in terrorism by Pakistan-sponsored modules in Kashmir. A couple of years back, I remember there was a discussion in this very House, two boys from Kerala had been killed in an encounter with Army in Kashmir. May I know from the hon. Minister whether any radical groups from Kerala or any other southern State have any connection with the ISIS? If the Government has some information, I would request it to share it with this august house.

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: Madam, as stated earlier, two cases have come into the public domain. One is of the four youths from the State of Maharashtra who had been to ISIS of which one young boy has come back, and then there is the case reported recently about the Twitter handler’s case in Bengaluru. Besides that there are no specific

cases in hand to disclose about the involvement of any youths from South India in the activities of ISIS.

[Translation]

SHRI R.K. SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Madam, the most dangerous terrorist organisation that has emerged is ISIS. Its philosophy is that it does not recognise any duly constituted government of any country. It aims to establish a caliphate across the world. The Ministry of Home Affairs has rightly declared it a terrorist organisation and included it in the UPA Schedule. However, it is essential that this message is effectively communicated to the public, informing the nation that this is an extremely dangerous terrorist organisation and must be avoided. We have not seen the necessary statements to this effect. Secondly, the propaganda of ISIS is carried out through virtual media and social networking sites, over which we have no control as the servers are located abroad. Efforts have been made earlier to mandate that servers be established within the country. Will the Government take steps in this direction? Otherwise, it will not be possible to control the propaganda spread via social media.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Madam Speaker, the former Home Secretary has raised this question. Therefore, I have risen to reply. As far as apprising the country of, and keeping it alert to, the activities of

this ISIS terrorist organisation is concerned, I had already stated in my address at the DGPs' Conference held in Guwahati that it is a dangerous organisation, and I had also expressed confidence that it would not be able to establish its foothold in our country. I have expressed satisfaction that the Ministry of Home Affairs is dealing with this matter in an appropriate manner. However, the issue that he has raised regarding cyberspace is a very serious one. The system that we presently have for the monitoring of cyberspace needs to be further strengthened. For this purpose, I have already directed that a Committee be constituted; it may already have been constituted or it will be constituted in the next few days. After examining the matter, we shall ensure that there is proper monitoring of cyberspace.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sultan Ahmed. Not Present.

SHRI V. ELUMALAI: Hon. Speaker Madam, the ISIS is raising support in India through social networking websites. There was open support to ISIS in a few parts of the country. What action was taken by the Government in this matter?

SHRI KIREN RIJIJU: As I have stated earlier, action is already initiated on the incidents which have come into public domain. Moreover, such incidents are happening in the virtual world, in the

world of computer or internet. It is difficult for us to really get into the bottom of things because we need to enhance the capacity of the intelligence. At the same time, we need to be very vigilant. At this point of time, it is very difficult to tell in this House about specific cases and incidents of this kind happening in virtual world.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You seem quite upset today. Please remain calm. May I ask what the matter is?

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Hon. Speaker Madam, I am very eager to put a question here. I just would like to say all the responsible organizations of the minority community, specially my community, my party condemns the activities of ISIS as they have exhorted the community in the name of Islam. Nobody will associate with them. I assure on behalf of my party that we will never allow anybody to support ISIS. We will always oppose it tooth and nail because they are doing everything against the principles of Islam. At the same time, I would request the hon. Home Minister to see to it whether any innocent Muslim has been jailed in the name of ISIS activities. The former Home Secretary is here. He knows it very well; he did mention this the other day. Innocent people are now being jailed in the name of

ISIS. I assure, on behalf of my Party, that we will never support ISIS; we will support all the activities of the Government of India, to oppose and suppress ISIS.

HON. SPEAKER: So, there is no question, but only assurance from your side. Thank you.

SHRI E. AHAMED: I would like to have an assurance from the Home Minister that he will see that no innocent Muslim will be put to difficulties in the name of ISIS. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please take your seat, Ahamed Ji.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Madam, I have already clarified earlier, while replying to a supplementary question, that the minorities of our country are consistently dissuading such tendencies. In many developed countries of the world, particularly European countries whether France, Germany, the U.K. or the U.S.A., families there may sometimes be encouraging them, but in India our minorities are dissuading such young people. I have already apprised the House of this.

I would like to reassure the Hon. Member E. Ahamed that no action will be taken against any innocent youth or any person. If you

receive any such information inadvertently, please inform me. I will certainly take cognisance of it and we will take whatever steps are necessary in that regard. ... *(Interruptions)*

(Q.323)

[English]

SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE : The reply of the hon. Minister is incomplete with respect to my queries.

My supplementary question is this, is there any plan or scheme to compensate fishermen who cannot go for work, either maybe in deep sea or sea or rivers, due to bad weather or any other natural cause, either by way of insurance or any other way? If not, why?

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN): Hon. Speaker, Madam, during the three-month lean period for fisheries, the Government of India has already implemented a scheme known as the Saving-cum-Relief Scheme. Under this scheme, a total amount of Rs. 2,800 is provided, of which Rs. 900 is contributed by the fishermen themselves, Rs. 900 by the State Government and Rs. 900 by the Union Government. This scheme has been in operation for some time now.

[English]

SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE : Is there any joint mechanism between India and Bangladesh, where there is Padma River and many other rivers, as also between Bengal and Assam and other States? Generally, the fishermen, due to the reason of 'no milestone' on the river itself, they stray into other countries and are caught by the respective security forces. Is there any joint mechanism to release them and compensate them for their cache, etc.? Do you have any such plan?

[Translation]

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Speaker, Madam, no such joint mechanism exists at present. Regarding compensation for fishermen, a one-time settlement of Rs. 3 lakh is currently available for those fishermen who are caught in Pakistan.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sunil Kumar Mondal – Not present.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD: Hon. Speaker, Madam, I express my heartfelt gratitude to you. I myself am a fisherman. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I am allowing you to ask the question for this reason.

SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that there is a Fishermen's Housing Welfare Scheme of the Government of India, under which 50 percent of the funds are provided by the Government of India and 50 percent by the Government of Uttar Pradesh. However, till date, out of the 50 percent share released by the Government of India, even that 50 percent has not reached the beneficiaries, nor has a single rupee been provided by the State Government. ... *(Interruptions).*

Madam Speaker, my second question, related to this, is that after Independence there existed a Fishermen's Welfare Board under the Government of India, which was discontinued by the previous Government approximately 20 years ago. Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that this Board be revived and that the benefits of the Fishermen's Housing Scheme be passed on directly to the beneficiaries by the State Government.

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Speaker, Madam, during the 11th Plan, the Union Government provided assistance of Rs. 50,000 for housing. Recently, some State Governments requested that this amount be increased to Rs. 3,50,000. Increasing it to Rs. 3,50,000 was not feasible, but the amount has been raised to Rs. 75,000. The Indira Housing Scheme also provides Rs. 75,000, and this amount has been increased accordingly. In addition, there is a National Fisheries Board under the Union Government, through which we can, from time to time, tender advice to the State Governments.

[English]

DR. P. VENUGOPAL: Madam, I would like to know from the Minister whether there is any scheme with the Ministry of Agriculture to protect the lives of our fishermen in the southern coasts of Tamil Nadu because attacks on fishermen, looting of their catches and capturing of their boats are continuing. The lives of fishermen and their families are in great trouble. Our Navy and Coast Guards do not seem to protect our fishermen from the Sri Lankan Navy.

I would like to know whether the Union Ministry of Agriculture will come up with additional funds and a package to help the fishermen to continue their traditional occupation of livelihood

because this is necessary in the wake of damages done to their boats and nets.

[Translation]

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Speaker, Madam, such crises keep occurring repeatedly. The last time what happened in Sri Lanka, the Ministry of External Affairs engaged in negotiations and has been making continuous efforts to resolve the issue. On our part, changes have been made in marine fisheries, and it is also possible to make further changes to assist the fishermen. Earlier, permission was granted for boats up to 20 metres, which has now been reduced to 15 metres. Permission is granted by the Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India. If a fisherman goes out to sea for fishing, this procedure has now been made transparent and simplified.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Hon. Speaker, Madam, India ranks approximately second in fish production. Our country is blessed with abundant aquatic resources, and there are about 1.45 crore fishermen in the country. Even today, fishermen do not receive adequate facilities and protection.

Through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, how many fishermen have been detained in various countries so far? What action is the Government taking to secure their release?

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Speaker ji, I do not currently have the data regarding how many fishermen have been detained in which countries. I will obtain this information and submit it to the House.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Madam, the most recent instance is that the Government of Sri Lanka had awarded the death sentence to four fishermen of our country. Our Hon. Prime Minister personally took the initiative, held discussions, and they were released from the death sentence. This is a very recent development.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Madam, most of the welfare schemes of the Government of India in the sector of fisheries are being implemented by the States. But these welfare schemes are not sufficient if Dr. Meena Kumari Committee recommendations are to be implemented in the fisheries sector. Madam, I had raised this issue during 'Zero Hour' also. According to the recommendations of Dr. Meena Kumari Committee, between 200 metres and 500 metres depth of sea, fishing is over saturated. So, it has to be kept as a buffer zone and no fishing is possible there. After 500 metres of depth, 1178 deep sea trawlers have to be given permission. If the recommendations are implemented that the traditional fishermen will be in peril.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is in receipt of the recommendations of Dr. Meena Kumari Committee. If so, what is the response of the Government? What action is it going to take on its recommendations?

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Madam, the Meena Kumari Committee was constituted in August 2013 and its report was received in 2014. On 12 November, a meeting was held under the direction of the Hon. Prime Minister, which was attended by The Minister of External Affairs as well as some Hon. Members of Parliament. The Meena Kumari report contained two portions: one concerning marine fishery policy and the other related to deep sea fishery. Regarding the suggestions on deep sea fishery, a guideline was issued on 12 November after consultations with the Ministry of External Affairs. Shrimati Sushma Swaraj also mentioned this in her statement. We will decide on the marine fishery policy after consulting with the Chief Ministers of the coastal states and also seek the opinions of other stakeholders.

(Q. 324)

[English]

SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Hon. Speaker, Madam, this is regarding the National Programme for Bovine Breeding and Dairy Development which is being implemented to conserve indigenous breeds of milch cattle. It is learnt that the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources maintains records only 20 per cent of the indigenous breeds of the country.

I would like to know, through you Madam whether the Government will take any step to identify rest of the indigenous breeds of cattle and to include in the records of the National Bureau of Animal Genetic Resources?

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Madam, earlier, there were five schemes under the National Animal Breeding and Dairy Development Programme. These schemes have now been merged and renamed as N.P.B.B.D.D. Two main components have been created under this: one is N.P.B.B. and the other is N.P.D.D. recently, about Rs. 500 Crore was allocated from these two schemes to implement the National Gokul Mission. under this scheme, among the indigenous livestock, 80 percent are of indigenous breeds, while

20 percent are of foreign and crossbreeds. Until now, our focus was mainly on foreign and crossbreeds, but under this five-year plan, Rs. 500 crore will be spent over the next three years primarily for the conservation and development of indigenous breeds. Within two months, 11 states have sent projects worth approximately Rs. 127 crore, which have also been approved, all of which are related solely to the conservation and development of indigenous breeds.

[English]

SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Madam, during the last Session I got a reply to an Unstarred Question No. 96 answered on 8th July, 2014 by the Hon. Minister that total number of vechur cow, the indigenous breed of Kerala, is only 160. As you would know the milk of vechur cow has some medicinal property. My question to the hon. Minister is that whether the Government will introduce any specific scheme to preserve vechur cow which is on the verge of extinction?

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Madam, I recently visited Kerala. The universities there have initiated research related to this. Research is underway focusing on the conservation of these livestock breeds as well as increasing their productivity. Previously, the production was around one to one and a half kilogram, but there

has been an increase in productivity, and the Ministry is continuing to work on this matter.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise this question. The initiative of the Government to increase the productivity of the indigenous bovine breeds is laudable and the *Rashtriya Gokul* Mission is also praiseworthy under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji.

There is a severe shortage of veterinarians in the country. The requirement of veterinarians is about 1.2 lakh. The general norm is to have at least one veterinary doctor for every five thousand animals. In India the total cattle and buffalo population is around 30 crore as per the 2012 Livestock census. In this context, I would like to know as to what steps the Government is going to take to address this shortage of veterinary doctors. Is there any proposal to introduce the para-veterinarian course and diploma course in Veterinary?

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Madam, the Veterinary Council of India had ceased to function for the past 15 years. Veterinary colleges in 11 states were also closed, along with many colleges in the private sector. The first step we took was to

conduct its election a month ago. The newly formed V.C.I. Committee has held its first meeting. In that meeting, affidavits were obtained from the State Governments of the 11 states where veterinary colleges had been closed, stating that they would complete the necessary formalities within six months. These colleges have now been reopened. The number of seats, which was 60, has been increased to 100. Similarly, for certain private colleges, a specific amount has been fixed to be deposited as security, along with an affidavit stating the timeframe within which they would develop the required infrastructure. Two such colleges have complied, and permission for teaching has been granted to them. It appears that within the span of two to three months, we have made considerable progress in this sector.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Madam Speaker, in the response given by the Hon. Minister, it has been stated that projects were submitted by 12 states and grants have been released accordingly. In Haryana, there is the National Dairy Research Institute, Karnal. A project is currently being implemented in Hisar for the breeding of the Murrah breed. The indigenous cattle breeds of Haryana like Rathi and Murrah are world-famous. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister if the Government of Haryana submits a proposal, would the Government

be willing to implement breeding and bovine-related projects at the Lala Lajpat Rai Veterinary University in Hisar?

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Madam Speaker, it is clearly mentioned in the guidelines of The Gokul Mission that if any Government, Cooperative Organisation, Trust or NGO submits such a proposal through the respective State Government, we shall certainly grant approval.

DR. BHARATIBEN D. SHIYAL: Thank you, Madam Speaker, for giving me the opportunity to ask a question.

From our history, we learn that from Gokul-Mathura to across India, the milk trade used to be handled by women. This contributed to their self-reliance and instilled a sense of pride in them. Similarly, Gujarat's first woman Chief Minister, Hon. Anandiben Patel, has taken a highly commendable initiative. In the first budget that she presented, provisions were made specifically for women, especially rural women. Women involved in animal husbandry are encouraged to form milk producer groups. These groups are allotted land by the gram panchayat, and the Government provides Rs. 5 Lakh for constructing a dairy building, as well as for milking machines and milk testing tables. I have observed that this has significantly

increased the self-reliance of rural women in my Parliamentary Constituency, Bhavnagar, and across Gujarat.

Through you, Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether there is any scheme by the Government to enhance the self-reliance and dignity of women in our country who are engaged in animal husbandry and milk production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA): Hon. Speaker, Madam, a new scheme was launched in Gujarat in the year 2014. As the Hon. Member mentioned, under the scheme, there is a women's group, and the Government provides financial support for constructing a building. ... *(Interruptions)* The suggestion of the Hon. Member is valid. We will consider how this scheme can be implemented across the entire country.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Madam, across the country, 70 percent of the work related to milk production is carried out by women. There are ample opportunities for women in this sector.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the hon. Prime Minister for creating the Rashtriya Gokul Mission.

Under the Mission, as the hon. Minister has just mentioned, there are two schemes like the National Programme for Bovine Breeding and National Progrmame for Dairy Development. A lot of milk is still not being processed. I would like to ask, through you Madam, as to how does the hon. Minister, through his Ministry, intends to increase productivity within the indigenous species. What are the new policies of the Government to go forward in this process which is being helped by 12 States which have already adopted this Programme?

[Translation]

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: Madam, milk production in this country is continuously increasing graphically from the year 1950-51 to the year 2012-13. Milk production was 17 million tonnes in the year 1950-51, which reached 132 million tonnes in the year 2012-13. The per capita availability, which was 130 gram per day in the year 1950-51, has reached 302 gram per day, whereas the world average is 293 gram per day. The country is growing rapidly in milk production, and graphically, it is growing every year.

You referred to 12 schemes. Under the Gokul Mission, 12 States have submitted proposals. Our schemes are being implemented in all the States of the country. The Gokul Mission is a new scheme which commenced 2 months ago, under which 12 States have sent their

proposals. We have approved them and further proposals from other States will be received by March. Through the NPBB and NPDD schemes, work relating to breeding is being carried out. However, it is our misfortune that within the country there is no National Breeding Centre for the improvement of indigenous breeds. The Hon. Prime Minister had made an announcement in this regard and Rs. 50 crore have been provided for this work. It has been decided to establish two National Breeding Centres, one in South India and another in North India. Along with this, we have requested land from the Government of Uttar Pradesh within a radius of 100 kilometres. During our visit to Mathura, we observed that the University there has a large tract of land. We have held discussions with the Minister, the Secretary and the State Government, and it has been decided to set up the two Breeding Centres, one in the North and one in the South.

(Q. 325)

SHRI RAJAN VICHARE: Thank you, Madam Speaker. It appears that, in the conferment of the Arjuna Award, sportspersons from this discipline are subjected to discriminatory treatment, as is evident from the fact that, in a related dispute, boxer Manoj Kumar had to approach the High Court to obtain this Award. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister why, in the game of hockey, after India had won the World Championship, the names of the players recommended by Hockey India for the Arjuna Award were not considered.

[English]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Madam Speaker, this is a very important Question. I am thankful to the hon. Member for bringing this issue before this House.

This issue of giving Arjuna Award to Shri Manoj Kumar became a controversy a few months back. I do admit that. Let me make it very clear to the House that this was a matter which led us to a situation where we had to take a stand in favour of the player. We realized that it was our mistake. Due to a mistaken identity, he was denied this Award earlier. But later on when we realized that this was a mistake

on our part, we had decided to confer this Award to Shri Manoj Kumar. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJAN VICHARE: Madam, why was Paramjeet Samota, the Gold Medallist Boxer in the 2010 Commonwealth Games, not nominated for this award? I would like to know the reason.

HON. SPEAKER: It would be better if you ask questions about the general policy.

[English]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Madam Speaker, let me make it clear to the hon. Member that we have a selection criteria. For your information, in the history of Arjuna Award, for the first time the Ministry has adopted a very transparent policy in this regard, particularly in terms of selection criteria. Earlier the selection criteria were subjective. But for the first time we have introduced an objective criteria.

For this we constitute a committee which enjoys the autonomy, particularly for giving marks as per the criteria laid down in the entire scheme.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI: Madam, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

Currently, India has very little or no facility for para-sports. Delhi is the hub for para-sports especially when Drona Awardees and many Arjuna Awardees are living here. I am requesting or asking the hon. Minister whether he has any plans to bring para-sports facility to Delhi along with accommodation facilities. We have conducted a function for the blind. Sports facility was not there. We used other facilities. So, we need a continuous process in which either the existing facilities are upgraded to house the para-sports personnel or is there any such plan for New Delhi, especially.

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: Para-sports is a priority discipline for us. We have an annual Budget allocation of Rs.160 lakh for the financial year 2014-15. This Budget has been utilized for conducting coaching camps for para athletes at various SAI Centres in Delhi, Bengaluru, Gandhi Nagar, Sonipat and Patialia in the disciplines of athletics, swimming, judo, power-lifting, shooting, badminton, table tennis, archery, etc. In addition, the athletes have also been deputed abroad for international competition at full cost of Government and the SAI. While training at various SAI Centres, complete equipment has been provided by SAI. Our Ministry also

provided Rs. 210 lakh for participation of para-athletes in the Asian Para-Games, 2014, held at South Korea.

About the blind cricket, for your information, I would like to say that this time our Blind Cricket Team has brought the World Cup to India from South Africa.…(*Interruptions*) This is a great moment for every Indian. We are proud of their victory.… (*Interruptions*) So, the Blind Cricket Team is affiliated to Para-Olympic Committee of India. SAI has provided complete financial assistance to the Blind Cricket Team - Rs.8 lakh for participation in the bilateral cricket tournament held at Pakistan and Rs.25 lakh for participation in the ODI World Cup at Cape Town. In addition, SAI has also been providing free boarding and lodging facilities to them for transit camps. A sum of Rs.85 lakh has been awarded. Rs.5 lakh per player as a special cash award for winning the World Cup has been kept from 25th November to 9th December.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: The Best Award for producing outstanding achievement in coaching is given in the name of Dronacharya. As we all know, Dronacharya was a great guru but still according to the Mahabharata, Dronacharya demanded the thumb of his sh*ishya*.… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Do you have any objection to Dronacharya's name?

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: This is a genuine question. Dronacharya was a great guru who demanded the thumb from Eklavya , his *shishya,* as *guru dakshina.* So, my question is: Is it proper to keep Dronacharya's name for best coaching for outstanding performance in coaching? I want to know whether the Government will consider a change in the name of Dronacharya.

HON. SPEAKER: It cannot be. I am sorry.

SHRI M.B. RAJESH : This is a genuine question.

HON. SPEAKER: What genuine question is it?

SHRI M.B. RAJESH : Many objections have been raised from various quarters. We are objecting to it. I have great respect. Still, is it proper to keep such a name?

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: We do not have any proposal at this time.

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Madam Speaker, I believe that when our sportspersons participate in international competitions, the honour and prestige of the country are paramount for them; no

monetary reward really matters to them. However, when the nation is foremost in their minds, I also believe that the nation, in turn, ought to think about providing financial security for their future. At present, when an Arjuna Award is conferred, the recipient is also honoured with a financial award of Rs. 5 lakh. Thereafter, however, no policy exists for their welfare, either at the national level or in most States. A few years ago, in the State of Haryana, we formulated a policy to grant a monthly honorarium, under which, on application, each Arjuna Awardee was to receive an amount of Rs. 5,000.

12.00 hrs.

We had also framed a policy of "Padak Laao, Pad Paao (Bring a medal, get a post)". As a result of this, as the Hon. Minister is aware, approximately 33 to 40 percent of the medals won for the country are brought by sportspersons from the State of Haryana. My question to the Hon. Minister is whether, for Arjuna Awardees across the country, there is any scheme of this nature for a talent honour or honorarium, so that they may also be provided financial security. At present, there is a provision for free rail travel for them. Does the Government also propose to provide them air travel facilities, in recognition of the

honour they have brought to the country? Will the nation likewise take steps to enhance the honour accorded to them?

[English]

SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL: For the information of the Hon. Member, this Ministry has a Welfare Fund for the former athletes and there is also a Pension Scheme for them.

*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 326 to 325

Unstarred Question Nos. 3681 to 3910

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

12.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Dr. Ambedkar Foundation, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1233/16/14)

[English]

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

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

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

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1234/16/14)

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Sriperumbudur, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1235/16/14)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU): Madam, on behalf of Shri Prakash Javadekar, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre of Excellence for Medicinal Plants and Traditional Knowledge, Bengaluru, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre of Excellence for Medicinal Plants and Traditional Knowledge, Bengaluru, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1236/16/14)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Salim Ali Centre for Ornithology and Natural History, Coimbatore, for the year 2012-2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1237/16/14)

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

(4) A copy of the Environment (Protection) (Fifth Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 789(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th November, 2014 under Section 26 of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1238/16/14)

(5) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 497(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 appointing the United India Insurance Company Limited as a fund manager under "the Environment Relief Fund Scheme, 2008" issued under Section 7A of the Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1239/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Delhi Police (Appointment and Recruitment) (Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. 16/4/2013/HP-I/Estt./2943 to 2946 in Delhi Gazette dated 8th September, 2014 under sub-section (2) of Section 148 of the Delhi Police Act, 1978.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1240/16/14)

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Section 11 of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008:-

(i) S.O. 1564(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th June, 2014, regarding appointment of 'Additional Judge' to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(6) and 11(9) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

(ii) S.O. 2212(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd September, 2014, regarding appointment of 'Judge' to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

(iii) S.O. 2370(E) published in Gazette of India dated 16th September, 2014, regarding appointment of 'Judge' to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

(iv) S.O. 3001(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th November, 2014, regarding appointment of 'Judge' to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

(v) S.O. 3002(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th November, 2014, regarding appointment of 'Judge' to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(6) and 11(9) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

(vi) S.O. 3003(E) published in Gazette of India dated 27th November, 2014, regarding appointment of 'Judge' to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1241/16/14)

(3) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 2735(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 21st October, 2014, regarding delegating the powers to Administrator/Lieutenant of the

UTs in accordance with Article 239 of the Constitution to discharge functions of the State Governments under the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 issued under article 239 of the Constitution.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1242/16/14)

(4) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 3067 (E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 4th December, 2014, specifying Joint Secretary (IS-I) as Designated Authority under Section 2(i)(e) of the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act, 1967 issued under sub-section (1) of section (2) of the said Act.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1243/16/14)

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

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(2) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and Processing Corporation Limited for the years 1997-1998 to 2013-2014 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting years.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1245/16/14)

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Urban Co-operative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Urban Cooperative Banks and Credit Societies Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1246/16/14)

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1247/16/14)

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Development Corporation (Employees Provident Fund), Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iv) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Development Corporation, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1248/16/14)

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Agricultural Extension Management, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1249/16/14)

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Council for Cooperative Training, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1250/16/14)

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the All India Federation of Co-operative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the All India Federation of Cooperative Spinning Mills Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1251/16/14)

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Labour Cooperatives Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Labour Cooperatives Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1252/16/14)

(10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodity Act, 1955:-

(i) The Fertiliser (Control) Fourth Amendment Order, 2014 published in Notification No. S.O. 2969(E) in Gazette of India dated 25th November, 2014.

(ii) S.O. 2970(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th November, 2014, notifying customised fertilisers,

mentioned therein, for a period of three years from the date of publication of this notification.

(iii) S.O. 2971(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th November, 2014, notifying the provisional fertilizer Di Ammonium Phosphate Coated with 4% Sulphur, to be manufactured in India for a period of three years from the date of publication of this notification.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1253/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR): 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 (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Brahmaputra Cracker and Polymer Limited, Dibrugarh, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1254/16/14)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Plastics Engineering and Technology, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1255/16/14)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI G.M. SIDDESHWARA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table –

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

(a) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Paper Corporation Limited, Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1256/16/14)

(b) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Cement Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1257/16/14)

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bridge and Roof Company (India) Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1258/16/14)

(d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra Dam, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra Dam, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1259/16/14)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Fluid Control Research Institute, Palakkad, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1260/16/14)

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

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

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Kollam, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Rehabilitation Plantations Limited, Kollam, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1261/16/14)

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

(i) The Border Security Force, Combatised Assistant Sub-Inspector (Stenographer) and Head Constable (Ministerial) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 545(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st July, 2014.

(ii) The Border Security Force, Headquarters, Senior Gestetner Operator (Group 'C' post) Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 757(E) in Gazette of India dated 29th October, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1262/16/14)

(3) A copy of the Central Reserve Police Force Group 'C' (General Duty/Technical/Tradesmen) Cadre Recruitment (Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 801(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th November, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 18 of the Central Reserve Police Force Act, 1949.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1263/16/14)

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 22 of the Central Industrial Security Force Act, 1968:-

(i) The Central Industrial Security Force, Security Wing, Constable (Bandsman-cum-GD) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R.804(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th November, 2014.

(ii) The Central Industrial Security Force, Security Wing, Assistant Sub-Inspector (Stenographer) and Head Constable (Ministerial) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R.805(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th November, 2014.

(iii) The Central Industrial Security Force, Security Wing, Assistant Sub-Inspector (Executive) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R.806(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th November, 2014.

(iv) The Central Industrial Security Force, Fire Wing, Constable (Driver-cum-Pump Operator) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R.807(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th November, 2014.

(v) The Central Industrial Security Force, Security Wing, Constable (Driver) Recruitment Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R.808(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th November, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1264/16/14)

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the REPCO Bank Limited, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the REPCO Bank Limited, Chennai, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1265/16/14)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Protection of Plant Varieties and Farmers' Rights Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1266/16/14)

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

(A) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim, for the year 2008-2009.

(ii) Annual Report of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1267/16/14)

(B) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim, for the year 2009-2010.

(ii) Annual Report of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1268/16/14)

(C) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim for the year 2010-2011.

(ii) Annual Report of the Goa Meat Complex Limited, Panjim for the year 2010-2011, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1269/16/14)

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Seeds Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1270/16/14)

(d) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the Karnataka Cashew Development Corporation Limited, Mangalore, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1271/16/14)

(3) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at item (a) to (c) of (35) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1272/16/14)

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

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) Annual Report of the State Farms Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith

Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1273/16/14)

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1274/16/14)

(6) A copy of the Agar Agar Grading and Marking Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 575(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th August, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 3 of the Agricultural Produce (Grading and Marking) Act, 1937.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1275/16/14)

(7) A copy of the Insecticides (Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.797(E) in Gazette of India dated 13th November, 2014 under sub-section (3) of Section 36 of the Insecticides Act, 1968.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1276/16/14)

(8) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 790(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 10th November, 2014, making certain amendments in the Schedule to the Insecticides Act, 1968 under Section 3 of the said Act.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1277/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAOSAHEB PATIL DANVE): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Warehousing Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1278/16/14)

(2) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 52 of the Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2007:-

(i) The Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Registration of Warehouses (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 811(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th November, 2014.

