

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

Friday, December 12, 2014/Agrahayana 21, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Anniversary of terrorist attack on Parliament House on 13th

December, 2001

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon'ble Members, as you are all aware, thirteen years ago, on 13th December, 2001, the Parliament of India, the edifice of our democratic polity became the target of a dastardly terrorist attack. The attack was foiled by the alert security forces guarding the Parliament Complex. Five security personnel of Delhi Police, Saravashri Nanak Chand, Ram Pal, Om Prakash, Bijender Singh and Ghan Shyam, one woman Constable Shrimati Kamlesh Kumari of Central Reserve Police Force and two Security Assistants, Jagdish Prasad Yadav and Matbar Singh Negi of the Parliament Security Service achieved martyrdom while valiantly thwarting the attack. One official Shri Des Raj, was also killed in the terrorist attack.

The House pays homage to the martyrs who laid down their lives while defending the Parliament during the terrorist attack on 13 December 2001 and expresses its condolences to their families. On this occasion, let us reiterate our resolve to renew our efforts to combat the threat of terrorism in all forms and reaffirm our pledge to

protect the unity, integrity and sovereignty of our motherland. The House may now stand in silence for a short while to mark the solemnity of the occasion.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for short while.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Question Hour.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: There is no rule for suspension of Question Hour.

Q.No.281.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This does not happen every day.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam, what is your ruling on the Adjournment Motion? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: There is no suspension of Question Hour. There is no rule.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Suspension of Question Hour and Adjournment Motion from Shri Kaushalendra Kumar and Shri Venugopal. The matters, though important enough, do not warrant interruption of business of the day. The matters can be raised through other opportunities. I have, therefore, disallowed the notices of Adjournment Motion. Under Rule there is no suspension of Question Hour also. So, I am disallowing it.

... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam, they want to politicize everything. The issue has been clarified.... *(Interruptions)*

11.04 hrs.

***ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

HON. SPEAKER: Q.No.281 - Shri Pralhad Joshi.

(Q.281)

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, I have gone through the reply given by the hon. Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, I have gone through the written reply given by the hon. Minister. I feel whatever has been done in the last few years is quite inadequate... *(Interruptions)*.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: If you wish to raise any issue, you may do so after the Question Hour, but not right now. This cannot go on every day. I'm sorry.

. . . (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: The World Health Organisation has predicted that about 20 per cent of India's population would suffer from some form of mental illness by 2020 and by 2025, it would catch up with heart disease or may even overtake it as the biggest health problem... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: If you call the killer of Mahatma Gandhi a patriot and honor him as such, then it is not only an insult to the nation but also to all its people and to this very House. ... *(Interruptions)*

11.06 hrs.

At this stage Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Shrimati Aparupa Poddar and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: If you look at the gravity of the problem, I feel whatever has been done so far is quite inadequate. Only one in 50 people suffering from this problem has access to hospitals for the expert treatment... *(Interruptions)*. Recently, the Human Rights

Commission visited Pune and found out that for 1900 patients only 25 toilets were there... (*Interruptions*)

According to me, nuclear families, strained relations, change of working atmosphere among young professionals, circumstances leading to early divorce of young couples and unemployment problem among educated mothers are some of the main causes for depression and mental illness... (*Interruptions*)

So, I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is going to take measures to create a congenial atmosphere to reduce mental stress among the young professionals. I would also like to know whether the Government is planning to solve the infrastructural problems and look into the non-availability of doctors. What specific measures the Government is going to take in this regard?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: The question is important. ... (*Interruptions*). Let me first say that the number of persons who are required to treat the patients is absolutely inadequate. In fact, over all we have about 87.12 per cent inadequacy of trained-manpower. However, the figure of 20 per cent population as indicated by the Member is probably not correct. The studies indicate that around 1 to 2 per cent of our population suffers from severe mental disorder and

around 5 per cent population suffers from common mental disorder. The main problem is trained manpower for which under the 12th Plan, we have taken 10 centres for excellence and 93 PG training departments which will create a manpower strength of 560 and 1258, totaling to about 1818 new manpower. We are also considering skill training for some of these requirements... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, to make infrastructure available to the mental health patients, during the 12th Plan, for the 40 institutions in the country, Rs.30 crore for each institution have been allocated or have been earmarked across the country. But it was not made available to 20 institutions, out of which one is DIMHANS which is in my Constituency. That is in my constituency. The Dharwad Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Science is located in my constituency. This is the only mental health institution after NIMHANS in Bengaluru in Karnataka... *(Interruptions)* The Government was supposed to allocate funds to DHIMANS under the 12th Five Year Plan but was not made available to this institute. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to know from the Minister whether the Government is going to allocate funds for DHIMANS during the current Plan period so that the infrastructure of the institute -- in the North Karnataka this is the only of its kind in the region—can be

developed and can be made into a centre of excellence for mental health... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: During the year 2013-14, a sum of Rs. 83,20,000 has been allocated for Dharwad. ... *(Interruptions)* So far, in the current year, we have released a sum of Rs. 33,28,000. ... *(Interruptions)* We need utilization certificate as well as a request from the State Government concerned for releasing more money. If those come, then we will release more money ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR: Madam Speaker, as is well known, according to the World Health Organisation, by the year 2020 depression will become the world's second largest disease. If measures to control depression are not taken, the situation will worsen to such an extent that the treatment of a large number of mental patients will be beyond the capacity not only of developing countries but even of developed nations. Through you, Madam, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether there is adequate manpower and health infrastructure available to deal with the increasing cases of mental illnesses? If yes, what is the State-wise data in this regard?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Madam Speaker, for the first time in the country, this Government released the National Mental Health

Policy on 10th October, and under it, the Mental Health Action Plan 365 has also been launched. I agree that this is a very serious problem because people usually do not come out in the open about it. However, under the Mental Health Action Plan, we will develop measures to address it. It will take some time, but the work has already begun.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 1125 hours.

11.13 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till twenty five minutes past
Eleven of the Clock.*

11. 25 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twenty Five Minutes past
Eleven of the Clock.*

(Hon. Speaker in the Chair)

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam Speaker, I have a submission in the matter. Some of our friends wanted to raise an issue and then got the House adjourned. Nobody in this country can accept enticing the people or the person who is responsible for the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi. The Government totally condemns such a statement. That has been conveyed and the hon. Member has clarified it outside the House also. He has also expressed his regrets. ... *(Interruptions)* Please listen to me. ... *(Interruptions)* Please sit and listen to me. As far as the Government is concerned and as far as my Party is concerned, we do not agree with that proposition at all. Secondly, the same thing ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Madam Speaker, every day, one after another, such statements are being made. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Deepender ji, this is not the way. Please listen to what the Hon. Minister has to say first.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Deepender ji, this is not the way. No, I am sorry. You have to sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone complains that too many people speak one after another.

. . . (Interruptions)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: The entire country knows the intentions of everyone, so do not worry about it... (*Interruptions*) The entire country knows as to who are the people who are killing Mahatma Gandhi ideologically everyday... (*Interruptions*) [English] The entire country knows as to who are the people who are killing Mahatma Gandhi ideologically everyday. So, do not rake it up.... (*Interruptions*) I have no problem in asking the Hon. Member to

express regret. If the speaker wants, I can also ask the Hon. Member to express regret. [Translation] Hon. Member will express regret. The Hon. Member has already expressed remorse outside the House... *(Interruptions)* These people want to give it a political angle. How many days will they continue like this? Disrupting the proceeding of the House every day is not proper... *(Interruptions)* You have no substantive issue. Doing this every day does not become you. ... *(Interruptions)* Everyone knows your ideology, therefore, creating a ruckus daily is not appropriate... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Speaker, if you give them an opportunity, the Hon. Member will express remorse in the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Why do you all speak in between?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Should I, from tomorrow onwards, allot the first five minutes for apologies? Everyone keeps saying something or the other.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ: Madam Speaker, I have great respect for Bapu and for this House. I immediately withdrew the remark I made yesterday outside the House, but it has already appeared in the media and newspapers. My Hon. Members have no substantive issue, so they raise this matter unnecessarily. “I feel that even if we draw a sigh, we are denounced; if you commit murder, it does not become a matter of discussion.” I retracted my words at once. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Members, you will have to hear me out. Nathuram Godse may have carried out the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, but the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi in 1984 occurred when the massacre of Sikhs took place in this country. I take back my words. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: This is not fair at all....
(Interruptions)

11.29 hrs

* Not recorded.

At this stage, Shri K.C. Venugopal, Shri Bhagwant Mann and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam Speaker, they have come with a determination not to allow the House to function. ...
(Interruptions)

11.30 hrs

At this stage, Shri K.C. Venugopal, Shri Bhagwant Mann and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

HON. SPEAKER: Deependra ji, please be seated.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: First, let all Hon. Members be seated quietly.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I myself am unable to hear anything.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I cannot understand a single word. What is happening? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Will all of you speak at once?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: We all hold Mahatma Gandhi in equal respect, but at least let me hear what is being said.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Member, either sit here and participate in the discussion or remain silent.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, please, don't say anything.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Sakshi ji, one minute.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ: Madam Speaker, whatever I said knowingly or unknowingly, I had already withdrawn yesterday, and today I withdraw it once again. ... (*Interruptions*) I respect the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, all of you be seated.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: One minute, if you all sit quietly, I can have some dialogue with him. If you keep making noise, how am I supposed to hear? I cannot talk to him at all.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Sakshi Ji, the point I made four days ago, I reiterate. You are a highly respected Member. If anyone has been hurt, or if any wrong message has come from our words, it is okay. There is nothing wrong in expressing regret. Please, do it in a single sentence and then be seated.

DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ (UNNAO): Hon. Speaker, Madam, I withdraw whatever words came from my mouth. If anyone has been hurt, I express my regret for that. ... *(Interruptions)*

11.32 hrs.

At this stage Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and some other hon.

Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

. . . (Interruptions)

***ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS...Contd.**

HON. SPEAKER: Q. 282 – Shri B. Vinod Kumar

(Q. 282)

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Madam Speaker, I have read the written reply. It is commonly known that the journey of Indian sound recording started from the era of phonograms way back in 1900. It is commonly understood that recordings began in the year 1902 after the advent of the disc that is played on the gramophone. They have found that wax cylinders date back to 1899. ... *(Interruptions)* The collection also includes ‘Vande Mataram’ in the voice of Rabindranath Tagore, which was recorded by Tagore’s friend Hemendra Bose in the year 1905. ... *(Interruptions)*

In the reply, the hon. Minister has stated that the All India Radio as well as Doordarshan have digitized recordings to the extent of 19,000 hours and 20,139 hours respectively. But his predecessor, Shri Prakash Javadekar, while speaking at the launch of a book, ‘The Wonder That Was The Cylinder’ in Mumbai has stated that AIR has 4,00,000 hours of collection and that Doordarshan has 3,00,000 hours of collection of recordings. ... *(Interruptions)*

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

The digitized recordings pertaining to AIR and Doordarshan are very minimal. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to know from the hon. Minister by what time the Ministry can digitize the collections of AIR and Doordarshan which totals to nearly 5,00,000 hours.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE: Madam, I thank the hon. Member for taking up this subject. ... (*Interruptions*) There is indeed a very large amount of treasure which is there with AIR and Doordarshan. AIR was started in 1927 and the Archives began in 1954. Doordarshan began in 1959 and the archives started in 2002. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to just correct the hon. Member on this. The total amount of AIR recordings is up to four lakh hours and the Doordarshan digitized 1,50,000 hours. The digitization that has taken place already in respect of AIR is 1,40,000 hours and in respect of Doordarshan it is 20,000 hours. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to bring to the notice of the House that a very detailed tagging is required for digitizing this.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, it is taking a lot of time. This has been done internally till now.... (*Interruptions*) It has taken 10 years. We would now like to outsource it. Therefore, we have asked for Expression of Interest from other professional companies who would like to take charge of this huge

amount of treasure, digitize it, tag it and convert it into monetisation.... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, we are doing our best to do it at the earliest. I would again thank the hon. Member for taking up this subject.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, it is regarding the statement just made by Sakshi Maharaj Ji. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What is this? Please take a step back.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: He has apologised. He apologised in such a manner that if anyone has an objection, I express my regret and withdraw the statement. ... *(Interruptions)* The entire nation and you too are concerned about this. ... *(Interruptions)* The whole country wants him to offer an unconditional apology... *(Interruptions)* The entire nation should know that if anyone opposes the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi Ji, praises his killer, and insults Gandhi Ji, this cannot be tolerated. If such a precedent continues, thinking that because we are in the majority we can do anything, this will not be acceptable. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, it is not the case.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: And we will not let proceedings continue. ... (*Interruptions*) I am saying this. ... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, they should clarify on this matter. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam Speaker, Kharge ji... (*Interruptions*) You know, I am addressing him only. ... (*Interruptions*) Please remain seated quietly. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Those who speak while standing in the Well will not receive a response from the Hon. Minister.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: We are in the Government. We have a responsibility. The Government said that we totally dissociate with and condemn such statement by anybody.... (*Interruptions*) [Translation] Please listen ... (*Interruptions*) Is this the way of Gandhiji? ... (*Interruptions*) We are doing it. ... (*Interruptions*) Please follow Gandhiji. Please follow Gandhiji. Gandhiji worked based on principles, Gandhiji acted according to devotion. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Again, the same point, let there be order in the House first.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Gandhiji worked according to principles... (*Interruptions*) Gandhiji never resorted to threats. ... (*Interruptions*) Gandhiji never issued any threats... (*Interruptions*) Gandhiji worked on the basis of principles and integrity. That is why we all admire and respect him.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, let there be order first, because I cannot hear anything, and then you start creating confusion.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: He is indeed doing so.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, Shri Kharge, why are you doing this every day? I already said that I cannot go on apologising on behalf of everyone all the time.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Sakshi ji, please speak in just one sentence. Kindly express your regret; it has been long enough now.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ: Madam Speaker, I withdraw my words. I express my regret before the House and the nation. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Expressing regret means only one thing that “I am sorry.” Nothing more.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This is not how it is done.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

11.40 hrs

At this stage, Shri Anto Antony, Shri Jyotiradity M. Scindia, Prof. Saugata Roy and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: Madam, the other day, we heard Shri Kalyan Banerjee. He had taken back the words and expressed regret. What else do they want?... *(Interruptions)* Is it the Gandhian way? I do not understand it.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please, all of you, be seated.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: He has expressed regret.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The expression of regret has been duly made, and that is the proper procedure.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What more do you expect now?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You want Shashtang Namaskar, or what exactly do you want?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: He has already expressed his regret.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The same situation arose the day before yesterday as well.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please, I would like to request you all to sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Your Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is competent. If you have faith in him, then please maintain silence.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Why does he keep saying this repeatedly? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: He has already expressed his regret.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Every Member keeps making such remarks and then repeatedly apologising.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What am I supposed to do?

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: He has expressed his regret.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry. You have to accept it. Now, second supplementary by Shri Vinod Kumar.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Muniyappa G.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shall I have him greeted as well?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Do not make me lose my temper.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: He too had expressed his regret.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Madam, this is with regard to Transmitters' Digitalization... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What do you mean? What is this?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR: Madam, technological innovation is a never-ending phenomenon. Developments made just 10 years ago seem antique.... (*Interruptions*) Countries all over the world are migrating from analog to digital terrestrial broadcasting in view of the advantages offered by digital systems.... (*Interruptions*) The outlay to Prasar Bharati in the Twelfth Plan amounts to Rs.4,375 crore. But

three or four years have already elapsed. Nothing is done in this sector.... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to know from the hon. Minister what steps they are taking with regard to digitization of the transmitters.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE: Madam, 63 high-power transmitters have been sanctioned out of which work has already started in construction and installation of the 19 transmitters.... (*Interruptions*) In terms of the studios, we have 67 Doordarshan studios out of which 22 have already been digitized and 39 are half-digitised. The transmission is entirely digital as of now. We are in the process of installing the remaining transmission towers.

(Q.283)

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, we are all well aware of the development-oriented vision of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. This vision is reflected in the 'Make in India' initiative. He is working tirelessly, day and night, to promote industrial development across various states of the country and to address underdevelopment and economic imbalances.

In part 'B' of the question, while discussing states from the perspective of industrial development, the North Eastern states have been mentioned. However, due to the discriminatory policies of the previous government, states like Bengal, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, and Odisha have not received the industrial development they ought to have. These states have lagged behind in terms of development. Significant work is required in these states even today.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government will consider the status of advancing the industrial process by identifying certain specific sectors in various States of the country keeping in mind the natural wealth and key products there? I have come from Tikamgarh, Chhatarpur Parliamentary Constituency, around him the diamond was already

found in Panna and now a company of Australia is doing diamond mining work in Chhatarpur. According to the survey conducted in Tikamgarh, a large amount of diamond is likely to come out there.

Through you, I would like to know whether the Government will, through the Mines Department, establish the necessary plants in Tikamgarh-Chhatarpur, provide employment opportunities to local youth, and also ensure that farmers whose land is acquired are economically integrated into the process.

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: The present approach of the Government is not based on the identification of industrially backward States or districts but to rather address the issue of regional imbalances through the usage of the Backward Region Grant Fund. Under that Fund, presently 272 districts of the country are being covered under the 11th Five Year Plan. The special package of industrial incentive includes the North East States with Sikkim – eight States; Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh under the hill States. The Industrial Investment Promotion of the North East States, which I have mentioned about, and a Freight Subsidy Scheme are applicable for Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand,

Jammu & Kashmir, Darjeeling of West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar Islands, and Laskwadweep, and eight North Eastern states.

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, my second question pertains to the Bundelkhand region of Madhya Pradesh. From Heerpur in Sagar district to Kishangarh in Chhatarpur, the hills contain substantial deposits of iron. For hundreds of years, traditional iron-making processes have been in use there. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the Government, having recently laid the foundation stone of the NTPC plant, also plans to take steps towards establishing a steel plant in the region. Additionally, for nearly the past twenty years, granite from Chhatarpur has been exported abroad after cutting and polishing at Kandla port. Based on the granite available in Chhatarpur, will the Government consider establishing local industries there, arranging cutting, polishing, and packing facilities, and thereby integrating local youth into these processes to provide them with employment opportunities?

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: The Industrial Infrastructure Upgradation Scheme or the Integrated Leather Development Programme are some examples of how industrial

activities and promotion of such activities happen in some clusters within some States. Other than that, presently, the Industrial Corridor Projects which are happening between Delhi-Mumbai Industrial Corridor, or Chennai-Bengaluru-Chitradurga Industrial Corridor, or the Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor are such examples where through the Corridor, on either side of the corridors, if there is potential for industrial clusters to come through, the Government is open and ready to receive proposals from the State Governments. I am sure if the hon. Member, through his State Government, approaches, some proposals can be considered, but that is the way in which the larger development of particular regions which have certain imbalances is being addressed.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV: Recently, we saw a circular from the Ministry dated 1st December, 2014, which is suspending operation of the new registration under the New North East Investment and Industrial Policy. Can the Government clarify this? What does this Government feel about clearing earlier dues under the head of 'subsidy' by the Finance Minister?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I am glad that the hon. Member has raised this question. In fact, I will place it on the record of the House that the Member has also written to me on this issue of

overdues. Yes, there are overdues pending; and we have only from the Ministry tried saying that newer commitments may be temporarily halted because we have to clear the overdues. Once moneys start coming in, we will be able to take on the commitments. This Government is committed for the development of the North-East, and I am sure the Member must have seen the reply which was sent to her earlier. I wish to assure you that we are considering the North-East as a particular case of industrial development requiring area, and I am conscious of what the Member has raised.

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU: As regards industrial development, through you, Madam, I would like to submit that Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor project was intended to benefit seven districts of Tamil Nadu, seven districts of Karnataka, and two districts of Andhra Pradesh.

The corridor influence area on NH-46 has been extended on both sides to accommodate some more areas. It will adversely affect the long term interest of the public sector ports of Chennai and Ennore because of the inclusion of private sector ports. Therefore, I would like to reiterate the request made by our hon. beloved leader *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* and would like to know from the hon. Minister

whether this project can be taken up based only on the earlier concept and alignment agreed to by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam, first of all, the corridor project has been very well established and spoken about. The letter if anything, which has come from the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, we will certainly have a look into it. But the description of the corridor and the extensions are going along with the States' requirements and the States are being actively consulted on this.