(ii) The Warehousing (Development and Regulation) Registration of Warehouses (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 821(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th November, 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1279/16/14)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jayant Sinha – not present.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology, Thanjavur, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Crop Processing Technology, Thanjavur, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1281/16/14)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Sonipat, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Food Technology Entrepreneurship and Management, Sonipat, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1282/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 774(E) in Gazette of India dated 5th November, 2014 under sub-section (2) of Section 23 of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 128316/14)

12.04 hrs.

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES

1st to 4th Reports

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR): Hon. Speaker, I beg to present the following Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances:-

(1) First Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (Acceded to).

(2) Second Report regarding requests for dropping of assurances (Not acceded to).

(3) Third Report regarding review of pending assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

(4) Fourth Report regarding review of pending assurances pertaining to the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

12.04 ½ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

1st Report

MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI AVSM (GARHWAL): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I beg to present the First Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 20th Report (15th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2013-14)'.

12.05 hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

1st to 3rd and 5th to 7th Reports

[English]

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY (CHIKKABALLAPUR): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Finance (2014-15):-

(1) First Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-eighth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the Subject 'Tax Assessment/Exemptions and Related Matters Concerning IPL/BCCI'.

(2) Second Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Finance (Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Disinvestment).

(3) Third Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Revenue).

(4) Fifth Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

(5) Sixth Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

(6) Seventh Report on action taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Seventy-ninth Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Policy on New Licences in the Banking Sector'.

12.05 ¼ hrs.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS

1st and 2nd Reports

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas:-

(1) First Report on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas.

(2) Second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Twenty-third Report (Fifteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas (2013-14) on 'Functioning of Oil Industry Development Board'.

12.05 ½ hrs.

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 61st Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 'Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-An Evaluation', pertaining to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): Madam, I beg to present a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 61st Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on `Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana-An Evaluation', pertaining to the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, Ministry of Agriculture.

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* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 1284/16/14.

12.06 hrs.

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 179th and 180th Reports of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the 137th Report of the Committee on 'Rehabilitation of J&K Migrants', and on 'Administration of Union Territories (Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh)', pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs. *

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY): Madam, I beg to make the following statements regarding:-

(1) I beg to move on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 179th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 137th Report of the Committee

* Laid on the Table.

on 'Rehabilitation of J&K Migrants', pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(Placed in Library, See No.LT 1285/16/14)

(2) I beg to move on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 180th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs regarding 'Administration of the Union Territories (Daman & Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh)', pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

(Placed in Library, See No.LT 1286/16/14)

12.07 hrs.

MOTION RE: NINTH REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Madam, I beg to move the following:-

> "That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 15th December, 2014 subject to modification that the recommendation regarding item at S.No. 1 already disposed of by the House be omitted."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That this House do agree with the Ninth Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on 15th December, 2014 subject to modification that the

recommendation regarding item at S.No. 1 already disposed of by the House be omitted."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, the Parliamentary Constituency from which I have been elected is considered a tribal region, and in this area, significant populations of major tribal communities such as Kol, Gond, and Baiga reside. However, it is unfortunate that the Baiga tribe now appears to be on the verge of extinction. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam Speaker, I am on a point of order.

HON. SPEAKER: There is no point of order during 'Zero Hour'.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, I am on a point of order pointing out a mistake in the statement of the HRD Minister made regarding Christmas holiday. … (*Interruptions*) She has to correct her statement because she has misled the House. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have received your notice under Direction 115 of the Directions by the Speaker. I am calling for a factual note in this regard.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam Speaker, I have also given a notice.

HON. SPEAKER: You have given notice for 'Zero Hour'. He has given notice under Direction 115. That is why I have told him that I am calling for a factual note.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK: Therefore, I would like to request that the life, art, and culture of the tribal communities in my region be preserved, and that higher educational opportunities be provided to them alongside research. Through you and this House, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to kindly establish a sub-centre of the Central Tribal University in Kusmi, under Sidhi district a tribal-dominated area so that a new and effective step can be taken by the Government for the protection of the existence of tribal communities.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Madam Speaker, this year the farmers of the entire country are grappling with numerous problems and adverse circumstances. On two occasions, through you, we have requested the Government to hold a discussion on this matter under Rule 193. Whether it is the question of MSP, where earlier there was talk of implementing the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee, or the fact that for ten consecutive years there used to be an annual increase of 12 to 15 Percent in MSP, whereas this year the increase in paddy and wheat has been only 3.5 percent, and in cotton the MSP has been raised by merely 1 Percent. It is not only a question of MSP; there are many crops which are now being considered for exclusion from the MSP regime, whether it be maize in Karnataka or the problems of rubber farmers in Kerala, and so on. Similarly, there is a serious shortage of urea. For the first time in many years, farmers in State after State, including Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan and Haryana, are facing acute difficulties in obtaining urea. Through you, I would like to urge the Government to accede to our request and hold a discussion on this important matter, on the issues concerning the farmers and their problems. In this regard, we seek your protection and an assurance from the Government.

HON. SPEAKER: The matter you have raised has already been discussed in the context of natural calamities.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: First, kindly listen to me. Secondly, you have referred to MSP, urea and other matters relating to farmers. There is no objection to a discussion on these matters. These issues have also been considered earlier in the BAC. All such matters, whether concerning the agrarian crisis or related issues, will be taken up for discussion at the earliest possible opportunity, and I shall endeavour to do so.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, it would be good if this matter could be included in the agenda either tomorrow or the day after. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I have already stated that we shall fix a time for it and hold a discussion at the earliest.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Kumari Sushmita Dev is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Deepender Singh Hooda.

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): Madam, the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana is a new suggestion that the Government has taken up. We are very happy about this project. I think, every Parliamentarian is very enthused about this new project taken over by the Government. But as we are working on the field, we have realized that the Government has given a lot of suggestions and interventions as to how to improve it, where to get the aid and money from the monitory side of it. But a lot of times what is happening is that if the MLA or local Government has already used up that fund, we cannot use it in the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana.

So, if the Government can give us some special aids specifically every year for this project because it is a wonderful programme, if we get some more budgetary provision for this for every MP across, it will help us to improve these villages and broaden this programme from one village to more villages. It is because every village today wants it to be in the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. So, if we can make this little more budgetary provision in one village every year, it will enthuse all of us.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Shashi tharoor, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal, Kumari Sushmita Dev, Shri R. Dhruvanarayana, Shri D.K. Suresh, Shri M.B. Rajesh, Shri P.K. Biju, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, Shri

Radheshyam Biswas and Adv. Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Supriya Sule.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Central Government to this evolving national scandal about the development of the Vizhinjam Port in my constituency.

This is a port that has been in existence for 2000 years since Roman times. It has a record 24 metres of undredged depth. The Central Government has invested money and credibility in much lesser ports with much less depth. They are spending money everyday in dredging. Right now our transshipment is going through Colombo which is a Chinese built port. Foreigners are profiting from it. Our own transshipments should be coming to our country.

I would like to request the Central Government to take a much more active interest in this matter. So far they have left it to the State Government which is resource strapped. They have recently approved some viability gap funding. It is not enough. We need more support for developing a major port that can bring Indian goods to India and keep Indian money and Indian resources in India. Why should we be allowing foreigners to profit? I beg the Central Government to take

this project as a Central project and create a major international transshipment hub in Vizhinjam.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA (CHHOTA UDAIPUR): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour on an important matter.

Madam Speaker, my Parliamentary Constituency, Chhota Udaipur, is in Gujarat. In my Constituency, certain tehsils such as Sankheda, Dabhoi, Bodeli, Nandod, Jaitpur, Pavi and Jambughoda are adjacent to forest areas. In these regions, nilgai and wild boar cause extensive damage to the crops of farmers.

Madam Speaker, farmers prepare their crops by using costly fertilisers and pesticides, but when, in the end, the seeds and crops are destroyed by these animals, the farmers are left utterly distressed.

Madam Speaker, for the resolution of this problem, through this House I would like to urge that the Union Government frame a policy and make provision for financial assistance in this regard. At the same time, I would also like request that necessary steps be taken, in the

interest of farmers, for the permanent removal of wild boar and nilgai from our Parliamentary Constituency. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Kirit P. Solanki and Shri Naranbhai Kachhadiya are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ramsinh Rathwa ji

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Madam, I would like to bring to your immediate kind attention regarding the following for consideration and favourable orders.

The Kannur parliamentary constituency consists of several hilly areas surrounded the vested forests of Kerala and Karnataka States in which thousands of agriculturists and private people are struggling to meet both their ends. Now-a-days, the normal life of the people in those areas are seriously affected because of the recurrent attacks of wild animals especially of elephants, wild boars, monkeys, etc. and these animals are attacking the people and destroying their crops and their huts of the Adivasis. Due to the recurrent attacks of wild animals, the people in those hilly areas are having sleepless nights and the local inhabitants as well as the local self governments are being seriously troubled. The implementation of the present prevailing laws is not

sufficient to protect the life and property of the farmers residing in the hilly regions of Kannur District.

As per the provision of law, the hunting of wild animals is a serious offence even if the hunting is for protection of the lives and properties of the people. The inhabitants of many villages in Kannur are facing this serious issue. So, the dependents of peasants killed by the attack of wild animals are being paid only minimum amounts as compensation by the Forest Department and other government agencies. If adequate and sufficient compensations are not provided by statutes in such cases, the sad plight of the dependents cannot be protected. So also some provisions must be made in the statutes for the protection of the people and their properties residing in hilly areas, nearby areas of forests from the attack of wild animals, and the Act also be amended suitably.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.K. Biju, M.B. Rajesh and Adv. Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati P.K. Shreemati Teacher.

[Translation]

SHRI SULTAN AHMED (ULUBERIA): Madam Speaker, thank you. The education department of the country has been embroiled in various controversies over the past seven months, sometimes over

Sanskrit, sometimes over German, and even due to the cancellation of the Christmas holiday. However, the real issue in the country is that nearly 6 lakh primary teacher positions are vacant. The condition of schools in the country is a matter of concern. We are implementing the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and speaking of constructing toilets in schools, but how are these schools to function if there are no teachers?

Even the condition of the Mid-Day Meal scheme is similar. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please speak on one matter only. This is a State matter.

SHRI SULTAN AHMED: There is a shortage of 6 lakh primary teachers and 3.5 lakh upper primary teachers. The Hon. Shri Venkaiah Naidu is present in the House; I would like to submit that the Government of India should fix a time frame for addressing this issue, because schools cannot function without these 6 lakh and 3.5 lakh teachers. Just as we launch various campaigns under different names, a specific time frame should be laid down for this as well. You have drawn up plans for schools where there are no toilets, and for the construction of sanitary facilities, but without teachers, schools simply cannot run. The Right to Education came into force in 2010, but it remains largely a matter of form; effective work is not being

done on it. I would like to request the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to say something on this matter.

HON. SPEAKER: Your point has been made.

Shri Anto Antony.

[English]

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Hon. Speaker, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I would request the Government to kindly redress the grievance of 2,000 students in the State of Kerala whose applications for the merit-cum-means scholarship have been rejected due to small technical mistake.

By this, each applicant would lose Rs. 30,000 this year. It means, there would be a loss of Rs. 6 crore to the minority students in the State of Kerala. This is against the spirit and intention of the Means-cum-Merit Scholarship.

The State Government of Kerala has also requested the Union Government to help these students. I would, therefore, humbly request the Union Government to consider the case of these students on humanitarian grounds and do the needful in availing Means-cum-Merit Scholarship in their favour.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh and Shri P.K. Biju are allowed to associate themselves on this issue raised by Shri Anto Antony.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I am deeply grateful to you for giving me an opportunity, during Zero Hour, to raise in this House an important matter relating to the construction of a sports complex. Hon. Speaker, Madam, on the basis of a reply given during Question Hour and the information available to me, it emerges that, with a view to promoting awareness of sports up to the village level and encouraging sporting talent, the Government of India, under the Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan and Yuva Krida Khel Abhiyaan, has formulated a scheme for the construction of sports complexes for indoor and outdoor games in all 6,545 development blocks of 634 districts of the country, each at a cost of Rs. 1 crore 60 lakh, to be completed within five years, together with arrangements for organising sports competitions and providing incentives to sportspersons. However, the expected results from these projects have not been achieved. This is mainly due to the lack of awareness at the rural level. Moreover, the officials responsible for implementing these schemes have not fulfilled their duties properly. Since the responsibility has been delegated to the State Governments,

the desired practical outcomes have not materialised particularly because many State Governments, especially those of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar, are not functioning in accordance with the expectations of the Union Government. It is important to note that sports complexes are to be constructed in all 6,545 blocks, and five years still remain for the completion of this initiative. While the Government has declared that funds are being provided to the State Governments through schemes such as N.R.G., B.R.G.F., L.W.E., N.F.C.P.R., the Ministry of Rural Development, and the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the State Governments are failing to utilise these funds appropriately. Unless there is an independent allocation of budget specifically for such schemes, we are well aware of their likely fate. Therefore, through you, I would like to request the Union Government that, since this is an ambitious project, funds for the construction of sports complexes in each block should be allocated directly by the Union Government, and the scheme should be directly monitored by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ajay Misra Teni.

[English]

SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL): Madam Speaker, coconut is an important plantation crop of Karnataka State. It is grown in 4.91 lakh hectare accounting for 26 per cent of the total area under horticulture crops. The State produces about 528 crore of coconuts a year and ranks second in the country.

However in the last three to five years, 70 to 80 per cent of the total coconut growing area has been affected severely due to recurring droughts. It has resulted in a financial loss of over Rs. 1,000 crore due to drying up of coconut palms. Now, the farmers are in deep distress. Almost 1.65 lakh hectare of coconut gardens have become unproductive; and many of them have dried up completely.

Sir, Kerala, the number one producer of coconut, underwent the same problem, but they have been given a rejuvenation package by the Coconut Development Board in the Union Budget.

In order to support the farmers of Karnataka, the Government of Karnataka has sent a rejuvenation proposal to the Central Government for Rs. 893 crore. But so far, no action has been taken on this proposal. Unlike other horticulture crops, coconut rejuvenation and replanting take years for its rejuvenation and revival.

I would, therefore, want to know from the Union Government if there are any steps being taken to rejuvenate and provide alternative

cropping in the drought affected coconut gardens of Karnataka and process the rejuvenation proposal made by the Government of Karnataka. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kumari Shobha Karandlaje, Shri R. Dhruvanaryana, Shri S.P. Muddahanume Gowda, Shri B.N. Chandrappa, Adv. Joice George, Shri M.B. Rajesh and Shri Mullappally Ramchandran are allowed to associate themselves on the issue raised by Shri D.K. Suresh.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, you can associate. You give the slips.

[Translation]

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE (MANDLA): Hon. Speaker, Madam, many Hon. Members have expressed concern over the Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Groups (PVTGs), especially the 75 identified special tribal groups, whose populations are declining year after year. To prevent the decreasing population of such groups, such as the Jarawa, Baiga, Sahariya, and Ho-Bihor, which are on the verge of extinction, the Government must take special steps.

Madam, I believe that since these are special tribal groups spread across the country, the Government should undertake special efforts

for their protection, development, and promotion in critical areas such as education, and special budgetary provisions should be made for the same.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Faggan Singh Kulaste.

[English]

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): Respected Madam, I want to draw the attention of this Government to a matter of public importance.

I represent Sambalpur constituency from the State of Odisha. Sambalpur, the headquarters, is the biggest city in western Odisha. This city connects to the State capital, Bhubaneshwar. The distance is 252 kilometres. It connects the National Highway No.42. The Government had already taken a decision in 2012 to make it four-lane but till today, despite the forest clearance and other clearances that have already been given by the Government, no action has been taken yet. So, I would request the Government, through you, Madam, to implement this project because, for the improvement of the two corridors, one, Sambalpur-Jharsuguda and another, Talcher-Angul, this is the only four-lane which can serve the purpose. Thank you.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, though, to some extent, there is a relief, I want to know about the incident and a full statement from the Minister concerned.

On Monday morning, a gunman took an unknown number of hostages in a chocolate café in Martin Place in Sydney. The drama began around 9.45 a.m. in Martin Place, a plaza in the heart of the city's financial and shopping district that is packed with holiday shoppers this time of the year. Many of those inside the café were taken hostage as they stepped in for their morning coffee.

Sometime later, five people escaped from the café. Two people inside the café held up a flag with an Islamic declaration of faith that has often been used by extremists, raising fears that a terrorist incident was playing out in the heart of Australia's biggest city.

The crisis in Sydney finally ended after 15 hours as all the hostages were rescued by police at the Lindt Chocolate Café in Martin Place. The gunman, however, has not yet been captured.

An Indian techie, employee of Infosys, was also taken hostage. In the newspaper, it is stated only one was taken but some other newspapers have said that two people were taken. That is why, we want to know the actual figure. How many people were really captured or taken hostage and how many people were released? I want

a statement from the Minister concerned so that the entire country should know about the real ongoing incident.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Madam Speaker, the issue raised by Kharge Sahab is not only a matter of concern for India but for the entire world. The way terrorist tendencies are spreading across the globe. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: This matter is pertaining to the External Affairs Minister. Why is he replying on it? … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: What is your problem, Sir? I am a Minister in the Government. … (*Interruptions*) Who are you to ask me to stop? … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Saugata Roy ji, this is not fair. Please sit down.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: What is your problem, Mr. Saugata Roy?… (*Interruptions*) Madam, this is the habit of these people.…

(*Interruptions*) If I am representing the Government, who is he to question me? … (*Interruptions*) I am responding to him, who are you?… (*Interruptions*) Who are you? … (*Interruptions*) I am responding to him… (*Interruptions*) This is not the way.… (*Interruptions*) I am telling.... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

Madam, this approach is not correct. Kharge Sahab has made a request, and I was about to state that a reply will be given in the House. If he has an objection even to this, and if he thinks that every one of his wishes must be fulfilled, then he must understand that such a thing is not possible in this House. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: It is not so. If your Cabinet Minister is not present, the Minister of State for External Affairs is here; he can reply. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: He is precisely saying that he will give the reply.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: He himself understands that this is an important matter. ... *(Interruptions)* When it is an important matter, the Minister himself should come and make a statement. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: He is the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. I have allowed him to speak.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kindly take your seat. It is not necessary to rise and speak every time. [English] Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : How can he question a Member, "Who are you to stop me?" … (*Interruptions*) He is a Member. He has got every right to ask. … (*Interruptions*) You cannot challenge a Member. … (*Interruptions*) You can plead that you can answer. That is a different question. But, you cannot say, "Who are you to ask me?" … (*Interruptions*) This is unfair. … (*Interruptions*) It is against the principle and it is against the rules. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have allowed him to speak. [Translation] There is no need for everyone to speak. Please be seated.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, if I am speaking something and even if the Opposition is not ready to give that space to a

* Not recorded.

Parliamentary Affairs Minister, I have to understand really what is my role. … (*Interruptions*) if I wanted to say that this is a serious issue and the Government would respond, what is the problem of TMC in having this reply from the Government? What is this arrogancy? … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) …**

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Every time I get up, they have to get up. … (*Interruptions*) This is not West Bengal Assembly? … (*Interruptions*) This is the Parliament of India, they should understand it.… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: It is not necessary. It is within the rights of the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to provide a response.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Khanduri Ji, please address me.

MAJOR GENERAL (RETD.) BHUWAN CHANDRA KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL): Hon. Speaker, Madam, in my Parliamentary Constituency, Garhwal, there is also a town named

* Not recorded.

Srinagar. In its vicinity, at a place called Somadi, a National Institute of Technology was established five years ago. During this period, a large number of students from within the country and abroad have been pursuing their studies there, yet the condition of the Institute is highly unsatisfactory.

Madam Speaker, through you, there are two main issues I would like to bring to the attention of the Government. As an elected representative, I have received numerous complaints from the local people alleging misuse of funds, administrative high-handedness, harassment of the faculty in various ways and large-scale financial irregularities. The second issue is that, even after five years, adequate funds have not been released by the Government for the construction of several essential buildings. In these circumstances, there is a state of considerable disorder in that Institute, which is intended to be an institution of international repute.

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to request the Government to conduct an inquiry that examines both financial and administrative aspects. An investigation should be carried out to determine why the buildings and other infrastructure have not been constructed, and to address the harassment of faculty and the misuse

of funds. This is my humble request to the Government and the Hon. Minister.

HON. SPEAKER: Saugata Roy Ji, I would first request you to kindly listen to me. Concerning the matter that you have submitted in writing, I would like to state, for the information of all Members, that the matters raised during Zero Hour are of great importance. On many occasions, I have observed that Members raise issues relating to their respective States, such as proposals for setting up certain projects there. I am making this observation in a general sense for all.

Secondly, ordinarily, there should not be any allegations made against anyone. You may raise a issue that pertains to the Union Government. Many people come with papers and proceed to read the entire document, this is also not the practice during Zero Hour. I am stating this for general information. Saugata Roy Ji is not a new Member, but I am stating this for the benefit of the new Members. This is not the way to go about it, so please be mindful of this.

Saugata Roy Ji, I would like you to speak. The matter you have submitted today is something you have been raising for several days now. When you walked out of the House previously, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs had stated that if you wished to have a

discussion on this particular issue, he would be willing to allow it. This is just for your information.

I would like to request you once again, please avoid making allegations or speaking in that manner. Zero Hour should not be used for making allegations. Whatever you wish to convey, kindly do so peacefully and briefly.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, thank you. ... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED (MALAPPURAM): Madam, I have got only one submission to make. *... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please be seated. What is the matter today?

... (Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, thank you for your guidance. You are the guiding force of this House. The path you show, we shall try to follow in the days to come. *... (Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Ahamed Ji, what is the matter today?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI E. AHAMED: Madam, you must highlight this matter with the Ministry of External Affairs. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) … **

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, Ahamed Saheb is a senior man. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I know.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I know him better than you do.

… (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Yeah, I know. … (*Interruptions*) Madam, may I speak now, with your permission? … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: But no allegation, no dispute.

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* Not recorded.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Yes, Madam, no allegation. … (*Interruptions*) Madam, I request that I may be permitted … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: There would be no allegation, but he has to charge sheet the Government. … (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, now that the House is in order, I would request that I may be permitted to raise a matter of urgent public importance during 'Zero Hour' in the House today. I will raise the issue briefly as under.

The Central Government has been determinedly weakening the federal and secular structure of the Constitution through its various acts of commissions and omissions, and it has withheld funds for the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please speak only on the matter you have submitted.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, it is written completely. It is only of two-three lines. [English]… (*Interruptions*) It has withheld funds

for the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, thus putting States like West Bengal, Karnataka, etc. in great difficulty. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: That is not the matter allotted to you.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: It is written here. Very well, Madam, I shall read the last paragraph.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You may speak on the matter listed under your Zero Hour notice. What you are now referring to pertains to an adjournment notice.

. . . (Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, please allow me to speak during Zero Hour. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Why are you proceeding to speak?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, you correct me and you tell me what I should not speak. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: All matters cannot be taken up; you may speak only on one matter. You may speak on NREGA, that will be in order.

...(Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, we will speak on only one matter. [English] Madam, the CBI investigation in the Sarada Scam is being politically manipulated by the BJP leadership to weaken the State Government, and the TMC in West Bengal. … (*Interruptions*) The recent arrest of a Cabinet Minister of West Bengal … (*Interruptions*) What is this? … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, how can you permit this? … (*Interruptions*) He has not given any notice on this. … (*Interruptions*) What is your notice? … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Let it be, it is done.

Shrimati Priyanka Singh Rawat.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA SINGH RAWAT (BARABANKI): Madam, I thank you for allowing me to speak on an important matter. ...*(Interruptions)* From my Parliamentary Constituency, Barabanki in Uttar Pradesh, three National Highways pass through, facilitating the

movement of travellers from various districts of Purvanchal such as Gorakhpur, Deoria, Kushinagar, Basti, Balrampur, Shravasti, Gonda, Bahraich, Sant Kabir Nagar, Faizabad, Ambedkar Nagar, Sultanpur, Amethi, as well as from the neighbouring country Nepal. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam, you are shutting our mouth during the '*Zero Hour'*. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA SINGH RAWAT: Due to the heavy traffic on such long routes, numerous road accidents continue to occur. As there are no high-level medical facilities before reaching Lucknow, accident victims and patients with serious conditions often do not receive timely treatment, leading to unfortunate and untimely deaths. In view of this situation, through you, I would like to make a request to the Government that, considering the need for high-quality healthcare services for the affected people of Purvanchal and the patients from Barabanki, a Trauma Centre be kindly sanctioned in Barabanki.

SHRI HARINARAYAN RAJBHAR (GHOSI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Priyanka Singh Rawat during Zero Hour.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Om Prakash Yadav.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: What is this happening?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: What is this? A new Member is speaking now. It is very bad.

… (*Interruptions*)

12.41 hrs

At this stage, Prof. Saugata Roy and some other hon. Members left the House.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Hon. Speaker, Madam, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Union

Government to the large-scale scam relating to the procurement of medicines in Bihar. ... *(Interruptions)*. In Bihar, tenders were issued in 2013 for the supply of medicines to Government hospitals, with effect from 15 March 2013. Pursuant to this tender, the Government of Bihar procured medicines worth Rs. 500 crore. ... *(Interruptions)*.

HON. SPEAKER: What is happening here?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: The Government of Bihar purchased medicines from several companies which had already been blacklisted in the State. Their products had earlier been banned in the States of Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu and Kerala. ... *(Interruptions)*. The grounds on which the Government of Bihar procured medicines and equipment from these companies are a matter that warrants investigation. ... *(Interruptions)*. The Accountant General of Bihar, in his report, has pointed out irregularities to the tune of approximately Rs. 18 crore in the procurement of medicines. ... *(Interruptions)* Pursuant to the orders of the Hon. High Court, a Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of the Secretary, Health Department. ... *(Interruptions)* The Committee, in its report, has also confirmed the occurrence of a medicines scam, and the officers concerned have been placed under suspension. There is now an acute

shortage of medicines in the hospitals of Bihar, and patients are losing their lives for want of medicines. The Government of Bihar is not treating this highly sensitive matter with the seriousness it deserves and is instead engaged in shielding the guilty. ... *(Interruptions)*

Therefore, through you, Madam Speaker, I would like to request the Union Government to immediately have this matter investigated by the CBI and to ensure the supply of medicines to the hospitals.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Om Prakash Yadav.

[English]

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Madam Speaker, article 14 of the Constitution of India is about "Equality before law". I am not asking anybody, "Who are you?" However, I am asking myself a question, "Who am I?"

When the people of India start seeking justice, law and justice runs away from the people. The judiciary has become a ... *

[Translation]

* Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: There is no need to make any observation regarding the Judiciary at this stage. It is not needed.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: You can only keep your demand.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not do this.

… (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Why do you compel me to deny permission?

[English]

DR. A. SAMPATH : Madam, I oblige whatever you say. I am the most obedient Member, you know.

There are 43 lakh pending cases in various High Courts in this country, and more than 63,000 cases are pending in the Supreme Court. For the last two generations, from the Capital of Kerala, from Thiruvananthapuram, people have been demanding the re-establishment of the Permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala in Thiruvananthapuram.

My humble question to the Government of India is why the Capital Cities of various States are being denied the right of having a Permanent Bench of the High Courts. If you are not able to provide a Permanent Bench of the High Court in Thiruvananthapuram, why you do not consider setting up of the Circuit Bench of the High Court. The North-Eastern States also are experiencing such a serious situation that they do not have adequate number of High Court Benches. It is the duty of the Parliament to provide adequate number of Judges, adequate number of High Court Benches.

HON. SPEAKER: Not that of Parliament.

DR. A. SAMPATH : Madam Speaker, you are a very senior Member of this House, and you are the custodian of our rights. As you know very well, Chapter IV of the Constitution deals the Union Judiciary. Article 129 of the Constitution is about the "Supreme Court to be a court of record," and article 130 is about the "Seat of Supreme Court". It says, "The Supreme Court shall sit in Delhi or in such other place or places, as the Chief Justice of India may, with the approval of the President, from time to time, appoint."

Even after adopting this Constitution, three generations have passed or passed away. But till now, the Court is not, the Judiciary is not, the law is not going to the people. People have to knock at the

door which will never get opened. My humble submission is that if we honour this Constitution, then law and justice should be provided to the people. The Regional Benches of the Supreme Court shall be established and the permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala should be established in the Capital city of Kerala, Thiruvananthapuram.

Madam, I am accused in a criminal case. The very hon. Member now speaking before you, is implicated in a criminal case along with hundreds of advocate friends just because I participated in a genuine agitation for the establishment of a permanent Bench of High Court in Thiruvananthapuram. When I filed my nomination for election to the 16th Lok Sabha, this was the only case that was charged against me. … (*Interruptions*) Through you, I once again request you for this. … (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Your point has been made. How many times will you speak?

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Pleasse, don't always ask for replies. You may associate yourself.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

[English]

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak in this House on an important issue which is, tourism in Lakshadweep. While I meet my colleagues in Parliament and when I say that I am from Lakshadweep, they say that you come from such a beautiful place; we should visit it. But the situation is such that even today there are entry restrictions to go there. I am coming to it. I would like to place on record that our hon. MOS Shri Rudyji has already visited Lakshadweep and he has taken his Scuba Diving Course in Lakshadweep.

Madam, Lakshadweep is very much adjacent to Maldives. About 75 per cent of their income is generated from their tourism.

Lakshadweep is a place which comes under the direct control of the Government of India. When we have a place like Maldives where we can generate employment and revenue, so far the Government of India has not opened up Lakshadweep as a tourism destination. I am very happy today that I am speaking on tourism because my election to this House is based on my assurance on developing tourism. Tourism is the only area by which people can get employment.

Taking that into consideration in 2008, the Department of Tourism had notified setting up of a Beach Resort in Agatti Island. There were total nine applicants. They were the local entrepreneurs. After putting crores of rupees, they constructed the resort. When they approached the administration for the final occupancy, the administration had denied that by saying it is falling under CRZ. It was not in the notification, in the initial stage. The matter reached before the hon. Supreme Court. Hon. Supreme Court appointed a Committee to study the CRZ issues. The Committee has given its Report that the entire Lakshadweep should be limited to 20 metres from the existing 50 metres of CRZ line. None of the resorts which is constructed now by the hard-earned money of the local people is falling under this because it is above 20 metres. Now the administration is not putting a proposal based on the recommendation

of the Committee to the Ministry of Environment and Forests to get it notified in the Gazetteer which will settle all the issues of tourism. My final conclusion is this. There is an entry restriction to Lakshadweep, as of now. I feel that it is good because it is at strategic location. But this entry restriction should not be a ban for coming to Lakshadweep. I feel that the entire House would like to visit my Lakshadweep because it is the most beautiful island in the world. Yesterday I had a discussion with the hon. Minister also.

Madam, persons having valid travel documents or identity cards and persons having an accommodation confirmed in Lakshadweep may please be permitted to visit Lakshadweep. It is clear that seven employment opportunities are generated if one tourist visits a place. This is the only sustainable industry as far as Lakshadweep is concerned.

Madam, I urge upon the Government to open up Lakshwadip so that employment generation can be done, revenue can be generated, and Lakshadweep can become a global tourism destination. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members Adv. Joice George, P.K. Biju, M.B. Rajesh, Arvind Sawant, and Badruddin Ajmal are allowed to associate themselves on this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHLENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Madam, during Zero Hour, I would like to raise a matter of public importance pertaining to my Parliamentary Constituency. On National Highway 82, running from Bihar Sharif to Asthawan, there is a need for the construction of an overbridge near the Bihar Sharif railway station. Likewise, on National Highway 31, from Bihar Sharif to Ranchi via Nawada, in view of the severe traffic congestion near the Supergrid Police Lines level-crossing, an overbridge should be constructed at the earliest. There is heavy congestion at this point and, if a patient has to be brought to Bihar Sharif, very often, due to the traffic jam, the patient loses his life. In these circumstances, through you, I would like to request the Minister of Railways to kindly consider the construction of this overbridge. Secondly, the Fatuha-Islampur-Buxar Express does not halt at every station. The local people have demanded that it be made to halt at all the stations.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention a matter concerning my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, Ambala. Ambala Cantt railway station is a renowned station in North India, where approximately 350 passenger and freight trains pass daily. Trains travelling to and from

Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Chandigarh, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Mumbai, and Chennai pass through this station. Several decisions have been made to grant Ambala Cantt railway station the status of an international railway station; however, for unknown reasons, this has not yet been implemented. I would like to request the Minister of Railways to take an expeditious decision in this regard and accord Ambala Cantt railway station the status of an international-level railway station.

[English]

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH): Madam Speaker, today is the second anniversary of the brutal gang rape of a young woman in Delhi in 2012that served as a trigger for massive public movements on the safety of women. The young physiotherapy student died after she was brutalized by the rapists. But there is one more crucial issue here that we must not forget. The victim and her friend were lying on the road for a long time and no one came forward to help them. No one took them to the hospital, an act that could have perhaps saved this young woman’s life. No one bothered to do that. And if we look at it critically, the reason for such inaction on the part of our fellow citizens is perhaps fear. They did not pick him up and take him to the hospital out of fear Fear that if they came forward to

help someone in need, they will be pulled into an endless cycle of police interrogations and court proceedings, fear that this one act of humanity might turn into an ordeal that will drag on for years and years, this is the fear that is stopping our citizens from saving lakhs of lives every year.

In India, 15 people die every hour in road accidents. The number of deaths due to road traffic accidents in just the last decade is close to one million. The number of people who die due to road accidents in India is more than the individual population of 27 countries across the world.

In medical care, the 60 minutes that immediately follow a trauma can be the difference between life and death. But, according to reports, 80 per cent of road accident victims in India do not receive any emergency medical care in those critical 60 minutes. Why is it that people do not come forward to help? A study sponsored by Save Life Foundation recently tried to find out the reasons. And the results are overwhelming.

74 per cent of bystanders are unlikely to assist a victim of a serious injury, irrespective of whether they are alone at the spot or have someone with them-even if they are the only witnesses at the spot! 88

per cent of those who said were unlikely to help were reluctant because they were afraid of legal hassles.

77 per cent of respondents who were unlikely to assist injured victims say that it is hospitals who unnecessarily detain Good Samaritans- Those noble people who help strangers, we call them Good Samaritans.- and refuse treatment to victims, unless the money is paid.

Madam, doctors take an oath to save lives. In this country, and everywhere in the world, doctors are people who are respected by everyone. Yet, today, we have so many medical institutions which are more interested in making money and less interested in saving lives.

I am not suggesting here that every hospital must run for charity. That is not economically desirable or viable. But the integrity of a medical professional lies in their willingness to save lives before thinking about their monetary benefits.

I strongly feel that today we must have a law to protect the rights of Good Samaritans and ensure that they do not face any legal hassles. We must have a law that obligates hospitals to give first aid and emergency care to all patients that are brought to them. We must have a law in the country which allows citizens to take an injured person to

a hospital and then choose to stay and help or leave and move forward depending on their convenience.

I have introduced a Private Member's Legislation to this effect, last week. I have also submitted a petition, signed by nearly 90,000 people, to the Honourable Health Minister, Shri JP Nadda ji. I feel that the Government must bring in a law that addresses this issue in a comprehensive manner, and I request today, that the Government give an assurance-not just to this House, but to the people of this country-that this will be considered and brought in.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Pritam Gopinath Munde, Shri P.K. Biju, Shri Arjun Meghwal, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Dr. Udit Raj, Shri Badruddin Ajmal and Dr. Satya Pal Singh are permitted to associate with the matters raised by Smt. Kirron Kher.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): Hon. Speaker Madam, I am extremely grateful that you gave me the opportunity to speak on a very significant matter. As pointed out by my colleague Smt. Kirron Kher, today is 16th December, a significant day but also a sad day for the nation because I think we have come a full circle.

Smt. Kirron Kher in her speech reminded us that doctors take oath to save lives but we as Parliamentarians take an oath every time we get elected to uphold the Constitution. This Constitution tells me that

as a woman, I am equal, as a woman I am free, as a woman I have the liberty to live and work just like any other citizen in this country. But the recent rape case on 5th December brings to the forefront the question whether the Government has done enough- I will not politicize the issue as to which Government- but have we done enough in the last two years to make the safety and security of women guaranteed as per the Constitution? I would like to raise two minor issues. First, the Fast Track Court put into place to adjudicate on crimes against women have been defeated by the fact that the appeal today lies in the hon. Supreme Court against the conviction that was given by the Fast Track Court. Can the Government of India give an assurance that today on 16th December they will initiate an interim application to the hon. Speaker asking for expediting Nirbhaya case so that the accused persons can be brought to justice.

Secondly, the hon. Finance Minister has given Rs 50 crore in the last budget for transport system. I request the Government that this fund should be utilized and utilized fast so that we are safe on the streets of Delhi and my security as a woman in Delhi not just an illusion in future.

13.00 hrs.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi, your notice is not clear. Two matters cannot be combined. I am allowing two to three women to speak on this same issue.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, thank you. Today is also observed as Vijay Diwas. It is a day when we remember the martyrs and soldiers who defended the country. To forget them on this very day would perhaps be an insult to the Parliament. Today is also remembered for the Nirbhaya case, a case that perhaps questions our very existence. The martyrs of our country sacrificed their lives for freedom and protection, ensuring that the Constitution of India could govern the country. Yet, that is being questioned now. In this context, I feel that the police deserve appreciation for the exemplary manner in which they handled the recent Uber rape case. Police personnel and officers in uniform must be respected. The country's Parliament should unite on two issues- respect for martyrs and respect for women without any politics and stand firmly together. That is why I have combined these two issues.

SHRIMATI RANJANBEN BHATT (VADODARA): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I express my gratitude for giving me the opportunity to speak on a very important issue concerning my region. I come from Vadodara in Gujarat, the cultured city of Shri Shivaji Gaekwad.

Flowing through the city, approximately 23 kilometres of the Vishwamitri River passes through. Every year, this river floods, and water enters the houses of the residents living along its banks. The Vishwamitri River Project is therefore of critical importance. The State Government provides assistance to the affected people annually and wishes to advance the Vishwamitri River Project.

The State Government wishes to advance the Vishwamitri River Project. Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Water Resources to kindly ensure that the Union Government approves this project so that the people of Vadodara can be relieved from the difficulties they face. Thank you.

[English]

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): Madam, today I am raising the issue of sexual minorities, who do not have voice in Parliament or in Legislative Assemblies or in society. Really they are facing problems; they are virtually begging and doing sex work. So, I want to raise this issue in Parliament and hence, please allow me to raise the issue.

The problems of trans-genders or sexual minorities or *hijras* are ignored, neglected and sidelined since centuries. Sexual minorities are also part of the society. The discrimination based on their class and gender makes the trans-gender community one of the most dis-empowered and deprived groups of the Indian society. It is very sad that no accurate or reliable estimate is available about the trans-gender people in the country. There is census for animals like cows and also for wild animals. For every species, we have census. In the forest also, we are having census for wild animals. But about sexual minorities, there is no census and there is no figure available with the Indian Government. It is really a tragic part of Indian democracy. Sexual minorities in India face a variety of issues. Reports of harassment, violence, denial of services, unfair treatment against trans-gender persons in the areas of employment, housing, public accommodation,

obtaining passport, driving licence, ration card and identity card, are available.

It is a total violation of articles 14, 15, 16 and 21 of the Constitution of India. The main problems being faced by this trans-gender community are the discrimination, unemployment, lack of educational facilities, humanlessness, lack of medical facilities, problems related to marriage and adoption. On the humanitarian concerns, lakhs of sexual minorities are in need of support, help and financial assistance from the Union Government.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider the following issues. Firstly, this sexual minority must be properly documented in the national census. They should be provided reservation in education and employment. In Bengaluru, after our agitation, they were given reservation in admission in Bengaluru University. This should be followed by all the universities in India as also all educational institutions. For providing rights equal to male and female, this community should be considered as third sex. All the fundamental rights and facilities should be provided to them. Various rights such as passport, driving licence, ration card, ID card and Aadhar Card should be provided to them. The BPL cards should be issued to this sexual minority. We should treat them as human beings.

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving this opportunity to speak on the subject - zone wise unit cost of sugar cane.

Madam, the Department of Food and Distribution under the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, has to announce the zone wise per quintal unit cost of sugar known as “L” factor for the sugar seasons in the year 2004-05 to 2008-09, so as to determine the quantum of additional cane price under clause 5-A of the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966 but the same is still pending.

Madam, Sugarcane Producers Development Association, Kallakurichi Kooturavu Sarkarai Aalai -II filed a writ petition W.P No.7979 of 2013 and M.P. No.1 of 2013 in the High Court of Madras. Madam based on the direction issued by the High Court of Madras dated 15.09.2013, the Provisional ‘L’ Factor value to Kallakurichi-ll Cooperative Sugar mill of Tamil Nadu for the year 2004-05 to 2008-09 has been announced by the Department of Food and Public Distribution, Government of India, *vide* letter No. 3(3)/2005-SP dated 17.10.2013.

Madam, on the basis of the above order, I request the Government of India to announce the Zone-wise Unit cost (‘L’ Factor) for the

Subramanya Siva Cooperative Sugar Mills and Palacode Cooperative Sugar Mills, Dharmapuri District as also for all other sugar mills in Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH (HOSHANGABAD): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to draw the Government's attention, through you, to Panchmarhi, the only hill station in Madhya Pradesh. Across the country, in many cities, the Ministry of Defence works for the betterment of cities through the Cantonment Board. Our Panchmarhi is also such a city governed by a Cantonment Board. Panchmarhi is surrounded on all sides by the Satpura hills. Our Tiger Reserve Forest's core area encircles Panchmarhi on all sides. As a result, the citizens of this city have to manage all their affairs within the city itself. Despite this, no new building can be constructed, nor can reconstruction take place, as there are restrictions on all these activities. Furthermore, the open areas under the Board's jurisdiction face prohibitions on operating markets or shops, and the Cantonment Board issues new orders under the pretext of removing encroachments. Through this House, I would like to request the Union Government to lift the ban on the construction and reconstruction of houses in Panchmarhi. Shops established in vacant areas have been

stayed by the Supreme Court on the Cantonment Board's request. I would like to urge that the Union Government intervene in the Supreme Court, make efforts on its part, and have the stay vacated so that the citizens of Panchmarhi who, due to the Tiger Reserve Forest, the Cantonment Board, and the surrounding hills, are unable to live in open air, unable to undertake any construction, and unable to conduct business, may be assisted in these matters.

[English]

SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA): Madam, Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise this matter. The State of Andhra Pradesh has a large coastal corridor and also the finest atmospheric conditions. Kakinada is going to import as also export sea food machines etc. Kakinada is growing very fast. In my Parliamentary constituency, Vakalapudi is a very prominent place. To upgrade this place to fishing harbour there is every necessity to improve upon the infrastructure to bring it on par with EIA standards. The Commission of Fisheries, Hyderabad had instructed the Deputy Director (Fisheries) for submission of proposals for upgradation of this place to a fishing harbour in August 2014 through video conferencing. The Deputy-Director has submitted an estimate for Rs. 50 crore for upgradation to be duly taken up under capital works under

RIDF. The Superintendent Engineer (Marine) is also one of the technical supporters to this project. I would like to request the hon. Minister for Fisheries, through you, to treat this process of work as urgent and to complete the work as early as possible.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, through you, I would like to apprise the House of the ship-recycling industry at Alang in Bhavnagar district of Gujarat. Thousands of people from Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh and Bihar are employed there. Today, this industry stands on the verge of closure. Ships arriving from foreign countries are dismantled there and are also renovated. However, on account of the high rate of customs duty in our country, fewer ships are coming here as compared to Pakistan, Bangladesh and China, with the result that people are not getting adequate employment.

Therefore, through you, I would like to urge the Government that if customs duty in our country is reduced in line with other countries, this industry will expand and more employment opportunities will be created. I would like to request the Government to kindly pay attention to this matter.

[English]

SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE): Madam, Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise this matter.

There is a place called Bethnati in tribal dominated Mayurbhanj district of Odisha which is a part of my parliamentary constituency. This place supplies more than 50 per cent bamboo requirement of the whole of the Eastern India. According to the Agricultural Finance Commission, which is a part of Government of India, the highest survival rate of bamboo is in Bethnati and Mayurbhanj districts. But unfortunately the poor tribals and the locals do not become a beneficiary of the huge produce they make. So, my submission to the Union Government is that a bamboo cluster be made at Bethnati in Mayurbhanj district and incentive be given in the form of capital subsidy and also exemption in tax so that the poor tribals and the people of the area get benefited. It is because they get merely Rs. 100 and the industries who use it earn thousands of rupees. So, in the interest of justice and equity to the poor tribals, this is my submission and demand from the Union Government. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI (PATIALA): Thank you, Madam. I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on this

important issue. Madam, I would like to draw the attention of this House towards the Non-Resident Indians of Punjab. People from Punjab have been living for decades in England, the United States, Canada, New Zealand, Australia, and other parts of Europe. Through their hard work, they have not only established themselves there but also raised the name of the country. However, it is deeply distressing that the land, property, and inheritance of these Non-Resident Punjabis in Punjab are being seized by some influential political persons in collusion with the police and land mafias. When these people come to Punjab to pursue their cases, they face intimidation and threats. On one hand, we call special conferences inviting our overseas brothers to invest and put capital in India, and on the other hand, their ancestral properties are being illegally taken over. Madam, I could place before this House dozens of such instances in which Non-Resident Punjabis are being ill-treated and their properties are being forcibly occupied. I would like to urge the Government to issue immediate instructions to the Government of Punjab to take cognisance of all such cases and to ensure that the exploitation of Punjabi migrants and the illegal seizure of their properties are brought to an end, and that their properties are restored to them. They earn their livelihood with great hard work and send money to Punjab, yet

this remittance is subjected to tax at the rate of 12.5 percent. This tax should be withdrawn.

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH-WEST DELHI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, through you, I would like to draw the Government's attention to a very important issue. Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes from across the country come to Delhi, but their state reservation rights are denied here, despite the Supreme Court issuing an order on this matter in 2005. [English] This was held in the Supreme Court also. In Febraury, 2013, the Attorney-General has also opined that they will be given reservation even if they come and produce a certificate. Subsequently, the Government of NCT has issued the order in May, 2013. Despite this, they are being denied reservation. Recently teachers were recruited in MCD. The result was announced on 5th December. They are denied reservation. in education department assistant teachers were also denied reservation.

Madam, through you, I would request the Minister for Urban Development or LG that the orders which are already in place should be implemented and the people belonging to SCs and STs, particularly coming from Rajasthan, should be given reservation in State Government.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Yashwant Singh, Shri Harish Meena, Dr. Pritam Gopinath Munde are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Udit Raj.

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue about BSUP and houses under JNNURM in my constituency.

The Government starts schemes with good intentions. However, because of inadequate funds and delay in completion of work, the Government abandons the scheme, and projects remain incomplete. The amount sanctioned are then just lost and the loser is the common man who pays the taxes.

The Government of India started projects such as BSUP and JNNURM. The duration of the projects is over. However, many projects in my constituency remain incomplete. The main reason for this is cost escalation. When agencies were appointed, cost escalation clause was not included in the scheme. So, when the work is not finished within the stipulated period of time, the work has come to a standstill.

The other reason is, the urban local bodies appointed the agencies without acquiring the land. Delay in land acquisition resulted in late

starting of work. Hence, there is a failure to complete the work. The other cause is, without deciding the eligibilities of beneficiaries, a list of probable beneficiaries was prepared.

A number of projects was sanctioned but they came to a standstill due to the above reasons.

In my constituency, 13,469 houses were to be built but only 8200 houses were feasible. In the last four years, we could complete only 3000 houses and construction of 5000 houses is in progress but agencies have abandoned the work.

Madam, through you, I would request the Minister for Urban Development to look into the matter very seriously, revisit the policy and create a way out to complete these projects. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Arvind Sawant and Shri Rahul Shewale are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Shrikant Eknath Shinde.

SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN (MADURAI): Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to your kind attention towards the needs of the people of my parliamentary constituency, Madurai, for improved rail services and speedy implementation railways projects there. All these are long pending demands of the people of my constituency.

Honourable Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has special affection for Madurai and its people. The world famous Meenakshi Temple of Madurai is frequently visited by people residing in different States and countries. In view of this, all trains running between Madurai to Chennai should be converted into Super fast Express Trains. The existing old and outdated coaches of Pandian Express have to be modernized. Efforts should be taken to decongest Madurai Railway Station by renovating and making Koodal Nagar Railway Station as additional station. Koodal Nagar station is announced as a Model Station. Neither funds nor work have reached there.

Likewise, Thiruparankundram and Thirumangalam Railway Stations should be made as Model Stations. Stoppage of all trains should be provided there. Duronto Express running twice a week between Madurai and Chennai should be introduced to benefit the people of Madurai. An additional train service between Madurai and Bengaluru with 1st AC coach has to be introduced. Similarly, 1st AC coach has to be added to Thoothukudi-Mysore Express train running *via* Madurai.

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY (CHANDAULI): Hon. Speaker, Madam, in my Parliamentary Constituency, Chandauli.

Between Varanasi and Chandauli, alongside the Ganga River, lies the Gomti River, also referred to as the Adi Ganga. At the confluence of these rivers is a highly revered and ancient temple dedicated to Lord Markandeya Mahadev. According to our Puranas, certain divine sages and beings such as Ashwatthama, Bali, Vyasa, Hanuman, and Vibhishana are considered to still be alive. In that same tradition, the temple in memory of Rishi Markandeya holds immense mythological and spiritual importance. Lakhs of devotees come to bathe at this sacred confluence, yet there is no proper ghat constructed on the banks of the Ganga. Madam, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to construct a ghat at this site. Additionally, severe erosion is occurring along many parts of the Ganga riverbanks from Varanasi to Chandauli. In Chandauli district, several riverine villages- Kunda (which is on the verge of submergence into the Ganga), Mahrohra, Kanwar, Pakri, Mahuwari, Bishunpur, Saraibalwa (Paschim Vahini), Teergaon, Sehepur, Higuttargarh (Budhepur), Rampur, Naroli, Amadpur, Kanwalpura, Prahladpur, Guraini, near Nadaha Pump, Jigna, Mahuji, and Diyabasata, are all critically affected by Ganga erosion. Likewise, in Varanasi district, the ashram of Mauni Baba at Gauri Kala is also on the verge of being submerged by the Ganga. Other affected areas include Saraimohana, Tantepur,

Ramchandipur, Gubrahwa, Maukalpur, Chhitauna, Rampur Dhab, Kukkudahwa, Deoria, Sarsaul, and Parnapur. A Jain temple at Chandrawati is also at high risk due to erosion. This temple, known as Chandrapuri Tirth, is a significant pilgrimage site for the Jain community. Furthermore, in Ghazipur, the area of Simra is also severely affected by Ganga erosion. Through you, Hon. Speaker, Madam, I would like to urge both the Ministry concerned with flood protection and Ganga rejuvenation to take immediate action by constructing stone-reinforced boulder embankments, protective spurs, and necessary retaining walls to safeguard human life, agricultural land, and entire villages from the advancing erosion of the Ganga.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I am truly grateful for your kindness and support towards a new Member of this House. At the outset, I would like to express my solidarity, as a brother, with all women who face insecurity, especially those from the North-Eastern region of our country. However, the matter I would like to raise today concerns the welfare of fishermen. We were informed about a scheme titled Group Accident Personal Insurance, the details of which remain unclear. Nevertheless, there has been a significant improvement in the number and livelihood of fishermen in Assam. Fishing has become a sector that witnesses a

growth of nearly four percent every year. Despite this growth, fishermen in Assam face a major recurring challenge, annual floods, which wash away their fish stocks and cause losses worth lakhs and crores of rupees. Through you, I would like to urge the Union Government to introduce a specific scheme aimed at flood-affected fishermen. Presently, assistance is often sought from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), but I would like to request the Ministry of Agriculture to announce a dedicated flood insurance scheme for the fishermen of Assam. This should be tailored district-wise so that fishermen are protected from the devastating impact of floods each year.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri K.C. Venugopal, you have given notice on the same subject on which Prof. Saugata Roy has given notice under Rule 115. But you have given the notice for 'Zero Hour'. I am calling for the factual note from the Minister. [Translation] I think it is not fair if you raise the same issue again at zero hour. Let it come from there, have some patience.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Hon. Speaker, since he has presented along with the document that the circular has been issued

by the HRD Department, [English] The Hon. Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu has stated that no circular has been issued. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, let him speak first. What I am saying is that if I have given a ruling that people should be allowed to come from there too, [English] I will give your papers also to the Minister.

… (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, thank you for allowing me to raise this important issue, which is of not only national importance but also of international importance. Classified files concerning the national hero, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose's alleged death in 1945 have been zealously guarded and still remain a mystery. Recently, declassified documents at the National Archives reveal that two files have gone missing. Has the Prime Minister's Office destroyed these two files, one in 1969 and another in 1972? The disappearance and the destruction of the files is as mysterious as the disappearance of Netaji himself!

Therefore, I would urge upon the Government to spell out what happened to the files relating to Netaji and also tell us what steps are being taken to release all the files relating to Netaji. Repeated attempts to declassify the documents related to Netaji's death are being refused. It was done by the UPA Government. The BJP Government is also

doing the same. Why has the Ruling Party changed its mind? What do the documents contain that are so sensitive? I believe that if the Government declassified the documents, it would help in establishing the truth once and for all. Why keep the conspiracy theories alive and why deny India the truth about the death of one of its great freedom fighters? Various Indian Governments have attempted to put the mystery to rest. Three different Commissions have been appointed, one of which was later rejected by the UPA Government, I mean the Mukherjee Commission Report. Is there anything to stop the speculation just as the many reports into the John F. Kennedy assassination have been ignored by conspiracy bluffs? It was believed that if the Government declassified the secret documents, it might help in establishing the truth once and for all. Hence, I would urge upon this Government that the citizens of this country deserve an explanation.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta and Shri Sharad Tripathi are allowed to associate with the proposal of Shri Bhartruhari Mehtab made in 'Zero Hour.'

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): Madam, I would like to invite the kind attention of the Government to a major problem being faced by the EPF pensioners. Recently, the

Government of India has enhanced the minimum pension under EPF to Rs.1000/-. There are more than 30 lakh retired employees who are supposed to get the benefit of the enhanced pension. However, now, the Central Government has implemented the decision and launched the programme with great fanfare during September, 2014.

Madam, the UPA Government had decided to implement the Scheme but the election was announced. That is why, the then UPA Government has not implemented it but the new Government has implemented it. There are a lot of anomalies in the enhancement of pension. A majority of the pensioners are not getting the pension. Therefore, I urge upon the Government to intervene in this matter and sort out the problem

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Madam Speaker, under the leadership of Hon. Shri Narendra Modi ji, the Union Government has been consistently striving to enhance opportunities in traditional employment sectors. India is the largest producer of betel leaves (paan) in the world, and Indian paan is exported to several countries. States such as Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Odisha, West Bengal, and Tamil Nadu are prominent in paan cultivation. However, paan cultivation is an extremely complex and

expensive agricultural activity. If a paan crop is damaged due to fire, hailstorm or frost, the growers suffer severe losses. Unfortunately, paan cultivation has not been classified under agriculture, which prevents it from receiving benefits under government agricultural schemes. As a result, this traditional practice is increasingly falling behind.

Through you, I would like to urge the Union Government to classify paan cultivation as agriculture and ensure that it is brought under the ambit of the Fasal Bima Yojana. Thank you.

13.29 hrs.

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS-Contd…

(ii)Re : Opening of CBSE Schools on 25th December, 2014 to celebrate Good Governance Day

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, yesterday I had raised a very serious issue concerning the religious sentiments of the people of India. I have given a notice today regarding the reply given by the hon. Minister to my intervention.… (*Interruptions*)

As per the reply, the hon. Minister told that only online competition is planned and therefore it would not affect the Christmas Day celebration which is not factual. I have the Circular with me. I have the Circular of the Commissioner of Navodaya Vidayala Samiti Shri GS Bothyal. As per the circular, the CBSE will also be organizing a competition under the CBSE banner a series of Good Governance Day on 24th and 25th December. The hon. Minister also told that only oneline competition is invited. But, as per the circular, most of the submissions will be online and offline. The Minister's version is not factual. It is not factual and it is misleading the House. … (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I need an explanation from the hon.

Minister, through you, Madam. I am seeking an explanation. … (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): The Government is ready to respond on that. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : We are seeking the explanation.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Madam, this issue was raised by the hon. Member yesterday. We would like to place on record, on what he has said now. On 25th December, the Government has no intention whatsoever, if there is any misgiving about it, to open any schools on that particular day, as per the circular which he is referring to. There is absolutely no such intent of the Government. … (*Interruptions*) I am coming back. Let me come back and explain it to you, my friend. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please listen to him. Despite the time bar, I allowed you. Therefore, I request that you refrain from such actions.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I am not arguing with you. … (*Interruptions*)

In what background you are saying, I am trying to explain it.

Madam, this was in reference to Navodaya Vidyalayas, which is about 550 across the country. It is completely 100 per cent residential schools run by the Central Government. That we have to keep it in mind. With reference to what he is saying, we have to refer a Circular, which has not been issued by this particular Government. But there is a Circular which was issued on 13th April, 1987 by Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti. I will furnish this letter which has been issued as a Government circular. Para 3 of this reads – Navodaya Vidyalaya is being residential in its character, there is no question of declaring a holiday and sending the children because it is an authorized vacation period and they stay in the residences itself. All festivals, not particularly Christmas, should be celebrated in the Vidyalayas only, and children should not be permitted to visit their homes during festivals. This is true for all. It is a celebration which is being done in that particular place in which competitions are held, exhibitions are held. This is applicable to Navadaya Vidyalayas. So, trying to stretch it out and say that this Circular.. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL : It is for CBSE also. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: This is what is mentioned in the Circular that I read. This has been followed by all the Governments irrespective of the Government of today. This is a Circular what you are talking about. So, there is no question of asking any organization to open the schools on that particular day. This is an activity which has been proposed, which is being done for ages together. … (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.30 p.m.