(Q.284)

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: In our country, telecom companies hold 2G, 3G, and in some cases 4G licences, yet their taxation policies differ. The tax for 2G is different, for 3G it is different, and for 4G it is different. Often, a company may hold two or three licences, and it pays tax under the scheme with the lowest applicable rate. The telecom industry has issued notices claiming that lower taxes are being charged. I would like to ask the Government [English] I would like to know whether the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) has received complaints against some listed telecom operators for fudging of accounts and under-reporting of revenue to the government. [Translation] If so, what are the details, and what actions have been taken in this regard? I want to know from the Government?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, regarding the question raised by Shri Bhagwant Man, I would like to clarify a factual point so that there is no confusion. Taxation policy does not fall under the Telecom Department; it is formulated by the Department of Revenue in the Ministry of Finance. This taxation policy is general in nature. Excise applies to those engaged in manufacturing, while customs duty applies to imported goods, with varying duties for different

equipment. As far as the Telecom Department is concerned, I am interpreting the spirit of the Member's question. Earlier, telecom companies paid licence fees, but now they share revenue with the Government. Under-reporting of accounts is related to this revenue-sharing arrangement. SEBI is not the competent authority to look into this matter. Regarding the Member's query about complaints received by SEBI, the answer is that SEBI has not received any complaints, as it does not deal with such matters. The Department of Revenue and the Department of Telecommunications handle such cases. Complaints of under-reporting have been received for different companies, and actions have been taken accordingly. Each company, regardless of size, is required to pay the determined amount. The Department of Telecommunications has passed orders based on under-reporting and issued claims, which these companies have challenged in TDSAT and the High Court. The Department is now attempting to enforce these claims against the companies.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: Madam, I am not satisfied with the answer. Taxation comes under the Ministry of Finance. If they are under-reporting and paying less tax, it is the Government that is incurring the loss. [English] I would like to know the details of the

fudging, mis-appropriation, under-reporting of revenue and money laundering reported during each of the last three years.

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, the data on under-reported revenue, when aggregated across various companies, shows that as of November 2012, the total claims raised against these companies amounted to Rs. 10,826 crore and 69 lakh. These claims are being enforced by the Department of Telecommunications on account of under-reporting by these companies.

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Madam Speaker, indeed, Shri Bhagwant Mann has raised a very pertinent question. I would like to offer a suggestion along with the question to the Hon. Finance Minister. The question is [English] whenever there is a provision for revenue sharing or PPP, now the supreme court has also come out with the guideline and order along with the Delhi High Court that there should be a special audit, CAG audit. my question and suggestion is that, [Translation] where the Government has some interest in revenue sharing, if such a provision is not already in place, will the Government consider establishing an in-built safety net, may be through a special audit, CAG audit? [Translation] As you know,

where there is a large PE investor, they make provisions for a special audit. What steps will the Government take in this regard?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, in the case of the telecom companies, their license agreement contains Article Clause 22.5, under which a provision for a special audit exists. This special audit, for the cases reported of under-reporting, is being conducted by the Department of Telecommunications through the CAG.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Babulal Choudhary – not present.

Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak – not present.

[Translation]

Hon. Minister, you lay your statement on the Table.

(Q.285)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV: Madam Speaker, in India's vast armed forces, all classes and regions should be adequately represented. However, I observe, and I believe the House will agree, that people from backward states have not received sufficient representation. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether he will pay special attention to this matter. For instance, very few youth from Madhya Pradesh are found in the armed forces. Will the Minister take any specific measures to ensure adequate representation from such regions?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Madam Speaker, the recruitment of personnel into the armed forces is based on the recruitable male population (RMP) allocated for each state. Recruitment is conducted according to the population residing in the state. If the allocated number of recruitable male population is not filled, the shortfall is made up during recruitment camps held every six months. If any vacancy remains even after that, it can be extended into the next two-year recruitment cycle. It has been observed that the quota is generally

fulfilled up to 95–96 percent. In some areas, the demand exceeds the quota, so the quota may appear unfilled there. The quota is based on population. Across the country, generally, a figure of 10 percent of RMP is considered, and this population-based allocation is applied uniformly for all states.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Madam Speaker, the issue of recruitment and the shortage of officers in our country is now widely known. But the Army appears to be addressing this by extending the duration of Short Service Commissions in a way, that is doing an injustice to the officers concerned. In the old days, you would have a five-year commission. You would then leave and you would still be in the prime of your life; you would be able to find a job and move on. Today, they are making these officers stay for 10 years, 11 years, even 14 years. These are people who have no pension; they have no benefits. They leave the Army late and, as a result, they are not in a position thereafter to actually resume life in the civilian sector.

I would like the Defence Minister to explain what the policy is now on Short Service Commissions. I would like to know whether the Government has begun extending these unobtrusively at the expense of the civil rights of the officers concerned. If they are going to do so, whether it would not be fairer to give them all the benefits that a normal officer would be entitled to, pensions included. Thank you, Madam, Speaker.

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Madam, I entirely agree with the hon. Member. Whatever was the original concept of the Short Service Commission is being totally put upside down by extending it to 14 years. In fact, I had a discussion on this issue. We are trying to address this issue very shortly. We will definitely take care of this concept. There was 17 per cent shortage of officers by the year 2012. As of now, we are recruiting more officers. Every year, we are addressing one per cent. So, we are coming down by one per cent every year. I expect that by another ten years, we should be able to ultimately fill up the vacant posts.

As far as the Short Service Commission is concerned, I will definitely address this issue because I am also concerned with the same issue. I have asked for more details. There is some reasoning given by them. Give me some time. I think, in a couple of months, I

should be able to address this issue. I understand your concern. The same concern was expressed by me. You are virtually suggesting to convert them into a regular Commission by taking it to 14 years. The original idea was different.

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Madam Speaker, I would like to say that recruitment into the armed forces is based on the Recruitable Male Population formula, and each state gets representation. Traditionally, states like Uttarakhand, Punjab, Haryana, and the North-East contributed more soldiers to the armed forces. Even today, 10–12 percent of soldiers come from Haryana. However, this percentage is declining. Many states still have vacancies; there are over 12,000 vacant positions in the armed forces. Will the Government seriously consider focusing on these states to fill the vacancies, since the youth there are still eager to serve in the military?

SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR: Madam Speaker, there are not many vacancies. The vacancies that remain are filled in two rounds over the next two years for the respective states. [English]If the hon. Member has any suggestion, he can send it to me. The issue raised by

him is worth considering but he will have to come out with some reasonable solutions.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 286 to 300

Unstarred Question Nos. 3221 to 3450

12.02 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid. Item No. 2 – Shri Arun Jaitley.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 30B of the Chartered Accountants Act, 1949: -

- (i) The Chartered Accountants (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. 1-CA(7)/154/2014 in Gazette of India dated 22nd July, 2014.
- (ii) G.S.R. 569(E) published in Gazette of India dated 7th August, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 38(E) dated 19th January, 2011.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1197/16/14)

(2) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R.645(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 15th September, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification No. G.S.R. 1693(E) dated 3rd October, 2007 under Section 40 of the Cost and Works Accountants Act, 1959.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1198/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MANOHAR PARRIKAR): On behalf of my colleague Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the North Eastern Indira Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, 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 North Eastern Indira

Gandhi Regional Institute of Health and Medical Sciences, Shillong, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1199/16/14)

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 2198(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 1st September, 2014, electing two Members of Parliament, mentioned therein, as Members of Institute body of Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry issued sub-section 5(1)(k) read with sub-section 6(2) of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Act, 2008.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1200/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 619A of the Companies Act, 1956: -

- (1) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Goa Shipyard Limited, Goa, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1201/16/14)

- (2) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Dynamics Limited, Hyderabad, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1202/16/14)

- (3) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the BEML Limited, Bangalore, for the year 2013-2014.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1203/16/14)

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): On behalf of my colleague Shri Shripad Yesso Naik, I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Institute of Post Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (Gujarat Ayurved University), Jamnagar, 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 Institute of Post

Graduate Teaching and Research in Ayurveda (Gujarat Ayurved University), Jamnagar, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1204/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): 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) Review by the Government of the working of the STCL Limited, Bengaluru, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the STCL Limited, Bengaluru, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1205/16/14)

- (b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the PEC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.
- (ii) Annual Report of the PEC 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 1206/16/14)

- (2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the India Trade Promotion Organisation, 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 India Trade Promotion Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1207/16/14)

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the M/s Marathwada Auto Cluster, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, 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 M/s Marathwada Auto Cluster, Aurangabad, Maharashtra, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1208/16/14)

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the M/s South Asia Rubber and Polymers Park, Kolkata, West Bengal, 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 M/s South Asia Rubber and Polymers Park, Kolkata, West Bengal, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1209/16/14)

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the M/s Bamboo Technology Park, Guwahati, Assam, 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 M/s Bamboo Technology Park, Guwahati, Assam, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1210/16/14)

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the M/s Jabalpur Garment and Fashion Design Cluster Association, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, 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 M/s Jabalpur Garment and Fashion Design Cluster Association, Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1211/16/14)

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, 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 Marine Products Export Development Authority, Kochi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1212/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE

(SHRI JAYANT SINHA): I beg to lay on the Table: -

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Article 151(1) of the Constitution: -

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Railways) (No. 23 of 2014)- Performance Audit of Environment Management in

Workshops, Sheds and Production Units of Indian Railways for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1213/16/14)

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Civil) (Autonomous Bodies) (No. 30 of 2014)-Performance Audit of Employees' State Insurance Corporation, Ministry of Labour and Employment, for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1214/16/14)

(iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Railways) (No. 28 of 2014)-Performance Audit of Hospital Management in Indian Railways for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1215/16/14)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Public Finance and

Policy, 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 Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1216/16/14)

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944: -

- (i) G.S.R.791(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th November, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Central Excise dated 17th March, 2012.
- (ii) G.S.R.795(E) published in Gazette of India dated 12th November, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the

Notification No. 12/2012-Central Excise dated 17th March,
2012.

(iii) G.S.R.836(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st November, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum exempting Central Excise duty leviable on drugs, diagnostics and medical products required for the Intensified Malaria Control Project-Phase II funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, subject to certain conditions, valid upto 30th September, 2015.

(iv) The CENVAT Credit (Eighth Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R.619(E) in Gazette of India dated 27th August, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1217/16/14)

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962: -

(i) G.S.R.792(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th November, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-Customs dated 17th March, 2012.

(ii) G.S.R.833(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st November, 2014, seeking to exempt basic Customs Duty as well as additional duty of customs leviable on drugs, diagnostics and medical products required for the Intensified Malaria Control Project-Phase II funded by the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria, subject to certain conditions, valid upto 30th September, 2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1218/16/14)

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, Section 38 of the Central Excise Act, 1944 and Section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:

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(i) The Customs, Central Excise Duties and Service Tax Drawback (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R.813(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th November, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(ii) G.S.R.814(E) published in Gazette of India dated 17th November, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum notifying the All Industry Rates of Duty Drawback with effect from 22.11.2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1219/16/14)

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Goods and Services Tax Network, 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 Goods and Services Tax Network, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1220/16/14)

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975: -

(i) G.S.R.834(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st November, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of ‘Diclofenac Sodium’, originating in, or exported from the People’s Republic of China for a period of five years, pursuant to the final findings in sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(ii) G.S.R.835(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st November, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Digital Versatile Discs-Recordable, originating in, or exported from the People’s Republic of China, Hong Kong and Chinese Taipei for a period of five years, pursuant to the final findings in sunset review investigations conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied Duties.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1221/16/14)

(8) A copy of the 23rd Progress Report (Hindi and English versions) on the Action Taken pursuant to the Recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on Stock Market Scam and matters relating thereto –December, 2014.

12.12.2014

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(Placed in Library, See No. LT 1222/16/14)

12.04 hrs

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

Nominations to Panel of Chairpersons

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House that under Rule 9 (1) of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha, I have nominated Shri K.H. Muniyappa and Dr. P. Venugopal, MPs as Members on the panel of Chairpersons, Lok Sabha in place of Prof. K.V. Thomas and the vacancy caused on appointment of Dr. M. Thambidurai as Deputy Speaker respectively.

12.05 hrs.

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM
AND CULTURE**

214th to 216th Reports

SHRI RAJESH PANDEY (KUSHINAGAR): I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture: -

- (1) The Two Hundred Fourteenth Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Two Hundred First Report on Functioning of National Akademies and other Cultural Institutions - Issues and Challenges.
- (2) The Two Hundred Fifteenth Report on the Action taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the Committee contained in its Two Hundred Third Report on Privatization of Services at Airports.
- (3) The Two Hundred Sixteenth Report on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations of the

Committee contained in its Two Hundred Eleventh Report on Upkeep of various Monuments in Delhi, National Museum and other important issues pertaining to the Ministry of Culture.

12.05 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

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): With your permission, Madam, I rise to announce the Government Business for the remaining part of the current Session will consist of: -

1. Consideration of any item of Government Business carried over from today's Order paper.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills: -
 - (a) The Public Premises (Eviction of Unauthorised Occupants) Amendment Bill, 2014.
 - (b) The National Capital Territory of Delhi Laws (Special Provisions) Amendment Bill, 2014.
 - (c) The Companies (Amendment) Bill, 2014.
 - (d) The Regional Rural Bank (Amendment) Bill, 2014.
 - (e) The Lokpal and Lokayuktas (Amendment) Bill, 2014.
 - (f) The Warehousing Corporations (Amendment) Bill, 2014.

1. Consideration and passing of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2008, as reported by the Select Committee of Rajya Sabha and after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.
2. Consideration and passing of Anti Hijacking (Amendment) Bill, 2014, after it is passed by Rajya Sabha.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Madam Speaker, the following Subjects be added in the agenda for the next week's Business of the Lok Sabha.: -

1. Provision of five tube wells in each panchayat under my Parliamentary Constituency, Nalanda, for irrigation purposes.
2. Grant of old-age pension to every senior citizen, laborer, and farmer above the age of 60 years across the country.

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Madam, I would request to include the following subjects in the agenda for the next week's Business of the Lok Sabha.

1. Decline in price of natural rubber due to import of rubber from abroad.
2. Fall in price of crude oil in international market and the price of petroleum products in the domestic market.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (HATKANANGALE): Madam Speaker, across India, the price of milk powder has fallen significantly, and factories producing milk powder, as well as urban institutions, have

stopped purchasing milk. As a result, there is an excess production of milk in the market. In Maharashtra alone, about 3 million liters of milk are in surplus daily. Similar situations have arisen in Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, and Haryana. Therefore, it is necessary for the Union Government to immediately decide to provide subsidies for milk powder production and to incentivize production for the next two months. The livelihoods of marginal farmers, landless farmers, and laborers across the country depend on milk production. To support them, an urgent decision on granting subsidies is required. I would like to request that this issue be included in the agenda for the upcoming week of the House.

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would request to include the following subjects in the agenda for the next week's Business of the Lok Sabha: -

1. Regarding need to set up National Health Commission to provide full cost of treatment to persons who are unable to get their treatment financially for free treatment of various serious diseases as grant.
2. Maize is produced in large quantities in Bhagalpur, but food processing of maize is not done at the local level. Therefore,

there is a need to set up food processing industries for maize in Bhagalpur so that farmers can get proper benefits as per the cost incurred in the production of maize.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Madam Speaker, the following subjects to be added in the agenda for next week's Business of the Lok Sabha.

1. The right to health is regarding free treatment of disease like infection to the common poor, forced people under privacy and strict law rules to stop economic physical exploitation by the doctor.

2. With regard to strict law rules being framed for making higher and technical education free for poor students under the right to education.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Hon. Speaker Madam, the following subjects to be added in the agenda for next week's Business of the Lok Sabha: -

1. In light of the Private Member's Resolution passed unanimously by the Twelfth Lok Sabha in 2003 for the protection of cows and cow progeny, the Government should

immediately introduce a Bill in Parliament to ensure the preservation and protection of cow and its progeny.

2. Farmers in my Parliamentary Constituency of Damoh are facing a grave crisis due to the failure of four consecutive crops, particularly in Tendukheda, Jagera and Damoh Tehsils. I urge that necessary provisions be made under the Bundelkhand Package to provide relief and protection to these distressed farmers.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Madam, the following subjects to be included in the Agenda for the next week:

1. Regarding formulation of strict legal provisions to ensure the immediate appointment of Ph.D. and NET-qualified candidates in the vacant posts of UGC-funded and Central Universities.
2. Regarding the formulation of a strong and comprehensive Agrarian Economic Policy to prevent farmers' suicides across the country, the primary cause of which is financial distress.

HON. SPEAKER: You have given notice for only one subject. There is only one matter here, related to Central Universities.

Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Madam Speaker, I would like to have the following subjects in the Agenda included in the Business of the Lok Sabha. Due to the existence of a dual education system in the country, children from poor families are being deprived of quality education. As a result, these children lag behind in all competitive examinations, leading to an atmosphere of depression among them. I therefore urge that, with a view to providing high-quality education to the children of the poor, particularly those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, national-level training institutions be established.

My second subject pertains to the Ministry of Women and Child Development. I would like to request that matters related to schemes for developing leadership skills among women be included in the agenda of Parliament. Although women constitute nearly fifty percent of the country's population. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: That will do. Your subject has been noted. You need not elaborate; only the subject is required to be mentioned. It will be taken up. Please sit down.

SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA (JAIPUR CITY): Madam Speaker, I propose that the following subjects be included in the Business for the coming week:

1. The Union Government should approve and expedite the electrification work of the Jaipur–Sawai Madhopur railway line.
2. The number of railway stations in Jaipur is very limited; therefore, it should be increased.

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Madam, I would like to request that the following subjects of public importance be included in the Business for the coming week and taken up for discussion: -

1. The holy Mandakini River, which originates from the prominent pilgrimage site of Chitrakoot and is revered as highly as the Ganga, is facing severe pollution. Due to drought, its water level has also significantly decreased. I urge that the Government include it under the Namami Gange Programme and prepare a comprehensive plan to restore its water quality and increase its water level.

2. The major pilgrimage and tourist site of Chitrakoot Dham, the birthplace of Goswami Tulsidas at Rajapur, the land of brave Rani Durgavati at Kalinjar Fort, and the site of the colossal statue of Adi Shankaracharya at Madfa Fort should be prominently featured on the national and international tourism map. A comprehensive development plan for these sites should be formulated and implemented.

12.13 hrs

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

Declaration of 21st June as International Day of Yoga by United Nations General Assembly at their 69th Session

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, as you are all aware, on 11th December, 2014, the United Nations General Assembly at their 69th Session under the agenda of ‘Global Health and Foreign Policy’, has adopted an India led resolution proposed by the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modiji declaring 21st June as ‘International Day of Yoga’. Through this resolution, it has been acknowledged that Yoga provides a holistic approach to health and well being.

It is a matter of immense pride for all of us that this recognition has come barely in a period less than three months after the hon. Prime Minister had first mooted this idea in his Address to the UN General Assembly on 27th September, 2014. He had desired, the world leaders to adopt an International Yoga Day, stating that by changing lifestyle and creating consciousness, it can help us to deal with climate change.

This is also for the first time that such an initiative has been proposed and implemented by support of 177 countries in the UN Body in less than 90 days.

This resolution is a fitting recognition of power and benefits of Yoga and its global appeal and India's age old rich cultural heritage.

12.15 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Court of Aligarh Muslim University

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAMSHANKAR KATHERIA): On behalf of Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani, I beg to move the following -

“That in pursuance of sub-clause (xxiv) of clause 1 and clause 2 of Statute 14 of the Statutes of Aligarh Muslim University, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, six Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University, subject to the other provisions of the said Statutes.”

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of sub-clause (xxiv) of clause 1 and clause 2 of Statute 14 of the Statutes of Aligarh Muslim University, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, six Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Court of the Aligarh Muslim University, subject to the other provisions of the said Statutes.”

The motion was adopted.

12.16 hrs

COMPANIES (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam Speaker, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Companies Act, 2013.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Companies Act, 2013.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.2014

12.17 hrs.

**STATUTORY RESOLUTION RE: DISAPPROVAL OF COAL
MINES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) ORDINANCE, 2014**

AND

COAL MINES (SPECIAL PROVISIONS) BILL, 2014—Contd.

HON. SPEAKER: Now the House will take up items 12 and 13. The Zero Hour will be taken up in the evening; it will not be held at this moment, so, we will go to items 12 and 13—Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia.

12.17 hours

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014 that has been introduced.

Madam Speaker, the Supreme Court had, on 24th September of this year, quashed the mining licences of 204 captive coal blocks with the proclamation that they had been illegally and arbitrarily allotted over the last two decades by successive Governments. Now the power for granting captive coal blocks, Madam Speaker, is enshrined in Section 3(3)(a) of the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act. According to

the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act, the captive coal blocks can only be given to two types of entities, (a) either Union Government Undertakings or Corporations that are owned by the Government of India, or (b) companies that have end use plants in iron, steel, power or cement. So, first, what is very clear from the Coal Mines (Nationalization) Act is that no private sector joint venture company without a specific end use can be allotted a captive coal block. And, second, no State Government company that does not have a specific end use can be allotted a coal block under the captive regime.

Now the current situation is that out of the 204 coal blocks, 37 are ready for production and five will be, very shortly, ready for production, that is, about 42 are ready. What has the Government's response to the Supreme Court order? They have said that they have reacted with great alacrity and come out with an Ordinance so that there is no disruption to coal production and to the economic development of the country. Madam Speaker, these 204 coal blocks are divided into three schedules. Schedule-1 includes all the 204; Schedule-2 is a sub-sect of Schedule-1 which includes the 42 coal blocks that are ready for production; and Schedule-3 includes 32 coal blocks that are determined only specifically for specific end use plants.

A key feature in this Bill is that from now on coal blocks will be auctioned rather than allotted. Secondly, Government companies can be given an allotment without an auction. But the two changes that are being contemplated are (1) that the State Government entities and joint venture entities between corporations can also be allotted blocks, that means, joint venture entities between Government and private sector can be allotted blocks and (2) the requirement of being an end user has been removed. These are the two new dimensions of the Coal Act. I will deal with these two dimensions separately. But I have seven issues which I would like to pose in front of the Minister, through you, and to the Government and would respectfully require a response on these seven issues.

The first issue has to do with the current coal crisis in the country. India has coal reserves of close to 293 Billion tonnes. Out of that the recoverable reserves are only about 18 Billion tonnes. We are today importing coal of 160 million tonnes, which will probably go up to 240 million tonnes by 2016. Today foreign exchange outgo is of about 16 Billion dollars.

Today our power needs are 250 GW. That in the next ten years by 2022 will go to 400 GW. Power demand by 2032 will go to 800 GW. Of this power requirement 60 per cent has to come from thermal,

which means 150 GW today, 240 GW by 2022 and close to 480 GW by 2032. How are we going to meet this gap in demand? This means that roughly 800 million tonnes of coal capacity is required today and about 1.3 Billion by 2022.

Coal production today, Madam Speaker, has increased in the last 10 to 15 years only at a very low compounded annual growth rate of one and a half to two per cent per annum. The target for the Government, as has been specified, is to reach one Billion tonnes of coal production by 2019. My question was how this was going to be achieved. The Minister in his reply to my question in Parliament last week, very clearly outlined the three routes by which an additional 500 million tonnes of coal production will come into place. I would like to rebut all of those three assumptions through three points that I would like to succinctly make.

The first, he said very articulately that 200 million tonnes will come of excess production through this first round of auction. This first round of production includes 74 mines – Scheduled II and Scheduled III. Ninety million tonnes is ready for production. For 120 million tonnes there is no scope of production starting from tomorrow. In any case if production starts, the ramp up to a steady state of 210

million tonnes will take seven to eight years for every single mine. So, that is not going to bear fruit.

His second assumption was that an additional 200 million tonnes of production will come into place through efficiency gains of Coal India. My question on that issue is that when Coal India's production has grown itself, which is 460 million tonnes today out of 560 million tonnes of total coal production in the country, only at roughly of one and a half per cent to two per cent per year, if you are going to produce an additional 200 million tonnes, CIL will have to increase its production rate by 400 per cent to a compounded annual growth rate of close to 8 per cent as opposed to 2 per cent this year. How is that going to be possible is a question that the Minister must answer this House.

The third assumption he made was that 100 million tonnes will come from opening up of the sector. Even if you open up the sector, a hundred million tonnes of coal capacity is not going to be possible before 2019. Gestation period of coal mines is close to about seven to eight years. You have to take environment clearances; you have to take land clearances and that certainly is not going to be possible. Therefore, this Government must realize that we cannot build castles in the air without our feet being firmly planted on the ground.

There are two types of governments that this country can get. One, that undercommits and overdelivers and the other, that overcommits but underdelivers. Through you, Madam Speaker, I would like to caution this Government as to what kind of Government would they like to be remembered as, one, that overcommits and underdelivers or, one, that undercommits but overdelivers.

My second issue is to do directly with Coal India. 'The elephant in the coal mine needs reform' as one of the prolific writers in one of the articles has said a couple of weeks ago.

This Bill talks about Coal India also being allotted blocks. Now, looking at the inefficiency of production of Coal India, are you going to allot blocks to them without expecting productivity returns? Coal India today produces 80 per cent of India's capacity of coal. The productivity in the coal sector is judged by output per man-shift. If you look at the open cast mines, Coal India's output per man-shift is close to eleven and a half tonnes, whereas Government companies in Australia produce close to 75 tonnes.

Similar is the case of underground mines. So, the key issue is to boost CIL's productivity, and that can only be done if we have a production roadmap and if we monitor efficiency, which is the need of the hour.

The second issue is that we must restructure CIL. We must make sure that their smaller subsidiaries compete with the parent subsidiary, and that restructuring is a need of the hour.

Finally, on the issue of CIL, the Government is thinking of doing a disinvestment of the company. The Government wants to go ahead on an embarkation of production roadmap and all of this without having a CMD in place in CIL for the last seven months. Since May of this year there is no CMD in CIL. The Minister has tried very hard. He has put out an advertisement in the Press for Rs. 1 ½ crore to attract people from the private sector, but there has been no response and you are thinking of going for a disinvestment of a company in the public market without having a CMD in place. What kind of valuation will you get for that company? I think that you must put in place a CMD as soon as possible so that the importance of CIL -- from an efficiency point of view -- also gets put in place.

The third issue that I have with regard to this Bill is the changes that are being contemplated in The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Act and The MMDR Act. The reason for this Bill is to be able to auction the national blocks. The changes that are proposed are removal of end-user requirement, and allowing Central and State Governments to form JVs within them and get blocks allotted. Now,

both of these reasons were the reasons for which the Supreme Court cancelled the blocks allotted. It makes a mockery of the Supreme Court order and in effect this Bill seeks not only to auction these coal mines, but also seeks to amend The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Act, 1976 and The MMDR Act, 1957 without a full-fledged debate on the floor of this House. If you are intending to auction the 74 blocks of Schedule 2 and Schedule 3, you do not need these amendments in The Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Amendment Act and The MMDR Act. Therefore, I would urge this Government that if you are thinking of privatisation of the coal area and you want to create commercial gains and private profiteering in this sector, then that is not going to be in the national interest over a long-term.

I would also like to respectfully ask the Minister that under the new norms it is not clear whether companies bidding under coal or cement and steel can use this coal for their own captive power facility or not. This point must be elucidated on.

The fourth area is the issue of coal block swapping. We all understand economics. Efficiency gains through lower transport cost are very very important. But please understand that through this caveat you are allowing two companies to sell and purchase coal with each other. Therefore, there could be difference in grades; in volume

requirements; and it is not clear if only equal volumes of coal will be allowed to be swapped between two companies or are the two parties going to be allowed to mutually negotiate compensation to adjust for grades and swapping of different quantity of coal. This point must be clarified.

Chapter V Section 21 also of your Bill states that certain arrangements with other successful bidders can lead to selling of coal in open market for profit. This must be amended. There is no reason for this clause.

The fifth issue is to do with the prevention of oligopolies. The previous coal policy, which has been followed by successive Governments -- on that side; on this side; and on every side -- has concentrated ownership of coal reserves in a few business groups. The top 10 allottees bagged close to 22 per cent of the reserves. It has also been noted that this Government might introduce certain other filters during the auctions, which will further concentrate ownership in a few hands.

The rules restrict the ownership of coal blocks to a certain group. But we all know that companies form different joint ventures; company forms different subsidiaries, and under the garb of joint ventures and subsidiaries try to grab many more of the blocks.

My question to the Minister is, what are the policies that you are thinking of in this Bill because it is unclear of how to plug this loophole?

The sixth issue is the effect on the power sector because the power sector takes 80 per cent of the coal of this country. The Coal Secretary himself on record has said that out of the Schedule II blocks, which are 42, there are not many at all that have been allocated for the power sector. How can we ensure that sufficient blocks will be there for power and there will be no disruption to the power sector?

The economics of each coal block is very, very different. The NPV analysis is very, very different. The distance from the power plant differs. Therefore, you will have many of these power companies that will have to go back and renegotiate tariffs with their State Discoms. Would it not be better, and this is my suggestion that in a regulated sector like power where the end product is regulated, if a lot of these mines were handed over to a PSU? The PSU then does an MDO to be able to extract coal on a cost-plus basis and is given back to that PSU, and then that coal is sold at CIL rates to the power companies thereby making sure that the power sector gets the lowest tariff for the end consumer. If this is not done, I am apprehensive that when companies will bid for captive use, they will get a nod for

commercial mining which will follow later, and it will only result in more crony capitalism going forward.

The seventh issue has to do with many unresolved factors in this Bill. The first, it is not clear in this Bill whether there will be any restriction on sale or transferring of assets of the acquired coal block by the winning bidder in the future. If the Government puts in this enabling provision and allows coal block sale in the future, then you could see companies bidding today and selling the assets in the future when commercial mining is allowed to make supernormal profits.

The second issue is that it is very clearly articulated in the Bill that the block will vest with the bidder only after the land issues are resolved. This seems to me another instance of putting the cart before the horse. There is a wonderful opportunity here to recast the coal sector. We must make sure that all permissions are vested in every block – environment permissions, land permissions, and every single permission must be vested in every block before the auction takes place. Otherwise, like in the past, all your bidders, whether Government companies or end use plants, will be running around for the next seven years trying to get land permission and environment permission before starting production in their coal blocks.

The third has to do with the timeline that has been talked about by the Ministry. The pricing was supposed to be completed by the 5th of December; the RFP (Request for Proposals) was supposed to be out by the 8th of December; and the sale was supposed to start by the 9th of December. We are already today on the 12th of December and we have no idea as to what the progress is with regard to this timeline. Therefore, we would request the Minister to elucidate on that front as well.

Finally, there are no details about the auction as well. Members in this House are unaware which blocks are going to be put up for auction, how many blocks will be put up for auction, how many blocks are going to be allotted to Government companies, and how many blocks are going to be allotted to State Government companies. We would like to be enlightened by the Minister on that issue as well.

In conclusion, I would like to say that it is necessary, that an amendment is required in the coal sector. But it must meet four objectives – objective No. 1, we must reduce the coal deficit; objective No. 2, we must make the mining process much more scientific and cost efficient; objective No. 3, we must make sure that the input prices are the lowest for the regulated sectors. We must make sure that there is not a cascading effect on the end consumers, on the poor of this

country. Poor people must get electricity prices at the lowest possible rate so that they can prosper in our country.

Finally also, we must talk about improving the standards for the workers in our coal mines. There is not a single line in this Bill about the workers of our coal mines. Their blood, their toil, their sweat takes out this black gold with which our country is progressing economically. But there is not a single line in this Bill about thousands and lakhs of our coal workers in our coal mines and their development and their progress.

So, I would like to say that in this coal policy, it is very clear that we must have one policy for the regulated sector and another policy for the unregulated sector. For the regulated sector, we must set a ceiling price with a reverse auction. For the unregulated sector, it must be a full-fledged auction with the revenue maximising auction process. According to me, there is no reason even to give Government Companies blocks on allotment which do not have specific end-user requirements.

Therefore, at this point of time, Madam Speaker, there should be no amendments to the Coal Mine Nationalisation Act, there should be no amendments to the MMDR Act because the auction allotment of Schedules II and III blocks can proceed without any amendments to

both the Acts. The amendment, according to me, should be acceptable for the inclusion of State Government companies, should be acceptable for joint ventures between two Government Companies but certainly is not acceptable for the removal of end-user requirement and for the inclusion of joint ventures of Private Companies that will lead to profiteering and privatisation of the Coal Sector.

This Bill, according to us, must be sent to the Standing Committee for their opinion/views before it is passed in this House.

Madam Speaker, it has always been the policy with regard to any Bill. It must go to the related Standing Committee before it is brought to the House for passing.

So, at the end, Madam Speaker, this Bill needs to pay respect also to the Supreme Court Order, not only to the Legislature. I cannot see how we are going to reach a capacity of one Billion tonnes per annum by 2019. It is very clear that we must set up separate markets, build capacity in Government to make sure that they contract, regulate and supervise the coal. It must be a well-thought out process and not a simple leap of faith as thought of in this Bill.

SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN (CUDDALORE): Madam Speaker, I thank the Chair for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important Bill which seeks to protect the national interest in utilizing coal resources. I am a humble soldier of AIADMK Party led by our beloved leader, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, who has taken keen interest to protect the welfare of the workers in the Nevyeli Coal Mines in Tamil Nadu, making it clear that the workforce is the more important resource of the country.

This Bill is aimed at saving a situation that has arisen due to the directions of the Supreme Court that had found allocation of coal blocks from 1993 to be arbitrary and illegal in many cases. It would not be out of place to point out here the largest scam, the coalgate scam, which again drew the attention of the hon. Supreme Court like 2G Scam. Here also, some political figures were involved. As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned, a former Union Minister belongs to DMK Party is found to be involved in the arbitrary allocation of coal mines. As a joint venture with a company, this Minister got allotted coal block and sold it away to another firm making a big money. The hon. Supreme Court has also condemned this kind of corrupt practices. That is why, the hon. Supreme court cancelled the allocation of 204 coal blocks. Here, I would like to urge upon the Government to plead

for restoring the allocation made to public sector undertakings of the State Governments like Tamil Nadu Electricity Board.

Both our natural resources and our workforce must get adequate protection from the fallout of the closure of some mines in the light of the Supreme Court's Order. So, the Government had to make some interim arrangements to keep the production going on. An Ordinance was passed in this regard.

Now hon. Coal Minister, Shri Piyush Goyal, has introduced the Bill that seeks to replace the Ordinance. He explained that the Government is keen to overcome the challenges arising out of the cancellation of allocation. He stated that the disruption in the employment opportunities created by the coal mining industries must be attended to. I welcome that part of the observation of the Minister that workers' interest will be taken care of. This must be followed all over the country in every mine, be it in the public sector or in the private sector.

The Supreme Court has observed that the natural resources are the public property and must be utilised rationally. Mining activities especially in the coal sector must be proportionate to the coal requirements of various industrial sectors like power generation, steel and cement production. With the passing of the Bill, the Union

Government will be granting explorative permit, perspective licence or mining lease in respect of any area containing coal or lignite. Coordinated and scientific development and utilisation of resources consistent with the growing requirements of the country will rationalise coal and lignite mines and prescribe the details of mines and other conditions. The Bill becomes necessary to overcome the legal hurdles that may crop up later after the expiry of lease period. The Bill proposes to give permits to a Government company or corporation or a joint venture company to carry on coal mining operations in India.

At this point of time, I would like to lay stress that the Government must ensure that either the Union Government or State Governments are the party in such joint venture companies when private players are also allowed to apply for allocation of coal mines.

Either the Union Government or the State Government must have a hand in the operation of coal mines. The shares of public sector undertakings especially the coal units profitably performing as Navaratna companies must not be sold to private players. That is why during the previous regime at the Centre led by the Congress Party, the shares of profit-making Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) were about to be sold to private people. Many attempts were made by the

previous Government to sell the shares to private companies which may affect the interests of workers.

Our beloved leader, Makkal Mudhalvar, Puratchi Thalaivi, Amma then positively intervened. In order to protect the interests of the working class, our beloved and kind-hearted leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma made the Centre to yield to and to sell five per cent of the total shares which are about to be shed by the Union Government then. The Government of Tamil Nadu led by our dynamic leader Amma purchased those five per cent of shares thereby claiming a stake in the efficient running of NLC. I would like to say in Tamil that *Suyanalahadhigalidamirundhu NLCyai kappatriyavar Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*. That means, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has saved the NLC from selfish people.

At this point of time, I urge upon the Centre, especially the Ministry of Coal, to go in for compensatory measures to benefit the local population in areas where coal mining activities go on. NLC is in my Constituency Cuddalore. In Cuddalore and its surrounding areas the water table has drastically fallen down giving rise to acute drinking water crisis. Since this had occurred due to the extensive mining activity carried out by NLC, this profit-making public sector company itself must come forward on its own to make efforts to

expand water resources in these areas. If need be, necessary funds may be set apart. People whose lands have been acquired for mining purposes by NLC have to be duly compensated with alternative sites and employment opportunities. Suitable compensation may be paid without undue delay.

I urge upon the Coal Minister to see that the contract labourers who are working with the NLC for a number of years have job security and their just demands must meet with justice at the hands of the Union Government.

I urge upon the Government to be careful in dealing with natural resources. They should not needlessly fall into the hands of private players.

SHRI KALYAN BANERJEE (SREERAMPUR): Today, we are discussing about the Coal Mines Special Provisions Bill 2014. This is going to be legislated because of the order of the hon. Supreme Court on 25th of August, 2014 whereby the hon. Supreme Court quashed allotment of all coal blocks because the Screening Committee from 1993 to 2009 allotted coal blocks in an arbitrary manner. Sir, I was the Chairman of the coal related Standing Committee in the 15th Lok Sabha and I remember some of the Members of that Committee are also here in this Lok Sabha. That Committee, at least one and a half year before the delivery of this judgment, had said before the hon. Supreme Court that all allotments from 1993 to 2009 were illegal and arbitrary. The Committee also made recommendation that so far the mines where coal extractions have not yet been started, that coal blocks should be cancelled and immediately a policy should be formulated by the Government as regards distribution of the coal blocks. Unfortunately, the then Government did not adhere to such recommendation and naturally the judgment of the hon. Supreme Court came on 25th August 2014.

Sir, we were all the time in favour of distribution of State largesse on a transparent system and no doubt auction is one of the transparent system. But in 2G scam, when it came before the hon. Supreme Court,

the Supreme Court said that auction is not the only criteria for distribution of natural resources. Why I am saying this is because today we are mostly concerned about the power sector. Power sector consumes 80 per cent of the coal for supply of energy and we get the electricity all over the country from there. Now, the Government should have formulated a policy, even without going into the auction, for distribution of coal to the core sectors, namely power, steel, cement etc.

However, the Government has chosen to go for auction for all the sectors; auction is the most transparent system and I fully support this. But the object of the Act is to keep supply to the core sectors which are said to be the specified end-use under section 3 (v). I do not find that really under the scheme of this Bill, these sectors are benefitted. Micro and mini are there; micro is specified end-use, but if I go for mini, like cement, electricity, washing of coal, etc. they are no clear policies laid down, except in section 5. I will come to section 5 later. Section 4 is a general section – whoever comes for action, if he bids and successful in the auction, then he will get it.

Now, the question is how a cement industry can compete with a power industry when it comes under section 4? How can a cement industry compete with an iron industry under section 4, leave alone

section 5? If I take section 5, through you, I want to place before the Government that section 5 gives discretionary power and section 4 gives mandatory power. So, a power industry will get coal supply solely on the basis of discretion of the Union Government. Only if the Union Government exercises its discretion, it will get it, and not as a matter of right the core industries will get coal automatically. So, this is my first objection. Why am I objecting to it? Where are you ensuring supply of coal to all the power industries? That is the most predominant question which the country is passing through today. How will the power industry get coal? Where is the scheme of the Act, which ensures supply of coal to all the power industries for generation of power, that has not been specified? That is my first objection. Why is it so? If electricity is not there, then everybody has to suffer. Where is the scheme of the Act? I could not understand that you are having a PSU like steel industry like SAIL. Where have you ensured that your PSUs will get supply of coal without any hindrance, without depending upon anybody? Where is that?

The Central PSUs like SAIL have to stand like all other private steel industries. Why are you equating the CPSUs with the private ones? After all, it is a nationalized company, a Government company.

They must get priority; they must get privilege in supply of coal. That is my second objection. Why are you not doing it?

Our beloved late Prime Minister, Shrimati Indira Gandhi nationalized coal. That is how, coal has come here. From 1972 to 2014, for decades after decades, after putting hard labour, the coal miners today have built up the coal industries. There may be some stray incidents of some faults. But I must say that the Coal India and its subsidiaries have delivered good result in the country itself. They have built it; they have run the country for long years. Why are you going in for privatization? This is your company. Why are you not giving coal to the Coal India and its subsidiaries? It is a Union Government company. You may formulate a policy. The Supreme Court has not said that in future all coal blocks will have to be allocated through auction. Why have you not formulated a policy? Why are you not strengthening the Coal India and its subsidiaries? Why are you not giving coal blocks to the Coal India and its subsidiaries? You should formulate a policy to supply coal to the core companies from where others can get their supply. There is the uncertainty of getting coal for the iron and steel company, power and cement industry. This is the grave concern so far as my Party is concerned.

I was talking to the Minister of coal just a few minutes back. He asked me as to why we are opposing it as our State will get the money. I may tell the hon. Minister through you, Sir, that mines are the properties of the States. So far as coal is concerned, this Parliament is enacting the law which gives power to the Union Government otherwise mines are the properties of the States. You are not giving any charity. I would like to remind the hon. Minister that he is not giving any charity to the State Government. He is rather making money from the State Governments' property and is trying to be benevolent to the State Governments.