13.32 hrs

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

14.32 hrs

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Thirty 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 may hand over slips at the Table of the House as per practice within 20 minutes. Otherwise it will lapse.

(i) Need to set up adequate number of procurement centres for purchase of Paddy and Maize in Mandla Parliamentary Constituency

[Translation]

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE (MANDLA): In my Parliamentary Constituency Mandla, Madhya Pradesh, the number of procurement centres for paddy and maize is insufficient, due to which

* Treated as laid on the Table.

poor tribal farmers are forced to wander from place to place. As you are aware, the majority of farmers in my constituency belong to tribal communities. Due to the limited number of procurement centres, they are often compelled to return with their produce without being able to sell it. This not only causes economic hardship but also leads to mental distress for these farmers.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Food and Public Distribution to take prompt and appropriate action to increase the number of paddy and maize procurement centres in Mandla Parliamentary Constituency. Thank you.

(ii) Need to set up a Central Agriculture University, Rice Park and Seeds Development Unit in the unutilized land lying with the State Farms Corporation of India Limited in Koppal Parliamentary Constituency, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL): I would like to draw the kind attention of Union Government towards the setting up of a Central Agriculture University, Rice Park or Seeds Development Unit at Koppal District, Karnataka.

It is to bring to the kind notice of the Union Government that a unit of State Farms Corporation of India Ltd (SFCIL), a Government of India Undertaking, is situated at Javalgere in Sindhanoor Taluk of my Constituency Koppal, Karnataka. This started in 1968 having 7000 acres of land. It has come to my notice that only 3000 acres of land has been used for this purpose by the State Farms Corporation of India Ltd. Remaining 4000 acres of land is lying unused for the past 25 years. It is also learnt that SFCIL is incurring loss. Horticulture crops like grapes, Mango, Flowers, Pomegranates and Banana are also available in ample amount. Research institute for horticulture & floriculture is very much required. Nearly 10 lakh acres of area is

irrigated land in Kopal constituency. Sona Massori is the major Rice growing place in Karnataka.

So, I would like to request the Minister concerned to set up a Central Agriculture University, Rice Park for Paddy cultivation and Seeds Development Unit in the unused 4000 acres of land.

(iii) Need to take suitable measures to protect the crops from damage by wild animals in Kota Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a major issue faced by the farmers of my Parliamentary Constituency Kota-Bundi as well as almost all regions of Rajasthan. Farmers, especially those cultivating land near forested areas and various water sources in Kota and Bundi districts, are suffering due to wild animals, particularly blue bulls (nilgai) and wild boars, which cause extensive damage to crops.

At present, the farmers toil day and night with dedication in their fields and stay awake at night to protect their crops. Yet, despite their efforts, these wild animals arrive in large numbers and destroy entire standing crops overnight, causing losses amounting to crores of rupees for the farmers of the region.

In such distressing situations, no relief is provided to the farmers, neither from the Forest Department, the Agriculture Department, nor any other agency.

It is, therefore, essential that a comprehensive action plan be jointly framed by the Union and State Governments, to ensure that

wild animals do not venture outside forest boundaries and damage agricultural produce. Further, tall and durable fencing should be provided to farmers at subsidised rates, and fencing work around farms should also be included under MNREGA in addition to other agricultural activities.

Hence, through you, I would like to urge the Government to formulate and implement an urgent and effective action plan to safeguard farmers' crops from wild animals and prevent such animals from straying out of forest zones.

(iv) Need to ensure availability of fertilizers and seeds at Government agencies in Eastern Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAVINDER KUSHWAHA (SALEMPUR): There is a huge shortage of chemical fertilisers in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. At present, the sowing of rabi crops is at its peak. However, due to the non-availability of fertilisers with government and cooperative agencies, farmers are being forced to purchase expensive and often adulterated fertilisers from private dealers. On the other hand, black marketing of fertilisers at rates fixed by government agencies is taking place on a large scale. A similar situation prevails with regard to seeds of wheat and other crops.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to immediately ensure the availability of fertilisers and seeds in Eastern Uttar Pradesh.

(v) Need to augment railway services in Lalganj Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER (LALGANJ): My Parliamentary Constituency, Lalganj (Uttar Pradesh), is located in Eastern Uttar Pradesh, where due to inadequate railway operations, the region remains underdeveloped and the public faces considerable difficulties.

Therefore, I would like to urge the Union Government, in public interest, to run two Intercity Express trains from Azamgarh to Lucknow, and from Azamgarh to Prayagraj via Vindhyachal Dham. The Raebareli–Jaunpur Express should be extended up to Azamgarh–Mau. The Mau–Anand Vihar train no. 15025/15026 should be made a daily service. Additional coaches should be attached to the Kaifiyat Express, and it should also be given stoppages at Ghaziabad and Fariha. This train currently departs from Old Delhi; it should be extended from Rohtak to Azamgarh.

(vi) Need to provide reservation to domicile students of Rajasthan in admission in the National Law University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR): The establishment of the National Law University, Jodhpur was effected under the Rajasthan Government's National Law University Act, 1999 (Act No. 22 of 1999). This University has a total of 115 seats, admission to which is granted through a national-level entrance examination called the CLAT. It is noteworthy that there are 15 such National Law Universities across India. In the state where a National Law University is located, there is a reservation system in place for students of that state. Presently, the list indicating the number of seats reserved for the state in these N.L.Us. is as follows.

Sl. No.	N.L.U.	Total Seats	Total Seats Reserved for State
1	NALSAR, Hyderabad	80	14
2	N.L.I.U., Bhopal	120	51
3	H.N.L.U.,Raipur	180	80

4	G.N.L.U.,Gandhinagar	180	45
5	R.M.L.N.L.U., Lucknow	160	80
6	R.G. N.L.U, Patiala	120	13
7	CNL, Patna	140	60
8	N.U.L.A.S., Kochi	120	29
9	N.U.S.R.L., Roche	100	50
10	N.L.U.J.A.A, Assam	60	15
11	T.N.N.L.S., Trichurapalli	100	45

In this context, I would like to draw the Government's attention to a report published on the front page of Dainik Bhaskar dated Sunday, 20 January 2013, titled "State Quota in National Law Universities Denied Even After 14 Years." Out of the 15 National Law Universities in the country, 11 states have the facility of seat reservation, which provides students from those states the opportunity to gain admission to world-class National Law Universities. However, this facility is not available to students from Rajasthan.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to take this matter seriously by reserving 50 percent of the seats at National Law University, Jodhpur, for students of Rajasthan, thereby extending the benefits of this institute to the students of the state. This will benefit approximately 5 thousand students appearing for the examination, as well as their parents.

(vii) Need to set up a Tertiary Cancer Care Centre in the All India Institute of Medical Sciences like Institute at Rishikesh, Uttarakhand

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR): Uttarakhand is extremely important for the entire country in every respect. Though it accounts for only one percent of the country's population, this state makes a significant contribution to the nation's armed forces, security and paramilitary forces. The brave soldiers of this region have always been at the forefront in sacrificing everything for the country. At present, this region is facing a serious problem. Cancer has spread extensively throughout Uttarakhand. According to surveys, more than seven thousand cases of cancer are reported annually in hospitals in a small state like Uttarakhand. Due to the almost non-existent medical facilities in the mountainous and remote areas, the majority of patients are unable to receive treatment, which has resulted in a distressingly high mortality rate. There are only one or two hospitals in the state capable of providing cancer treatment, but even these are unable to serve the public adequately due to limited resources.

Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government to sanction a tertiary care centre for cancer at the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, Rishikesh, at the earliest. This will not only provide relief to the local population but also benefit the people of Uttar Pradesh, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh who share borders with Uttarakhand.

(viii) Need to undertake development programmes in villages in Gaya District, Bihar covered under Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana.

SHRI HARI MANJHI (GAYA): In the Gaya district of Bihar state, 225 villages were selected under the "Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana", but no developmental work is taking place on the ground in any of the selected villages.

Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government to have this matter investigated immediately by the central agency and to ensure that the development schemes are implemented.

(ix) Need to construct under-passes and over-bridges at level crossings in Ambala Parliamentary Constituency, Haryana

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): My Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency comprises almost entirely of three districts-Ambala, Panchkula, and Yamunanagar in Haryana. Ambala has an office at the DRM level. Despite this, the region is facing severe deficiencies in railway overbridges and underpasses. For the convenience of the public, there is an urgent need for an underpass at Radaur Morh in Yamunanagar, a railway overbridge at Mustafabad, an underpass at Ambala Railway Morh and from Ambala Model Town to Jandli Kaula, and an underpass at Sector 19B railway crossing in Panchkula district.

Due to the absence of these facilities, accidents frequently occur daily at these crossings in the area. Long queues lead to traffic jams, resulting in a loss of time and wastage of diesel and petrol.

Therefore, I would like to request the Union Government to take note of the public's difficulties and ensure that all the aforementioned construction works in the Ambala Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency are completed at the earliest.

(x) Need to undertake construction of railway line between Meerut and Hastinapur in Uttar Pradesh

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): I would like to draw the Government's attention to a matter of utmost importance.

The Meerut-Hastinapur railway line has been approved, but the Ministry has been delaying its construction, considering it economically unviable. I do not find it necessary to introduce Hastinapur, this city has been a very important centre of our historical and religious traditions and is currently a world-renowned Jain pilgrimage site. Just three kilometres from Hastinapur lies the village of Saifpur Kamchandpur, the birthplace of one of the Panj Pyaras, Bhai Dharam Singh, where a large Gurudwara has been constructed. A large number of pilgrims from across the country and the world visit these sites. I strongly believe that this railway line will not prove economically unviable. However, even if it is so, I would like to urge the Government, and particularly the Minister of Railways, through you, to begin the laying of the railway line from Meerut to Hastinapur at the earliest, in recognition of the sentiments of two important minority communities, the Jain and Sikh societies, and due to Hastinapur's unique and unparalleled place in our historical and cultural traditions, as part of the Ministry's social responsibility.

(xi) Need to establish a Navodaya School, a Kendriya Vidyalaya and an Ekalavya Residential School in Ramanagara district, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the need for establishment of centrally sponsored Navodaya Vidyalaya, Kendriya Vidyalaya and Ekalavya Model Residential School in Ramanagara District. Ramanagara District is my home district comprising of Channapatna, Kanakapura, Ramanagara and Magadi Taluks. Unfortunately none of the Central schools have been established in this district. Nearly 75.27 per cent of the population of the district is rural. As per the Nanjundappa Report, Ramanagara District is one of the most backward districts in Karnataka and this is largely due to the fact that there are not enough quality educational institutions in the district. There are many tribals living in the district especially in Kanakapura Taluk. There is an urgent need to setup Ekalavya Residential School to provide quality education to the tribals in the district. Part of the district is on the Bangalore — Mysore national highway and as a result it is rapidly urbanizing. The educational imbalance in this small but compact district has to be rectified at the

earliest. Therefore, I request the Union Government to take immediate and necessary steps to establish a Navodaya School, Kendriya Vidyalaya and an Ekalayvya Residential School in Ramanagara district of Karnataka as per the norms of the Central Government.

(xii) Need to restructure the Short Service Commission scheme in armed forces in order to ensure better post-retirement life to retired officers

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): After 2005, the provision for extension of the scheme of Short Service Commission (SSC) Officer in the armed forces to 10 years (further extendable by 4 years) than the earlier tenure of SSC officers for 5-7 years has created multiple problems for the SSC officers. Earlier, the officers were released from service while still in their prime allowing them to adjust into a different life and a new job.

Most SSC officers now retire at the rank of a Lieutenant Colonel but do not receive pension or any other post-retirement benefits. On exiting the armed forces, many SSC officers are unable to get back into the general workforce for the lack of specialized degrees and training required for a job with a steady income.

The Government has not introduced any measures to rehabilitate and employ SSC officers into its other departments and services. Lack of rehabilitative measures and post-employment benefits have resulted in absolute exploitation of our young officers who dedicate

their prime years to the service of our nation and are then left to fend for themselves.

I would thus urge the Government to restructure the Short Service Commission Scheme by providing for post-retirement benefits, compensatory employment, and rehabilitative measures. This would revive the Short Service Commission, making it an attractive service opportunity for our youth and also help meet the shortage of officers in defence services.

(xiii) Need to set up an Indian Institute of Horticulture Research at Krishnagiri, Tamil nadu

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): In Krishnagiri district, Tamil Nadu Mango is grown on large scale and gives higher income to the farmers. Every year 3 lakh metric tonnes of high quality mangos like Alphonso and Totapuri are produced in Krishnagiri district. 1.5 lakh metric tonnes of mango pulp are produced and exported to East Asian countries and Arab countries. Krishnagiri district is the highest mango exporter in the world and having 73 private mango pulp industries. The climatic condition as well as the soils are suitable for large quantity of mango production in Krishnagiri district. The government earns foreign exchange of Rs 400 crore exporting mango pulp and hybrid roses respectively. The Government of Tamil Nadu has been giving 100 per cent subsidy on mango plantation through National Horticulture Mission.

Soils in Mango Gardens have less Micro Nutrients like Iron, Boron, Calcium, Magnesium, Zinc, Molybdenum and Copper. These soils require the above Micronutrients, both foliar application and soil application every year. In general, farmers apply micronutrients only when crops show deficiency symptoms, while micronutrient

deficiencies decrease yields before symptoms appear. Some common farming practices contribute to widespread occurrence of micronutrient deficiencies in crops by decreasing the availability of the micronutrients present in the soil. In addition, the mango farmers growing high yielding hybrid roses and vegetables in my district require high planting and plant protection technologies.

Hence, I request the Government to open an Indian Institute of Horticulture Research Branch at Krishnagiri and provide 50 per cent subsidy for micro nutrients to the farmers to increase mango production.

(xiv) Need to establish regulatory mechanism to avoid tax evasion by online retail stores and also protect interests of offline retail sector

SHRI S. SELVAKUMARA CHINNAIYAN (ERODE): Twenty crore people in our country are into retail trade with over 5 crore outlets. 93% of our trade activities are in the non-formal sector. It provides job opportunities to about 40 crore of people. It generates about 7 lakh crore rupees of turnover. This traditional retail sector in India is facing a great threat from the ongoing e-commerce and e-retail trade activities. As of now, this unregulated e-Commerce handles about 70,000 crores of rupees. Its further increase will greatly affect not only the trading community but also the nation in a big way. These e-commerce operations are not transparent and financial transactions are made through foreign gateways. This results in tax evasion as no valid receipts are provided. Orders are obtained online from one place and goods are delivered from another place thereby evading tax to be paid to State Governments. Spurious goods are delivered and consumers are also cheated in many cases. Both the Central and State Governments must take suitable action in unison to protect our traditional economic activities that provide livelihood to a large

number of our population. I urge upon the Union Government to establish regulatory mechanism to avoid tax evasion while providing protection to crores of retail traders of the country.

(xv) Need to provide a new halt station at Rosulpur between Tarakeswar and Arambagh in Arambagh Parliamentary Constituency, West Bengal

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): Tarkeswar-Bishnupur new rail line inaugurated by Didi Mamata Banerjee in 2011 is still under construction. Tarakeswar-Arambagh rail portion crosses the Damodar and Mundeswari rivers. Nearly 2 lakh people of 8 gram panchayats covering 17 villages of Pursura and 12 villages of Khanakul take trains either from Tarakeswar or Arambagh and eighty per cent commuters are agriculturists. They cover long distance with their products to catch trains to reach the market.

I request the Railway Ministry for a "Rosulpur' halt station where it could be too easy for the local people to go and catch train easily and would be of great relief to carry their agri-products.

I, therefore, urge upon the Hon. Railway Minister to start a new halt station at 'Rosulpur' between Tarakeswar-Arambagh rail route in Hooghly district of West Bengal which is a long awaited dream of the people of my constituency, Arambagh.

(xvi) Need to include tourist destinations in Odisha in the Buddhist Circuit and also upgrade Biju Patnaik Airport, Bhubaneswar to an international Airport

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): The tourism potential of Bhitarkanika and Gahirmatha wildlife sanctuaries, and the Buddhist circuit of Ratnagiri – Udaygigi-Lalitgiri, in Kendrapara, Odisha is grossly unutilized. Similar problems plague other tourist destinations in Odisha such as the hot springs of Atari, Taptapani, Simlipal National Park to name a few.

Tourism industry is ranked as the second largest in providing employment to semi-skilled and unskilled workers in the country and could facilitate increased economic opportunities to its people. In order to promote tourism in Odisha, the government must consider including it in its proposed tourist circuits. Incorporating Buddhist Centers of Kendrapara in the Sarnath-Gaya-Varanasi Buddhist circuit would help strengthen tourism in the district. Other Schemes like National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana and Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive can be extended to Bhubneswar and Puri Dham respectively.

To augment these efforts, there is an urgent need to expeditiously improve the tourism infrastructure, by upgrading the Biju Patnaik Airport to an international Airport, increasing air connectivity to Bhubaneswar and formulate creative branding and marketing strategies to promote Odisha.

(xvii) Need to accord classical language status to Marathi language

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): So far, the Union Government has granted classical language status to six languages- Tamil, Sanskrit, Telugu, Kannada, Malayalam, and Odia. While granting this status, the Union Government considered the following criteria:

1. The antiquity of the language;
2. The originality and continuity of the language;
3. Established linguistic and literary tradition;
4. The relationship between the ancient language and its modern form, including the distance between them.

Despite fulfilling all these criteria, Marathi has not yet been accorded classical language status. The journey of the Marathi language has evolved from the ancient Maharathi, Marhatti, and Maharashtri Prakrit languages, through the Apabhramsha Marathi, to the modern Marathi language of today, a journey that continues to be evident even now. The earliest Marathi work, "Gatha Saptashati," is approximately 2,000 years old. The works "Lilacharitra" and "Dnyaneshwari" were composed much later when the Marathi language had considerably developed,

although their evolution itself took several centuries. In inscriptions found at Naneghat written in Brahmi script, dated around 2,200 years ago, there is mention of the Maharashtrians. The Satavahana-era "Gatha Saptashati" is a premier example of Marathi poetry. Countless Marathi words appear in the Ramayana, Mahabharata, and the "Brhatkatha" by Gunayya. References to Marathi can also be found in Vararuchi's Prakrit Prakash, Hemachandra's Deshinam Mala, and Marathi dialogues spoken by various characters in "Shakuntala" and "Mrichchhakatika." Prakrit Maharashtri was prevalent in regions such as Ashmaka, Kuntala, and Vidarbha. In 1290 AD, arrangements to teach Marathi were made even in regions like Tamil Nadu, as evidenced by inscriptions found in Mailangi, Mysore Province. The Marathi work "Vivekasandhu" by Mukundaraja was composed in 1110 AD. The writings and research by Patanjali, Kautilya, Ptolemy, Varahamihira, the Chinese traveller Xuanzang, and Al-Biruni clearly show that the Marathi language is approximately 2,500 years old. Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj declared Marathi as the royal language and established a royal language fund. The Maharashtra Government, after thorough research, submitted a demand to the Union Government in 2013 for the conferral of classical language status on Marathi.

The research cited in the Report conclusively establishes the antiquity, originality, continuity, established nature, and the relationship between the ancient and modern forms of the Marathi language. Therefore, I would like to urge the Union Government to confer classical language status on Marathi without any further delay.

(xviii) Need to revive the closed sugar mills at Goraul and Motipur in Vaishali Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar

SHRI RAMA KISHORE SINGH (VAISHALI): In our Parliamentary Constituency of Vaishali (Bihar), two sugar mills Goraul and Motipur have been closed for approximately 25 to 30 years. More than 1,000 acres of land belonging to these sugar mills have been encroached upon by outsiders. The closure of these mills has caused a financial crisis for the sugarcane farmers, discouraging them from cultivating sugarcane. Due to the mills remaining shut, machinery worth crores of Rs. is deteriorating. Some years ago, upon bringing this matter to the notice of the Union Government, a central team conducted a physical verification of these sugar mills and submitted its report to the Government. However, no adequate action has been taken to date.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to take necessary steps to restart these two defunct sugar mills at the earliest, so as to improve the deplorable condition of farmers in the area and to provide employment opportunities to the people of this region under the employment generation programme.

(xix) Need to start operation of flights to Mumbai and Tirupati from Kolhapur Airport, Maharashtra

SHRI DHANANJAY MAHADIK (KOLHAPUR): Kolhapur city is situated in the south-western part of Maharashtra. According to the 2011 Census, the population of Kolhapur city is 549,236. Kolhapur is an ancient city, renowned not only for food, footwear, and jewellery but also for its religious significance. It is also a centre for several industries such as sugarcane, leather, and diesel engines. Kolhapur Airport is one of the oldest airports in the country. It commenced operations on 5 January 1939. The current airport is capable of accommodating aircraft such as the ATR-72. However, presently only non-scheduled charter flights operate from this airport. Kingfisher Airlines, which was operating daily ATR-72 flights from Kolhapur to Mumbai at full capacity, had to suspend this service in November 2011 due to internal issues within the company. Kolhapur serves as a hub for metropolitan cities such as Mumbai, Bangalore, and Hyderabad, providing essential services to the entire western Maharashtra region. The renowned Mahalaxmi Temple is located in Kolhapur, attracting a large number of devotees and pilgrims. The pilgrimage to Tirupati Mandir is considered complete only after

visiting the Mahalaxmi Temple. For the development, industrial growth, and increase in tourism, the people of Kolhapur strongly demand that air services be resumed at the earliest.

Therefore, I would like to request the Government to give immediate attention to this matter and to initiate scheduled air services from Kolhapur Airport to Mumbai and Tirupati at the earliest, for the better future of Kolhapur. Two months ago, the Civil Aviation Minister, Shri Siddheshwar, announced the establishment of low-cost airports and sanctioned Rs. 250 crore for Kolhapur. I would like to know the status of this allocation from the Government.

14.33 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE – Contd.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now paper to be laid. Shri Jayant Sinha.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) on Quarterly Review of the trends in receipts and expenditure in relation to the budget at the end of financial year 2013-2014, under sub-section (1) of Section 7 of Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1280/16/14)

14.34 hrs

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL TERRITORY OF DELHI LAWS (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) SECOND (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we take up Item No. 23. Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to amend the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011, be taken into consideration."

Sir, there is a phenomenal growth in Delhi and it is having its own implications and problems are also coming in terms of shelter, squatter settlements and other infrastructural facilities. This has led to problems of encroachment of public land, growth of slums, unauthorized constructions, large scale commercialization of residential areas and inadequacy of housing.

Further, when the Master Plan for Delhi, 2021 was being prepared, Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 was enacted on 19th May, 2006 to protect certain forms of unauthorized development from punitive action which was effective for a period of one year. This was followed by similar Acts which were also effective for one year each. The last such Act namely, the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011 was effective for a period of three years and it is expiring on 31st December, 2014.

That is why, keeping in mind that these provisions are going to be expired by 31st of December, this Government has brought this Bill in this House for consideration. That has also made the Government to think about it seriously. I urge upon the hon. Members to participate in it.

As per the provisions of the said Act of 2011, orderly arrangements had to be made for relocation or rehabilitation of slum dwellers and *jhuggi-jhopri* clusters; regulation of street vendors; regularization of unauthorized colonies, village *abad*i areas and their extensions and existing farm houses; regularization of schools, dispensaries, religious and cultural institutions, storages, warehouses and godowns built on agricultural land; redevelopment of existing godown clusters and building regulations for Special Areas.

While progress has been made in evolving the policies, norms and strategies towards implementation of the Act, more time is needed to bring in orderly arrangements keeping in view the current ground realities in the National Capital Territory of Delhi.

Further, the norms, policies and guidelines for unauthorized developments, including complexities in regularizing unauthorized colonies, may also need to be appropriately modified to bring them in conformity with revised Master Plan of Delhi 2021. The review of Master Plan of Delhi 2021 is likely to be completed in early 2015.

The objective of the extension of time is not only to protect certain forms of unauthorized developments from punitive action in the National Capital Territory of Delhi but also to provide for opportunity to the Government agencies to finalize the norms, policy guidelines and feasible strategies as well as the orderly implementation of the plan in this regard.

That is why, it is necessary to extend the provisions of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011 for a period of three years from 1st January, 2015 to 31st December, 2017. This is the amendment that I am bringing to the main Act.

The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill, 2014 which has been introduced in this House will extend the validity of the Act of 2011 up to 31st December, 2017. That is the purpose of this Bill.

I would like to request the hon. Members, whoever is interested, to participate in this debate. After hearing the debate, then, I will move amendment from the Government side also.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to amend the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011, be taken into consideration."

[Translation]

SHRI PARVESH SAHIB SINGH VERMA (WEST DELHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I welcome the Minister bringing the Bill to extend the National Capital Territory Second Act, 2011 for three years for Delhi. This Act was first introduced in 2006 and was extended annually until 2011. Subsequently, it was extended from 2011 to 2014, and its tenure is expiring on 31 December 2014. Today, with the rapidly growing population of Delhi, it stands as the world's second most populous capital after Tokyo. Approximately 6 million people reside in unauthorised colonies here, and about 2 million live in slums. However, the Government has not yet been able to take any effective measures regarding the unauthorised colonies or the population of Delhi's villages. The "Lal Dora" area, which demarcated village boundaries before Independence, remains limited to the same extent even today. While the number of families and the population in villages have increased, the area has not expanded accordingly. Delhi is truly a mini India. There is no district in India whose people are not living here in Delhi. Everyone comes here, leaving behind their land, homes, and even selling their jewellery, to work and build a home in Delhi. However, it is unfortunate that neither our Government nor any of the departments in Delhi have been

able to formulate a residential policy, nor have they devised any policy for the commercial activities taking place in our residential areas.

The Master Plan for the year 1957 was prepared for the first time. The second Master Plan was prepared in 1990, and the third Master Plan was prepared in February 2007, with amendments still ongoing. The primary reason for the increase in unauthorised colonies in Delhi was the rise in population and the absence of any policy to address this issue. I would like to inform the House that the term "unauthorised colonies" does not imply that the houses are illegal per se, but rather that people started building houses on agricultural land they owned. At that time, there was no Government policy in place. People came and needed homes to live in. These individuals could not afford houses worth crores of rupees, so they began constructing homes on agricultural land in the outer regions of Delhi. Somewhere along the way, there was negligence on the part of our Government departments. You may call it oversight or even collusion, but these unauthorised colonies began to develop.

Sir, in 1993, a Common Cause NGO filed a Public Interest Litigation. The High Court asked the Government whether these colonies should be regularised. At that time, Dr. Sahib Singh Verma was the Chief Minister of Delhi. For the first time in history, the Chief

Minister himself appeared before the High Court and stated that we will submit an affidavit within ten days and bring a new policy for unauthorised colonies in Delhi, but please do not demolish them. The High Court accepted this assurance, and we began providing electricity and water to these unauthorised colonies. I would urge Hon. Members to visit those areas to see the living conditions. There are no roads, drains, water supply, or electricity. There are no community facilities whatsoever. The Government has not yet formulated any policy. These are the primary reasons for the increase of unauthorised colonies. In 1998, when the High Court permitted the provision of water and electricity and directed the formulation of a policy, the Government in Delhi changed, and the Congress Government came to power. The Congress Government remained in power in Delhi for fifteen years, but during this period, it took no steps regarding unauthorised colonies. In 2008, during elections, the Delhi Government called Shrimati Sonia Gandhi and distributed provisional certificates for Delhi's unauthorised colonies, yet no colony was formally regularised. I would like to say to the Hon. Minister that this issue deserves an investigation. As soon as the Delhi Government issued notifications for 895 colonies, those were not gazette notifications. The then Principal Secretary signed off on those letters

just before retirement, approving these 895 colonies. These colonies have not yet been regularised. Five months ago, the Delhi Urban Development Department wrote to the Lieutenant Governor, requesting the withdrawal of that proposal. The Lieutenant Governor replied that a decision in this regard would be taken when a new Government assumed office in Delhi. Whenever elections were held in Delhi, a spectacle of regularising unauthorised colonies used to be staged.

Sir, I would like to inform you why it became necessary for us to enact this Act. There was a highly publicised case, M.C. Mehta versus Government of India. In that case, M.C. Mehta filed a Public Interest Litigation seeking the demolition of unauthorised colonies in Delhi, the removal of slums, and the reduction of commercialisation in our residential areas. The Hon. Supreme Court issued orders accordingly, and if everyone recalls, in 2006, sealing drives began. Shops in Delhi were being sealed. Demolition of unauthorised colonies had commenced. Schools operating on agricultural land in Delhi were being closed. In 2006, this Act was introduced in Parliament and was passed. The Delhi Laws Special Provisions Act (22) 2006 imposed a one-year moratorium, prohibiting any demolition in Delhi until a

policy was formulated. This Act was extended annually up to 2011, and thereafter it was extended for three years.