The Centre should create a positive situation by ensuring uninterrupted supply of coal which will instil confidence in the core industries. This Government has no scheme of supplying uninterrupted coal. This confidence must be there. Today, all the industrialists of the core industries are thinking whether they will get the coal or not. This confidence is lacking because of the policies of the Government. The Government has to ensure that the Indian core industries get the coal. You cannot gain anything from FDI. This will have a disastrous impact in future. You may get some gains from some industrialists but this will be at the cost of the poor people of this country. FDI will bring disastrous effects in our country.

Why did you not consult associations like CII, FICCI or Bengal Chamber of Commerce, Kolkata Chamber of Commerce, Bihar Chamber of Commerce, UP Chamber of Commerce and Odisha Chamber of Commerce? I remember when the Indian Mines and Minerals Bill came before the House, it was sent to the Standing Committee which considered it for long one year. We, in the Committee, gave a chance of hearing to everyone. You are bringing such a big legislation without consulting those who will be the real sufferers. The attempts made through this legislation will destroy our economy.

You are only interested in FDI. You do not want to protect the interest of our Indian industrialists. The attempt to bring FDI in all spheres of life is having disastrous effect in our country. You do not have any scheme to monitor supply of coal. You have brought the legislation. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, where is the scheme or provision to monitor coal supply. I must thank Shri Scindia who has also made this point. If the existing companies do not get coal where is the scope to monitor it? Why are you not giving coal blocks to Coal India and its subsidiaries? I have already said that the Supreme Court did not say that all coal blocks should be allocated by auction. It is the Government's wisdom.

13.00 hrs.

I appreciate that but why only auction? You could have framed a policy, at least, for the coal-based companies for giving coal through the Union Government Companies. If it had been done, it would have ensured coal to them.

There is no security or facility for the workers in this entire Act. It does not speak anything about the workers. The owners mint money at the cost of poor labourers. What is their security in this Act?

The Coal India and other industries are having JBCCI (Joint Bipartite Committee). They entered into an agreement which speaks about the conditions of service and improvement in service of all the coal workers. What is your intention about this? Will you try to bring all the workers of coal blocks which will be allotted to other industries under JBCCI? Will you extend the benefit of JBCCI to those workers also? Will you kindly tell us what will be their fate? Are they going to be governed only by the State laws?

Then, within the specified end-use, another industry should have been included. I would request the Minister to kindly include gas sector also. As regards production of gas through coal, in other countries like Australia, gas is one of the products which is being

produced through coal. You kindly include it and also give some concession to such industries.

So far as monetary benefit is concerned, I have already said that the Union Government is not doing any charity. At the end, I would say that unless the core industries are secured, this legislation cannot get its life in future days. One day, it would create suspicion among all the industrialists of our country.

With this, I would make a request that this Bill should be referred to the Standing Committee. It is a very important Bill and it needs a thorough discussion.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, there would not be any lunch break today and we would continue this debate.

13.04 hour

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Sir, I thank you for this opportunity.

As you are aware, I come from the State of Odisha and this State alone holds 26 per cent of the total coal reserves of the subcontinent of India.

At the outset, I would like to start by quoting the former Comptroller and Auditor General of India, Shri Vinod Rai, from his book *Not Just an Accountant* page 157 wherein, this very able and honest executive has written a very interesting line:

“The coal mining saga is a remarkable case study of people in power who, when provided the mantle to lead, faltered the moment a challenge arose.”

This itself is self-explanatory. I would assume that it is not speaking about the past, about what dirty linen has been washed in public in recent years and about what these people did. It just does not apply to the UPA. It could very well apply to the NDA also if they are not careful because what the UPA did we only came to know about it during their second term. If this gentleman and an able Minister again becomes a Minister in the next term, then probably we will also hear things that will not be so savoury for all of us.

The recent controversies about the coal block allocations have been a great help in shedding light not only on the wrong doings of certain political bosses but also on very serious deficiencies that have been an integral part of this extremely important and core sector of any economy for that matter. I feel more and more convinced listening to everybody talk that the present discourse has not really tried to identify any of the fundamental challenges that the coal sector faces in India and how these challenges could be overcome. We all know that 70 per cent of our power is coal-fired and so 70 per cent of the electricity produced in this country is from coal. Coal is a natural resource which, let us not for a moment forget, belongs to the people of India collectively. The nation's natural resources should and must subscribe to the theory of public good.

Sir, I would like to rush through a few points because everybody in the House had not had lunch and I would not like to be an impediment in that. The first point is that there is an organisation called the CMPDI about which the hon. Minister would be well aware. The interesting point is that the CMPDI is our sole assessor of how much coal reserves are lying underground, whether it is surface mining or deep mining does not matter, whether it is Meghalaya or Odisha does not matter, CMPDI is the only organisation. That

organisation till today, till the moment we are discussing this Bill, has not even bothered to adopt international standards by which countries all over the world assess their coal reserves. There is this United Nations Framework Classification and CMPDI is not adopting that method to assess the coal reserves. It is funny to know that while we are being informed of what reserves a certain coal block contains, the fact is that suppose that coal block has been mined earlier and a certain portion of that block has been taken out, CMPDI does not renew and update its records. Therefore, we are going in for a bidding process or an allotment process basing on records and data of reserves provided by CMPDI which are not really updated and which are not even correct according to international standards. What we are really doing is waiving a stick in the dark not knowing what we are really dealing with. It is also an injustice towards the person who would bid and who would eventually get the block.

The second point is that there is belligerence with which a thought is being pushed forward that all the regional Parties and the regional politicians should keep quiet primarily because the proceeds of the bids will go to the State Governments. It is a very good move. I am not decrying that. I am not deriding that move.

But, Sir, the fact is that the mine in totality is huge. The bid will be for a certain amount now. They are not going in for millions of tonnes to be bid at one-go. It will be a certain percentage. Later on, it is expected or it is being told that it is not a part of this Bill. It will be an administrative order saying that the State Governments will be the beneficiaries of the accrual of all funds that will become part of the State Exchequer because the Centre will not ask for a share out of it. Therefore, the States will get a lot of money which is not true. We all know how India operates. We all know that if this Government does something and if this hon. Minister takes a decision, it is possible that, in this very Government also, another Minister who may become a Home Minister tomorrow and another Minister comes here, this thing will change. Therefore, there is no guarantee that this belligerence with which this thought is being pushed like “Shut up! Take this, it is coming your way.” is not acceptable. It is not the truth. This will only be a time bound thing and something to keep us quiet. In other words, like how we talk to kids, it is a lolly pop.

I would go one step further. I would request the Government through the hon. Minister that they should consider making this a part of the Bill, a part of the law, so that in case somebody else tries to play mischief with this aspect later on, they will have to come back to

Parliament or this House to amend the law. Then, whoever is there in the House can take a wise decision on the matter.

The third point which I would like to make is like this. Suppose a person 'X' or company 'X' was allotted land on a discretionary mode by the previous Government which we find that the Hon. Supreme Court has cancelled and has given it back to the Government saying to use their brains, be judicious, properly re-allocate through tender or bids or through a transparent process and give it to the new player.

Suppose Company 'X' had got it and now, it will go to company 'Y'. We have to take into account that company 'X' was allocated a certain piece of land which the State Government's Revenue Department had pointed out that the land was given from 'X' to 'Y' and this is the plot of land. That entity or company had bought the land and the registered sale deeds are in the name of company 'X'. Now, afresh, you are going to re-allocate those 200 and odd coal blocks to somebody else. Let us assume for a moment that it does not go back to company 'X' saying that they have a fall-out in their negotiations and that they do not manage to get what they want and so, you may not give it to 'X' and you give it to 'Y'.

Now, there is no mention of this point in the Bill. What happens to the land of which company 'X' is the legal owner? It is because the

registered deeds are in the name of company 'X'. The Bill does not address this aspect.

Acquisition was made according to the old Land Acquisition Act. Now this august House has passed a new Land Acquisition Act. If you want the land back, then you have to go according to the new Land Acquisition Act. Then the question will come up as to whether the original owner from whom you had acquired the land earlier will have a role in this or you are going to throw him to the wolves and not bother about it.

These up-for-grab mines – this is how I am trying to label them as – have been divided into three Schedules. Schedule I consists of all mines whose licences have been cancelled and Schedule II has 42 mines that are producing or were close to producing coal. Schedule III consists of mines in which the end use is already specified.

It is interesting to note the end use definitions. What is the end use definition? The first is the production of iron and steel. It is fine and accepted.

Second is regarding generation of power. That also is acceptable. Third and the fourth are very interesting. Third is regarding washing of coal obtained from a mine. What does that mean? That company 'X' takes a block, puts up a washeries where coal goes, water is

injected at high speed and all the mud is washed away and the good coal comes out. You must have seen coal washeries, Mr. Deputy-Speaker. I have so many of those washeries in my constituency. We have a block which is adjoining my constituency called Chendipadha where two State Governments, Maharashtra and Gujarat, have been allotted coal block. The company that they have registered is called Mahaguj. The coal extraction and washing for Mahaguj has been given to a not so well-known company, called Adani. So, what will happen now? You do not know Adani. We know a lot many more things. ... (*Interruptions*) Nobody knows Adani. We know only Birla and Tata. We do not know anybody else. They are out. Because it has a coal washery now, this third thing – very surreptitiously and innocuously – has been put in such a way that washery owner becomes an end user. It means, in simpler terms, when you give your shirt or trousers to your laundry man, he washes it and then he wears it. So, when you come next time to Parliament, you will see your *dhobi* walking wearing your clothes and you cannot object because he is the rightful owner because the law says that the ‘owner of a washery’ is an end user. So, somebody who washes the coal becomes the end user.

Then, there is cement, which is also acceptable. We have no problems on that.

Final 'end use' definition is again suspicious. It is said, 'any other use as specified by the Union Government'. So, what you are doing is that you are keeping a huge door open for your discretionary practices, where you will decide what will be the 'end use'. It is only for five years that they can decide. Six months have gone, so they are left with only four and half years. But this property, this wealth, etc. belongs to the nation.

So, I would suggest to the hon. Minister and the Government that they should be very clear as to what they think is the 'end use' in all its definitions. There should be no ambiguity left.

It is true that the Supreme Court judgement of canceling all coal block allocations since 1993 has hit the Government hard and we do need immediate reforms in this sector. There is no denying that factor. The question is, whether this new Bill that the Government has put forward is a long-term solution or it is just a Band Aid to tide over this particular difficulty of taking the wealth from 'X' and giving it to 'Y'. Like the earlier Textiles Bill, in this Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014 too, the Government has tried to thwart the very essence of the judgement of the hon. Supreme Court.

The recent coal scam only proves that a lot of people have been eyeing this huge wealth for their private benefit and to control the prices of this resource in the market.

I have a few questions for the Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Put the questions.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: In what manner will the coal block be allocated? Will all mines of all the three groups go on auction or will some of them be allocated by the Government? Who will they go to? In other words, the plot of this whole movie is to limit the eligibility of the bidders. So, instead of not knowing who it goes to, you limit it at this end as to who all can bid. The powers that be will certainly decide who gets the cake and sadly who eats it too. They will control which players will win the bids or allocations and corner the huge profits that will accrue.

After being allocated, what can the allottee do with it? There is a great ambiguity in this respect. Most recent developments indicate China's decade-old coal boom seems to be over. Offering new hopes for global climate protection. The hon. Minister is very well aware that the *Bhagavad Gita*, which we thought was the great scripture, could only get international recognition or could only become a superstar as a literature when our hon. Prime Minister gifted it to the hon.

President of the United States Frederick Barack Obama. Once Mr. Obama got that book, the real worth of the *Gita* was obviously known to everybody and we also decided that it should be the national scripture, it should be the national book of the country.

If that be so, we will also have to take into account that the White House under Mr. Obama has recently sent strong signals to the world that it is more committed than ever to reducing carbon emission which is a huge change in the U.S. Policy. They were also hedging about this. If that be so, will our Coal Policy not follow the example of the *Bhagavad Gita* being gifted to Mr. Obama and thereby gain international stature? Observed in this light, our coal reserves may not get time enough to be used for long in view of the fragile global environmental situation.

So, Sir, again coming back to the State issue whether the funds would go to the States, it may so happen that we will have enough coal reserves but the global pressure would be so much that the thermal power plants may not have a very long life, not even the 30 years that are being predicted now.

What is the objective of auctioning coal blocks? Sir, the questioning is continuing. This is a very basic question and people may ask about it.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There must be an end to your speech. You cannot go on continuing with this. Somewhere, you must end.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I have only a few points to make. The Government is proposing e-auction as if e-auction is the only panacea to all evils of corruption. E-auction is something which the whole country and all these ladies and gentlemen have had the great opportunity to sit here basing on one e-auction of the 2G spectrum. Let us not tom tom e-auction. It is not the panacea to all the evils. It will not clear us of corruption charges. How do we also ensure that the person who is bidding, the intentions are legitimate of that person? The companies that wish to participate in this auction will need to comply with the numerous conditions put forward by the Government. By simple logic, the eligible candidates will be far and few. That does not really sound fair. If the Government wants to privatize coal, then, why micro-manage the auction? They are getting into so many details with their micro managing the whole auction process. The goal is to privatize. But they are going about it in such a way that it will be privatized but only to those select few whom they wish to give it to.... *(Interruptions)* I will not specify who “they” mean? But it may be Delhi; it could be Jhandewalan; it could be Kolkata and it will be anywhere, it could even be Chennai. Is the

Government keeping a watch on bidding companies and their subsidiaries to ensure that oligopoly is not formed in the coal sector? The captive coal block allocation policy of the previous Government concentrated the ownership of coal reserves among a few business groups, skewing industry dynamics in their favour. Interestingly, the top 10 allottees bagged 22 per cent of national coal reserves. The Ordinance has retained that captive policy. There is no qualitative change. So, we will again go from “X” into the pockets of “Y”. It will not be for the people.

Sir, I will wind up now. In the interest of the companies whose coal blocks have been cancelled, I would say that many of them have bought land. For example, in Odisha, we have a Government organization called the Industrial Infrastructure Development Corporation of Odisha. It behaves as a middleman or as a facilitator – that is a better word – between a company wanting to operate a coal mine and the land owners. It buys the land, it gives them the demarcation, and does everything, and hands over the parcel of land. In the process, it charges 12 per cent service charges. Suppose the company loses this, the Bill does not address such problems as to who will pay that money which had been paid to an intermediary or interlocutor like IIDCO. Many companies have done this. Suppose the

Government fixes the price of Rs.10 lakh per acre; they have paid ex-gratia payment of another Rs.10 lakh. So, it comes to Rs.20 lakh per acre. That also the Bill does not address.

I would think that this Bill should not be hurried through. I would also support the hon. Minister, and if he so likes, I would like that this Bill be referred to the Standing Committee. Let us not put in any ego problem with this. It is for the nation's well-being. The Minister has all good intentions. I am sure of it. He is a young person. May God bless him! Let him please think about this; let it not be partisan. ...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KRUPAL BALAJI TUMANE (RAMTEK): Deputy Speaker
Sir, I am deeply grateful to you for allowing me to speak on this important matter. We are aware that following the coal scam, there was extensive deliberation before allocating any coal block. Following the Supreme Court's directive, the Government decided to conduct e-auctions. I am hopeful that through this Bill, coal supply across the country will commence at the earliest.

Today, Coal is of utmost importance to the nation today, as 80 Percent of coal is used for electricity generation. Without electricity production, even our grain production would be affected. Electricity in agriculture ensures water supply to the fields, which in turn supports grain cultivation. I have observed for many years that my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency, Ramtek, is situated in the coal belt, covering approximately 80 Percent of the area. Here, Western Coalfields Limited (WCL) operates, and we are well acquainted with their working procedures.

I would like to bring to the attention of the Hon. Minister that for all coal blocks, including those of CIL and its subsidiaries, land acquisition involves farmers' land, and often our farmers face

injustice during this process. This is a very significant matter and should be duly considered.

Today, we know that when coal blocks are auctioned, the Government will, rightly, give priority to public sector companies. For instance, our MSEB, that is, Maharashtra State Electricity Board, requires coal, yet it often receives it from other states like Odisha or Ranchi. Similarly, if coal is to be supplied to Madhya Pradesh, it comes from Odisha. This situation arises because these states do not possess their own coal blocks.

I urge the Government that for the coal blocks to be allocated, when considering direct allocation to individuals, priority must be given to power projects under the Union Government, such as NTPC, or State Government PSUs, which currently face severe difficulties. Due to lack of coal supply, their production is affected. Today, not only Maharashtra but several states across the country face up to 16 hours of load-shedding.

If the Government gives due consideration to this matter, the first priority should be accorded to Union Government PSUs, followed by State PSUs that are engaged in power generation across the country. Priority must be given to the power sector first, and only thereafter to the steel and cement industries. While the steel and cement sectors are

commercial enterprises, the power industry serves the public and farmers. Its contribution to the nation is of immense significance.

Sir, coal blocks and mines cause large-scale pollution, yet the Government has no concrete policy to address this issue. If one visits any Coal India mining area, it becomes evident how the local population is forced to live under harsh conditions. There is no hospital provided by the Government for their welfare. I would like to draw attention to WCL, which spans an area of 250–300 kilometres, yet WCL itself does not have a hospital. The employees, labourers, and officers working there are exposed to serious diseases such as tuberculosis. While Coal India has opened five-star hospitals in Nagpur, these facilities primarily benefit the wealthy through its subsidiaries, leaving the workers without adequate medical care. The Government must address this issue. Hospitals under WCL, ACCL, and other subsidiaries should be fully operational for everyone, from labourers to officers.

I now conclude my remarks. I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDRY): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak in this august House on the very important Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014.

I understand that over 6,185 million tonnes of hard coal is currently produced worldwide. Coal with a proven reserve of 860 Billion tonnes is mined throughout the world. There are five largest coal producing countries in the world namely, China, USA, India, Australia and South Africa.

India is the third largest producer of coal in the world. However, the country's domestic consumption is large and as a result, India imports coal to meet the needs of power companies, steel mills and cement producers. Furthermore, non-coking coal reserves make up about 85 per cent while coking coal reserves make up for the remaining 15 per cent.

Coal plays a pivotal role in the economic development of the nation. In recent years, we have witnessed significant economic growth and growing industrial development. Coal continues to play an important role in supplying energy to the power generation sector

and a large number of other industries. Over the past three decades, both coal production and consumption have increased dramatically.

Sir, I would like to fully support the Bill introduced by the hon. Minister. We have seen during the tenure of the past Government how the allocation of coal mines has led to a huge amount of corruption ultimately forcing the Supreme Court to come in and cancel the allocations. The coal scam was so serious that there were allegations of the Prime Minister's Office being involved during the past Government. That is why it is important to clean up the mess left by the previous Government.

I am happy that the present Government led by Shri Narendra Modi *ji* is going in that direction. This Bill is a bold step by the NDA Government and I, on behalf of myself, our Telugu Desam Party and our leader Shri Nara Chandra Babu Naidu, offer our support.

While we pass this Bill, I would also like to express some concerns regarding this Bill. Through this Ordinance, coal would be mined for commercial use and sold for profit. Once 130 of the mines listed in the First Schedule are allotted to companies – not into power, cement, steel or industries – with the Government retaining the captive dispensation, the risk of coal reserves concentrated among a few groups remains. The Ordinance says the Government might

introduce other filters during auctions like the quantum of investment made.

I would like to mention that the Government is expressing its intention to auction all 204 cancelled coal blocks in the immediate future; the threat of avoidable environment damage remains. According to the Coal Controller's Provisional Coal Statistics (2009-10), the peak rated capacity of all captive blocks allotted by March 2010, which should come into production by 2015, was 705.8 million metric tonnes per year.

I would also like to draw the kind attention of the august House towards the environmental pollution. India imported 110 MT of coal in 2013-14. In other words, India could end up opening many more mines than it needs. Also, the Ordinance says that companies will be allowed to supply coal from their mines to multiple end-use plants, which is likely to lead to an intensification of mining in these areas.

As I conclude, I would like to say that this Bill has brought to auction coal blocks through competitive bidding as a measure to boost production and introduce transparency in coal mining. This will also generate additional revenue to the Government, improving the economic activity in the country. The power deficit of the country would be addressed thereby lighting up the homes of millions of

Indians. I also hope that the Bill would go a long way in generating employment to the vast sections of youth in the country.

There is one 800 MW thermal plant in Vijayawada which was proposed in 2012. This plant is built with super critical technology which is highly efficient and environment friendly. Coal linkage is still awaited. I hope the Coal Minister considers this request as early as possible.

With these words, I support the Bill. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA (NIZAMABAD):

Thank you very much, Sir, for the opportunity to put forth my views on the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014.

At the outset, I would like to say that the coal sector in India, in the past few years, has been subject to various controversies and issues which raise the uneasy questions on overall governance of this sector. So, in this view, I am sure, this Bill is a welcome move. We all knew about the murkiness that had happened with the coalgate scam and it is termed as mother of all scams in India today, unfortunately, and it brought a very bad name to our country internationally.

Now, through this Coal Bill and through the intervention of the hon. Supreme Court, the Government is trying to make some corrections to the image of the country as well as to address the energy crisis of the country. But, I am really afraid, in the guise of following the Supreme Court Order and in the guise of making sure that the energy crisis in India ends, the Government is also attempting to denationalize coal. This is not only my concern; this is the concern of the country today. The labour at large, the workers in the coal mines at large are also worried about this particular factor.

Particularly, if we want to allocate the coal mines that were cancelled by the Supreme Court, we could have directly done it

without amending either the Coal Mines Act or the Mines and Minerals Development Act. We need not touch these two Acts to actually allocate whichever are cancelled by the Supreme Court. But, today the Government has come here to the Lok Sabha with huge mandate.

They do not have to do things like that. In the guise of doing something, they are trying to attempt something else. Particularly, in my area, there is Singareni coal collieries. We have 70,000 workers in the coal fields. I am very proud today that they are the most efficient workers in the entire country. Our coal output, compared to international coal output, is definitely less but in the entire country, Singareni's coal output is much better.

If we have to talk about the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973, if you would have amended that Act, the mother Act, directly, then we would have discussed about the miners' welfare and the various benefits and schemes that they should get. But now, it seems that we are only talking about these 204 mines and their allocation. Unfortunately, there is not even a single line about the miners and their welfare. I am really afraid, as a daughter of this soil and as a citizen of this country, that if we are going to privatise these mines, we have always seen that private companies weaken the unions. They

do not talk about the welfare of the workers. If we will denationalise them, then who is going to take care of the welfare of miners?

Even today, in companies like Singareni and Coal India where the OB contract is taken by the private people, they do not adhere to the Wage Board or the wages given by Coal India. We are not able to do anything to them because they have many rules and regulations. But tomorrow if we open the flood gates to denationalise coal, how are we going to face that situation? There is a lot of coal across the country especially in North India, Tamil Nadu and Telangana. Lakhs of miners are dependant on this. How are we going to take care of this? I would like to request the hon. Minister to address this issue.

I know that today our country is facing acute shortage of coal. We have an installed capacity of 250 gigawatts and we are only meeting 160 gigawatts. I understand that. We need to mine about 776 million tones of coal and we are not able to do that. I also understand that. We know that today the thermal power plants, installed in our country, are to have reserves of about 10 to 15 days. But they are not able to maintain that. They only have six days' capacity. We understand the crisis and the emergency. We want the Government to go ahead and bring reforms instead of selling Coal India. It is a profit making

company. Why do you want to disinvest that? This Bill does not talk about any of that. That is the concern and the main worry.

Sir, with the popular mandate people from Kashi to Kanyakumari had faith in Modiji. From Kashi to Kanyakumari, we have trusted him and gave him the mandate. Not only that, coal and other natural resources are not ours. There is a saying that natural resources of any country are not given to us by our parents but they are given to us by our children. We are supposed to take care of our future generations.

I would like to bring the attention of the hon. Minister to Schedule IV. It says;

"a company or a joint venture company formed by two or more companies, may carry on coal mining operations in India, in any form either for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose in accordance with the prospecting licence... "

What does this mean? Why do we have to be so open-ended? Are we opening doors for exports because coal exports, till now, were very marginal? Now, today, when we do not define as to what is the end use, as Satpathy ji was saying, tomorrow if these companies are going to start exporting, how are we going to fact that situation? Please think

about it. This is not my issue. I have coal mines in my State but I have no politics to do in this because when the iron ore was mined, you do remember the border between Andhra and Karnataka was wiped out because of some private interests. Until the hon. Supreme Court came in and banned the iron exports, our local steel industry did not have iron to get steel. Tomorrow, if you do not put a ban on export, then how are we going to face the crisis? This is a serious concern. This is a grave concern. today, whatever we do, we say [Translation] we consider America as an ideal, we consider China as an ideal nation. [English] But today, both the countries are saving their natural resources. They are importing. [Translation] considering the size of our population, we may not be able to import enough coal, nor do we have sufficient funds. However, every piece of coal that emerges from the womb of India belongs to the sons of this soil. Allowing this coal to be exported abroad [English] is not right. We will not be justifying this. [Translation] We have full faith in Prime Minister Modi. We recognise his immense courage and generous heart. Yet, when a Government with such a large heart speaks directly and transparently, it is indeed commendable... (Interruptions). We trust Modi Ji, and I would like to emphasise just one point. You are amending a Bill, but please do not amend both the base Bills together. If amendments are

necessary, they should be introduced separately, particularly the Coal Mines Nationalisation Act, as it provides an opportunity to discuss the matters concerning employees and labour. We repeat our request [English] kindly ban exports as a part of this Bill. The welfare of the workers has to be the prime concern. Kindly think about it.

I have to make one last point. [Translation] I would like to raise one point regarding our region, Singareni in Telangana. While you are prioritising allocations for Coal India [English] kindly do Consider Singareni. also allocate mines to Singareni on a priority basis.

Thank you so much. Jai Telangana.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

I am hailing from that part of the country where we do not have coal but definitely we are very much concerned about coal because coal contributes to the economy of our country and thousands of workers are associated with coal.

Sir, to raise the concern of our economy and also our workers, I would like to supplement the discussion with certain points. The previous four speakers, Shri Scindia, Shri Banerjee, Shri Satpathy and just now, my colleague, Shrimati Kavitha have made very important points. I think, the hon. Minister has definitely noted down all these points. This has facilitated me. I will not repeat those points but I will have to just mention some other points.

Let us go back to pre-nationalization of coal mines, that is, before 1973. Why was it necessitated to nationalize coal mines? It was because that before 1973, coal was extracted in different ways. The assets were not taken care of for a longer run, and very particularly, the plight of thousands of workers was treated very slavishly. In those days, other industries like power generation, steel, etc. were suffering due to the dearth of supply of coal. That is why, coal mines were

nationalized, broadly disciplined and the welfare of the workers, though not in all respects, improved through certain steps. Since then it was doing well.

Of course, there are weaknesses. Many data have been mentioned here to prove that still there is deficit for our steel, power generation, etc. The solution may be that the Coal India Limited may be restructured in such a way by inducting more technology, skill, etc. to improve the working condition of the miners but we have not seen to that extent. Rather, the plight of the workers got deteriorated.

Now, as it has been rightly said, under the guise of this Bill, actually through this PPP route and Foreign Direct Investment, scope has been given to the private players and indiscriminate looters.

Again I will like to mention that in 1999 there was an amendment for captive plants unit. Why is it? It is because we are suffering from the energy deficit and we shall have to generate more power. That is why some captive plants were given power. Simultaneously, about 246 coal blocks were allotted. If I go by the facts, what happened to that? Those who were there with the objective of indiscriminate loading have done something. But in most of the cases, the hon. Supreme Court had to intervene, as the coal scam happened. So many things have been talked about. It has been seen that in most of the

blocks which were allotted, no production has started yet and they are lying idle.

That is why, Sir, instead of strengthening the CIL, a public sector undertaking, they are thinking of denationalisation of these mines, which are our assets. We cannot be in agreement with that.

There is another very important aspect. The black gold is lying in about 32 districts of our country. It is in West Bengal, Jharkhand, Telangana, Chhattisgarh. These 32 districts are the districts, where a majority of people living is tribal community. But in this proposed Amendment, there is not a single line or a word about them. If these blocks are leased out, hundreds and thousands of families will have to be rehabilitated. What would be their fate? What kind of compensation or rehabilitation would be provided to them? Everything is absent in this Amendment Bill. Then, it would clash with the Forest Rights Act also, which was enacted by this very august House. But in this regard, this Amendment is mum.

Sir, in the year 2002, during the regime of NDA Government, Respected Atal Behari Vajpayee was the Prime Minister of India. In those days also, there was an attempt to totally privatise the coal sector. But that move was opposed by all the trade unions including the BMS, which belongs to the present Ruling Party. The BMS was

opposed to that. Though there were some manipulations going on outside, they were opposed to this Amendment that it could not be done. It is because the private players, the private companies would not take care of the welfare of workers; they would not take care of the plight of our environment and also economy. Then, hon. Atal Behari Vajpayee himself called all the five trade union leaders, held discussion at length and arrived at a decision that 'in any kind of such move for amendment or whatever, the trade unions would be brought into confidence and their concerns would be addressed.' Their concerns were addressed.

But here, in this proposed Amendment Bill, there is nothing mentioned about the trade unions and workers. There is also nothing mentioned about their grade leader, Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee as to what decision had been arrived at in 2002.

I would like to mention that in 1972, if we go by the references, when the then Coal Minister of India, Shri Kumaramangalam was there, while it was nationalised, a lot of discussion was made in this House and there, this will or wish had been expressed in this House that coal shall never be de-nationalised. It is the national property. It is the property for our generations, and this kind of assets cannot be leased out. But today, definitely, that kind of magnanimity we can

expect from our present Coal Minister also. Though not in a big way, I have heard some lectures where he was talking about so many things. I think these aspirations of our forefathers or our previous leaders should be heard.

Again, I would like to mention another thing. From the end of the trade unions, not only from the trade unions but also from the common citizens of our country, by observing or by seeing the plight of the coal-gate scam and so many other things, we cannot allow those things to be repeated again. What happened in our country? So, I would like to specifically draw the attention of the hon. Minister and the Government that if these 10 points that I am going to mention could be considered and brought into the proposed amendment, then we may have some discussion.

They are: first, to scrap the enabling clause in Ordinance No.5 of 2014 to allow commercial mining to private sector. Second, before auctioning coal blocks, Coal India Limited and its subsidiaries be given first preferential choice. Third, stop further dis-investment in Coal India Limited. Four, restore sale of coal through E-auction to generate additional funds for development. You are attempting to privatise it. Five, rationalise coal pricing mechanism linked with cost of production and associate trade unions in coal pricing. What Mr.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee assured in 2002, you follow it and follow your great leader. Six, extend benefits of NCWA to workers of captive coal mines in India. Even coal mines have to be given to the captive units. They are accruing huge profits but nothing is going for the welfare of the workers. Then, stop outsourcing contractual agency work in coal industry. Enforce SPCCIL Board's enhanced wages, perks, bonus to contract workers engaged in mining activities from 1st January, 2013. Then, lift ban on recruitment in coal industry. Even today Coal India is the largest player. It is producing almost 50 million tonnes. My figure may be wrong or right because I am not aware of it. So, it is the biggest player but by weakening the SECIL, by weakening its workforce, how can the Corporation be run? As Shri Scindia said, there is no CMD. How can this Corporation run? Then, enforce the provision of revised Land Acquisition Act, 2013 to enhance land compensation, employment of land oustees and proper R&R to PAPs. Unless this is done, it cannot be accepted.

I propose that either this Bill may be withdrawn or it may be sent to the Standing Committee. Either step may be accepted. Thank you.

14.00 hrs.

SHRI MEKAPATI RAJAMOHAN REDDY (NELLORE): Thank you hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir for giving me an opportunity to participate in the discussion on the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014.

The Bill allows the Government to take over the cancelled coal blocks. The first of blocks would be allotted to Government entities such as NTPC, State Electricity Boards and mining companies of State Governments. This would protect the interests of electricity consumers.

For private companies, the coal blocks would be put in a central pool for bidding through e-auction. The entire proceeds from the auction would go to the States where these mines are located and lakhs of labourers would get employment. Coal worth 20 Billion US Dollars, which is being imported annually, would be domestically substituted through this measure.

Estimated coal reserves in India is 300 Billion tonnes. In India, coal based power projects generate the highest energy. All other sources like wind, solar and hydro have their limitations because of low plant load factors. Coal based power projects account for 60 per

cent of the total capacity; it contributes 75 per cent of the energy generated.

Unfortunately, during the last five years, while the domestic coal production grew only at 1.5 per cent per annum, the coal based power generating capacity has increased by about 15 per cent per annum. The result is, we are increasingly dependent on import of coal. As estimated 185 million tonnes of coal has to be imported this year, if we have to meet complete gap. If we are importing a product that can be produced within the country, we are importing unemployment that is started of employment.

For example, Singareni Collieries Company Limited with an annual coal production of 50 million tonnes, provides direct employment to 70,000 persons and an indirect employment to as many people. If we are importing 185 million tonnes, it only means that we are depriving 5 lakh people of employment.

It is shocking that while India and China have the same level of proven coal reserves, India's production of coal has stagnated at 500 million tonnes per annum against China's 3500 million tonnes per annum.

At least now the Government has to urgently complete process of re-allocation of blocks and start increasing production on a war

footing. The biggest problem will be the forest and environment clearances and providing infrastructure for evacuation of coal produced. The Government should take special interest in providing inter-department coordination for the newly allotted coal blocks to start producing coal.

I suggest that the Government should revisit the report of B.K. Chaturvedi Committee, which has gone in depth on the issue of environment for coal blocks. They opined that:

“In respect of forests, what really should matter is forest cover loss due to projects as proportion of total forest cover available. For instance, all the coal reserves, particularly those classified as no-go-areas by MoEF, constitute just about 0.75 per cent of the total forest cover loss but can power about 2,00,000 MW additional power plants in the country.”

The Government may impose a tax for the loss of the forest cover and afforest 100 more degraded forests in the country besides improving the lives of tribal. So, the need of the hour is not just to allot coal blocks and leave it to the private companies to do the legwork relating to obtaining clearances. The Government has to shoulder this responsibility. Otherwise, we will be back to square one.

With these words, I conclude and support the Bill on behalf of my party, YSR Congress Party. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir I would like to make my observations very briefly. I support this Ordinance, as well as the Bill that has been introduced to replace it. There are several reasons for this support, and we must consider why the Ordinance became necessary in the first place. Many Hon. Members have raised questions regarding why the Act was enacted and why this Bill has now been introduced. Who created this necessity? Let us reflect on this for a moment. After nationalisation, a system was in place, and as many Hon. Members have pointed out, 80 percent of coal supply is used to meet the country's electricity needs. This demonstrates the immense importance of coal. If there were no regulation regarding coal, or if coal supply were to be disrupted tomorrow, the entire country would be plunged into darkness. The Government had no alternative but to issue the Ordinance immediately to ensure uninterrupted coal supply. Yet, I fail to understand why questions are still being raised about this matter. Initially, the speakers were Hon. Members of the Congress Party, some of whom have previously served as Ministers. In their speeches, they questioned how the Government would achieve its targets and how coal production could be maintained. As a student of social and

political sciences, I fail to see why we would need to incorporate such operational mechanisms into the Act itself. The system and procedures will be established. Once the auction takes place, and coal is allocated to various regions, the responsibility of extraction will lie with those who receive it. We are merely providing a framework, and even in providing this framework, the credit to us is minimal; the real credit lies with those managing the operations. Nationalisation had occurred, and the system was running, but who were the ones who disrupted and ruined that system?

Today, why did this matter reach the Supreme Court? Certain parties had become so adept that, whether by natural means or otherwise, they were not satisfied until they had fully exploited resources for their personal or other interests, disregarding the national interest. Let us consider the ten years of misgovernance. Governments existed even before that, and nationalisation had taken place long ago. Yet, why was it that during these ten years, successive scams occurred? There was hardly any sector untouched by scandal. As the saying goes here, he who handles peat is bound to dirty his hands. Even coal was not spared. Such massive fraud was committed that it became a matter of nationwide discussion. Newspapers and magazines were filled with reports on it. Ultimately, the entire matter

reached the Supreme Court, which, I am sure, acted with a heavy heart, because the question concerned the national interest. All allocations were cancelled. After the cancellation, what options remained, except for the Government to enact a well-considered law, present it here, and proceed with operations under that law? There was no alternative available to us.

I am surprised that a Hon. Member, a very senior Member, raised the question as to why consultation was not held with certain trade organisations. Hon. Members, is there anybody greater than our Parliament? Can there be a larger institution than this, where such deliberation takes place? Today, this question is before the entire House, and I am pleased that Hon. Members of the Opposition, as well as Hon. Members from other parties, have expressed their views in detail and offered suggestions. We have also had the opportunity to present our perspective. Therefore, I congratulate the Minister for taking the effort to at least chart a path for establishing a system after such thorough consideration, and for bringing this matter for discussion today. What should happen now? What ought to happen is that this Bill should be passed unanimously as an Act, the Ordinance should be approved, and after such approval, a proper system should be established in the country.

Sir, Hon. Members, I would like to say a few more words. Yes, coal is available, and it is our largest source of power. Beyond that, there are practically no alternatives. Hydroelectric sources are very limited, and other sources are also minimal. However, we must also consider that nature has provided us with other facilities. This country is vast, with enormous geographical expanse, and many resources are at our disposal. Hon. Members, is the energy of the solar any less in this country? Yet, no one has seriously considered how we can harness it. Today, there are several countries in the world that generate their electricity predominantly through solar energy. One such country produces 60 percent of its electricity from solar power. Why cannot we do the same? I urge the Minister, who has taken considerable effort and deliberation to bring this matter forward, to also consider that we should begin harnessing these alternative sources of energy for production.

Water scarcity is increasing day by day. In countries like China, they have achieved such large-scale electricity production from hydroelectric sources that today they have a surplus of power. In our case, since these resources are limited, we must turn to the other natural resources available to us.

I am an ordinary Member, but I can assure you that during these six months in government, you must have observed that there has not been even the slightest mention of corruption or misuse of any system. In these six months, we have established and implemented a system that works. Our Hon. Prime Minister has earned recognition across the world and enhanced the nation's identity through these efforts. I assure you further, Hon. Members, that you need not get entangled in these intricacies. I also understand that during debates on laws, the opposition and the Government can raise numerous technical points.

Sir, there is no constitution greater than the Constitution of India. When the Constitution of India was framed, it was praised across the world. I, too, have studied political science. However, when there is a misuse of law, where does the Constitution stand? There was a time when even the Constitution was suspended, fundamental rights were suspended, and the powers of the judiciary were suspended. This is a matter of mindset. If the ruler tasked with upholding the law has integrity, right intent, and prioritises national interest, then the law will not become an obstacle in their path. Conversely, if the mind-set is flawed and negative, even the Constitution cannot prevent that negative intent.

I urge you to place your trust in Shri Narendra Modi and in this Government. Give them the opportunity to work, and after that opportunity, you will see the state of the nation in five years. Coal will remain available, and the concerns of workers, which have been raised, are being addressed. Today we have enacted the law, and even in brief discussion, the welfare of workers, their living conditions and salaries, will be ensured. There is no reason to harbour any distrust in this regard. I have merely indicated this point to emphasise that now is the time to change, to revise our thinking, and to reconsider our systems so that together we can advance this nation. This is what is needed today.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

14.43 hrs.

(Shri Hukum Singh *in the Chair*)

[English]

***SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA (FEROZEPUR):** I thank you, Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important Bill –‘The Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Bill, 2014’.

Sir, power generation is the need of the hour for our country. Coal has been making headlines for the last several years in the Parliament and outside for all the wrong reasons. Coal-scam rocked the erstwhile UPA Government and several Ministers of the previous regime were involved in it. Charge-sheets were filed against them. Even the Supreme Court had to intervene in this matter and the tainted were exposed.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the rate of coal has increased by leaps and bounds since 2001. One year it would be Rs.1000 per tonne, the very next year, it would sky-rocket to Rs.3000 per tonne. The small-scale industries were badly affected by this inordinate price-rise. Coal is an essential ingredient in the production of power. The erstwhile UPA Government distributed coal-blocks arbitrarily like pea-nuts. It resulted in a massive coal-scam. The coal-production was adversely affected. The price of coal went through the roof. The whole country

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Punjabi.

suffered due to the acts of the previous Government. As a result, the Congress Government lost at the hustings.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I do not want to dwell at length on this issue. Punjab has always purchased coal at an expensive rate from the coal-producing states. However, now, the people of the country are hopeful that the Government of Prime Minister Modi ji will surely help boost the economy and industry of the country. Trade and commerce will get a fillip. Scams will become a thing of the past and the agenda of development will be pursued with vigour. This Bill is a step in this direction.. Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, a new and transparent coal-block auctioning system will now be followed. We must ensure ample production of coal now. It must be ensured that the coal-block allottees produce a minimum amount of coal in a fixed time-frame so that there is no artificial shortage of coal.

Also, sir, we must have the data regarding the coal production in all the states. The states must be made responsible for the proper functioning of their thermal power-plants. A law should be made in this regard.

Sir, labour is very cheap in our country. However, we had to import coal in recent years as our coal production dipped. Good

quality coal at cheaper rate was imported by the erstwhile UPA Government. It ruined our coal industry. We must avoid this scenario.