Now I would like to inform the House about the matters for which we were required to formulate a policy under this Act. There are 1,200 slum clusters in Delhi that require redevelopment. The Government has shown no concern about how people are living there. Similarly, the Government has shown no concern regarding our Street Vendors' Policy. When I speak about the unauthorised colonies, the Government has taken no interest in them, which means that during the 15 years of the Congress Government, no attention was paid to this issue. We have introduced this Act in the House because the validity of this Act, which had been extended from 2011 to 2014, is set to expire on 31.12.2014. We seek to extend its duration by a further three years, until 2017. Whether it pertains to slums, unauthorized colonies, shops operating within residential areas, the farmhouse policy, schools, hospitals, warehouses, or godowns, the Government must develop and implement a comprehensive policy addressing these issues. I would like to urge the Minister to note that merely extending or continuing this Act repeatedly is no solution. We must develop and present a policy. Nearly 80 lakh people reside here, of whom 60 lakh live in unauthorised colonies and 20 lakh live in slums, yet there exists

no policy for them in Delhi. How are they to live, how will they obtain water and electricity, how will development work be carried out for them? There is no policy addressing these matters. Therefore, I would like to request that this Act be extended for three years.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through you, I would like to state to the House that whichever colonies are approved, they should be approved through a Gazette Notification. In Delhi, we must accept that the so-called unauthorised colonies can also be called self-made colonies, because they have not been established on government land but on private land owned by people. Therefore, these should be regularised. I have one more suggestion for the Minister. This Act states that only those colonies in which houses were constructed up to 2007 will be regularised. However, between 2007 and 2014, a significant number of houses have been built in unauthorised colonies in Delhi, and millions of people reside in them. If the government does not take any decision regarding them, at least 25 to 30 lakh people will be rendered homeless. Their houses will be demolished, for which they are not at fault. If anyone is at fault, it is the government officials and other department personnel who colluded, allowing those houses to be built. But if we do not approve them until 2014, I believe a very serious problem will arise in Delhi.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through you, I would like to suggest to the Minister that an amendment be made to this Act so that all residential houses in unauthorised colonies built between 2007 and 2014 be regularised. Let us extend this Act for three years. Thank you very much for giving me the time.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Before I begin my speech, I would like to draw the attention of the House to the significance of today's date. Today marks the day when, in 1971, India dealt a crushing defeat to Pakistan, and our national flag was hoisted high in Bangladesh. I pay my deepest respects to all our martyrs, and I believe the entire House is associated in honouring those who secured such a magnificent victory for our country. I begin with the mention of war because today the discussion is about Delhi. Delhi too has witnessed many battles and wars throughout its history. Delhi has been continuously inhabited since the 6th century BC. It was the capital Indraprastha of the Pandavas, the capital of the Chauhan Empire when Prithviraj Chauhan established his dominion over northern India, and later, when the Delhi Sultanate was established by the Turks who came to Delhi. The capital of the Mughal Empire, the capital of the British Empire was Calcutta for some time, and then in 1911, the British Empire's capital was shifted to Delhi. Since independence, the country's development has accelerated rapidly. Alongside the nation's growth, I believe that Delhi today is one of the fastest-growing cities in the world. In terms of population, Delhi ranks second after Tokyo. After Tokyo, it is Delhi, followed by Shanghai,

then Mexico City in fourth place, Mumbai in fifth, and then São Paulo in Brazil. Delhi has a population of approximately 1.1 crore, while the entire National Capital Region has around 2.5 crore people. To illustrate the magnitude of the challenges facing Delhi, I would like to cite one example.

From the 6th century BC till the year 1980, the population of Delhi grew to a certain extent, the growth that took place over two and a half thousand years was doubled in just the last twenty years. This reflects that, at some point, there have indeed been shortcomings. Undoubtedly, as Shri Pravesh Ji mentioned earlier, there have been lapses whether on your part or ours. But we are not here merely to level accusations or counter-accusations. You were also in power in Delhi, and so were we, both at the Centre and in the state. There were shortcomings on all sides. However, in times when urbanisation across the world is accelerating at such an unprecedented pace, it is imperative for us to rise above blame and reflect on what kind of future lies ahead. By the year 2030, the NCR will be counted among the five largest economic centres in the world. The economy of Delhi and the NCR region is projected to reach 300 billion US Dollar by 2030.

If we speak of modern development planning in Delhi, there are two or three key dates that become significant. In 1991, through the 69th Amendment Act, the Union Government conferred a special status upon Delhi by transforming it from a Union Territory into the National Capital Territory of Delhi. That same year, the Master Plan of 2001 was published, and under its provisions, the norms for the developmental process of Delhi were laid out. This Master Plan was to be renewed afresh in 2001, but unfortunately, that could not happen. In 2006, a judgment was delivered by the Hon. Supreme Court on 16 February 2006, wherein the Government was directed to initiate the process of demolition. At that time, the unauthorised colonies we speak of today, the slums and informal settlements of the poor, the small traders, came under immediate threat. I must point out that there were indeed shortcomings in planning, due to which these settlements could not be included in the authorised framework. To protect them from that impending crisis, the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act was introduced on 19 May 2006. Within a year of that, a new Master Plan was formulated, and the Master Plan 2021 was subsequently published in 2007, providing some relief. Through that legal mechanism, efforts were made to safeguard the unauthorised

structures, colonies, and slums. Today, as you have brought this Bill before the House, we are expressing our support for it.

Through this Bill, the objective is not only to provide what one might call a punitive vaccine against legal penalties for unauthorised developments, but also, as you have stated within the provisions of this Bill, to ensure the relocation of slums and jhuggi-jhopri dwellers in a time-bound and planned manner within the next three years, that is, by the year 2017. With regard to the regularisation of unauthorised colonies as rightly pointed out by my colleague Shri Pravesh Verma, whose Parliamentary Constituency borders mine, I am in complete agreement. The issue concerning the expansion of village populations and the extension of the Lal Dora boundaries must also be addressed. Whether it is the regularisation of farmhouses, or of schools, godowns, storage units, etc., which have been constructed on agricultural land within Delhi, you are seeking to address these as well through this Act. You have mentioned in the Objects and Reasons that you intend to undertake these actions in a time-bound manner. We welcome this step.

Alongside this, I would like to state one more point. All these aspects are indeed incorporated within the present Act, and we extend our support to it. However, there is another important matter to

consider. We are viewing Delhi's Master Plan and overall planning in isolation. Gurgaon is creating its own separate plan, the Gurgaon Master Plan. Noida is being planned independently by the Noida Development Authority, and Ghaziabad has its own planning mechanisms as well. The reality is that the entire NCR region is now functioning as an integrated economic unit. These areas are increasingly interconnected and interdependent, and will continue to be so. Therefore, the Master Plans and the norms guiding urban development should be framed in such a manner that urbanisation is steered in the right direction. The deficiencies we are witnessing today should not be passed on to the coming generations. There should be a unified Master Plan applicable to all these regions. I shall offer an example: I have proposed two roads to connect my Parliamentary Constituency to Delhi, one from Badli to Dwarka over the Najafgarh Drain, and another dedicated corridor from Bahadurgarh over Drain No. 8 up to Peeragarhi and Ring Road. I found myself uncertain about whether this proposal should be submitted under Delhi's planning framework or Haryana's, as the area in question is essentially one integrated region, and the people of both states desire these connections. I believe there must be unified planning. In this regard, I had also spoken to Shri Venkaiah Naidu just yesterday. [English] The

only unique agency to execute this is the NCR Planning Board, which is under your Ministry. NCR Planning Board can call upon all the State Governments and develop not only Delhi Master Plan but also a unified NCR Master Plan. I demand from the Minister that a unified NCR Master Plan for the next 20, 30 or 50 years should be developed. [Translation] I would go as far as to say that the NCR Planning Board must be further strengthened. At present, it operates on an annual budget of Rs. 100 crore, which is clearly inadequate to fulfil its objectives. It must be allocated greater financial support. In fact, I would submit that just as a separate Ministry has been created for the North-East region, and considering that by the year 2030, the NCR is projected to become the largest economic centre in the world, the Union Government should seriously consider the creation of a dedicated Ministry for the planned development of the NCR. I have even moved a Private Member's Bill on this subject.

Today, we are not standing here merely to criticise. If we were to engage in criticism, then as Shri Parvesh Verma pointed out certain shortcomings in your planning, we too could level counter-allegations. For example, we could ask why the Master Plan of Delhi for 2021, which was due to be released in 2001, did not materialise when your party was in power both at the Centre and in Delhi from

1998 to 2004. I would also like to point out that this is essentially our Bill. I have compared the 2011 Bill and the current Bill before us. I could identify only one difference between the two. Not a single word has been changed otherwise. What has been done is that in eight instances, the year “2014” has been replaced with “2017”, something which appears to have been done using the Find and Replace function of a computer. There is a function called Control + H, and with one press of a button, all instances of “2014” were replaced with “2017”. I nonetheless welcome this Bill. You have implicitly acknowledged that our Bill was appropriate that is why you have brought it back. Otherwise, you would have introduced substantial changes. Earlier, you had claimed that you would bring something new. But what you have actually done is simply press Control + H and reintroduced the same Bill. So, I must ask what is new in what you have presented?

We are not standing here merely to criticise, because if we were to indulge in criticism, it would raise questions about the intent as well. The Bill passed by our Parliament in 2011 contains clear provisions that slums and jhuggi-jhopdis would be protected from punitive legal actions. Despite this, may I ask why, just last month, bulldozers, those infamous yellow-clawed machines, were sent into the slum settlements of Kusumpur Pahadi? Our party’s Vice

President, Shri Rahul Gandhi, went there and firmly stated that if a bulldozer is to demolish the home of any poor person living in a slum, it should run over us first, and only then over them.

Through this august House, I would like to issue a word of caution. The Government has brought this Bill and we welcome it; we stand in support of it. However, if the yellow claw of the demolition machinery or the bulldozer is turned upon the jhuggis and huts, upon the dwellings of the poor people of Delhi, then the bulldozer will first have to pass over each and every Congress Member of Parliament, and only thereafter over the poor people of Delhi. This is the warning that we wish to place on record today. However, we have not risen merely to offer criticism. ... *(Interruptions)*

If we were to criticise, we could also submit that, in that Bill, adequate provisions for the protection of street vendors. Through you, I would like to remind the Government that it was the UPA Government which enacted the Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending Act in the Lok Sabha, to safeguard the rights and livelihoods of street vendors. This matter pertains directly to the livelihoods of the urban poor. Why, then, have the rules under this Act not yet been published in the Gazette of India? Those rules must be notified without further delay. The Government ought to take

immediate steps in this regard. Had those rules been notified promptly, there would have been no need to introduce another law to protect the interests of street vendors in Delhi.

15.00 hrs.

In conclusion, I would only like to state that the Bill the Government has brought today is essentially our Bill. We support it and we urge the Government to undertake comprehensive planning for the NCR for the next fifty years. Shri Venkaiah Naidu's Ministry can take the lead on this, and the NCR Planning Board can do the work. Yesterday, when there was a debate on the Delhi Metro, I urged him on this matter. Our best wishes for this Bill are with the Shri Venkaiah Naidu's Ministry and with this Government.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to offer a brief clarification. Shri Deepender is young, and I hold youngsters in high regard because, whether they sit on this side or on that side, the future of the country rests upon them. He has stated that a bulldozer was sent. No bulldozer has been sent by the Government; this action was taken pursuant to an order of the National Green Tribunal. [English] The National Green Tribunal is equivalent to the court. It is everybody's knowledge. [Translation] The Government has no role in this matter. Secondly, he has said that if any such

bulldozer comes, it will have to pass over the Congress Members of Parliament first. However, there is no Congress Member of Parliament from Delhi. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRIMATI K. MARAGATHAM (KANCHEEPURAM): Sir, I thank the Chair for this opportunity to speak on this Bill. The protection of poor people from punitive action in the National Capital Territory of Delhi is the main aim of this Bill.

I am speaking on behalf of AIADMK Party guided by our beloved Leader *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*. The welfare of the poor, even in the rural pockets, has always been her priority. As a humble volunteer of our Party, I can very well understand the problems faced by the rural people migrating to urban areas. I also know the need to protect them from punishments if those poor people have to seek shelter in slum clusters.

This Bill is aimed at protecting some forms of unauthorized developments like unauthorized colonies and street vendor spaces. The Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2006 gave protective cover to such poor people in the National Capital Territory whenever they were forced to encroach on public land and living in unauthorized constructions. This led to growth of slums, and later it came as a problem before the Government to regularize those colonies.

Colonies are also of two kinds, namely, squatter settlements on the one side and resettlement colonies on the other. As these people

are earning their livelihood as daily wagers, domestic servants and are engaging themselves in all menial jobs, these unauthorized service-sector men cannot be wished away. This Act was kept alive every year continuously as the protection cover was for one year. Now that the period of three years -- made in the Second Act, 2011 -- will expire on 31 December 2014, it has become necessary for us to pass this Bill.

The Act of this House to legislate this Act can understandably come under criticism. Since there is no Assembly in Delhi, this becomes all the more important to pass it immediately. We have to look into the social implications of this Bill. The social cover given should not give rise to more such unauthorized encroachments in the National Capital. I urge upon the Union Urban Development Ministry to go for a balancing act. We need to protect and keep the National Capital intact. At the same time, the poor people have to be protected from the clutches of law when they are found violating law helplessly while seeking shelter and a dwelling place. Such people, mostly through their manual labour, contribute to the society and their interests must also be attended to in a democratic setup.

At this juncture, I would like to bring to your notice the sorry plight of the working class, especially, the Tamil people living among them in the National Capital Region. A sizeable Tamil migrant

population is here in Delhi right from the early fifties. Most of them are still in the lower rung of the social ladder. These people, looking for jobs, continue to live in squatter settlements and unauthorised colonies. They are slums of hope and slums of despair. The Government must come to the rescue of these people in despair.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to enumerate this section of society through a special drive. With the advent of Adhaar Cards, this can be done easily. After identifying them, they must be properly settled here as a workforce suitable for a nation's capital.

Their living standards must be improved and only then, we can give a facelift to the National Capital in terms of maintaining sanitation and cleanliness. The Prime Minister is insisting on cleanliness and it can be achieved only when needy people are settled properly. Enough care must be taken to see that more and more people do not become encroachers. This can be done by way of constructing service workers' area in the periphery of NCT with proper commuting facilities. I urge upon the Urban Development Ministry to take care of the hapless poor, especially the Tamil people among them who have been displaced and stay at a great distance from the National Capital.

I urge upon the Union Government to provide these people with ration cards, voter ID cards, Aadhaar cards and job opportunities. The

Tamil people here are not able to get the community certificates whether SC/ST or OBC. When it comes to education and employment, they become a deprived class. This is because of the nativity claim made by the Government of NCT. This is our National Capital and, hence, the people who are living here must get the same facilities and benefits which they might get in their respective States. I urge upon the Union Government to attend to this urgent need which comes in the way of their social upward mobility.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to speak on the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2014. There cannot be any objection to this Bill. Formally, to prevent punitive action against unauthorised settlements, this Bill was brought in 2006. Then, again it was amended in 2011. The three year period for which these unauthorised colonies were prevented from being acted against is expiring. So, it will be extended for another three years.

Now, let me first start with talking about these unauthorised colonies. The development of Delhi has been unplanned and lopsided. As you know, in 1911 the Capital shifted to Delhi from Calcutta. Immediately, the then Government of India acquired large tracts of land around the Raisina Hill to build the new Capital. New Delhi came into being in what is known as 'Lutyens Zone'. Today, the control of this New Delhi Lutyens Zone is under the Central Government. The Urban Development Minister is the owner of all the prime property, including the Rashtrapati Bhawan, Parliament as well as the Lutyens Bungalows and the most costly piece of real estate in the world, including the Khan Market, Connaught Circus. All these are under Mr. Venkaiah Naidu.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: They are under the control of the Minister and not Shri Venkaiah Naidu. How can he become the owner? He cannot become the owner.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : Sir, it is only symbolic and everybody knows that. Here, he can evict people like us; he can also give the allotment.

What happened after Independence is that Delhi had a large influx of refugees from West Punjab. As you know, new colonies sprang up for the refugees, like Lajpat Nagar. So, the area of Delhi slowly started expanding.

Shri Deepender spoke very well that in the last 20 years, somehow or the other Delhi has become a big magnet. That is why, a large number of people from all over India is coming to Delhi. Now, the municipal limit of Delhi is limited. The Lutyens Zone controlled by Shri Venkaiahji is small, the NDMC area. Outside that is the DMC area. During the last Congress Government in Delhi, they divided the Corporation into four parts. Then there is the National Capital Region which would include Gurgaon. It would include a huge area around including NOIDA, Ghaziabad, Sahibabad. Now the plan should have been to develop counter magnets. Delhi is like a magnet drawing

people. If you set up urban developments all around, which could draw people away, then this congestion in Delhi would not be there.

Though there is the National Capital Region Planning Board with Shri Venkaiah Naidu as the Chairman, yet the Planning Board meets once in six months. They have got an IAS officer but little planning. As a result of this, the *jhuggi jhonpari* clusters, the unauthorised colonies have gone on increasing. Today you will be surprised that there are 1200 unauthorised colonies. And out of Delhi's population, about 60 lakh people live in unauthorised colonies. Now for a long time, all Governments in Delhi have promised that they would regularise the unauthorised colonies. The last Congress Government gave provisional certificates to some colony people. But no final regularisation has been done with respect to these colonies. In some of the unauthorised colonies, well-to-do people also stay and others live in abject poverty. The municipality or the Corporation provides them water, drainage etc. But the land they live on, does not belong to them. I would urge the Urban Development Minister that while he is giving a three year's extension, he should commit to the House that within three years, he would regularise all the 1200 *jhuggi jhonpari* colonies. All the paper work has been done. But somehow or the other,

that decision is not being taken and year after year, we are delaying the whole thing.

But you would be surprised to know that in Delhi there are unauthorised colonies of the poor and unauthorised colonies of the rich. You may have heard of Sainik Farms. Sainik Farms have houses of rich people with duck ponds, swimming pools, high walls and helipads. But it is not regularised. It is an unauthorised colony. The Government cannot defer taking decision on such irregular colonies for a long time. They have to give them proper registration.

I would conclude by mentioning two points. My suggestion would be to do something finally about the unauthorised colonies both for the rich and the poor. There is also the problem of farm houses. The rich people of Delhi have the farm houses on the edge. You would have also received invitations for marriages.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have not received anything.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : Chattarpur Farm House and Kapashera Farm House are all huge farm houses. Now they want to build two storeyed or three storeyed houses. The Government has to take a policy decision on the same.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: What is your suggestion about farm houses? It is an issue which is agitating my mind also. If you have any suggestion, you can throw light on that.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY : I would not agree to farm houses being allowed to build multi-storeyed buildings. They were allowed there. Now they want to build multi-storeyed houses. They should not be allowed. Let the farm houses remain as they are. … (*Interruptions)* The main point that I would like to mention is that this anomaly must end. He is the owner of the Lutyens Zone. The Land and Development Office (L&DO) is under him. But the Minister has no control over the Delhi Development Authority. Though he will answer questions in Parliament on DDA, Lt. Governor is the Chairman. The Minister cannot even give a flat in Dwarka to anybody because the Lt. Governor is controlling it. There should be one authority. Either you give it up all to DDA or you take it back. And the State Government comes nowhere in the picture.

As regards the unauthorised colonies, the formalities are being done by the State Government. It has to come to the Urban Development Ministry for regularisation. I would urge upon the Government to take a decision so that this regularisation of unauthorised colonies is done at the earliest leaving aside this tussle

between the Centre and the National Capital Territory of Delhi Government.

Lastly, the main problem today in Delhi is of transport. You have built a lot of flyovers. For whom? For rich people to ply their cars. You have to really introduce more public transport. The Metro has done wonders. But Metro is only carrying 30 per cent of the people. Unless you have more public transport and limit the use of cars, there is no place.

With that, Sir, I support the Bill.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): *Vanakkam*, Sir.

Sir, we have heard all the hon. Members who spoke. They have all supported this Bill. I have heard the hon. Minister also. He said, we should speak if we have any suggestions to come up with, otherwise no point listening to any of us.

This National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2014 is a very critical piece of legislation. People who have interests here, who have Constituencies bordering Delhi or in Delhi, obviously will have one perspective on this. We cannot complain about that. They are dealing with voters, they have to be obviously sympathetic to their voters. On the other hand, we have to take a holistic view of the development of this country, especially the Capital Territory of Delhi.

The moment you land at the Delhi airport and drive out, you see these ugly structures on both sides of the flyover that takes you out of the airport. So, Delhi is not a beautiful city any more. I have been in this city since my childhood. All the greenery, except this little island called Lutyen's Delhi, is lost. It is an ugly city today.

We have had a plethora of Bills and most of them have been necessitated because of very many court orders both from the

Supreme Court and the Delhi High Court. However, there is an interesting part that we see now that a whole set of Bills are being pushed through. You have the e-rickshaw regularization Bill, yesterday we had the Public Premises (Amendment) Bill which was specifically for Delhi Metro, and then this Bill today. Obviously everybody this side and that side in the House is aware that the focus is on the forthcoming elections. And it is but quite natural - they did the dirty work, so others would follow that - that keeping the elections in view we are proposing government action, which I think vitiates the whole intention and destroys the motive, no matter how noble.

Sir, on one hand we have this regularization of *jhuggi jhompri* colonies. Poor people, yes, we have to have sympathy with them, we empathise with them. On the other hand there are also the very very rich. Like the Professor said earlier, there are the farm houses, there are those multi-storied buildings of the extremely rich people. But there is a huge bulk of middleclass in Delhi which has with painstaking labour built a small home or live in a condominium, and the *jhuggi jhompri* colonies have overtaken them, have taken up their common areas, have taken away their playfields, have taken over their schools. Even government schools do not have the land around them which they were allotted earlier. There are *jhuggi jhompri* colonies

within the boundaries of the government schools. It is there for anybody to see.

Here, in the Bill, on page 4, 3b and c, it says that these unauthorized developments in respect of areas referred to in sub-section 1 shall be deemed to have been suspended and no punitive action shall be taken if they conform to safety standards as in force or such other safety requirements as may be notified by the Central Government and if they comply with the directions with respect to safety, if any, issued by the Central Government.

The hon. Minister, just the other day, maybe yesterday, aptly said that civic inspectors appointed by the Municipalities - this is not limited to Delhi alone, but throughout the country- have unfortunately refrained from doing their basic duties. I am not alleging that it is only corruption which keeps them away. There are so many pressures. For example, right now this Bill being enacted is always going to put in political pressure on those government employees not to function. But with the Minister agreeing to this, I request him- he is a very learned person- that he should look a little deeper. The city of Delhi is the pride of India. It is not a city of Congress, BJP, BJD, TMC or AIADMK. It does not belong to any of us. It belongs to the people of this country. Therefore, when we talk about irregular colonies, we

know that JJ colonies in Delhi enjoy electricity and water. This is common knowledge. We have in the House the hon. Minister present here who was to be the Chief Minister of Delhi. He knows the problem of Delhi like the back of his hand. He knows that JJ colonies, which are totally irregular colonies, have electricity and water. But right next to them, people living in legal colonies who have worked hard to build their homes, do not have these facilities.

There is also another serious matter which has come to my notice. Certain honourable and respected colleagues of this House have taken up Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojna projects within MCD and NDMC areas. That is very unfortunate. I would request the hon. Minister to see if this kind of a thing has actually happened. He should advise the hon. MPs to refrain from such things. I would also like to say that this is a golden opportunity for the hon. Minister, for this Government, to stop the creation of black money at least in one of the most expensive real estate cities of India. How will the land that you are going to regularise be valued? Suppose once these farm lands and JJ colonies are regularized, and then the new owner or the old owner wants to sell the land, what will be the valuation of the property? That is where creation of black money will creep in. Will the Government consider

laying out guidelines of areas and prices of registration? What is the methodology for fixing the value of this unauthorized land?

Finally Sir, before you ring the bell, I would like to say that since this Bill also includes illegally constructed farm houses as well, it will be necessary to see what methodology is being used to find out what compensation was given to acquire this land, if any, and when the Governments goes in for legalising this 1,000+ colonies, will the Government be able to give them basic civic amenities before it legalizes them or will it do so after legalising them? [Translation] Will these facilities amenities be given before the elections or will these also be promises to be squandered away after elections? All these issues have to be dealt with.

I am unfortunately not supporting this Bill and I would say that the Government take its time, come back with a fresher and newer approach to this issue.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I support this Bill. In Delhi, several settlements comprising slums, warehouses and cultural institutions. Efforts have been ongoing for many years to provide justice to these dwellings. I would like to express my gratitude to the Government and I extend my support to this Bill.

Through this legislation, many illegal structures situated in Delhi will become legal. However, there is no provision in this Bill to prevent the construction of illegal structures in the future. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to make such a provision so that the problem of illegal structures does not arise again. Those who have constructed unauthorised houses will now have them regularised according to the rules. At present, land prices are increasing day by day. A poor person can neither buy land nor afford a house. For such poor people, who beg on the streets and lose their lives during winter nights while sleeping on the roadside, the Government should formulate a specific policy, especially for the city of Delhi. In the year 1995, when there was a Shiv Sena, BJP Government in Maharashtra, the SRA Scheme was formulated by the Maharashtra Government. Even today, many poor people have received housing and

accommodation through that scheme. Since then, no such law has been enacted in Maharashtra. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that this problem is not confined to Delhi alone; it is a problem faced by the entire nation. As Delhi has expanded, illegal structures have increased, and the same situation exists in every city of the country. In Maharashtra, particularly in Pune and Pimpri cities, I have been struggling for many years regarding the issue of illegal structures. The same problem persists there as well. The BJP-Shiv Sena Government is in power in that State, and I would like to request that by discussing this matter with the Hon. Chief Minister, necessary steps be taken by the Government to provide justice to the citizens residing in those illegal structures.

[English]

*__SHRI A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL):__ Hon'ble Deputy Speaker Sir, I hope you would permit me to speak in my sweet mother tongue that is Malayalam.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Yes, yes. Very sweet. You can.

SHRI A. SAMPATH : The National Capital Territory Of Delhi Laws [Special provisions Amendment Bill 2014] introduced by the respected Minister ,is a welcome step. But there are some doubts regarding the bill that some of the members had raised earlier. The statement of objects and reasons of the bill says, "The phenomenal growth of Delhi had its inevitable implications and impact in terms of shelter, including squatter settlements and other infrastructure facilities".

I support the bill if the intention is to let the helpless poor to continue to live in their slum clusters for three more years. But if the intention as some members have already pointed out is to allow the real estate mafias and farm house owners to thrive under the pretext of helping the poor, and also to allow them to possess and keep in safe custody unaccounted wealth, then I oppose this bill.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayalam.

Sir, the statement of object and reasons para 5, says that,'' the objective of the extension of time is not only to protect certain forms of unauthorized developments from punitive action in the National Capital Territory of Delhi but also to provide for opportunity to the Government agencies to finalise the norms, policy guidelines and feasible strategies as well as the orderly implementation of the plan in this regard."

My question Sir, what if the government fails yet again? If the government is buying more and more time under the pretext that the squatter settlements dwellers will be protected and you bring out such piece meal legislation, it is not proper. Sir I have visited the slums of Delhi. I had visited Kalindi Kunj refugee camp, last December during peak winter season. I saw women and children living in unhygienic conditions. Sir, we all know that Delhi was not built in a day. Mahabharata mentions of Indraprastha. I hope, my learned friends from the treasury benches, may also agree with me, when I say something about Mahabharata.

Sir, there are historical evidences to show that Delhi was a city which had human habitation even during sixth century BC. Slaves in older times, and migrant labourers in modern times have-shed their sweat and tears for Delhi. So Delhi belongs to all. To the Keralites,

the Tamilans, to the Andhrites, the Kanadikas and also all those who come from all the north eastern states of Meghalaya, Manipur, Assam, Tripura. The soil of Delhi, has been enriched by the sweat of all our regional population. But in this very Delhi, even the children and women from north eastern states are attacked and killed.

Sir, we are a federation. The successive Governments have failed in providing even the basic facilities to those who live in Delhi. I am not complaining anything before *adharaniya*, Venkaiyah Naidu ji. I cannot say that the minister has done something wrong, because your predecessors have been continuously doing it.

It was the last Congress Government which had privatized the power sector. Now all those who living in Delhi are at the mercy of some corporate houses.

When we talk of the vehicles that are plying on the roads of Delhi, we should think of whose development we are talking.

Sir, we don’t have trains from Delhi to go to our home town. There are not trains to go to Chennai and Hyderabad.