In the end, I thank the Hon. Minister for bringing this Bill in the Parliament. I whole-heartedly support this Bill. A coal policy friendly to the states should be framed so that there is no dearth of coal in our country.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. The Hon. Minister is a good man and occupies a respectable position, yet it seems he is not in the right party... *(Interruptions)* As the saying goes, “Rama on the lips, dagger under the arm, and a little more mischief besides.” (It conveys the idea of someone pretending to be righteous or honest outwardly, while secretly harbouring harmful intentions or deceit.) There is a vast difference between words and actions; what is promised is one thing, what is practiced is another. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It has been told to you by someone else.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Yes. Coal is as black as black money, as black as the heart, and as black as the mafia. Can bringing this coal ordinance be imagined as being in the national interest by this Government? This ordinance serves the interests of capitalists; it benefits Adani and Ambani. Hon. Chairperson, one thing I cannot understand is how you intend to save this country by destroying nature. Do you have any suggestions at all for protecting nature, or not?

I would like to put two or three points to the Hon. Minister. KPMG proposes to swap forty plants and mines on the basis of proximity. On

the face of it, linking mine “B” to mine “A” because it is “near A” may seem reasonable, but once you examine the matter closely you will clearly see what is intended. You have said that one mine has only ten years of life left while another has twenty years. Is your intention to hand over the good mines to capitalists by removing them from the Government, and to retain with the State only those mines that have, say, merely three years of remaining life, thereby disguising a loss-making deal? Among these forty plants there will be both public and private units. It must not happen that the Government transfers its best quality mines to the private sector while keeping only the poor-quality mines under public ownership. Are you being transparent about this? This Government has shown no transparency. The record of the past six months indicates that nothing has been done for social justice or for the poor. In just six months you have brought one Bill after another that favours capitalists. I submit that for the past sixty-eight years this country has largely been run through the collusion of middlemen, brokers, capitalists and certain bureaucrats. We ought to have a separate debate on whether those middlemen will leave our poor and ordinary citizens any space to survive. It is plain for the whole nation and the world to see that these coal mines are surrounded by middlemen, mafias and profiteers. Will your Government and

Ministers of good repute stop this culture of collusion between middlemen and capitalists who loot the country? You travelled abroad and seemed intent on facilitating concessions worth Rs. 6,000 crore for certain business interests, and now you are bringing this Ordinance that appears to favour capitalists. You must answer these questions and explain plainly what you propose to do.

Thirdly, you are going to privatise the profitable mines while retaining the loss-making mines under the Government. Alongside this, I would like to draw the Hon. Minister's attention to Bihar. You are aware that Bihar is a poor State, a land of farmers and unemployed youth. Hon. Minister, you have visited Bihar. The State's demand for coal for electricity is not fully met, and whatever allocation is made, it is not delivered on time. We have mines in Jamui, Banka, Munger, Sasaram, Nawada, Gaya and other areas. Let me remind you that undoubtedly our Prime Minister has a "56-inch chest," as I know. The Prime Minister had promised special category status to Bihar. I do not understand why, after assurances, you take a U-turn. If you cannot grant Bihar special category status, then at the very least ensure full coal allocation for electricity so that there is no shortage and that sufficient coal is delivered on time to power our villages. Through you, Madam Speaker, I conclude by saying that the Hon. Minister

must ensure transparency throughout the Ministry. This Government, which serves the interests of capitalists, must be restrained from exploiting the country, and the Department must be made accountable to the common people.

SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU (DURG): Chairperson Sir, I rise to discuss the Coal Mining (Amendment) Bill presented by the Hon. Minister.

Sir, the nationalisation of coal mines was undertaken in 1973 by the late Indira Gandhi Government. The primary reason behind this was the unscientific mining carried out by private coal companies, driven solely by their profit motives. This practice was causing severe damage to the environment, the labourers, and the nation as a whole. The present Bill, ostensibly, has been introduced to implement the Hon. Supreme Court's decision to cancel certain coal block allocations. However, under the guise of this objective, the Government is steering the entire coal mining industry towards privatisation. Such a move poses a grave threat to the country's energy security, which even today depends on coal for 65 Percent of its requirements. The private sector will act in pursuit of profit; they will do what benefits them, not the nation, nor the welfare of the country's workers. It was the nationalisation of coal by the late Indira Gandhi that led to the establishment of a large and powerful company like Coal India Limited. In 2013-2014, Coal India produced 465 million tonnes of coal and earned a net profit of Rs. 22,000 crore. In addition, it contributed Rs. 9,000 crore to the Government of India.

In 1993, the Congress Government permitted private companies to mine coal in the reformed economy only for their own consumption, such as for producing steel, power, or cement. In other words, no private company was allowed to sell coal in the open market. In contrast, the current Bill grants, under Section 4, private companies the freedom to sell coal in the open market and even to export it. Such a provision is contrary to the Constitution Bench judgment of the Hon. Supreme Court on coal nationalisation. It is also in violation of the Supreme Court's decision in the current coal block cases. Effectively, granting private companies the liberty to sell coal in the open market is not a mere amendment to the Coal Nationalisation Act; it subverts the entire law. It is noteworthy that no amendment can be contrary to the spirit of the original Act, yet Sections 4 and 30 of this Bill are completely opposed to the fundamental principles of the original law.

The Bill, in Sections 4 and 5, also provides for the allocation of coal blocks to joint ventures formed between Government companies and private companies. However, the Supreme Court, in its recent judgment on the coal block cases, has categorically declared this joint venture model as entirely unworkable. The coal requirements of two

separate companies cannot coincide perfectly at the same time. This inherently raises a significant risk of misuse in the allocation of coal.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, after the Supreme Court's decision to cancel coal blocks, the Government had an opportunity to reassess and exclude blocks with extremely dense forests—which constitute only 15-20 percent of all blocks—and those involving large-scale displacement before reallocating them. However, the Government has chosen not to do so.

Sir, with regard to Chhattisgarh, I would like to point out that the Tara coal block in Sarguja is located in extremely dense forest and has become a site of human-elephant conflict. If mining is undertaken here, this conflict will intensify, yet the Government still intends to reallocate this block.

Similarly, the Durga Pur, Taraimar, and Sarya coal blocks in Dharmjaygarh would displace nearly half of Dharmjaygarh town. For this reason, the local population strongly opposes these coal blocks, yet the Government intends to allocate them regardless.

It is noteworthy that this Bill provides, under the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, for the formulation of a comprehensive mining plan for all coal blocks. Even with such a provision, the allocation of blocks in dense forests or those involving large-scale displacement

violates the principles of natural justice. The Government seeks to use alleged coal and electricity shortages as a pretext for privatisation. This fact must also be brought to light. At present, the country has an installed electricity generation capacity of 250,000 megawatts, of which approximately 150,000 megawatts is coal-based. According to the Central Electricity Authority, the peak electricity demand currently is 145,000 megawatts, meaning we have sufficient capacity. The shortage lies in the transmission and distribution network. It has been claimed that 37 percent of coal-based power plants are shut due to coal shortage; this is entirely incorrect. In reality, most plants are either seeking to sell electricity at higher rates or are closed due to technical faults. By using coal scarcity as a pretext, the Government intends to benefit certain large private companies, thereby opening the door to commercial mining. This will directly harm labourers and employees. Consequently, all unions, including the BMS of the RSS, oppose this move.

Sir, the sectors of cement, power, and steel for self-consumption are already open to the private sector. These three sectors account for 85 percent of coal consumption. Under this Bill, commercial mining is being opened for other sectors as well, which account for merely 15

percent, even though this demand could easily be met by increasing production from Coal India. I thank you for giving me the time.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Sir, the coal scam emerged before us as the largest scam in the country. The Supreme Court was compelled to intervene and consequently cancelled the allocation of 2,004 coal blocks, as these allocations had exploited natural resources for personal gain while disregarding national interest.

The decision of the Hon. Supreme Court was certainly in the national interest, yet it also presented numerous challenges before the country. It is to address these very challenges that our Government has brought this Bill today. Coal remains the sole source for the majority of our country's energy supply. If, following the Supreme Court's decision, coal mining operations were to be halted, it would undoubtedly create a severe energy crisis in the country. Furthermore, a substantial amount of investment, taken as loans from banks, would risk becoming non-performing assets, posing another significant challenge for the nation. Therefore, it was imperative that this Bill be introduced.

I support and welcome this Bill. Some of our colleagues from the Opposition have raised the question of nationalisation. I have also studied the provisions of this Bill. I would request the Hon. Minister to address a major concern that has been expressed by several

esteemed Members regarding de-nationalisation. Kindly provide a detailed statement clarifying for the entire House how you intend to safeguard against the risks associated with the de-nationalisation process. I would also like to draw the Hon. Minister's attention to the tribal communities residing in coal mining areas. A geographical study of these coal block regions reveals that the highest population comprises tribal communities. These areas are among the most socially backward. If one examines the Human Development Index indicators on the basis of development criteria, the most concerning figures are consistently found in these regions.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, these are the very regions where the highest instances of human trafficking are reported. These are the children of our tribal communities, who are supplied as labourers and domestic workers both within the country and abroad. The mineral wealth of these areas is also extracted and sent across the country and the world. If we consider the population statistics at the time of independence, states like Bihar, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, Odisha, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh had tribal populations of approximately 70 to 80 percent. However, in the 68 years since independence, the manner in which these communities have been exploited by local mafias, in collusion with large companies and industrialists, has forced large-

scale migration for livelihoods. As a result, their population has dwindled to merely 10 to 20 percent. Today, this presents a very significant challenge for us. While the Government is bringing this Bill forward, what measures have been put in place to ensure the social security of the exploited communities residing in these coal mining areas?

Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to emphasise that these are precisely the regions that are also suffering from the impacts of Naxalism due to the failures of administrative and governmental machinery. I urge the Government that, as this Bill is being introduced, it must include a provision making it mandatory for companies to whom coal blocks are allocated through bidding to take responsibility for improving the living standards of the tribal communities residing in these areas. Specifically, these companies should be required to utilise their CSR funds to develop essential infrastructure such as health and education within a two-kilometre radius of the coal blocks. This is essential because our past experience demonstrates that when coal blocks were allocated to large companies, they exploited these resources for private gain but made no effort to enhance the quality of life of the tribal communities residing in these areas.

I once again request the Government to ensure that such provisions are incorporated into this Bill. With these words, I conclude my speech.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity to express my views on the Coal (Amendment) Bill, 2014. The Government has brought this Bill to the House to give legal effect to the Coal Mines Special Provisions Ordinance issued in October 2014. However, this Bill faces opposition not only from trade unions but also from the Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh. The opinions expressed by Hon. Members clearly indicate that this Bill should be referred to a Standing Committee. Shrimati Anupriya Patel has also raised concerns that many coal blocks are situated in hilly areas where there is a significant tribal population. Today, their access to food, housing, and healthcare is a matter of serious concern. Who will take care of these needs? Big industrialists may come, acquire coal blocks, extract coal, and provide employment to workers, but they will not be concerned about the health or housing of these communities. Such concerns must also be addressed. These communities are an integral part of our nation, and we must accord them due respect. Currently, several trade unions, including INTUC, and leftist parties are opposing the Bill. Despite reports of this opposition in the press, the Government has proceeded with the introduction of this Bill. Passing it in haste would not be appropriate.

Due to the Supreme Court's cancellation of the 2014 coal block allocations, the Government now seeks to make changes under the pretext of the crisis created by the Court's order. When the Supreme Court delivered its verdict, only then did the Government acknowledge these allocations as illegal; prior to this, no Government was willing to term the long-standing irregular allocations as unlawful. Now that all the facts have come to light, I urge the Government to ensure that the auction process is completely transparent, leaving no scope for doubt. The Government must establish a system so that the legal process, the auction, and the allocations are properly conducted, and the present difficulties faced by the allottees do not recur. It is evident that the companies whose coal blocks were cancelled are already facing considerable problems, with substantial capital being tied up. Their difficulties are understandable. Moreover, large loans taken from banks and other financial institutions are also at stake. The Government must take these matters into consideration. While allocating coal blocks, care must also be taken to ensure that the coal supplied to power companies does not make electricity expensive. Attention must also be given to electricity consumers in rural areas.

Hon. Minister, I would like to submit that the cancellation of coal block allocations has effectively brought private coal mining to a halt. The policy introduced by the Union Government to permit private mining certainly warrants examination by the Standing Committee. I urge the House and the Hon. Minister that this Bill be withdrawn and that consultations be held with all stakeholders before proceeding further.

[English]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Sir, Napoleon used to say, ‘Give me a general for a day, i will change the history. In the same way, today respected Piyush Goyal has emerged as that general of Narendra Modi.

14.41 hrs.

(Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

I would like to state that this Bill represents a revolutionary step in India’s reform agenda. Through this Bill, India will have the opportunity to seize every opportunity available on the global stage. While the UPA Government was mired in policy paralysis, our Government is moving decisively towards policy pronouncement, taking one reform-oriented revolutionary step after another.

I come from the State of Haryana. Haryana does not have coal, yet it had one of the largest coal...* (Interruptions) who was also a Member of this very Parliament in the previous term. I will not mention the name as he is not the Member of this House. The people decisively rejected him; he came third or fourth. We could never have imagined that the sacred land of Kurukshetra, the land of the Gita,

* Not recorded.

would be associated with such a massive coal... * extraction. When this national resource was exploited, even the Supreme Court took cognisance and cancelled all coal allocations.

I am reminded of the year 1991, when a meeting of our Scheduled Caste front meeting was held in Kurukshetra, which was attended by our revered leader, the late Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji. I too come from a marginalised community. During that meeting, I had asked Atal Ji a question regarding natural resources that when you become the Prime Minister of this country, [English] what will be your policy regarding distribution of means of production and natural resources? [Translation] He had given a very appropriate and visionary reply, saying that whenever the time comes, we shall bring forth a transparent policy concerning the distribution and management of natural resources. Today, that very vision has been realised through the efforts of Shri Piyush Goyal Ji and our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji. Through this Bill, all companies engaged in coal production will be given the rights and complete freedom to undertake coal mining. We have witnessed the situation the country once faced in 2012, the entire Northern Grid of India failed, plunging nearly 60 crore people of North India into darkness for 24 hours. In Haryana,

* Not recorded.

the Rajiv Gandhi Thermal Power Plant at Khedar was severely affected and brought to a standstill. Several coal-based power plants across Haryana faced similar conditions. There was a time when, out of 100 thermal power stations in the country, more than 50 had barely six to seven days of coal left. In light of such challenges, the step taken by the Government today is indeed commendable and necessary.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: There are four more speakers to speak and the Hon. Minister also has to reply. Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): ...* It is indeed a matter of great irony that despite being the fifth largest country in the world, we are still importing coal worth 20 lakh dollars from other nations. We have, in fact, become the third largest importer of coal. There is an urgent need today to enhance the production of high-quality coal within the country. The Government has set an ambitious target of providing electricity to all seven lakh villages of India, and I am confident that our Government will certainly accomplish this goal.

* Not recorded.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important Bill concerning coal mining. After nearly two years of continuous hearings, the Hon. Supreme Court cancelled the allocation of coal blocks. This cancellation took place due to the large-scale corruption and irregularities that occurred during the allocations made by the previous UPA Government. I welcome this Bill brought by the present Government. Today, our country has a power generation capacity of 250 gigawatts. However, due to the shortage of coal, we are producing only about 156 megawatts of power. This shortfall has adversely impacted both the industrial and domestic sectors. The root of this problem lies in the flawed coal auctioning process during the UPA-I and UPA-II regimes. As Shri Rattan Lal Kataria rightly pointed out before me, India has become the third-largest importer of coal. We are forced to import large quantities of coal from countries like Malaysia and other coal-producing nations. Consequently, a significant portion of our national wealth is flowing into foreign economies. I wholeheartedly welcome this step of the Government. The Bill that seeks to streamline coal block allocation will certainly give an impetus to the power sector. I would also like to highlight that, over the last two years, we have lost nearly 15 Billion units of electricity

production due to insufficient coal supply. In Haryana, there are 12 thermal power units dependent on coal. Out of these, four units remained closed for one and a half years, and five units were shut down for six months because of coal scarcity. There was even a time when only five to seven days of coal stock was left in three units. The Union Government intervened promptly, coal was supplied, and production resumed. I sincerely thank the Government that now 11 of our production units are operational again.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, regarding coal distribution, I would urge the Government that 80 percent of the total allocation should be earmarked for the power sector to ensure there is no shortage of electricity in our country. With respect to the Bill, Clause 8, Section 5 mentions that the mines will be auctioned at a floor price. However, the Hon. Minister has not defined what the floor price actually is. I appeal to the Minister to clarify in the House what exactly is meant by the floor price. Further, Clause 4, Section 5 states that those who have been convicted with a sentence of more than three years under previous coal allocations will be ineligible to participate in this auction. I would urge the Hon. Minister to ensure that it is not just three years, but that anyone with any conviction, even for a single day,

should be barred from participating in this auction. This will prevent such exploiters from returning to our country again.

I would like to add one more point. Clause 4(3) refers to Government mining, but it does not specify the end-use of the mined coal. I would request the Hon. Minister to ensure that the intended use is clearly specified, whether it is for government-based sectors, such as the hydro sector. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I will conclude my remarks in a single line. Whether it is the hydro sector, the steel industry, or other government-oriented sectors that require coal, at least 85 percent of the allocation should be earmarked for these sectors. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am concluding my statement. As Shrimati Anupriya Ji mentioned, the CSR funds should be allocated for the small tribal communities who will be relocated. On behalf of my party, I welcome that suggestion and urge the Hon. Minister to prioritise measures for the protection of these tribal communities who will be displaced. ... (*Interruptions*). Thank you very much.

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI (PATIYALA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would like to put forth my views new Bill concerning coal allocation. The first point is that after two years of continuous intervention by the Supreme Court, the previous allocations were cancelled, and this new law has been introduced in their place. This is a necessity for our country, as we require coal and electricity. We welcome this, but we expect the allocations to be conducted in a fully transparent manner. My foremost concern is regarding the tribal communities, whether in Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, or any other state in the country. They have long-standing rights over water, forests, and land, having resided there for generations. When these coal blocks are auctioned, whether to Indian corporate entities or foreign corporations, provisions must be included to protect the interests of these tribal brothers who have lived there for centuries. Experience shows that wherever people have been displaced—whether by the Bhakra Dam in Punjab, the Vyas Dam, Chandigarh Dam, Chandigarh city, or projects like the Narmada Valley—the rehabilitation programmes have often been neglected, and these people have yet to be properly resettled. I am concerned that with the entry of the new corporate sector, and the arrival of large companies, strict clauses must be imposed to ensure that they provide education, employment,

healthcare, and decent wages to the displaced communities. Without a proper system to improve their lives, the fate of these displaced people will mirror the injustices faced by those affected by earlier mining and industrial projects.

I urge Shri Piyush Goyal to ensure that this Bill contains strict provisions so that our tribal and Dalit brothers are treated fairly, their lives are guided on a positive path, and they are able to fully benefit from it. Thank you.

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would first like to thank our esteemed Prime Minister and capable Minister for bringing this Bill forward to resolve so many longstanding mismanagements in such a short span of time. The entire country is aware of the severe mismanagements that persisted from 1993 to 2014 due to the wrong policies of the UPA government. The nation suffered a massive setback when, because of these erroneous policies, it had to incur an import of Rs. 18,000 crore without any justifiable reason. Furthermore, due to their flawed policies, banks faced a potential loss of Rs. 80,000 crore. This loss of Rs. 80,000 crore was a burden on the country, which should have instead benefited the common people.

Just now, the Hon. Member was speaking about the workers. He belongs to the UPA era, is young, has even served as a State Minister, and comes from a privileged background. When such individuals speak about workers, it does not sound convincing. We have always genuinely cared for the workers. Our Government has consistently been concerned about the villages, the huts, the labourers, and the farmers. This is precisely why we acted promptly to bring this Bill forward. The greatest challenge facing our country today is electricity. Because of the mismanagement by the previous governments, power

projects were left pending. This Bill is intended to resolve that issue. With electricity, industries will grow; with industries, employment will increase; with employment, the lamps will burn in the homes of poor villagers, and there will be food on their tables.

Today, the concern for workers is being addressed. Due to the wrong policies of the Congress or UPA governments, from 1973 till now, there have been 24 incidents affecting workers. Those workers who used to leave home in the morning thinking they would return by evening with toys for their children or two square meals for their families, tragically lost their lives in mines due to the past government's flawed policies. Until now, the UPA Government did not care for them, and today we are addressing the concern of the workers.

There has been discussion going on about energy, the discussion on coal. Coal contains both energy and soot. Our popular Government has brought this Bill in a very short time so that the nation can benefit from this energy, leaving the soot for others to bear. Our national leader, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, used to say that the poor in the villages should always be our concern. He expressed this pain once during a rally—

Julm to ham gareebon pe hua karate hain
 oonche mahalon se to aag bhi kataraate hai,
 makaanaat to ham gareebon ke jala karate hain,
 is mulk kee kaisee sisaayat hai,
 ae-barbaade vatan ki yahaan Eid ke din bhi qatl hua karte hain.

[Oppression strikes the poor, the mighty stand tall,

The humble homes burn, while palaces stall.

What kind of politics lets our land decay,

Where even on the day of a festival, lives are taken away?]

Revolution will come, it surely will come, this was said not by us
 but by the UPA and their allies, yet in just six months, our
 Government has demonstrated a revolution to the nation.

Today, the Hon. Member spoke about the bravery of our Hon.
 Prime Minister, Shri Modi. I would respectfully like to tell the Hon.
 Member that it is heartening when we speak of Subhas Chandra Bose
 or Bhagat Singh. It is inspiring to speak of revolutionaries and great
 personalities. At least once, we should reflect positively on our Hon.
 Prime Minister, who, for the first time since Independence, has

achieved something for which no one believed the country would receive support. Today, representatives of 173 countries have endorsed the proposals brought by our Hon. Prime Minister. Our Hon. Prime Minister has not merely strengthened his own 56-inch chest but has strengthened the chest of the entire nation on the global stage. For this, the UPA deserves appreciation. Today, the discussion is being held merely for the sake of debate. This Bill should have been welcomed, yet it is being debated to hide one's own stain.

I would like to congratulate Hon. Piyush Goyal for bringing this Bill in such a short span of time under the able leadership of our esteemed Prime Minister. This will prove to be highly significant for the nation. Organisations such as FICCI have welcomed it, the country's industrial companies have welcomed it, Shri Birla has welcomed it, and many business Houses have expressed their appreciation. Our Hon. Prime Minister has given the slogan 'Make in India', and through this, he will give it true meaning. Thank you.

15.00 hrs.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I would like to add a few lines to the ongoing discussion. Already the Minister has been assigned to produce one Billion tonnes of coal by the year 2019. For this, to achieve that goal, he is adopting the ways and means which is not in congruence with the national interest. That is why, I am warning the hon. Minister that you should not do anything in haste.

I am hailing from a State where in the year 1778 the first coal mining operation was started. I know that I have a severe constraint of time. So, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister provided he is intending to do it.

Hon. Minister, I am drawing you attention to the fact that you are planning to allocate the national resources through auction. The reason why I am asking this question is that the Ministry of Coal tried to auction the “C” Block in Jharkhand. Shri Nishikant Dubey is sitting beside you. In February this year, when it tried to auction, only two private companies submitted bids for one block. That should be kept in your mind.

Second, whether this kind of auction would entail the tariff of electricity. That needs to be considered seriously.

I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to clause 4 (2) (b) which says:

“A company or a joint venture company formed by two or more companies, may carry on coal mining operations in India, in any form either for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose....”

Here, what do you mean by “any other purpose?”

Now, I come to clause 5 on allotment of mines to Government companies or corporations. In the proviso, in great trickery, you say “provided further that no company other than a Government company or corporation shall hold more than 26 per cent...” Here, does the word “company” refer to Government company or a private company? Please clarify it in your reply.

According to clause 12, I got the impression that the NPAs of the financial institutions are only going to rise further. It is a very serious matter.

In clause 14 (6) (a), you say “No claim for wages, bonus, royalty, rate, rent, taxes, provident fund, pension, gratuity or any other dues in relation to a Schedule-I coal mines in respect of any period prior to the date of vesting order or allotment order, as the case may be shall be enforceable against the Union Government or the successful bidder or the allottee, as the case may be: ” I think this is a violation of the rights of the Constitution.

Finally, I am also drawing the attention of the hon. Minister to one thing. You are trying to convey a feel good factor to the investor, to the industrial majors of our country. Here, as per section 16 of the Bill, the prior allottees will be compensated for the land prices mentioned in the registered sale deeds plus 12 per cent simple interest. I would like to know whether it is not in contravention to the Land Acquisition Policy of our country. That needs to be clarified. Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER,
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND
MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND
RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL):** Hon.

Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very much grateful to all the 20 hon. Members who have participated in the debate. It has been a very lively debate. Some very important points were flagged off. It also gives me an opportunity to place before the august House the need for the Ordinance, how we have acted with alacrity and how this Government has fulfilled its obligations to the people of India whose interest is our bounden duty to protect.

[Translation]

When the Hon. Supreme Court delivered its verdict on 25 August, 2014, declaring the allocation of coal blocks illegal, and subsequently cancelled the allocation of 204 blocks on 24 September, 2014, the entire country was faced with a situation in which people felt that a major crisis had arrived. The nation confronted a severe challenge: power plants would shut down, jobs would be lost, the lakhs of employees working in these mines would be affected, and the huge sums of money invested by banks in these projects were at risk. This uncertainty was deeply troubling, creating the prospect of a crisis. In

such circumstances, under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi, the Government took immediate action. Working day and night, the Cabinet passed an Ordinance on 20 October, whose primary objective was to ensure the protection of all workers in India's coal mines. It aimed to prevent the closure of these mines and safeguard their jobs. Additionally, as Hon. Members have pointed out, India faces a coal shortage. Even today, coal worth lakhs of crores of rupees is imported, despite India having the world's third-largest coal reserves. This is, in a sense, a matter of concern. Coal India Limited's production has not increased significantly, with only one to one-and-a-half percent growth over several years. Under such circumstances, it was imperative to ensure that coal mines continued to operate, jobs were protected, and electricity supply was not disrupted, which made the Ordinance necessary. Hon. Members are aware that under Article 123 of the Constitution, it is our responsibility to replace an Ordinance with a Bill. Therefore, this Bill is now presented before the House. Some Hon. Members have suggested that it should be referred to a Standing Committee. This Ordinance has been widely discussed over the past several days, with numerous articles in the press and considerable debate among experts. In fact, until now, no provision of this Ordinance has been subject to public criticism within the industry

or banking sectors. In fact, when even the leaders of the Opposition discussed this matter with me, no criticism was raised suggesting that the Government had included any flawed provision or created any scope for discretion or malpractice. I assure the House that the Government's role, both in bringing this Ordinance and in presenting this Bill today, has been to ensure complete transparency in the process of coal block allocation. Numerous measures have been incorporated into this Bill to achieve that transparency. Among the 204 blocks cancelled by the Hon. Supreme Court, several were allocated to Governments and several to private parties. All these allocations were given free of cost. Free allocations, in a way, created interest and provided a means to earn windfall profits. This opportunity has been eliminated through this Bill. Going forward, all mines allocated, including those to Government companies, will have a reserve price. If mines are auctioned publicly through e-auctions, the revenue will primarily go to the respective State Governments, while other benefits will be passed on to consumers. I am very pleased to inform the House that the e-auction process has been designed in such a manner that electricity prices will not increase; indeed, mechanisms have been put in place to potentially reduce them. In the regulated power sector, auctions will be conducted through reverse bidding. On

the day of the auction, companies will supply power at prices lower than the base price set by Coal India. This auction process has been carefully designed to reduce the cost of electricity for consumers and fully addresses the concern that prices might rise following the auction.

At the same time, to ensure transparency and to protect the continuity of labour jobs, this provision was swiftly brought through an Ordinance and now as a Bill, so that the mines continue to operate even after 31 March. The Hon. Court had granted a period only up to 31 March, which was merely six months. Within these six months, to enact such a significant law in the history of India, navigating numerous challenges that is, to keep the mines operational, to ensure uninterrupted power generation, to increase coal production, and to serve the public, this historic legislation is now before the House for passage. I appeal to all Hon. Members to pass this Bill unanimously, so that a clear message is sent across the country: the entire House is committed to transparency, dedicated to the interests of labour, and resolved to the development of the eastern States, which will benefit the most and receive the maximum revenue. The entire House desires that every home and industry in this country has access to electricity

24 hours a day, seven days a week, at affordable rates and of high quality.

Many times in this House, the discussion revolves around workers' safety and workers' interests. I would like to clarify that not every provision or subject requires separate clauses or sections. The Mines Act, 1952 remains the law of the land, providing safeguards for employees' safety and security. India's labour laws concerning safety and security are paramount, and this legislation concerning mines protects the interests of all. In addition, the Minimum Wages Act, Provident Fund Act, and ESI Act also continue to remain in force in this country.

Some Hon. Members have raised the issue of de-nationalisation. This very morning, I was reflecting on what de-nationalisation actually means. According to the Random House Dictionary, [English] denationalise is to remove an industry from Government ownership or control. The British Dictionary says, denationalise is to return or transfer from public to private ownership. [Translation] Now, I fail to understand which provision in this Bill transfers any asset from Government ownership to private hands. We have provided full protection to Coal India Limited. Over the past four to five years, Coal India Limited's production had increased by merely

one to one and a half percent. However, after our Government assumed office in June, Coal India's production between June and October increased by seven and a half percent, supply rose by eight and a half percent, and power generation from coal grew by 21 percent between June, July, and August, creating a historic record in this country. Looking at the period from June to October, over 15 percent more electricity was produced from coal. If anyone harbours any notion of de-nationalisation, it should be dismissed. The Government intends to further strengthen Coal India. One Hon. Member asked how the one-Billion-tonne target would be achieved. I believe they did not fully hear my statement. As I pointed out, Coal India will contribute 200 million tonnes, the private sector will add another 200 million tonnes, and so on. I would like to convey to the Hon. Member that unless we think on a grand scale, nothing substantial can be achieved. Hon. Yadav Ji referred to the 56-inch chest of Hon. Modi Ji; it is with that very 56-inch resolve that we have set the one-Billion-tonne target for Coal India. Coal India alone has the strength and capability to achieve one Billion tonnes of coal. The Government has full confidence in the employees of Coal India, in their competence, and by enhancing coal production to cover past shortfalls, we shall achieve this target within the next four to four-and-a-half years. There are over

two hundred mines that Coal India has not yet operationalised. Today, technology has advanced tremendously worldwide, yet Coal India has not fully utilised it. For years, worker convenience and safety were neglected. Our Government has given special attention to all these aspects. Coal India's one-Billion-tonne target can be realised by increasing output by 200 million tonnes through bringing railway links, opening new mines to add another 150–200 million tonnes, and using new technologies in currently operating mines to raise production by 150–200 million tonnes. In this manner, Coal India alone can achieve one Billion tonnes, alongside opening these 204 mines.

An Hon. Member stated that it takes five, seven, or eight years, that it happens in your State, in your Government. In our Government, every permission, whether it pertains to the environment or mining clearance, is granted honestly, without discretion, through a transparent method, and is issued promptly. This ensures that these mines can come into service for the country at the earliest. In this context, the Hon. Member mentioned the timetable. For this purpose, we have set very strict parameters for ourselves. Our Government adheres to its own timetable standards, and we are meeting each of

them. We have already notified the rules for the coal mines. The rules under the Ordinance were notified on 11 December.

Tathagata ji asked why through rules? Why not through law? The importance of rules lies in the fact that in a dynamic situation, one often needs to make changes according to time. It is not feasible to bring every minor matter before the House for amendment of legal provisions. On 6 December, on the Mahaparinirvan Diwas of Baba Saheb Ambedkar, we all met. He provided the Constitution. The Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, which the Lok Sabha provides, are also rules, and they are placed before the House. Hon. Members get the opportunity to consider them, and if there is any objectionable element in a rule, it can be corrected. I understand that the regions of the Eastern States will benefit by millions and crores of rupees. Jharkhand has the highest number of mines. Odisha, Chhattisgarh, and West Bengal will receive millions of rupees from royalties and auctions. Some Members said that this is our right. But you asked why it is not mentioned in the provision. I would like to inform you that in Clause 6 of the provision, we have provided that this money will go directly to the State. If you wish, I can read out the exact excerpt.

“The Union Government shall act through the nominated authority for the following purposes,....”

[Translation]

And the section E has-

[English]

“collection of auction proceeds, adjustment of preferential payments and transfer of amount to the respective State Governments where Schedule I coal mine is located in accordance with the provisions of this Act.”

[Translation]

Through this Bill, in every possible way, we have sought to improve the Eastern States, the workers, and the economic framework of the country. We have provided that certain concessions will be given so that coal, in the future, reaches the market cleanly and honestly. To achieve this, the end-use requirements must be fulfilled first. Mines will be allocated first to the States and CPSEs that have genuine end-use requirements. Second, auctions will be conducted, and those whose plants are ready, who are currently in need of coal, will be given priority—these are the entities planning to establish power or steel plants in the near future. Third, auctions will be held

for end-use plants that will come up in the future. Finally, if any coal remains, it will be allocated to the poor citizens of the country, who currently purchase coal from the black market at inflated prices of 30 rupees per unit, even though it should cost only 1–2–3 rupees. Small-scale and medium-scale industries, small boilers, brick kilns, and factories should get coal at fair prices. Even if a small quantity of mines is allocated through auction, the proceeds from such auctions will go to the Eastern regions. The aim is to completely eliminate the black market in coal and ensure that coal reaches the people at fair prices. This provision has been included to serve the public effectively.

Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I present the Bill before the House. This Bill has financial implications in two clauses. [English] Clause VI, which provides for the appointment of the nominated authority and clause XV, which provides for the appointment of commissioner of payments. due to oversight, these clauses, having financial implications, are not in a bold font. That is a minor thing that it is not in a bold form. [Translation] It is not in bold form. The rest of the Bill is perfect. I would request all of you to pass this Bill unanimously.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Deputy Speaker, a full discussion on this Bill has taken place here, and many Members from our party as well as the opposition have pointed out the shortcomings and suggested how they may be rectified. However, some misunderstandings have also arisen in this House, and I particularly wish to bring this to your notice, as you can shed light on it. It has always been the case that whenever anything is spoken, if there is something good in the previous government, it is claimed entirely as yours, and if there are any faults, it is entirely attributed to the UPA government. ... *(Interruptions)* This has also happened here. ... *(Interruptions)* What is wrong, what is right, what is accurate. But I would like to state:

[English]

“The Supreme Court's ruling on coal block allocation, reminding the ruling party that there was an NDA Government for six years between 1998 and 2004.” ...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

You accept this, right?

[English]

“The SC verdict had once again brought out what was said in a Standing Committee Report earlier, which had concluded that transparency was not maintained in coal block allocations since 1993.”... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): This was made by Congress. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Dubey ji, even after defending so much, you are not getting a front seat. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Kharge ji, we have to pass this Bill before 3: 30 p.m. So, try to be very brief.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Sir, I will just conclude.

“In the period between 1993 and 2009, the NDA also had a Government led by Atal Bihari Vajpayee between 1998 and 2004. The policy of coal block allocation followed by the NDA was continued during the UPA regime,” ... *(Interruptions)*

Then further, it says:

“It was UPA Prime Minister Manmohan Singh who started to issue advertisements for coal block allocation, which had not happened from 1993 to 1998. A screening committee at the State level was also set up then. ” ... (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, between 2004 and 2009 was the same as was being followed between 1993 and 2004. ... (*Interruption*) If the supreme court has come to a conclusion with regard to the entire period between 1993 to 2009 and the conclusion is uniform in nature, [Translation] it applies to you as well, which is why you have been following the same. You keep levelling allegations against the previous Government repeatedly. ... (*Interruptions*) The Minister of Coal said that Modi sahib is really brave. Well, he is brave but has a small heart. ... (*Interruptions*) That is why we are speaking.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri C.N. Jayadevan – not present.

I shall now put the Statutory Resolution moved by Shri C.N. Jayadevan to the vote of the House. The question is:

“That this House disapproves of the Coal Mines (Special Provisions) Ordinance, 2014 (No.5 of 2014) promulgated by the President on 21 October, 2014.”

The motion was negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill to provide for allocation of coal mines and vesting of the right, title and interest in and over the land and mine infrastructure together with mining leases to successful bidders and allottees with a view to ensure continuity in coal mining operations and production of coal, and for promoting optimum utilization of coal resources consistent with the requirement of the country in national interest and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House shall now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

**Clause 2 Declaration as to expediency of
Union action**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That Clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 3 Definitions

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I beg to move:

“Page 3, for line 48, *substitute*,—

“(iii) requirement of coal (4)
washeries;”. ”

“Page 4, lines 5 and 6, *omit*,—

“the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957 and the Coal Mines (Nationalisation) Act, 1973”.” (5)

Sir, I do not want to ask for separately moving the amendments and for asking Division. We are in a hurry to pass the Bill. All I would ask the hon. Minister is to correct the language in the Bill.

Please see page no. 4 - Chapter II - 4 (b). Totally the language is wrong. Again, in 4 (4), regarding prior allottees, you may please see and correct the language. Please have a proper look at 4 (2) (a) and (b), and then there is a sentence. There is no link between the two sentences.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I will have it looked into. ...
(Interruptions)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): I thought that you would study the Bill more carefully but the language needs to be corrected.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put amendment nos. 4 and 5 to Clause 3 moved by Prof. Saugata Roy to the vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Satpathy, are you moving your amendment no. 25?

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I just wanted one small clarification from the hon. Minister. Then only I will be able to say whether I will move my amendment or not.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: You have to move your amendment first and then only you can speak.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I am moving my amendment. I beg to move:

“Page 3, *omit* line 48.” (25)

Sir, I just wanted to know what is his decision about making the washery person as the end-user. That is one thing. There is a slight mistake. Please see page no. 33. There is an explanation, which reads:

“Explanation.—In case a mining lease has been executed in favour of a third party, subsequent to such allocation of Schedule I coal mines, then, such third party shall also be deemed to be the prior allottee.”

There is no third party here. All the parties are first parties, whether it is the West Bengal State Electricity Board or the Odisha Mining Corporation. There is an ambiguity in this.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, I will just explain both the things very briefly.

As regards washing of coal, it is not an end-use but it is a process in between. The Coal Mines Nationalization Act identified washing as an end-use. Therefore, it has come in here also. We have no intention to give only washeries the coal. It will go to the end-use and then it will be ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Then, delete it.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: It is continuing from nationalization, 1973. But I am giving you an assurance that there is no plan to give any mines to washeries. The mines are given for the end-use and the end-users may go through the washery for washing.

As regards your point on third party, in some cases the States have done joint ventures, where a new company has got created. That becomes a third party and the mining lease is in their name. Therefore, we have included them so that they are bound to pay the additional levy, as per the Supreme Court direction. Otherwise, the State

“Page 4, lines 23 and 24,—

for “either for own consumption, sale or for any other purpose”, (11)

substitute “for own consumption”.”

“Page 4, line 31,—

after “coal mining operations”, (12)

insert “for own consumption for specified end use”.”

“Page 4, line 36,—

after “whose application”, (13)

insert “for coal blocks for specified end use”.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment Nos. 11, 12 and 13 moved by Shri M.B. Rajesh to vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 4 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 4 was added to the Bill.

... (Interruptions)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, after passing this Bill, we will take up the Private Members’ Business.

Clause 5 Allotment of mines to Government companies or corporations

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): Sir. I beg to move:

“Page 5, line 13,—

for “either for its own consumption sale or for any other (14) purpose”,

substitute “for its own consumption”.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No 14 moved by Shri M.B. Rajesh to vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 5 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 5 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 6 and 7 were added to the Bill.

**Clause 8 Nominated authority to issue
vesting order or allotment order**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. M.B. Rajesh, are you moving your Amendment Nos. 15 to clause 8?

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: No, Sir, I am not moving my Amendment No. 15 to clause 8.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 8 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 8 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 9 to 13 were added to the Bill.

Clause 14**Liabilities of prior allottees**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. M.B. Rajesh, are you moving your Amendment No 17 to clause 14?

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): No, Sir, I am not moving my Amendment No. 17 to clause 14.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 14 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 14 was added to the Bill.

Clause 15**Commissioner of payments to be appointed
and his powers**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Saugata Roy, are you moving your Amendment No. 8 to clause 15?

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: No, Sir, I am not moving my Amendment No. 8 to clause 15.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 15 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 15 was added to the Bill.

**Clause 16 Valuation of compensation for payment to
prior allottee**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. Tathagata Satpathy, are you moving your Amendment No. 26 to clause 16?

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: No, Sir, I am not moving my Amendment No. 26 to clause 16.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 16 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 16 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 17 to 19 were added to the Bill.

Clause 20**Power of Union Government to
approve certain arrangement**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. M.B. Rajesh, are you moving your Amendment No 18 to clause 20?

SHRI M.B. RAJESH: No, Sir, I am not moving my Amendment No. 18 to clause 20.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 20 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 20 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 21 to 23 were added to the Bill.