Now, we talk to widening roads. Delhi is becoming an expensive city to live.

Sir, I won't take much time. The marshal who is standing behind you is smiling. Sir, please listen. In economics there is a saying that there is a tendency for the free goods to become economic goods. In Delhi potable water is becoming an unattainable dream. Shelter is becoming an unattainable dream. Are the migrant workers safe in Delhi. Here, in the Parliament, when we go back home, after attending the Session, we can see children, their fathers and mothers, lying by the roadside, because they do not have shelter.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You are going into another subject.

SHRI A. SAMPATH : Sir, this is about Delhi. This city belongs to us all. It is our destiny that we have come here.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER : About other bills you can speak later. Now about Delhi. No problem.

SHRI A. SAMPATH : I am going to conclude. With all due respects, respected minister, my request is that the shelter houses in Delhi are becoming unattainable. Often people came to Members of Parliament and beg to us. They are begging for a shelter. "Can you lend me your car garage?"

Delhi does not have power, I am concluding.

Give me two more minutes. Sir, I am speaking in Malayalam. If it was English, I would have been brief.

To conclude. We do not have adequate medical facilities. Even the existing laws and rules are not being followed. In Delhi, the Lt.Governer has more power than the elected state Government. The Lt.Governer's likes and deslikes prevail over the elected Government. This is not a healthy trend for any democracy.

One more point before I conclude. We have about five lakhs Keralites in Delhi. But of them only 61,000 have voting rights. Even those who have the voters identity card cannot vote.

One hon'ble women member had mentioned about Nirbhaya case during the morning discussion. Are women safe on the streets of Delhi? Are our children safe? Are those who come from your state, Tamil Nadu, safe in Delhi?

I am going to conclude. Do we know how much of money has been spent on the rehabilitation and resettlement of slum dwellers. How many people have been benefited? What has happened to all that money? Government of India should bring out a white paper, to clarify these facts. Are they ready for it? More money has been spent on the rehabilitations and resettlement of slum dwellers than on the cleaning of Ganga river.

Without taking more time, let me ask the Government whether they intend to implement the Master Plan entirely? The plan should help the homeless poor in the city; and in it’s pretext commercial interests of corporates should not be unlawfully protected. This is my request to the Government.

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill. I, on behalf of my Party, rise to support this Bill. In the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill, 2014, there is nothing specific to discuss because the only clause that is going to get amended is with regard to the extension of time. This is meant to extend the provisions of the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act for a period of three years, that is from 1st January 2015 to 31st December, 2017. That is the only clause that is sought to be amended.

Sir, the principal Act was brought when the Master Plan for Delhi 2021 was being prepared. In order to protect certain forms of unauthorized developments from punitive action, the Delhi Laws Special Provisions Act was brought and this was extended year by year. Particularly this National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Amendment Act was initially made for a period of three years which is going to expire on 31st December 2014. I do not want to go into the details which have already been mentioned by several other hon. Members of the House, particularly Members from and around Delhi.

Sir, the infrastructure facilities in the urban areas, particularly with regard to the encroachment of public land, growth of slums, unauthorized construction is not only unique to the city of Delhi, but it is found elsewhere also. This problem is being faced in all the urban areas which are developing all across the country. The hon. Minister has stated that the Master Plan for Delhi 2021 is likely to be completed by early 2015. He expressed the view that the review of the Master Plan will be completed by early next year. If that review is completed and a Master Plan is declared, then at least after three years, this House will not have to again pass an amendment for further extension. I would like to suggest to the hon. Minister that the Master Plan of Delhi 2021 should be completed as early as possible. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak. The Hon. Minister is present in the House, and I am glad to see that he is taking note of the valuable suggestions being made by the Hon. Members.

Sir, Delhi is the heart of the nation, and people from across the country come here in search of employment. As per this Bill, all unauthorised colonies, slums and illegal constructions existing till the year 2007 in Delhi shall not be sealed or penalised till 31st December 2017. I would like to submit that not only constructions till 2007 but also those existing till 16th December, that is, today, or until the Hon. President accords his assent to this Bill, should be regularised. Regularisation is indeed a significant step, but it should not be used merely as a vote-bank tool. In the past, the Congress Party had issued certificates six months prior to elections, assuring people that their colonies would be regularised if they came to power, but that promise was not fulfilled. Such matters should not be treated as instruments for electoral gains. Everyone in Delhi knows that one of the main reasons behind the rise of unauthorised colonies is that getting a map approved in Delhi is an extremely difficult task.

I would like to suggest that the approved maps and plans of Delhi be made available online so that people can obtain approval through an online process. This will enable them to start construction only after due approval, thereby preventing the formation of unauthorised colonies and illegal constructions in the future. Consequently, there would be no need to bring such Bills repeatedly, first for structures till 2007, then 2010, and later 2014. The people living in such conditions are poor labourers residing in slums and unauthorised colonies under extremely difficult circumstances. If their dwellings are regularised, their children will have better opportunities for education and can improve their family's condition through learning. They should also have access to proper healthcare and safe drinking water so that their children can contribute to the progress of the nation. I would like to urge the Government to introduce more schemes for the upliftment of the poor so that their standard of living may be enhanced. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for allowing me to speak on NCT of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2014. [Translation] When we speak of Delhi, I would like to inform the House through you that Delhi is not only the capital of the nation but also one of the greenest capitals in the world. However, with each passing day, that greenery is diminishing as development progresses. Development is, of course, essential for the advancement of our country and to meet the expectations of those who come to Delhi in search of livelihood. Alongside this Bill, it is imperative that we advance the Delhi Master Plan 2121. Instead of continuing with horizontal development, we must move towards vertical development. I had the opportunity to study in the United States for five years, and I observed that cities such as Chicago and New York have developed vertically. The same is true for Dubai and Shanghai, as Pinaki ji rightly mentioned. Delhi too must adopt this approach. Today, the landholdings of farmers in Delhi are shrinking rapidly. As Lal Dora villages continue to expand, family sizes and household structures are also growing. Where there were once two family members, there are now six, and they too require adequate housing. In the past, slum clusters were developed in

an unplanned manner, resulting in the emergence of nearly 1,200 unauthorised colonies. As our colleague Pravesh ji pointed out, over 60 lakh people still reside in slums or unauthorised colonies. We must ensure that proper accommodation is created for them. My earnest appeal is that, while we plan for development, we must do so in a balanced and well-considered manner so that small farmers are not adversely affected. Development should be brought in a planned way. One of the gravest challenges Delhi faces today is its road congestion. If one travels through Delhi at around 6 p.m., one finds the entire city gridlocked. A spell of rain brings traffic to a complete standstill, often for hours together. Sewage management remains another pressing issue. We are unable to extend proper sewage facilities to unauthorised colonies. There is also an acute shortage of drinking water. Although we have obtained 1,000 cusecs of water from Haryana over the past decade, we have still not been able to supply clean drinking water to every household in Delhi. Therefore, our foremost priority should be to construct a dam on the Yamuna River and ensure a consistent and sufficient supply of water for the residents of Delhi.

Today, when we speak about the concept of counter magnets, I would like to point out that my Parliamentary Constituency, Hisar,

was designated as a counter magnet in 2003. It has been eleven years since then, yet no significant initiative has been taken from Delhi's side to promote industrial development there, so that those who come to Delhi in search of employment may instead find opportunities in Hisar. We established not one but ten counter magnets for Delhi, yet if one visits them today, not a single one is being properly utilised. When we talk about the NCR, it is evident that due to Delhi's overburdened state, surrounding cities in Haryana such as Gurugram, Faridabad, Sonipat and Bahadurgarh, and in Uttar Pradesh such as Ghaziabad and Noida, are becoming increasingly overcrowded day by day. People have shifted their residence to these cities, constructing multistoreyed buildings, while continuing to travel to Delhi for work. However, we have failed to provide an efficient and adequate transport system to support this movement. Therefore, through you, I would like to appeal to the Hon. Minister that while bringing this Amendment, the Government should also introduce a comprehensive Master Plan for Delhi by the year 2025. This Master Plan must ensure the planned and systematic development of the city, enabling Delhi to progress in an organised and sustainable manner. I express my sincere gratitude to you for allowing me to speak.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, you have allowed me to speak on the Amendment to the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2014, and I rise in support of this Bill. Let me first explain why there was a need to bring this Bill. Before me, Shri Hooda delivered an eloquent speech claiming that Delhi's situation had deteriorated and that slums had been demolished. I would like to respond point by point, as I reside in Delhi myself. I would like to request you to kindly allow me five extra minutes, I am sorry. In 1998, a Public Interest Litigation was filed in the Court, and during the same year, Shiela ji's Government came to power in Delhi. Following that, the Hon. Supreme Court issued orders concerning the unauthorised colonies that had come up in Delhi. Between 1993 and 1998, the BJP Government had already sent a proposal to the then Narasimha Rao Government for regularisation of these colonies. Until 1998, the Congress Government was in power at the Centre, and unfortunately, in 1998, the Congress came to power in Delhi as well. After that, the Urban Development Minister in Delhi repeatedly stated that they intended to regularise these unauthorised colonies after collecting development charges from the residents. However, Shiela ji, who was the Chief Minister of Delhi, declared that her Government would

regularise these colonies without collecting any money or charges from the people. Thus, for five long years, the people of Delhi were misled. In 2006, when the Hon. Supreme Court directed that sealing should be carried out on all unauthorised colonies, settlements and industries, there was chaos across Delhi. Labourers lost their jobs, and people were compelled to leave the city. Only then did the idea of preparing a Master Plan for Delhi emerge, a Master Plan which should have been brought in 2001 itself. When the Congress Government was in power in 2001, why was it not introduced then? ... *(Interruptions)* It came in 2007. After it came in 2007, when the Congress realised that the Congress was being politically decimated, when there was a Congress Government ... *(Interruptions)*, your Government was in office in Delhi, and it was for Delhi to prepare the Master Plan. The Government of Shrimati Sheila Dikshit was in office in 2001, and when the Master Plan was taken up in 2007, Shrimati Sheila Dikshit was still the Chief Minister. At that time, they felt that the people of Delhi would politically punish them, as they have done six months ago, and then they brought an Ordinance in Parliament, and it was brought precisely for that reason. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: You are speaking in Delhi; Delhi is nearby, so there is no need to raise your voice so much.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Hon. Deputy Speaker, the Ordinance was promulgated in 2007 because elections in Delhi were due in 2008, and by the time the 2008 Delhi elections were held, the Ordinance was already in force. A short while ago, Shri Saugata Roy was speaking. I have heard him on many occasions; he is a very senior and experienced Member, and I have always considered him to be an intelligent person. However, today he was submitting that, by introducing this provision in Delhi, unauthorised colonies would be encouraged. In fact, this is merely a protective measure, a stay, so that the properties which have already been constructed may remain as they are. The Bill has been brought to preserve existing properties, not to promote the creation of unauthorised colonies. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Deputy Speaker, I am a resident of Delhi, and this is a matter of deep concern for me. I had requested the Hon. Minister regarding the demolition of slums to which Shri Hooda referred. Those demolitions were carried out under the orders of the National Green Tribunal, and it was your Government that was in power at that time. This Bill originally applied to constructions made prior to the year 2000, and the matter was placed before the Tribunal in 2012. Therefore, I would like to ask why your Government failed to pass this Bill and why the Amendment was not brought up to 2014. The

cut-off date currently mentioned as 2007, which some Members are demanding, should now be extended to June 2014 or December 2014. Nearly fifty thousand properties have already been listed by the Hon. Supreme Court. If this Ordinance is not brought immediately and the Supreme Court issues further directions, large-scale demolition will begin from tomorrow itself. There are around 2 lakh such properties in which nearly twenty lakh people reside. If these properties are disturbed, it will create great chaos. Commissioners and officials are already monitoring the matter, and the courts are repeatedly insisting that the Government must find a solution. It has not even been six months since this Government assumed office, yet the entire draft has been prepared swiftly, and soon the Government is going to regularise all the unauthorised colonies in Delhi.

Regarding the matter of Sainik Farm and large farmhouses, under this Bill and the existing law, no permission will be granted anywhere for the creation of any unauthorised colonies. This Bill has been brought specifically to regularise the older settlements. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, according to this Bill, if it is implemented up to 2014 ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I have the facts here. The Hon. Supreme Court, under the DMC Act, Section 466, has already ordered that the MCD officials should file cases against these unauthorised structures.

If the DMC Act is enforced fully, cases will begin to be registered against the people immediately. Therefore, I would like to urge the Government to pass this Bill. I would also like to request the Government to amend the cut-off date from 2007 to 2014. Sir, there are several other facts which, if ignored, will create panic in Delhi, despite the leniency shown so far to these colonies. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, finally, I would like to say that this Bill contains a clause where, as early as 2007, it was suggested that colonies with fifty percent development should be regularised. Hon. Sonia ji had issued fake provisional certificates back then. It would have been better if she were present here today to explain. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Do not say that. Shri Manoj Tiwari to speak now. Otherwise, I will call the hon. Minister to give the reply.

… (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI: Sir, 50 percent of the houses constructed between 2007 and 2012 have been booked in all of these 1,693 colonies. If this Bill is not brought by 2014, the Government will issue orders for the demolition of all the houses constructed during the period from 2007 to 2012. These houses have come up

owing to the benevolence of Shri Hooda ji and of his Government. Shri Hooda ji, that area falls within your Parliamentary Constituency; in that case, why was Shri Rahul Gandhi standing before the bulldozer rather than yourself? Therefore, Sir, this kind of political theatrics that they indulge in ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Please wind up. Shri Manoj Tiwari to speak next. Nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI MANOJ TIWARI (NORTH EAST DELHI): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Bill. I seldom speak in this House; this is only the second occasion on which I have risen to do so. Yet I can state with certainty that the learning I am acquiring while sitting here far surpasses all the knowledge I have gained in my life thus far. For this, I am thankful to all the Hon. Members of this House; each one of them teaches me something.

Today, I am very happy because I too once came to Delhi as a migrant. I had the desire to build a small house somewhere in Delhi. But given the kind of system and policies that were in place, I decided it was better not to build a house here. Now that this Act has been brought under Special Provisions, I can say that, in the days to come, there will be no limit to the happiness of all migrants and poor people in Delhi. I would like to express my gratitude to Venkaiah ji and the BJP. Being relatively new, whenever I find something to be good, I express my gratitude. Everyone has the right to express their feelings. I am delighted that, for the first time in six months, a poem is emanating from my heart. With that, I would like to conclude my speech-

“Venkaiah ji I love you, Delhi ki janata bol uthi.

Pandrah varshon ki pol-patti yeh ek adhiniyam khol uthi.

Sadkon par Delhi ki janata hai pushphar liye khadi hui.

49 dinon mein bhi Delhi ke pyaron ne kuch nahi kiya.

Par aap-kaap kitni party ab bhi jaane kyon hai adi hui.

49 dinon mein bhi Delhi ke pyaron ne kuch nahi kiya,

nakshe ki baat to door ek bhi chitti-patri tak nahi diya.

Saare pravasiyon ki baanche khil gayi hain.

Poorvanchal-Uttaranchal Delhiwasi aaj apna parv manayenge.

Aane wale samay mein bulldozer to nahi,

par jo bhi ho sakega apni taraf se zaroor chalayenge.”

(These lines convey an expression of gratitude, albeit with a tone of irony, towards the then Urban Development Minister, Venkaiah Naidu, for introducing an Act that provided relief to Delhi’s residents. It signifies public approval of the measure. It criticizes previous governments for years of inaction, acknowledges Kejriwal’s own short tenure, and celebrates the happiness of migrants and the poor. Overall, it conveys irony, self-awareness, and hope for constructive and people-focused governance in Delhi.)

SHRI MAHEISH GIRRI (EAST DELHI): Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak. Today, I rise to support The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

Sir, as the previous speakers have stated, there was a critical period in Delhi when the poor residing in slums, who had nurtured their dreams and built homes and small shops here to earn a livelihood and provide for their families, faced grave hardship. When the situation escalated significantly, it was decided that an Act was necessary to address the issue, leading to the introduction of the Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act in 2006. At that time, one year was requested to prepare a policy, but the then government failed to formulate it. Subsequently, another Act, National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, was introduced in 2007, requesting time until 2008 to finalise the policy; however, this too did not materialise. Again, more time was sought, resulting in the introduction of the Special Provisions Act in 2009. Despite repeated assurances, no policy was formulated. Once again, in 2010, an extension was sought until 2011 and the Act was enacted; however, the policy was still not prepared. Subsequently, in 2011, the time period was extended further until 2014. I would like to apprise the

House that successive Governments continued to bring Act after Act, yet no effective action was ever taken to establish a comprehensive policy that could address and prevent unauthorised constructions in Delhi. When a human being is born, he is not born unauthorised. From the moment of his birth, he requires food, for which he must earn a livelihood, and a shelter under which to live. In the absence of a master plan, what alternative was available to him? To fulfil his basic needs and aspirations, he constructed his dwelling or workplace wherever land was accessible to him. It was the responsibility of the Governments of the time to devise and implement an appropriate policy to authorise and regulate such developments. At present, more than 60 lakh residents of Delhi aspire to have their houses and shops regularised. In this context, I express my sincere appreciation to Venkaiah ji for taking the initiative, and I would like to urge that the cut-off date, currently set as June 2014, be further extended. Such a step will be warmly welcomed by all. Once again, I express my deep gratitude. Thank you very much.

[English]

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): I support the Bill moved by the hon. Minister of Urban Development, and I also support the arguments made by my colleagues who spoke on this Bill. These colonies are unauthorized where we have street vendors, villages *abadis*, schools and dispensaries. There have been extensions after 2007 because of the need. When Delhi requires plumbers, electricians, gatekeepers, daily wagers and manpower, naturally they need to have some dwelling places in Delhi only. It is so contradictory. Manpower is required in Delhi. When there are job prospects in Delhi, they can live here in Delhi but at the same time, they cannot have dwelling and living places. I don't know what type of Governments we have given to the nation. How has this come up? I am in agreement with my colleague who said that birth is not unauthorized but living is unauthorized. It is really very ridiculous.

About 1,600 colonies are called unauthorized. Last year, 825 colonies were regularized. But the Bill which our Minister has just moved, The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) (Amendment) Act, 2011, should be done by 2017.

16.00 hrs.

But the colonies which were built till 2007 were protected. Now, the colonies or constructions in whatever form they existed by the end of June, 2014, they should be protected. This is our demand. Why is it so? Because no policy has been made yet, no master plan has been made. I do not think this House is again going to see such an amendment. I hope we would not need to move such a provision. Our Government is a performing Government and there is no policy paralysis now. By the time the Master Plan is ready, there will be proper rules in place and I hope we would not be seeking any further extensions. We are working very fast in this direction.

Therefore, I support this Bill and I request that whatever constructions existed, whether legal or unauthorised, they should be protected. Thank you.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to move an amendment to this Bill which has been brought by the hon. Minister of Urban Development. I want to change a particular date which is there in 3 (1) (c) of the original enactment which was passed in 2011. Section 3 (1) (c) of the 2011 Act says:

> "orderly arrangements pursuant to guidelines and regulations for regularization of unauthorized colonies, village *abadi* area (including urban villages) and their extensions, as existed on the 31st day of March, 2002, and where construction took place even beyond that date and up to the 8th day of February, 2007."

I request that instead of 8th February, 2007, the date should be changed to 30th June, 2014.

Sir, Delhi has been a victim of bad planning or no planning, mal-governance and also lack of infrastructure. But Delhi has acted like a magnet to various people who come to this city for seeking employment. At the end of the day, you cannot even purchase a land in authorized or approved colonies because there is no land available. DDA was supposed to do the planning. But DDA ended up being

nothing more than a builder over these 15 years. DDA has been a builder of very poor quality because it did nothing other than to build about 1 ½ lakh flats. It has got involved in various housing scams also and there was no planning and development. There was no private colonization to build and construct colonies with the result there was no housing facility available to those who were coming to this city.

As I recount, no colonization was permitted. Then, there was a spate of litigations in the Supreme Court. The spate of litigations came in because all kinds of objections were raised under the earlier Master Plan. The Master Plan was made in 2007 by the then Union Minister of Urban Development. The Master Plan that was made at that time was so inadequate that the subsequent Union Minister of Urban Development Shri Kamal Nath, who is not here right now, himself said that at least 60 per cent of the policies therein were far from ground realities. For this reason, the Master Plan had to be revised.

Sir, why has this amendment come about now? When the Supreme Court order for demolition was passed in 2004, there were only 50,000 cases involved. Needless to say, Delhi faces a massive influx of migrant population and today the number of cases has grown to two lakh. That is the number which would have been affected by the change in policy or demolition drives that would have been carried

out under the old enactment. It, therefore, becomes imperative that the mistakes of the past or the policy paralysis of the past are not continued. Earlier, policies were formulated without due consideration for ground realities. This should not be repeated and adequate time should be given to ensure that people's rights are protected.

In this case, Sir, there are three main policy evaluations that are going on at this point in time in Delhi. Firstly, DDA is planning to introduce a very comprehensive policy in areas such as Paharganj, Daryaganj and Karol Bagh in Delhi for turning old and damaged lease properties to freehold. That is going to be a major achievement of the present Government.

Secondly, this might be a little known fact to some Members of Parliament but there is something known as chulha tax that was applicable in around five villages in Delhi. This tax was levied on people who came to Delhi after the partition and has been in existence since then. The DDA is planning to take yet another progressive step and remove this chulha tax so that proper ownership rights can be granted to the concerned people.

Thirdly, the DDA also plans to bring in amendments with respect to all amenities covering under the Delhi (Special Provisions) Act

such as slums, *jhuggi-jhopris*, street vendors, godowns, schools and dispensaries etc. These are vast set of buildings and institutions and require an exhaustive exercise, careful studying and understanding of the ground level problems. Therefore, an extension is sought through this Amendment Bill up to December, 2017.

The present Government has taken several steps to ensure that unauthorised constructions are minimised. Development work that has started in 895 unauthorised colonies including some basic services such as roads, drinking water and sewerage systems be altered to meet the requirement.

A draft policy is being prepared to regularise colonies in Delhi on the basis of a study of the existing problems in unauthorised colonies. The Government has taken steps for notifying roads for allowing commercial or mixed land use; introducing simplified Building Bye-laws which are available.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Okay.

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI : Sir, I will require a little more time because I am speaking on the policies relatable to Delhi Administration.

A related suggestion in the context of this Bill is digitization and computerization of land records, buildings and property records, not

just the maps, not just the authorized plans. There is an existing programme called the National Land Record Modernization Programme but this has not happened with sufficient progress in the case of Delhi land records. Hence, my suggestion is that this provision be included within the ambit of a Delhi specific law. This will ultimately help in passing building plans through the e-system, submission of income tax, conversion charges, booking of unauthorized construction, regularization of property tax without dispute, trade licence, recoveries of the Tehbazari by MCD, recoveries of damages by DDA, recoveries of misuse charges of any property either residential or commercial or industrial, and getting freehold property.

The NCT of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Act, 2011, as it stands, provides relief in cases of unauthorized constructions only up to 2007. Punitive action against unauthorized properties after the said cut-off date, in addition to the properties that have already been booked for punitive action, will be a hurricane task with the available infrastructure, manpower and tools. It is, therefore, proposed as under that the cut-off date for inclusion of unauthorized constructions be extended further to 2014. The amendment here is that the cut-off date

in the said Act be June, 2014 so that in Delhi whatever progress we make on this be continued till 2017.

Last time, any such proposal for bringing a planned city development was made by Mr. Jagmohan as a Minister where he authorized that anybody with an area of 30 acres could construct a planned city. Nothing more, that was proposed by him, was ever done. Land and other construction in Delhi has faced more of mafia than the real construction and planning.

With this, I support the Bill. Thank you very much, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI KANWAR SINGH TANWAR (AMROHA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I would like to express my views on the regularisation of unauthorised colonies in Delhi. Nearly 60 percent of Delhi's population resides in such colonies. Delhi is a mini India, where people from every State of the country live together. These areas lack basic amenities such as proper roads, sewerage systems and educational facilities. The Hon. Prime Minister's vision is that every poor person should have a home and every citizen should be healthy. The residents of these colonies have built their houses through their hard-earned income. They have been raising their voices for years for regularisation, yet these colonies have not been regularised to date. The previous Congress Government treated these people merely as a vote bank and issued them fake certificates.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through you, I would like to urge the Government to regularise all such colonies up to the year 2014. Thank you.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I express my support for this Bill and would like to highlight that the master plan of every city holds great importance. If we aspire to make Delhi a world-class city, its master plan must be implemented one hundred percent. Across the country, we can observe that in most metropolitan cities, the development and master plans are not fully implemented. I would like to cite the example of Mumbai. The master plan and development plan that were designed for Mumbai have been implemented only up to ten percent. If we truly wish to develop an international city, as has been mentioned in the example of Shanghai, we must understand that Shanghai could become an international city precisely because its master plan and development plan were implemented in full.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, through you, I would like to highlight another important point. Our respected Prime Minister has announced the goal of ensuring that every citizen of this country will have their own house by the year 2022. This crucial objective must be included in the master plan. At present, Delhi’s master plan extends up to the year 2021. I would like to ask whether this vision of providing a home to every citizen by 2022 has been incorporated into that plan. While

preparing the development plans for various metropolitan cities, this provision must be ensured. If we are to provide housing for all, then related issues such as water supply, electricity, and other basic amenities will naturally arise. These aspects should also be integrated into the master plan to ensure comprehensive and sustainable development. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Hon. Deputy Speaker, around 17 of our colleagues from various States and shades including all six MPs, of course, 7th MP is our hon. Minister, of Delhi have spoken on this Bill.

Sir, to some extent, I agree with Tathagata Satapathyji but he is not there. If you look at it from one side, it is pro-poor, supporting the helpless, accepting the reality and then moving forward. If you look at it from another side, what I spoke yesterday in the House about not allowing unauthorized construction and collusion between officers, builders, individuals and others, there is a dichotomy on this. In my own mind, I have not convinced fully. But at the same time, at the end of the day, what is the reality? If you look at the reality then you will find the answer automatically.

I have heard all these people namely Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma, Shri Deepender Singh Hooda, Shrimati K. Maragatham, Prof. Saugata Roy, Shri Tathagata Satpathy, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Dr. A. Sampath, Shri B. Vinod kumar, Shri Bhagwant Mann, Dushyantji, Shri Ramesh Bidhuri, Shri Manoj Tiwari, Maheshji, Dr. Udit Raj, Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi and other friends. Shri Manoj Tiwari ji went even to the extent of singing a song saying, “Venkaiahji, I love

you." I have no problem with that. My wife is not going to misunderstand you because many people love me and write love letters to me since my younger days. That is not for other reasons but for political and public activities. So, I have no problem on that count. My wife is here only in Delhi. I will tell her definitely that there is one more person who has joined … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Why do you have such doubt in your mind? … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: There is no doubt in my mind. If there is any doubt in your mind, it should be removed. That is all. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : You are speaking from your heart. That is why, I said it. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Yes, I am speaking from my heart. There is no doubt about it.

When Prof. Saugata Rai was speaking, I asked him: "Do you have any suggestions?" It is because there are serious issues involved. At the end of the debate, if you go by the reality of Delhi and if people can visit some parts of Delhi, they can understand the reality. In Sangam Vihar, which is within the city, around five lakh people are living there but in the Master Plan, it is shown as forest land. There is

not even an iota of forest anywhere there. What should I do? Can I go and then make them vacate? Even if I want, can I do it? Is it possible? That is another issue. Then, Sonia Vihar has half a lakh population; Burari has two lakh population; Rithala has 2 lakh population; Molarband has one lakh population; Badarpur Extension A & B has one lakh population; Mithapur Sakthi Vihar has one and a half lakh population, it is a riverbed also; Mahavir Enclave has five lakh population; Vishwas Nagar has one lakh population; Bhagawan Nagar has one lakh population. There are many areas like this. The people are living in these areas for years. As someone has said, they have electricity connection, drinking water connection and also other facilities provided by respective civic agencies and the government day-to-day. This is one side of the picture.

The other side of the picture is that. Some people are saying: “What is happening to these politicians? Delhi is the Capital of the country. Delhi is our pride. They are destroying the beauty by encouraging unauthorized construction and allowing 20 feet road. They are allowing people to come and occupy land and then demand regularization. Since they are all politicians, they try to regularize it.” This view is also there. As someone has rightly said, I am not denying it but, at the same time, we belong to different parties and are here in

Parliament to serve people. We have to go by the general view. But, at the same time, on a basic principle of public order and a civic order, we have to create awareness among the people, and then take people also along with us.

As Shri Deepender was telling in the morning about bulldozer and all, there is an emotive issue involved in that. In this deep winter, can anybody with common sense try to remove people even if there is a Court Order? They should have gone to the Tribunal and explained to them by saying: "Sir, we are in the end of November. It is very cold in Delhi."

Sir, sometimes I feel odd to be in Delhi and the dress which I am wearing is not to my liking. I feel uncomfortable. I am comfortable like you, Sir, in our own traditional dress; with shirt and dhoti we feel elated and happy also. Even, Shri Kharge ji also would feel happy in the traditional dress. The problem is this. Can you allow health to be affected? In Delhi, suddenly, at times, the temperature comes down. In such a situation, if somebody goes and removes people and put them on road, naturally there will be reaction. I do admit it. But the other side, as I told you, is that we have to regulate the growth. Otherwise, we will have only slums around; we have unauthorized colonies and then we will face a situation where people will say:

"What is Delhi, what is the National Capital, what is this country? They do not have any minimum standard."

Sir, the other day I was in Spain. I was landing from the flight. I saw from the flight the Barcelona city. When I was about to land, I saw one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight lanes on every side. They are all with similar dimensions. They have planned it. It is not that they have not developed. They have developed also but at the same time they have preserved their ancient heritage, culture and also retained their architecture. They have carried out improvements by retaining their architecture and at the same they made changes. We have to really create awareness among the people in this country also and then slowly try to implement the rules and regulations. For that, you need time. I do not want to get into any blame game; there is no meaning in that and no purpose will be served.

No purpose would be served by saying 'who is responsible for this haphazard growth of Delhi, how many years you have ruled, how many years we have ruled.' The point is to accept the reality.

Shri Tathagata Satpathy had asked as to what was the urgency. He is not here now. He said, it is being done because the elections are round the corner. It is not because of elections. If we do not extend it further beyond 31st January, 2015, the next day, sealing, removal of

encroachments, unauthorised and irregular colonies will start. There will be hue and cry in Delhi. There would be a massive human problem.

Some Hon. Member was telling that people have come from distant places like Kerala, Tamil Nadu, etc. So, Delhi is a mini India. People from different parts of the country came here and are settling here. They do not have adequate means of livelihood. Initially, they tried to stay in some Government places and then from the Government places, they tried to move to better housing facilities.

Sir, Meenakashiji was telling that there was no proper colonisation. There were no private people coming forward to develop colonies initially, and the Government was going slow – whichever Government was there. So, the Government does not provide housing. There is no adequate housing. There is a shortage of housing in Delhi as well as in the entire country. But the private people have not come forward, with the result, people have settled haphazardly in different parts of Delhi. That is the reality of the situation.

That being the case, after so much of introspection, internal consultation, I have come to the conclusion that there is no way other than extending the date. That is the background. I want to be frank with the House. I am also doing it with a heavy heart. Some people

may criticise me tomorrow. Some people may appreciate me; others may criticise me saying that ‘during this man’s period, this has been extended by three years and this haphazard situation has continued.’

Even if you have the magic wand, it is not easy to do all these things. Finalisation of master plan, regularisation of unauthorised colonies, taking care of the environmental aspects, and all are all not the easy things to do. Then, there are three Municipal Councils. We have NDMC. We have DDA. We have National Capital Region Board about which Deependra Hoodaji was telling that it must have more teeth and power. I am happy that he has realised it now because this Board periodically meets and passes some resolutions, which are not binding on States. So, if a Board presided over by a Minister passes a resolution and if the others do not accepts it or do not act upon it, it has no meaning. So, definitely, the Board has to be given more teeth, but that can be done only in consultation with the stakeholders including those from the nearby States – Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan. I have to take all of them into confidence before going further in this.

Sir, what is the time at my disposal? I am only seven months old – not in age but in this Ministry. Frankly, I am also trying to understand things. I always believe that the Ministers, politicians and

people in pubic life must go on -- earn, earn, earn, no – learn, learn, learn. That is the real thing. So, that being the case, I am trying to learn.

I think, Meenakashiji has also told about Jagmohanji. He is a different man. He has a vision, he has a clarity. He had the dynamism at that time in that age. He was able to do certain things. But otherwise, dealing with problems of Delhi, is like dealing with the country, I must confess it in this House. I have been studying it.

Sir, there is a paucity of time. I thought I must get some more time so that we – my officers, all the seven MPs of Delhi, and other interested parties – should take all these inputs. Our hon. Member from Haryana, Deependraji made certain suggestions; an MP from Uttar Pradesh, Shri Kanwar Singh Tanwar had also made his sugggestions; and then, an hon. Member form Rajasthan also made his points. So, we should take all these inputs and then go for a comprehensive master plan. Mr. Dushyant Singh was suggesting certain things. We have to take care of all these aspects and then finalise the master plan. It is not that easy. Even if you have intellect, even if you are ready to work hard, it is not that easy to do things.

Sir, somebody was saying, can you allow vertical construction in the farmhouses? If it is allowed, it cannot be a farmhouse at all. Its

beauty would be lost. Already, some people have mishandled it and some people have gone for extra constructions etc. That is another issue. So, any action you take, there will be reaction. I was discussing with my ministerial colleague, Harsh Vardhan Ji. Harsh Vardhan Ji represents the other side. The Delhi middle class and the educated people have a different view about this. But the poor people, the lower middle class, the working class and the people, who have come from different parts of the country, have a different view. So, you have to marry somewhere. That is the effort I am making. Someone asked me, "Can you give an assurance that you will not come to this House for further extension?". I hope so. By 2017, this issue has to be resolved, to the extent possible, to the satisfaction of one and all. I will try to definitely work in that direction of not coming back to this House for further extension. I will do my best. This much assurance I can give you. I do not know what exactly it will happen at all but at the same time I have the confidence that with the cooperation of the Members from different sides, we will try to do it.

But the Master Plan has to be completed by 2015. You cannot wait till 2017 for completion of the Master Plan. The finalisation of the Master Plan has to be done at the earliest. Once the Master Plan is finalised, then we must go for implementation.

Also, with regard to the issue that was raised about generation of black money, this is another issue. The point is, the moment you allow regularisation and the moment you allow people to sell or purchase their properties, there will be some transactions. In those transactions, definitely, money also will change hands. That being the case, some money should come for the development of Delhi city. That should be in white. So, how do you go about it? That is also an important aspect on which we have to really show interest.

Sir, certain important points were made by the hon. Members because it is a very serious subject. Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh Verma said that 25-30 lakh people are going to be affected by this decision either way. I agree with him. That is why, the Government has taken it on top priority.

Then, with regard to the background of Delhi, I am happy Deepender Ji has recalled the background of Delhi. Sometimes, I feel, instead of Delhi, it should have been either Indraprastha or Hastinapura. Some such historical name should have been more appropriate for this city. I am not proposing anything. Do not worry. Tomorrow, again you will be saying, we want Adjournment Motion. Venkaiah Naidu wants to change the name. This is there. We should always feel proud of our ancestors, our heritage and culture. As he

said rightly Delhi is the second largest city after TokyoShanghai and all other cities come next. If that being the case, you have to see that Delhi's unique character and also its beauty are maintained, to the extent possible. So, we will definitely make efforts in that direction.

Time bound regularisation also has been suggested. The hon. Members also said that we should not look at Delhi in isolation. Yes, we must go for a comprehensive plan for the entire NCR region. I agree with our hon. Members. I will keep it in mind while finalising the Master Plan. Then, with regard to giving more powers to the NCR Planning Board, I welcome that suggestion. I will keep that also in mind.

Then, with regard to the suggestion of Madam Maragatham and what she said, though it is not directly connected with the Bill, it is a reality. A lot of people, who have come from other parts of the country, do not have Aadhaar card; they do not have ration card; and they do not have the other means here. A special drive has to be taken up to take care of them because I know people coming from Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and the North-East do not have anybody here to depend. So, definitely, those people have to be given a helping hand by the administration. I have already told my Ministry

to give a special treatment to the people who have come from far off places.

Then, their educational needs, their cultural aspirations and their other requirements have to be taken care of. That is why, the Government is a little liberal in giving Tamil Education Society, Bengal Education Society or even Telugu Education Society a number of schools. Recently, the Kannada people also met me. In this connection, I would also like to tell the House that we have to respect the heroes of different regions. So, I take the House into confidence and then say that recently I suggested to them that near the Karnataka Bhavan, the Metro Station has to be named after Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya Metro Railway Station. That has been the suggestion and it has been accepted.

Then, another one is about Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh, great freedom fighter. Kharge Ji will be knowing better. Shrimati Deshmukh is the first Finance Minister's wife and also a woman reformer.

One metro railway station is going to be named after her name. These are all small things. But this will really send a message that Delhi takes care of everybody and then remembers all the national

heroes, who have contributed their might for social reforms, for freedom movement or for other activities in the country.

Then, there are 1200 and plus unauthorised colonies in Delhi. What you are going to do with regard to unauthorised colonies is another issue. I can take the House into confidence because nothing is secret that is engaging my attention. I have already held a discussion with the Lt. Governor. I held discussion with the Chief Secretary. I held discussion with different agencies of Delhi Government. I also held discussions with my Minister and then six Members of Parliament. I also held discussion with other people. I am in touch with the Law Department and the Legislative Department. The Government is moving in the direction of regularising those colonies where poor people have been living for years together. That also is unwell. The final details can be given only after the final contours are adopted and accepted by relevant authorities. Certain things are to be done by Delhi Government. Certain things have to be done by Central Government. So, keeping that in mind, we are moving in that direction. I want to share this with our hon. Members.

Prof. Saugata Roy said that there is a lopsided development in Delhi. I do agree with him. With regard to DDA and with regard to L&DO, there has to be one point of guidance for them. If there are

two different agencies, definitely there will be some practical problem. I will discuss it with the hon. Prime Minister and also with my colleagues and try to find out a solution at the earliest.

Many people have suggested me to take a final decision in respect of unauthorised colonies. I have told you that we are going to take a final decision at the earliest. With regard to J.J. colonies and valuation of the land and stopping of the black money, I have already mentioned that it will also attract our attention.

[Translation]

Some members have rightly pointed out that this issue is not limited to Delhi but exists across the entire country. However, the Union Government cannot enact separate laws for each city. Delhi, being a Union Territory as well as the national capital, requires special consideration. Therefore, we are taking the initiative to bring forward this legislation specifically for Delhi. In other regions, it is the responsibility of the respective State Governments to address such matters and to take appropriate action in accordance with their local regulations. [English] Urban Development is a State subject. We will only give broad guidelines and broad models. But the final decision has to be taken by urban local bodies and the State Government.

Legislation is the job of the State Government and other regulations are done by local bodies.

Some hon. Member said that if the Government is not able to provide basic amenities to the poor people, then what will happen? It is our endeavour to see that basic amenities are provided to the poor people. The poor of this country have primary right over the land and also over the resources. That is very clear. They are our brothers. Irrespective of their caste, creed, sex, religion and regions, they are our people.

Some Members talk about the basic amenities, particularly public transport. Yesterday, we discussed it also. There are more than 80 lakh plus vehicles in Delhi. You cannot go on adding vehicles. The problem is that adding vehicles also has become a form of prestige. In some families there is a car for each member of the family. If they have wealth, we have no problem. It is not the question of wealth alone. It is a question of congestion you are creating on the roads of Delhi putting the common man to hardship. That is a big problem. This is not acceptable. So, we must have a comprehensive transport policy on MRTS, BRTS and also metro rail. Metro rail is the need of the hour. But it is also cost prohibitive. With regard to BRT we had some mixed experience earlier. But, at the same time, there are some

good examples also. I am told about Ahmedabad and Jaipur. Some people are also talking about indoor system. I do not know what exactly they are talking about. We have to take their experience also because it is for the National Capital Delhi. Before moving further, I will study those experiences and then try to move forward.

Everyone, particularly, the Delhi Members and people who are aside with Delhi including Shri Bhagwant Mann and other people have suggested that this cut-off date has to be extended. Since the last two days I have been holding consultations and discussions with regard to the extension of the cut-off date. As of now, the cut-off date is 2007. As I was discussing earlier, what is the reality? Can you remove people who have settled after 2007 and who have been living in that place by 2014? In the original Bill it is 2007. So, Deputy-Speaker, Sir, with your permission, I want to move an amendment also. Seven of the Delhi Members have given a notice for moving amendment for extending the cut-off date from February or March of 2007 to end of 2014, but I am willing to go by the collective wisdom of the Members of the House and I want it to be extended by 1st June 2014.

Another issue raised is that it is supposed to be the greenest Capital. What will happen if you do this? This is a big question, and I

have no readymade answer to this. Let me be frank that I have no readymade answer to this. Some time back, I developed the habit of coming by Metro, and whenever I come from outside I get on to a Metro and travel happily. It takes 18 minutes to my house and the amount of greenery in the initial entry point really makes you very happy as everything is green and nothing else is seen, and the moment you cross the greenery and come to the other areas -- because the train will be moving -- you will see what is happening. It is a pathetic condition. But at the same time, the planners, rules and the people at that time could not prevent it, and there may be valid reasons for it also. This has become a reality, and that is why this extension is being accepted. Otherwise, Shri Dushyant, as a youngster who had education abroad, was going by the real conditions in India. We have to accept the reality and try to take care of it.

But we should also slowly evolve a method, and I have three things in mind that everyone in Delhi -- in the coming days -- should follow, namely, rainwater harvesting must be made a must; solar lighting must be made a must; LED lighting must be made a must; and planting trees, growing it, and then supporting them should also become a part of our campaign. This campaign will succeed only if it

becomes a people's campaign, and secondly, it should be part of the urban plan approval by the Municipal Authorities.

Madam Jayalalithaa, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, some time back had made it mandatory to have rainwater harvesting. I can tell you about it as I frequently go to that side. My daughter also lives there. So, I have the experience. Rainwater harvesting has helped Chennai, which was starving without water earlier. There are some more examples of other States also about rainwater harvesting. The watershed movement in Gujarat has caught up the imagination as also the housing projects in Maharashtra even by earlier Congress Governments also. There are examples of housing projects of Maharashtra and Gujarat. Maharashtra has just now come to BJP, but earlier it was held by Congress for a long time. So, these are some shining examples from where we can take clues and try to implement them in our respective areas also. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): You did not mention the example of Kerala.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : Kerala is God's own country. I am thankful to the people of Kerala that they are not destroying the nature. I salute them because if you go to Kerala, there is no match to Kerala

because on the one side there is greenery and on the other there is water, and whenever you call for water, it will come in the evening.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): You should come and stay there.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : In your Idukki forest?

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : But your Party is not there.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU : You are trying your best to help my Party also.

One meaningful suggestion that has been given with regard to putting it online is this. I firmly believe that we must try to reduce human involvement to the extent possible and try to make online application, sanction, and renewal. As regards information, everybody must be in a position to access what is the information; what its present situation is; where does his application stand; and whether it has been sanctioned or not. That will really eliminate corruption to the maximum possible extent. I do not say that it will be totally eliminated because in this country there is no dearth of intelligence, as far as the corrupt fellows are concerned. If you come up with some idea, they will come up with some counter-idea next day morning. That is the situation. At the same time, I totally agree with the suggestion. I have already started implementing it in CPWD. The details of more than

2,500 works of CPWD have been put online now. One can visit the site to find out at what stage it is, why there is delay, what the scheduled time is and what the scheduled time of completion is, etc. One can see these details on the site. I have told the authorities that within six months the entire CPWD activities must go online. I know what the impression of people is about CPWD. Keeping that in mind, we are trying to cleanse the system.

The hon. Members have given suggestions with regard to the holistic Master Plan, the National Capital Regional Planning Board being strengthened, regularisation of unauthorised colonies, and consultations with the elected Governments. However, the reason why I am not taking action on all these things is that I want to have an elected Government in Delhi. After all, they represent the people better than us. They know the ins and outs of Delhi and they have the full knowledge. The Members of the Legislative Assembly of Delhi and the elected Chief Minister or other Ministers will have full understanding and they know the local situation better than the Central Government, though the Central Government as on today can take care of the State also because there is no elected Government; the Lieutenant Governor also works in unison with the Government of India.

Digitisation of all maps is an important issue. I have already given direction to digitise all maps and put them online. I hope my officers will be able to complete it at the earliest. Three MCDs have already said that they are in an advanced stage. DDA and NDMC have also been directed to do it by 1st January 2015. I told the DDA that everything should be online. DDA is again another white elephant, which is what people say. However, I want to make DDA to live up to the expectations of the people. That is why I have told them to start doing this.

I want to share another important information with the people. Some time back, one of the prominent newspapers of Delhi, I have no hesitation in taking the name of that newspaper, *The Hindustan Times*, conducted a debate among various well-meaning people where a lot of professionals have come together. They gave certain suggestions. On those suggestions, I had an interaction and now I have appointed a committee headed by my Secretary, Urban Development, Shri Shankar Aggarwal with representatives of different Ministries because Delhi's development is linked with National Highways, Railways, Environment Ministry, Defence Ministry, the Delhi Government and the DDA. All these departments are involved. So, we have appointed a committee and that committee held a number of

sittings. They have now given a report on decongesting Delhi, which is also placed online. I would request all the Members and also the general public to please see it online and if you have any suggestions with regard to decongesting Delhi, you are welcome to give your suggestions. After receiving the suggestions, the Government will finalise the decongestion plan. I am planning to have a meeting with other colleague Ministers also because the Prime Minister said, "Instead of talking to each other on files, talk together in person." So, I will be convening a meeting of my colleagues also and then we will be able to finalise the plan for decongestion of Delhi. I will take the advice of the Haryana Government, the Rajasthan Government and also the Uttar Pradesh Government in this regard to the extent the areas fall in their jurisdiction because it is interconnected with Delhi. Keeping that in mind, we will do it.

If the House agrees, afterwards I will move the amendments. Thank you.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That the Bill to amend the National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Second Act, 2011, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 4 Amendment of Long Title,Preamble and Section 1

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

Clause 5 Amendment of Section 3

Amendments made:

Page 2, *after* line 5, *insert*—

"(a) in sub-section (1), in clause (c), for the words, figures and letters "up to the 8th day of February, 2007", the words,

figures and letters "up to the 1st day of June, 2014" shall be substituted;

(aa) in sub-section (2), in clause (ii), for the words, figures and letters "up to the 8th day of February, 2007", the words, figures and letters "up to the 1st day of June, 2014" shall be substituted; (1)

Page 2, line 6, *for* "(a)", *substitute* "(aaa)" (2)

(Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That clause 5, as amended, stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5, as amended, was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and theLong Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: 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.

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I would like to thank the entire House for their support.

16.48 hrs

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014. Hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Sir, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to amend the Companies Act, 2013, be taken into consideration."

Sir, I would like to make a brief comment. We had, in 2013, a new Company Law. The original Companies Act had something like 600 plus provisions. It was re-worked out and a law with 470 sections was enacted, after a detailed consideration. Most of the provisions have been implemented. Now, after the provisions were implemented, while enforcing the provision, we found that there were certain difficulties with regard to the enforcement of certain provisions or certain errors, while drafting had taken place.

Now, there was an Open House that we held where industries, Chambers, business organizations, professional organizations, chartered accountants, legal experts and others had submitted their memorandums and made their presentations. Many changes were suggested. Some provisions could be rectified merely by the enactment of rules. Some could be clarified by notifications. But, after the detailed consideration, there were some minor amendments which were required in the principal Act. Most of them are intended for one purpose, that is, for the ease of doing business. In some cases, there were oversights which were left out. It is only to rectify those provisions in the Bill itself, the advice of the Law Ministry was that these changes could not be covered. Therefore, these small consequential amendments have arisen because of that.

I propose to the hon. Members that these be taken up for consideration.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

> "That the Bill to amend the Companies Act, 2013, be taken into consideration."

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY (CHIKKABALLAPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for this opportunity to speak on the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

16.49 hrs (Shri Pralhad Joshi *in the Chair*)

Even though the Bill looks like a technical one and also harmless, if you go deeper into the Bill, there are a few things which may take away the democratic principles of the shareholders and also definitely work contrary to the transparency in governance. That is why, I thought that I should speak on this particular Bill. As the former Law Minister, in fact, a Bill came from the Corporate Affairs Ministry which was only in the form of an amendment to the old Companies Act.

I thought it appropriate that there should be a holistic approach to the entire concept of company law. When I was Law Minister we got it redrafted as a comprehensive Bill. You all know that a lot of exercise has gone into it. We had involved the corporate bodies. The best of experts like F.K. Irani was asked to monitor these things. A number of national conferences were held with great players in the corporate world, industry, chartered accountants, professional institutes. I do not think any other Bill in my memory has gone through the mill of this process of consultation, an intensive

consultation with a micro-level approach to each and every provision of the Bill.

That is why my general observation on this Bill is that since a lot of exercise has been done and a comprehensive Bill has been brought about with a holistic approach, we will have to be very careful in meddling with the provisions of the Bill. I do understand the spirit with which the hon. Minister has brought about this Bill, but there are a few things which he may have to look into.

The Minister has brought in amendments to a number of provisions in the Act. In fact, many amendments which have been brought about have their own significance. I agree that clause 8 may not be harmful, but as far as clause 10 is concerned it may have very serious repercussions in implementation. Here they say that after the third proviso the following proviso shall be inserted namely, "Provided also that no company shall declare dividend unless carried over previous losses and depreciation not provided in the previous year or years are set off against profit of the company for the current year". I think this may be against the principle of transparency. You know very well that we have drafted a number of clauses so that fraud may not take place. I think this will open the doors for committing frauds and also inviting those liabilities which should not have been

included here. Why do you allow any provision to reopen? I think we have very serious objection to this.

Also, I would rather say that even with regard to clause 15 in section 185 of the principal Act, in subsection 7, in the proviso after the clause the following clauses and provisos shall be inserted namely, "any loan made by a holding company to its wholly owned subsidiary company, or any guarantee given or security provided by a holding company in respect of any loan made to its wholly owned subsidiary company provided that the loans made under clauses C and D are utilised by the subsidiary company for its principal business activities". This is again quite dangerous and it also invites the contravention of the transparency law and also governance.

Many of our friends strongly feel that since the Companies (Amendment) Bill has been brought about after a decade of consultation all over the country with all the stakeholders, we should try to avoid any anomalies or avoid any of these problems which today we cannot contemplate. I think the ideal thing for the hon. Minister will be to agree to refer it to Standing Committee because various discussion and consultation can be held in the Committee. Earlier, twice it had gone to the Standing Committee. I think it is safer to refer it to Standing Committee so that it can be totally re-examined before

this amendment is brought about. There was a report in the newspapers that Government is said to iron out thorny provisions in the Companies Act. I expect a lot of things must have been brought about. Now you are confined to fewer things. I think that even while you approach these amendments, perhaps you want that it should be brought about by instalments and not at one strike. So we may expect another set of amendment in the next session.

I was expecting some amendments, particularly on the question of ease of making business. We had constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of Shri Damodaran. He was the Chairman of SEBI. It was an expert committee. They have brought about a number of things so that ease of business can be definitely and seriously looked into. If you had gone through that particular report and brought some amendment to that, it would have taken you to a way forward. While making business there are a lot of difficulties and obstructions. You could have as well brought amendment to that. We would have welcomed that. But I really find that this kind of substantial amendment to provide for transparency in business and also to provide for ease of business and upgrade India in respect of business index can be contemplated. That will help us to demonstrate to the entire world or the investors that we are really interested in bringing

about certain amendments to create an investor-friendly atmosphere, both outside and inside the country.

I must tell you that we are now a country running into a lot of problems. I was told that hon. Prime Minister had a meeting with a group of American economists recently. In the meeting, he seems to have expressed to them that while first six months were the time to create propitious environment for growth, the coming few months would be the time to initiate some major reforms and policy changes. I think if the corporate sector in particular is concerned, they are just looking forward inside and outside the country. But all these six months what has been said is that propitious environment will be created. I am afraid you may have to take another seven months. Now it is a disappointment. Maybe you may require another seven months instead of next seven months to initiate some major reforms. But what is called a propitious environment has not been created.

17.00 hrs.

This is what we need to do. … (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY : Is my time over?

HON. CHAIRPERSON : Yes. Totally, your Party has got 10 minutes. You have got one more speaker from your Party.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY : I do not mind sitting, but I thought I can speak for a while.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Whatever the hon. Speaker has directed, I have to act accordingly.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY : If you ring the bell, that is the ultimate order and I will sit down. But before ringing the bell, if there is some indication, it would have been better. Normally it is done, but it is not done now. I do not know what kind of procedure we are adopting. All right, thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If you want to conclude, you may conclude, but whatever the hon. Speaker has decided, I have just communicated. It is not my decision. Whatever decision has been taken, I am communicating.

Let me explain it to you.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY : No. I do not need any explanation. You do not owe an explanation to me. If you just say that the time is over, I will sit down. There is no question of bargaining for time.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: He is the first speaker from our Party. This is one. Another thing is that this is a Bill and he is throwing some light, as the former Law Minister. The hon. Minister is also

agreeing to this. I do not think there will be any objection from any one.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have nothing to say about it. Whatever is written here, I am going by that.

Now, let him continue.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE : Even in 'Zero Hour', we have seen that many hon. Members are being allowed.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let him continue.

SHRI M. VEERAPPA MOILY : Thank you very much. I never knew that it was only ten minutes. I thought there was enough time.

So, we are awaiting major announcements, no doubt. I do not want to narrate all these things because it may be known to him. I do not want to take away the time of the House in repeating what are those major initiatives that he wanted to take.

But I want to say one thing. Strong messages have been given, no doubt, by the hon. Prime Minister, but unfortunately they have been followed up by the weakest signals. In fact, I must tell you that the sentiment is the lowest today. Trade deficit has been widened to an extent, which is 18 months' high. Indian economy stares at deflation – this is a dangerous signal. It has taken away the pricing of power

from companies, eroding their profits and forcing them to lay off employees. Jobs are lost.

According to Shri Pronab Sen, who is the Chairman of the National Statistical Commission – I have not said this, but this is what he said authentically – deflation is the real danger; more than the negative numbers, for primary articles and also for fuel group, a sequential drop of inflation of manufacturing items is the real bad news. In the Indian context, manufacturing inflation below 2.5-3 per cent should be considered deflationary. This is the value judgment given by the Chairman of the National Statistical Commission, Shri Pronab Sen, a noted economist.

I do not know whether the Prime Minister or the Finance Minister has seen the signals. That is why the signal is the weakest and the messages are very strong. I must compliment you. If the messages are strong, then equally the signals should be strong. But the signals are not definitely inflationary. He further said that the inflation of manufactured items came down for the third consecutive month, the first such occurrence since the peak of Lehman crisis in 2008. Of course, we do not wish that it should come.

But at the same time, the economists have compared it to the same thing which happened when the Lehman Brother crises were there in

2008. Inflation rate of textiles, food, chemicals and basic mettles declined. India's factory output, in fact, contracted in October for the first time in seven months and it was its worst performance. In three years, while retail inflation touched a new low since the series was drawn in 2012, last time, when the inflation was minus 03 per cent followed by Lehman Brothers definitely at that time our RBI responded immediately and changed the repo-rate from October, 2008 when it was lowered from 9 per cent to 8 per cent and it is still lower.

Thereafter, rate cut followed one after another and in April, the rate has lowered to 4.75 per cent. This is the right time. I found a statement from an eminent banker like Shri K.V. Kamath who said that all the ingredients are there for really cutting the rate. Despite that, you do not see the signal. You are blind to the signal. Zero wholesale rate inflation calls for rate cut. It is inevitable. It is the main and substantial ingredient for cutting the bank rate. That has not been done here. In fact, China, in a surprise move, has cut the rate to spur the growth rate. It was first rate cut in two years and that is how they are trying to wake up. Even Japan followed the same.

I think we go only by rhetoric and not by the fundamentals. It was not so earlier. In fact, in 2008-09, the fundamentals were still strong whereas there were some problems. But here the fundamentals have

become weak. I think this wake up call will have to be understood by India today and all over the world, this will be a very dangerous trend unless you come out with reform agenda.

In fact, I find – I maybe wrong or right -- that the Finance Minister wants American style conservatism with low taxes and a low deficit, while the Prime Minister wants to follow the Chinese model. This is the contradiction which is there and ultimately the Indian economy will falter with your fight that there should be American conservatism and the PM says that it should be the vibrant Chinese model. Why do you not think of an Indian model? This is what I would like you to think. In 2008-09 when we faced the crisis, the entire world was reeling under economic recession, we did not adopt the American model or China model. We adopted only Indian model. This is what I would request the Finance Minister to think about and it is for you to reconcile yourself with your Prime Minister. We cannot influence that.

In fact, the RBI Governor also does not believe in the strategy or approach - 'Make in India'. He gave an open statement and he said that the Make in India plan is unlikely to be effective. This is what Shri Raghuram Rajan has said. He warned about too much stress on manufacturing and also on work in India. In fact, Dr. Manmohan

Singh, even though he was the Prime Minister, he was more of a great economist. He said that India has potential enough to attain 8 to 9 per cent GDP growth. This is what we said. We are capable of doing that. In fact, deceleration has started. Once deflation comes, deceleration starts, there is sharp decline in jobs and it will be a very dangerous situation then for a country like ours. Many of us are not thinking about this. Manufacturing sector which accounts for 75 per cent of the total factory output fell by 7.6 per cent; consumer durable output fell by 35 per cent; capital goods output also fell by 2.3 per cent. There is no improvement in any sector that you take. But there is a ray of hope from the Finance Minister when he said that large investments are waiting. If they are waiting, then the Government has to realise it immediately. The Government has to translate those wishes into reality. But at the same time he has mentioned that the doors have to be opened. Who will open the doors? It is for the Government to open the doors. Either the hon. Prime Minister or the hon. Finance Minister has to open the doors for the large investments to come into this country.

Sir, I have already taken much time. Today I find that GST is being considered. GST and the Direct Tax Code are all tax hurdles and need to be addressed immediately. I think, it requires total undivided attention both from the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister. Of course, the hon. Prime Minister is very busy otherwise. I do not find fault with him. Maybe, he is BJP's PR man and the only PR man for the Party and also the Government. We are not blaming the Government. That is the approach of the Government. But I have hopes on the hon. Finance Minister. The Finance Minister should address them directly. The Government must concentrate on some of these problems, otherwise deflation will kill the economy of the country for ever.

Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I felt somewhat hurt by one of the remarks made by our senior Congress Member towards the end of his speech. Modi is not PR man for the BJP. Modi is a symbol of development. Today, Modi Ji has become the heartbeat of the nation. This Bill that has been brought before the House, if I may say so in one sentence, I would like to express my gratitude to Shri Arun Jaitley Ji. I am also certain that what Shri Moily has stated is correct: this is indeed just the beginning. There is a clear distinction between the two regimes. The earlier regime, which lasted for ten years, believed in "within government, government", whereas the present regime has commenced with the principle of "minimum government and maximum governance." During the previous regime, there was a lack of faith both ways: The Government did not trust the people, and the people did not trust the Government. The Government spent ten years merely adding one clause after another, and further explanations upon those clauses. The Bill presented today, these are not just amendments. I know this from experience, as I have personally visited the Ministry on four occasions along with my professional colleagues. Such clause, action and section were inserted earlier that everybody

feels that they are outside this Government, everybody is dishonest. In reality, we must have faith in our citizens, in businessmen, and in professionals. The previous law was filled with unnecessary complications. I am aware that several clarifications have been issued by the Ministry without formal amendments to the Act itself. For this, I would like to convey my sincere thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance and to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to present an example in connection with the matter under discussion regarding private companies. Now, tell me, if the value of a share is Rs. one lakh, Rs. one, or Rs. five lakh, [English] why should the Government go in for details? Let the investor decide. When it is a closely held company, when it is a private limited company, why should the Government go and codify all details as to how they have to behave, what they have to do and other things? I can appreciate one thing. Even the law itself provides for this. ... *(Interruptions).*

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Even after this amendment is being carried out, the paid-up share capital will still be determined by the Government as prescribed by the rules. So, it is still with the Government. The right vested in the Parliament is being taken

away by the Government by virtue of amending clauses 76 and 81. So, it is still with the Government.

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): That is why, I told that this is just a beginning. We believe in maximum governance and minimum government. What Shri Veerappa Moily said is correct. [Translation] The Bharatiya Janata Party Government and the Modi Government wish to place their trust in the people. I believe there has been some clarification regarding one clause. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance and also draw his attention to a few points. I am a chartered accountant and an auditor. You have assigned a special responsibility to the auditor, and this has been emphasised in the amendment as well. Sir, I would like to give you an example. In Mumbai, Maharashtra, there was a case of political corruption involving thousands of crores of rupees. You know that company. The company had net loss of Rs. 16 crore. It has incurred a net loss of Rs. 16 crore. It had not conducted any business for five years. Suddenly, that company brought shares of Rs. 10 each into the market, valuing them at Rs. 10,000 per share. Some investors from Kolkata, through various channels, they purchased the share of Rs. 10 at Rs. 10,000 per share and transferred around Rs. 700 crore to that corrupt politician bank account. If a Chartered Accountant is an auditor, then, as I said,

you have instructed the auditor that he is not only the company's auditor but also, in a way, the nation's auditor. I would like to submit to my professional colleagues that, under this amendment brought forward by the Government, you will be required to report to the Government. This is appreciable. Along with this, I would like to suggest that when an auditor, acting with integrity, provides information or reports that indicate money laundering or corrupt practices, the Ministry should also consider how such information and audit reports will be processed thereafter. This is my suggestion. [English] This is concerned with section 143. It is a good amendment.

Mr. Chairman Sir, my favourite subject is small investors protection. I want to make a minor observation regarding Investor Education and Protection Fund. [Translation] I have a few minor observations. I recollect that when Arun Jaitley was Minister of Corporate Affairs, he introduced this concept in this House. Today he is the Minister of Finance, with responsibility for the Ministry of Corporate Affairs as well. I thank him for that, but I would like to draw his attention to one matter: After ten years of the creation of Investor Education and Protection Fund, there is a need to review it. What has become of it? How much money has actually been spent on investor education? In practice, unclaimed dividends are transferred

into the Government fund, and the Ministry of Corporate Affairs then discharges its responsibility by allocating funds to one or two institutions. You have also expressed concern about Ponzi companies. In Ponzi schemes our small investors put in their money because they are not aware. Why can we not initiate a massive campaign with the help of this IEPF? Therefore, I would like to urge you to consider this matter. Regarding the matter I mentioned earlier, the Rs. 10 shares being traded at Rs. 10,000, you have not perused that amendment. Please give it further consideration. In your Income Tax Department, last year you have come out with the clarification and an amendment that where such an absurd valuation occurs, you will ask the beneficiary to deposit 33 percent income tax. You are not accepting any explanation or clarification. I would like to request that you consider bringing similar corrections into the Companies Act.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, from fraud reporting to loans in companies, and a small matter you referred to regarding dividend, minimum paid-up share capital, loss guarantees and so on, along with these issues I would also like to draw your attention to that the Companies Act, I am not clear whether they have addressed what is going on in the country for the last ten years. The provisions of the Companies Act are being misused in places; a wave of companies is

being created, including shell companies and phantom companies, and through these the parallel economy, or the black money we speak of, is being generated. How is that black money being created?

17.23 hrs. (Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

In conclusion, I would like to end my remarks by supporting this Bill with just one point. I would also like to draw the Hon. Minister's attention to a small point. Shri Veerappa Moily took some liberty earlier, so I too will take a moment for one point. There is zero percent inflation, for which you deserve appreciation. But I would also like to mention your other ambitious scheme, the Jan Dhan Yojana. On the day of the supplementary demand, you were not present here. In Jan Dhan Yojana we are opening accounts, and a large number have been opened in a short span of time, for which you deserve praise. But try to understand the phrase and philosophy of banking. It is to mobilise the savings and invest it. For which class, Mobilise the savings means, mobilise the savings from the persons who have surplus and to invest it. You have to advance the loans. That is for the upper class. The current banking system, which is limited to the 'haves' in the economy, Now, you are going to extend it to have-nots. At that time, I personally held meetings with bank officers in Mumbai and neighboring districts about the Jan Dhan Yojana. We have not drawn

or I am not able to understand whether you have drawn, how you plan to extend physical banking infrastructure to that 33 percent segment of society. I will give you one example. I adopted a model village 120 kilometers from Mumbai. There is no banking infrastructure within 20 kilometers of that village. When I asked the bank manager, he asked me, Kirit ji, what business would be there. We will have to train the banking staff also that this is a social commitment, not just business. Indeed, there will be business too, because once you reach out to that 33 percent section of society, you will move very swiftly towards a paperless currency system. Drawing your attention to this small but important point, I extend my thanks to you while expressing my support for this Bill.

[English]

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, let me thank you for giving this opportunity to speak on the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

I am speaking on this Bill on behalf of the AIADMK Party led by our former Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi, Amma.* The people-centric vision of our beloved leader, Amma is to ensure that any company set up for the purpose of manufacturing or producing or servicing must have a streamlined administrative machinery that will take care of both the workforce and the customers. This Bill empowers the shareholders to have more of a say in the major decisions to be taken by a company. Just imagine what would have happened if our leader had not intervened when the five per cent of the stake in the Neyveli Lignite Corporation was not purchased by the Government of Tamil Nadu by our beloved leader! She was for ensuring that public utility of the public sector undertakings was maintained intact. The lignite coal produced there, the power generated there and the workmen who contributed to the overall production there are all the valuable assets of our country. That profit-making company was about to be offered on a platter to private players in an unwarranted fashion. For the first time in the history of independent India, our

leader, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* intervened taking up the matter again and again with the Centre and finally succeeded in making the Government of Tamil Nadu a stakeholder instead of some faceless private players who may not be ready to face the ground reality of saving the interests of the workforce. When it comes to modernizing corporate structure or redefining corporate relationship taking care of shareholders, stakeholders, company managements and the Board of Directors, our leader has made all the PSUs of the State Government to be model agencies.

Sir, the amendment Bill we are discussing now seeks to ease the smooth functioning of companies in this globalized era. In 2008, a comprehensive Bill in this regard was sought to be brought forward. That was to replace an old legislation which was more than half-a-century old.

As that Bill had lapsed with the dissolution of the Fourteenth Lok Sabha, a Bill on the similar lines has taken shape only now. This has come about after much of deliberations in the Parliamentary Standing Committee. This Bill gives the Government the right to notify rules and broadens the range and scope of subordinate legislation. Trade regulations envisaged in the Companies Bill used to be in conflict with the SEBI Act. Now, some changes have been brought about which is

procedural in nature in line with the Depositories Act and the SEBI Act. The first one is for dematerializing all securities. The latter one is for making it mandatory to have all public offers in dematerialized form. It is hoped that this would result in good corporate governance. Frauds related to loss or duplication of security certificates would not happen; investors need not go for safeguards related to physical share certificates. This Bill seeks to make the transactions of companies more transparent. This is remarkable for a vast country like ours. The mouse of our computers can act like a careful cat and a watchdog. This can happen because the maintenance and inspection of documents by companies in electronic forms is being allowed as part of e-governance.

Any company must take into account its social environ and must live up to the expectations of the local mass surrounding, its production units or marketing units. That is why, corporate social responsibility is being underlined in this era of liberalization. This Bill lays stress on that. On the part of the companies, accountability towards the Government and the public will be enhanced. This has been ensured by adding the concept of independent directors.

This amendment Bill makes the “promoters” of the company own certain liability in certain cases. I am here reminded of the sad tragedy of the Bhopal gas leak incident. I only wish this Bill was there then.

This Bill also proposes to enable a company to evolve a process to encourage ethical corporate behaviour. Another highlight of this Bill is that the employees will be rewarded for providing valuable information for the avoidance of deviant practices.

So far, it was enough to have 50 members to establish a public limited company. Now, that number has been increased to 200. At the same time, the shareholders will be taking up the role of watching the management and the performance of the companies. In a democratic body polity like that of ours, this move of the Government is to widen the scope of having more people in the management of the companies and in monitoring its management.

A National Company Law Tribunal to administer provisions with respect to company law will be in place in a sound manner. This Bill gives greater powers to creditors to supervise a rescue plan when a company becomes sick. Mergers, amalgamations and takeovers of companies will be more transparent from now on. This is a welcome move. It so happened in the past that some companies have gobbled up even without the knowledge of the members. The Government has

thought it fit to entrust more responsibilities with the shareholders of the companies than even its Boards. This has been done in the changed atmosphere in the light of globalisation. We want to believe that this Bill has been conceived rightly and delivered properly.

With these observations, let me conclude.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to speak on the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014. I don't want to inflict a long speech on the Finance Minister. As it is, he is looking tired at the end of a long day, wearing three hats in three Ministries. So, I would be very brief.

The Corporate Affairs Minister has brought 14 amendments to the Companies Act, 2013. The main purpose of his Bill is to improve the ease of doing business. A World Bank Report sometime back said that ease of doing business in India, India was ranked at 142 among 189 countries. So, people found that it is difficult to do business here, which is why the Minister is thinking of bringing this Bill.

As early as October, the Finance Minister has said that we are getting innumerable requests to amend the Companies Act. So, he has brought this Bill with two purposes. Mainly in the face of innumerable requests from the corporate world, business classes, Chambers of Commerce, etc. and to make the business easy. Here, I would like to differ with him in the sense that I spoke on the comprehensive Company Laws Bill which was brought by my young friend, Shri Sachin Pilot, who is not in this House any more. I thought that the overall effort was commendable. But I had said, and I would say again as to what is the touchstone of a good Companies Bill. To me, there

are two touchstones because in recent times, corporate world has been shaken by two incidents. One is the Satyam case in which the value of shares of the company was shown in an inflated way and it was found that in Satyam case, auditors had faulted and had not given a proper report. I just saw two days back that Shri Ramalinga Raju has received punishment of six months in prison. Maybe, he would receive more punishment.

My second touchstone is this. Whether this Bill helps to eliminate chit fund companies and cheating of small investors by companies listed as such? Because we have seen the collapse of not only Saradha and Rose Valley in West Bengal but such collapses are also taking place all over the country. Will the Bill strengthen the Government's stand in resisting, in avoiding such collapse which put millions of people at risk? Of course, we have the problem of investors' democracy, education of investors, and I am not going into the nitty-gritty and details. To my mind, Mr. Jaitley after several months of deliberations has come up with this Bill. It does not satisfy these two touchstones. This is not at all a comprehensive Bill which we expected with comprehensive amendments from a noted corporate lawyer like Shri Arun Jaitley. That is why, I would point out small defects in the Bill.

He has said that the ease of doing business is alright. Let me point out several problems with regard to the Bill. The amendments include replacing special resolution with ordinary resolution for approval of related party transaction by minority shareholders. This means that companies need only to have the consent of 50 per cent of the minority shareholders present instead of 75 per cent which is prescribed under the law. Now this reduces corporate democracy. Let me cite the case of United Spirits. Recently, a Special Resolution moved by the liquor maker United Spirits, through postal ballot, to approve four related party transactions was defeated by minority shareholders as it did not satisfy the 75 per cent provision. If the proposed amendment had been there, the Resolution would have been passed. So, in that sense, the power of the minority shareholders is reduced in this new amendment. I am sure the Minister would explain that.

The new amendment also empowers the audit committee to give omnibus approval for related party transactions on an annual basis. They say that it is in line with the SEBI Policy to increase the ease of doing business.

The other point that I would like to make is regarding related party transactions. Heeding to the corporate demand again, the new amendment also proposes to exempt related party transactions

between holding companies and wholly owned subsidiaries from the requirement of the minority shareholders' approval. In all these cases, the power or rights of the minority shareholders are reduced. I would like the Minister to explain this while replying.

There is another provision which prohibits a public inspection of Board Resolutions filed with the Registrar of Companies. It is said that company professionals have been complaining to the Ministry that Board Resolutions, if made public, would reveal the company strategy thereby helping the competitor inadvertently. But this is against transparency. Now, Company Board Resolutions will not be seen by anybody else. They say that competitors might get advantage. But I do not think it is a strong enough reason.

The other thing I want to say is regarding fraud. Fraud reporting has been made limited in this amendment. Earlier, a provision was there which ensured that frauds which are beyond a certain threshold would compulsorily need to be reported by the auditors to the Government. Any such fraud which is above the threshold will also need to be disclosed in the Board Report. Now, here again, the auditor is given a leeway that below a certain threshold, he need not report the fraud to the Government; whether it is good or bad or whether it will

control frauds as it happened in Satyam's case, the Minister would be able to tell us.

Originally, the Government had said that all the hindrances in doing business can be removed by just amending certain provisions of the Act for improving the business environment in the country.

Mr. Moily has given an overall picture of the economy of the country. The main problem is, manufacturing sector is not growing. It is almost stagnating. This is a matter of serious concern to the Minister. So, after this amendment is passed, we would like the economy to grow to the promised level of 8 per cent. Now we are at 5.3 per cent only. I would like to know how this ease of doing business is going to really improve the growth in the manufacturing sector.

Sir, Mr. Mayaram was the Finance Secretary earlier and he has been removed now. After this Government took over office, he said a very interesting thing where he tried to speak about the philosophy of the Government. He said: "I believe our potential growth rate is 8 per cent. And to get there, we need to develop resources. And that which we cannot generate domestically must come from outside and if it comes from outside then we prefer it in the form of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) rather than Foreign Institutional Investment (FII)," This summarizes the philosophy of the Government. They will run the

Government for five years. Only time will tell whether with this policy, whether with these amendments to the Companies Act, we shall be able to make business easier, whether we will be able to achieve growth rate, whether we will be able to improve manufacturing and whether we will create more jobs. With that, I end my speech. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA (PURI): Thank you, Mr. Deputy Speaker for giving me the chance to speak on this very important Bill today. The hon. Minister rightly said that the Companies Act, 1956 with 658 Sections, was sought to be amended by the 2013 Act with only 470 Sections which was supposed to be a lean, more comprehensive Act. I heard Mr. Moily of the Congress Party with some amusement. Mr. Moily is not here now but he started out by saying that a great deal of time, effort and energy went into making the new Companies Act, 2013. And yet he now blames the Government saying we expect you to now change that Act comprehensively to bring in new laws so that the "ease to do business" would be facilitated. This is a contradiction in terms. The fact of the matter is, the Congress Party and Mr. Moily are out of touch with reality. The fact of the matter is, as the hon. Minister has already said, there have been innumerable complaints with regard to this Bill. Therefore, even though, I rise to support this Bill, I rise to support it with a great deal of dissatisfaction because this Bill simply does not go far enough. The fact is that this Companies Act, 2013 and the Land Acquisition Act, 2013 are actually two model Acts brought by UPA II on how to make it impossible to do business in India. That is a fact.

The only thing that I find very strange is this. When Mr. Jaitley was the Leader of the House in the Rajya Sabha for the BJP, how did these two pieces of legislations which are uniformly regarded in India as the most retrograde and anti-business, anti-growth pieces of legislations, fly-past his radar in the Rajya Sabha. This is what I cannot understand. This is what mystifies me and this is actually what mystifies all of us that what kind of legislation are we doing. We are all now saying – Prof. Saugata Roy just said – it needs comprehensive changes. What kind of legislation are we doing in Parliament? The Congress Party and the UPA-II specialized in this: the Land Acquisition Act, the Environmental Law that they had in place, the tax terror regime, the retrospective taxes. I can go on and on. So they made sure that industrialization in this country collapsed. Now Mr. Moily laments that we are at an all time low as far as manufacturing is concerned; this is a matter of great concern. This is not because Mr. Jaitley's regime has been here or Mr. Modi's regime has been here for the last six months; this is five years of egregious misrule of the Congress Party which is why things have come to this sorry pass. Therefore, this lament by Mr. Moily really today is too little, too late.

Be that as it may, I have to ask Mr. Jaitley as to when he proposes to bring in the all-comprehensive changes that we require in this piece

of legislation. It is because, if I start to enumerate the shortsightedness that has led to the various lacunae in this Act, it will not end in hurry. Actually the experts say that this requires about 65 to 70 amendments to 65 to 70 Sections. So, now in this 470 Sections Acts, you need 65 to 70 amendments. As Prof. Saugata Roy said, Mr. Jaitley is one of the finest minds. As a Senior Advocate, I had the privilege of assisting him, briefing him, way back in the mid eighties when I was a young lawyer. I do not understand how he has firstly allowed this Bill to pass the last time around and now has brought in legislation which is absolutely cosmetic in nature. These are such minor cosmetic changes that these really do not go far enough. I do not think that anybody is going to be satisfied with this. I do not believe that this is going to ameliorate the problems of industry today, the problems of doing business today. This is not going to ease your business mechanism in India today. Therefore, this Bill of 2014 has come so soon after the Act of 2013. Now we must have a Act in 2015.

The hon. Minister has to put his wonderful mind to this and give it a deep thought and insight. This ease of doing business will require comprehensive legislative changes, as he has rightly said, both in the Companies Act as well as in the Land Acquisition Act. But I cannot go into the details now.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, I am glad that my friend Mr. Pinaki Misra is raising some basic issues, I will certainly respond to them. But let me tell him and Mr. Saugata Roy, when he raised the issue of manufacturing and how we are complicating business, we recently saw a dip in the IPP manufacturing figures. This is something that I have been repeatedly saying even at the time of the debate on the Supplementary Grants. On the outskirts of Chennai, Sriparambadur, an industrial area has come in. One major plant, manufacturing telecommunication handsets, has closed down because of taxation reasons.… (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not because of taxation, there were some other problems.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The dip in the telecommunication manufacturing, which in turn reflects in overall manufacturing growth, just by closure of one major plant, 54,000 jobs lost, itself is 78 per cent. When we are talking in terms of ease of doing business, etc., these are not some notional concepts. This is in effect, the direct impact of what our attitude is and how it affects the larger economy of the country.

SHRI PINAKI MISRA : Sir, I am so glad that the hon. Finance Minister has clarified this as he is also the Minister of Corporate Affairs. I have no doubt about it. He is absolutely one hundred per cent right. You have to speak to the members of FICCI, the members of ASSOCHAM because they are the backbone of industry and they will tell as to how difficult it is to do business in India and which is why there is so much flight of capital of all major industrialists who are taking their money out of India. They would rather do business in Africa, Far East and Australia rather than spend their money here.

Sir, as I said, there are some 65 or 70 amendments required in this Bill. This Bill, I am sure, comes in the fullness of time. I have no doubt that when our hon. Minister applies his mind to it fully in 2015 he will bring a comprehensive Bill. But what is required immediately, I think, Mr. Jaitley will concede, that the backbone of industry in a place like India, which is essentially a Third World country, is the medium and small scale industry. That is the real nuts and bolts of manufacturing here. The mega industries do not come here easily. They will take a lot of time to make up their minds to come to India. The medium and small scale industries are there to do their start ups. They operate through private companies. They do not operate through public limited companies. A private limited company with the kind of

onerous rigours that have been placed in this Acts, makes it impossible to operate for a private company, as Mr. Kirit Somaiya, the hon. BJP MP has said. I can understand that. The bar must be higher for public limited companies because public monies are involved, shareholders monies are involved.

But where people are willing to invest their own monies, their kith and kin money and their friends' money, I do not understand why these onerous rigours need to be applied to them. Sections 10, 11, 62, 73, 185, 186, 188 and 195 among others have such onerous and rigorous provisions. As far as private limited companies are concerned, nobody can start up a private limited company today and happily do business in India. That is the reason why this manufacturing activity is coming down day by day is because the small and medium scale industries always have to operate through private limited companies. After all, if you operate in a partnership, there are other pitfalls and problems. So, everybody wants to operate within the ambit of a private limited company - not go public until you grow big enough. How does this sector start with these draconian provisions?

Therefore, I would strongly urge the hon. Minister to apply his mind to this. The penalties and prosecutions incidentally, which have

been postulated, are extremely hard and harsh. I think, the hon. Minister knows that when you give these kinds of terror mechanism in the hands of certain officials, extortion is bound to happen. That will lead to corruption; that will lead to a great deal of dissatisfaction; and ease of business cannot happen where there are these kinds of harsh penalties.

Therefore, from Section 230 to Section 240, the entire issues of compromise, arrangements and amalgamations are the absolute and basic prerequisites of doing business under a company umbrella. They have been made very harsh and onerous. So, I would urge the hon. Minister to kindly apply his mind to it. He has a very brilliant mind. He must apply his mind over the next two to three months, and before the Budget he should come out with a comprehensive legislation. I would urge the hon. Minister to do that but, of course, I support him today. This is unexceptionable that this Bill must be supported.

Thank you.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. Since the Finance Minister is leaving … (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: He is not leaving.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI : I thought he was leaving. I just want to bring in an issue which is related to the State of Sikkim.

As we are discussing the progressive amendments to the Companies Act -we have heard a fair bit of sprinkling of the discourse – in the ease of doing business and to address the concerns of various stakeholders, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to the concerns of the people of Sikkim and the Sikkim Government regarding Section 465 in the Companies Act, 2013, which repeals the Registration of Companies (Sikkim) Act, 1961.

In this regard, I wish to quote the assurances given by the former Minister of Corporate Affairs, Shri Sachin Pilot ji to the State of Sikkim on the floor of the House in the Rajya Sabha that the said Section would be notified only after consultations in this regard with the Sikkim Government and the Members of Parliament, taking into consideration all issues and addressing all concerns.

I would like to quote what he has said:

> "I want to assure the hon. Member from Sikkim that before the 'notification' is issued, we will have due consultations with the State Government, for that matter we will speak to the Chief Minister of and the hon. Members of Parliament on all issues related to Sikkim in the Bill and will take into consideration all issues and address them."

This was stated by Shri Sachin Pilot, former Minister of Corporate Affairs, during the passage of the Bill in the Rajya Sabha.

I would like to seek reassurance from the Government that the decision on the notification of the said Section will be taken only after thorough deliberation on the issue with the State Government and the Members of Parliament, as assured by the previous Government.

I would like to reiterate here that it is essential to maintain the sanctity of the provisions of Article 371 F. I am confident that the Government, which runs on the principle of "*Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas*" will be sensitive to the concerns of the people and the Government of Sikkim this regard.

Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014. The Factories Act, 1956, was amended for the first time in nearly 57 years, in August 2013. However, it is unfortunate that within just eight to ten months of that law being enacted, an amendment Bill had to be brought in. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister, who has clearly mentioned in the Statement of Objects and Reasons that after the enactment of the 2013 law, certain practical difficulties were encountered in its implementation, causing distress to the manufacturing community. At present, no manufacturer is satisfied, nor is any service provider content. There is a saying in Marathi, “Bheekh Nukopan Kutra Aawar (It conveys that when help or a system meant to benefit someone causes them more trouble or fear than comfort, it becomes pointless.)” The law should serve the purpose for which it is made, but if the very stakeholders for whom the law is intended are not benefitted by it, then it loses its purpose. After the enactment of the Companies Act, 2013, the Objects section of the present Bill states:

"...practical difficulties in complying with some of the requirements laid down in the commenced provisions."

When the provisions of the 2013 Act were implemented, all manufacturers faced numerous difficulties. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for taking note of these problems and for introducing, through the Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014, at least fourteen different proposals to provide relief to those engaged in manufacturing. Through this Bill, an effort has been made to ease the difficulties of the manufacturing sector and to offer them genuine relief.

Sir, among the 14 different amendments proposed, many are indeed appropriate, but some also give rise to concern. For instance, provisions relating to imprisonment and punishment, and the conferring of excessive powers upon bureaucrats and administrative officers, could create hardship for manufacturers. The Hon. Minister should ensure that these provisions are not misused in any manner. Today, the situation in Mumbai has changed drastically. There was a time when Mumbai was world-famous in the textile sector. It was home to the largest number of cotton mills and cotton workers. Nearly two lakh cotton workers were employed there. Unfortunately,

circumstances arose that rendered all those cotton workers homeless, helpless and destitute. The entire cotton industry of Mumbai disappeared. As a result, the economic condition of Mumbai, and indeed of Maharashtra as a whole, suffered severe consequences. in India today, investors, whether they are engaged in manufacturing or in the service industry, need relief and encouragement. When such investors come forward, as major companies do, they generate employment, and the creation of employment automatically improves the standard of living of the people in that region. This, in turn, leads to the overall happiness and prosperity of the citizens. Unfortunately, at present, investors are hesitant to come to India, because the existing laws often create difficulties for them. In Mumbai, there are several diamond manufacturers and diamond dealers who conduct their business operations from Mumbai, but the actual trading takes place outside the country. It is easier for Indian investors to conduct business abroad than within India itself. Therefore, when the Government takes initiatives to make it easier for Indian investors to do business in India, it becomes our duty to support such measures. The Bill introduced by the Government is a commendable step in this direction, and I congratulate the Hon. Minister concerned for bringing forward such a well-considered proposal. Alongside this, I would like

to make a humble request. Just as the Hon. Minister has brought forward 14 suggestions while introducing this amendment Bill, I must point out that unfortunately, many people in our country prefer to engage in dishonest practices. Through this Bill, a commendable effort has been made to control such activities via audits. However, on the other hand, I would like to draw attention once again to an additional valuable suggestion I had mentioned earlier, which I believe should also be considered seriously.

[English]

It is mentioned in para 5 of the Statement of Objects and Reasons. It says:

" (vi)…transferring equity shares for which unclaimed/unpaid dividend has been transferred to the Investors Education and Protection Fund…"

[Translation]

A valuable provision has been introduced through this Bill. Earlier, it used to happen that, for various reasons or due to lack of access, many people did not collect their dividends, and that money remained deposited in the company's accounts. As a result, the Educational Fund or Welfare Fund was not being utilised in an appropriate manner.

I would like to urge that, in this Bill, a provision be made whereby the Educational Fund or Welfare Fund of an industry is utilised for the benefit of the children in the very area where that industry is located.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 17th December, 2014 at 11 a.m.

18.00 hrs.

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, December 17, 2014/Agrahayana 26, 1936 (Saka).

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