Clause 24**Penalty failure to comply with directions of Union
Government**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Prof. Saugata Roy, are you moving your Amendment Nos. 9 and 10 to clause 24?

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: No, Sir, I am not moving my Amendment Nos. 9 and 10 clause 24.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 24 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 24 was added to the Bill.

Clauses 25 to 33 were added to the Bill.

Schedules I to III were added to the Bill.

Schedule IV

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr. M.B. Rajesh, are you moving your Amendment Nos. 19 to 24 to Schedule IV?

SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD): No, Sir, I am my moving my Amendment Nos. 19 to 24 to Schedule IV.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That Schedule IV stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule IV was added to the Bill.

Clause 1 Short title, extent and commencement

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA (SHILLONG): Sir, I beg to move:

“Page 1, line 5,—

for “(2) It extends to the whole of India.”,

substitute “(2) It extends to the whole of India except the tribal areas mentioned in the Sixth Schedule to the Constitution.”” (3)

Sir, the land tenure system in Meghalaya in the VI Schedule is totally different from the mainland. I want an assurance from the Minister whether they have any intention to disturb the present mining in Meghalaya. If the hon. Minister can give the assurance I will withdraw my Amendment.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I will examine the matter, in detail and get back.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment No 3 moved by Shri Vincent H. Pala to the vote of the House.

The amendment was put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That clause 1 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 1 was added to the Bill.

The Enacting Formula was added to the Bill.

Preamble

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir. I beg to move:

“That in the second part of the Preamble,—

for “energy security”

substitute “power requirements”.” (1)

““That in the second part of the Preamble,—

for “core sectors”

substitute “end users”.” (2)

Sir, I will withdraw it if the Minister again reassures the House that there will be no denationalization of the Coal India Limited.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, I have already said it on the floor of the House that we are in fact strengthening the Coal India Limited. About the denationalization, I just read out its definition, which says, when you transfer ownership and management control to the private sector. We have absolutely no such plans at all.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I shall now put Amendment Nos. 1 and 2 moved by Prof. Saugata Roy to vote of the House.

The amendments were put and negatived.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That Preamble stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Preamble was added to the Bill.

The Long Title was added to the Bill.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

15.36 hrs

**MOTION RE: THIRD REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON
PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Next Private Members' Business, Item No.14—Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Sir, I beg to move the following: -

“That this House do agree with the Third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 10th December, 2014.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That this House do agree with the Third Report of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions presented to the House on the 10th December, 2014.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, Bills for introduction.

15.37 hrs.

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS-Introduced

**(i) MINES AND MINERALS (DEVELOPMENT AND
REGULATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2014***

(Insertion of new section 3A)

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA (SHILLONG): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.37 1/2 hrs.

(ii) NURSING PROFESSION (ABOLITION OF SERVICE BOND AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) BILL, 2014*

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate the nursing profession by providing for abolition of requirement of service bond or withholding of original educational documents of students or employees by institutions, hospitals or establishments in nursing sector and to safeguard the interests of employees and nursing students from all kinds of harassment and exploitation and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate the nursing profession by providing for abolition of requirement of service bond or withholding of original educational documents of students or employees by institutions, hospitals or establishments in nursing sector and to safeguard the interests of employees and nursing

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students from all kinds of harassment and exploitation and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.38 hrs.

(iii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Amendment of the Eighth Schedule)

[Translation]

SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU (DURGA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.38 ½ hrs.

(iv) BANNING OF HARMFUL PESTICIDES BILL, 2014*

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to ban the use of harmful pesticides. **HON.**

DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to ban the use of harmful pesticides.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.39 hrs.

(v) MATERNITY BENEFIT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Amendment of section 5)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Maternity Benefit Act, 1961.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.39 1/2 hrs.

(vi) PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES (EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES, PROTECTION OF RIGHTS AND FULL PARTICIPATION) AMENDMENT BILL, 2014*

(Amendment of section 26, etc.)

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.40 hrs.

(vii) DRUGS (PRICE CONTROL) BILL, 2014*

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Committee for fixing the prices of drugs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Committee for fixing the prices of drugs and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.40 1/2 hrs.

(viii) HEALTH INSURANCE SCHEME BILL, 2014*

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive health insurance scheme for all citizens of the country and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for a comprehensive health insurance scheme for all citizens of the country and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.41 hrs.

(ix) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Amendment of Article 316)

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.41 1/2 hrs.

(x) CENTRAL HOMEOPATHY UNIVERSITY BILL, 2014*

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a University at Kurichy in Kottayam district in the State of Kerala for the development of Homeopathy and for the furtherance of the advancement of learning and pursuit of research in Homeopathy.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a University at Kurichy in Kottayam district in the State of Kerala for the development of Homeopathy and for the furtherance of the advancement of learning and pursuit of research in Homeopathy."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.42 hrs.

**(xi) SCHEDULED CASTES HAMLETS (PROVISION OF
BASIC FACILITIES) BILL, 2014***

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for certain basic facilities to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes living in hamlets and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for certain basic facilities to the persons belonging to the Scheduled Castes living in hamlets and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I introduce **the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.42 ½ hrs.

**(xii) COMMERCIAL CROP WORKERS (WELFARE) BILL,
2014***

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH (MAVELIKKARA): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for commercial crop workers and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures for commercial crop workers and for matters connected therewith."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH: I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item no.17. Shri Yogi Adityanath –
Not present.

Shri Om Prakash Yadav

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.43 hrs.

**(xiii) HIGH COURT AT PATNA (ESTABLISHMENT OF A
PERMANENT BENCH AT SIWAN) BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court at Patna at Siwan.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court at Patna at Siwan"

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Deputy-Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.43 ½ hrs.

(xiv) FARMERS (OLD AGE PENSION) BILL, 2014*

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for old age pension to small and marginal farmers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for old age pension to small and marginal farmers and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.44 hrs.

(xv) FLOOD CONTROL BILL, 2014*

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Deputy Speaker Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Flood Control Board to suggest measures to control floods and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the setting up of a National Flood Control Board to suggest measures to control floods and for matters connected therewith.

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV: Deputy Speaker Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item No.21 and 22. Shri Sunil Kumar Singh – Not present.

15.44 1/2 hrs.

(xvi) ARMED FORCES COVENANT BILL, 2014*

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI AVSM (GARHWAL): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to enshrine in law a covenant prescribing a commitment between the people of India and the Armed Forces Community serving as well as retired and their immediate families pledging a duty of care and improving support towards them in return for their bravery and sacrifices made for protecting the nation and to ensure that they face no disadvantage compared to other citizens in the provision of public and commercial services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to enshrine in law a covenant prescribing a commitment between the people of India and the Armed Forces Community serving as well as retired and their immediate families pledging a duty of care and improving support towards them in return for their bravery and sacrifices made for protecting the nation and to ensure that they face no disadvantage compared to other

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

citizens in the provision of public and commercial services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI AVSM: I introduce **the Bill.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.45 hrs.

**(xvii) HIGH COURT OF JHARKHAND
(ESTABLISHMENT OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT
DUMKA) BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Jharkhand at Dumka.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Jharkhand at Dumka.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.45 1/2 hrs.

**(xviii) FARMERS (PROTECTION, PREVENTION OF
SUICIDES AND WELFARE) BILL, 2014**

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of farmers from exploitation by moneylenders, middlemen, unscrupulous traders; increasing farm yield by improving farming practices by modern techniques and allied occupations; extending protective umbrella against natural calamities by taking up of welfare measures to prevent the distressed farmers from committing suicide and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of farmers from exploitation by moneylenders, middlemen, unscrupulous traders; increasing farm yield by improving farming practices by modern techniques and allied occupations; extending protective umbrella against natural calamities by taking up of welfare measures to

prevent the distressed farmers from committing suicide and for matters connected therewith and incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.46 hrs.

(xix) INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Omission of Section 353)

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.46 1/2 hrs.

(xx) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Amendment of the Seventh Schedule)

[English]

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.47 hrs.

(xxi) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Amendment of the Seventh Schedule)

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.47 1/2 hrs.

(xxii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014

(Amendment of the Seventh Schedule)

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY: I introduce the Bill.

15.48 hrs.

**(xxiii) VEGETABLE PRODUCTS (REMUNERATIVE
SUPPORT PRICE AND INSURANCE) BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI DEVJI M PATEL (JALORE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for fixation of minimum remunerative support prices and insurance of vegetable products and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for fixation of minimum remunerative support prices and insurance of vegetable products and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVJI M PATEL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.49 hrs.

**(xxiv) FARMERS (PROTECTION FROM NATURAL
CALAMITIES AND OTHER WELFARE MEASURES) BILL,
2014***

SHRI DEVJI M PATEL (JALORE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of farmers affected by natural calamities and for other welfare measures and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the protection of farmers affected by natural calamities and for other welfare measures and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVJI M PATEL: Sir, I introduce **the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.50 hrs.

(xxv) FRUIT AND VEGETABLE BOARD BILL, 2014*

SHRI DEVJI M PATEL (JALORE): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for effective measures for storage and marketing of fruits and vegetables, development of fruit and vegetable industry and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for effective measures for storage and marketing of fruits and vegetables, development of fruit and vegetable industry and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI DEVJI M PATEL: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.50 1/2 hrs.

**(xxvi) COMPULSORY MEDICAL PREPAREDNESS IN
SCHOOLS BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory medical preparedness in schools to deal with medical emergencies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory medical preparedness in schools to deal with medical emergencies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.51 hrs.

(xxvii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Amendment of article 243C)

[English]

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI, AVSM (GARHWAL):

Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

MAJ. GEN. (RETD.) B.C. KHANDURI, AVSM: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.51 1/2 hrs.

**(xxviii) PROHIBITION ON USE OF COERCIVE METHODS
FOR RECOVERY OF BANK LOANS BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory medical preparedness in schools to deal with medical emergencies and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to prohibit the use of coercive methods such as intimidation and harassment either verbal or physical against any person or his family Members for recovery of loans by banks, or their agents,

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

whether authorized or not, and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I introduce the Bill.

15.52 ½ hrs.

(xxix) INDIAN PENAL CODE (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Insertion of new section 304AA)

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Penal Code, 1860.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Item Nos. 35, 36, 37 and 38, Dr. Bhola Singh – Not Present.

Item No. 39, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

15.53 hrs.

(xxx) EUTHANASIA (REGULATION) BILL, 2014*

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to regulate termination of life of persons who are in a permanent vegetative state or terminally ill and facing unbearable suffering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to regulate termination of life of persons who are in a permanent vegetative state or terminally ill and facing unbearable

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

suffering and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.53 ½ hrs.

(xxxii) PUBLIC RECORDS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Amendment of section 2, etc.)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Public Records Act, 1993.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Public Records Act, 1993.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.54 hrs.

**(xxxii) ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT BENCHES OF
HIGH COURTS AT STATE CAPITALS BILL, 2014***

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of permanent Benches of the High Courts in State Capitals where the principal seat or a permanent Bench of the High Court concerned is situated at a place other than the State Capital and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of permanent Benches of the High Courts in State Capitals where the principal seat or a permanent Bench of the High Court concerned is situated at a place other than the State Capital and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Supriya Sule – Not present.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.55 hrs.

(xxxiii) GOOD SAMARITAN (PROTECTION FROM CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIBILITIES) AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS BILL, 2014*

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for protection to Good Samaritans from civil and criminal liabilities by establishing supportive legal environment; constitution of Good Samaritans Authority; obligations of hospitals and clinics and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for protection to Good Samaritans from civil and criminal liabilities by establishing supportive legal environment; constitution of Good Samaritans Authority; obligations of hospitals and clinics and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

The motion was adopted.

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.56 hrs.

(xxxiv) INDIAN FOREST (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014 *

(Amendment of Section 2)

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Indian Forest Act, 1927.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.56 ½ hrs.

**(xxxv) NARCOTIC DRUGS AND PSYCHOTROPIC
SUBSTANCES ABUSE (SURVEY) BILL, 2014***

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for conducting an yearly survey of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances abuse with a view to ascertain the extent, pattern and trend of drug abuse and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for conducting an yearly survey of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances abuse with a view to ascertain the extent, pattern and trend of drug abuse and for matter connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shrimati Supriya Sule – Not present.

15.57 hrs.

**(xxxvi) STATES REORGANISATION COMMISSION BILL,
2014***

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Commission to study and report on border disputes between the States and to recommend the Union Government the reorganization of States and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Commission to study and report on border disputes between the States and to recommend the Union Government the reorganization of States and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I introduce **the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.58 hrs.

(xxxvii) COMPULSORY VOTING BILL, 2014*

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for compulsory voting by the electorate in the country and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.58 ½ hrs.

**(xxxviii) COMMISSION FOR THE FORMATION OF THE
STATE OF VIDARBHA BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GARHCHIROLI-CHIMUR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the formation of a separate State of Vidarbha by reorganization of the existing State of Maharashtra and for matters connected therewith. [English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Commission for the formation of a separate State of Vidarbha by reorganization of the existing State of Maharashtra and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Sir, I introduce **the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.59 hrs.

**(xxxix) FOREST (CONSERVATION) AMENDMENT BILL,
2014***

(Insertion of new section 3C)

[Translation]

**SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GARHCHIROLI-
CHIMUR):** Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to
amend the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend
the Forest Conservation Act, 1980”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

15.59 1/2 hrs.

(xI) UNEMPLOYMENT ALLOWANCE BILL, 2014*

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GARHCHIROLI-CHIMUR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for unemployment allowance to all unemployed persons and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for unemployment allowance to all unemployed persons and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

16.00 hrs.

**(xli) CIVILIAN AWARDS (RECOMMENDATION
COMMITTEE) BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

**SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GARHCHIROLI-
CHIMUR):** Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Committee to recommend conferring of civilian awards on persons having outstanding contributions in different fields.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a Committee to recommend conferring of civilian awards on persons having outstanding contributions in different fields.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

16.0 1/2 hrs.

(xlii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Insertion of new articles 21B, 21C and 21D)

[Translation]

SHRI C. R. PATIL (NAVASARI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI C R PATIL: I introduce the Bill.

*Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

16.01 hrs.

**(xliii) SPECIAL FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE
OF GUJARAT BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI C. R. PATIL (NAVASARI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Gujarat for promoting the welfare of girl child, reduction of maternal and infant mortality rate and welfare of agricultural labourers in the State.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for special financial assistance to the State of Gujarat for promoting the welfare of girl child, reduction of maternal

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

and infant mortality rate and welfare of agricultural labourers in the State."

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI C R PATIL: Sir, I introduce **the Bill.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

16.01 1/2 hrs.**(xliv) ABOLITION OF BEGGING BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI C. R. PATIL (NAVASARI): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for abolition of begging and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI C R PATIL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

16.02 hrs.

(xlv) ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

(Substitution of new section for section 4, etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Sir, to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Electricity Act, 2003.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill a Bill further to amend the Electricity Act, 2003.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

16.02 ½ hrs.

(xlvi) COW PROTECTION AUTHORITY BILL, 2014*

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an authority for the purpose of protection of cow and its progeny in the country and similar authorities at the State level and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of an authority for the purpose of protection of cow and its progeny in the country and similar authorities at the State level and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, I introduce **the Bill.

Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

16.03 hrs.**(xlvii) TOURISM PROMOTION AUTHORITY BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of Tourism Promotion Authority for the promotion of tourism in the country and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for establishment of Tourism Promotion Authority for the promotion of tourism in the country and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

16.03 ½ hrs.

**(xlviii) PRE-CONCEPTION AND PRE-NATAL DIAGNOSTIC
TECHNIQUES (PROHIBITION OF SEX SELECTION)
AMENDMENT BILL, 2014***

(Insertion of new section 16B etc.)

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2, dated 12.12.14

16.04 hrs.

ACID (CONTROL) BILL, 2014 ---Contd.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Dr. Kirit P. Solanki to continue.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Deputy Speaker Sir I thank you for allowing me to speak on a very important subject. I had initiated my discussion last time on the Acid (Control) Bill. Sir, as far as atrocities against women are concerned, there are various forms of exploitation whether it is domestic violence, dowry-related incidents, assaults, harassment, rape or caste-based abuse. Women often become soft targets. Sir, particularly women belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and economically weaker sections are the easiest victims of such atrocities. In many cases, after the act of harassment or rape, they are even murdered. Several such cases have come to our notice. We all need to sit together and seriously deliberate on this issue and enact stringent laws. For that, we must rise above party politics and make a sincere collective effort.

16.06 hrs.

(Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair*)

As far as acid attacks on women are concerned, they are a particularly heinous and distinct form of assault. In most acid attacks, the women survive, but they are condemned to live a life of agony thereafter. Every morning when they wake up, they die a little inside; they die repeatedly every single day. Their position in society becomes one of rejection and isolation. Even their relatives turn away from them, and their colleagues often treat them with pity or discomfort. Acid attacks are among the most barbaric and detestable crimes. They render women disabled; in many cases, they lose their eyesight, their lips are disfigured, and their entire face becomes deformed. The pain and suffering they endure make life unbearable. That is why I have brought this Bill before this august House. There is an urgent need to enact a stringent law and frame a clear policy to deal with such attacks. These gruesome crimes break women mentally and morally; their social life is shattered. They also suffer financially, as the treatment is extremely expensive. Being a surgeon myself, I know that in such cases, one surgery is never sufficient hence multiple reconstructive and cosmetic procedures are required. She has to undergo various treatments again and again because of repeated plastic surgeries. This treatment is so expensive that most women cannot afford it. They are financially shattered and are often rendered permanently disabled.

The figures presented by the Hon. Home Minister in this very House were indeed alarming. He stated that between the years 2011 and 2013, 234 acid attacks were recorded. These are only the registered cases; there are numerous incidents that go unreported and remain outside official records. These victims live in constant agony. The perpetrator commits the attack and then absconds. In many cases, the authorities are unable to even trace their identity. Such offenders simply disappear, and the existing legal provisions to punish them are grossly inadequate. Let me talk about acid attacks and Indian law the [English] Indian penal code remains silent as far as defining acid attack is concerned. It is difficult for the prosecution to put up a strong case against the culprit. Currently the crime is booked under section 326 of Indian penal code which deals with causing grievous hurt by throwing a corrosive substance, etc.

Here, the scope of definition is very narrow and does not deal adequately with the issue because it does not cover the various kinds of injuries inflicted because of an acid attack. The section does not cover the act of administering acid attack, i.e. planning of the acid attack. The section gives a wide discretion to the Court as far as punishment is concerned. There is no clear provision of awarding the compensation to the victim.

Sir, acid attack is a ghastly crime. In 2008, the Law Commission of India came out with the inclusion of acid attack as a specific offence in the Indian Penal Code and the law for compensation for the victims of crime. Additional sub-sections are added in existing section 326 of the Indian Penal Code. The sections added are 326A and 326B.

Section 326A suggests hurt by any acid attack. Whoever burns or maims or disfigures or disables any part or parts of the body of a person or causes a grievous hurt by throwing acid or administering acid to the person with the intention of causing or with the knowledge that he is likely to cause such injury or hurt, shall be punishable with imprisonment of either description for a term which shall not be less than 10 years, but which may be extended to life imprisonment with fine which may extend to Rs 10 lakh.

Section 326B suggests that it provides minimum 5 years punishment extendable to 7 years and the fine for attempt of acid attack.

Another section, i.e. section 166B is also introduced. It provides punishment upto one year in case of hospital, whether it is a public hospital or a private hospital, if it does not provide first-aid or medical treatment free of cost to the victim.

[Translation] Chairperson Sir, despite the existing provisions, there remains a significant gap in the law. These provisions only address the punishable legal offences, but when it comes to prevention, our law still remains silent. I believe we must create mechanisms to prevent acid attacks altogether. Under Section 302, there is a provision for the death penalty in cases of murder yet, such crimes continue to occur in society.

Therefore, through you, Sir, I urge the Government to ensure that such crimes do not even have the chance to occur. Today, acid is easily available in almost every general store, at a price as low as ₹20 or ₹25. Anyone can simply purchase a bottle of acid, pour it on someone, and completely destroy that person's life.

Chairperson Sir, I appeal that stringent preventive measures be implemented. The existing gaps in the law must be filled so that no one dares to commit such heinous crimes. Therefore, I have introduced the Acid Attack (Control) Bill, 2014 before this House. The Bill primarily rests on three major points: There must be a ban on the open sale and unregulated production of acid. The Government should have full control over its manufacture and distribution. The victims of acid attacks must receive free medical treatment, and all

related expenses should be borne by the Government. Further, there should be effective measures for the rehabilitation of the victims.

Acid sale falls under the jurisdiction of the State List. Hence, this issue involves the question of the federal structure. I urge the Government to bring in a degree of flexibility within the federal framework so that there is no conflict between the Central and State Governments. Both should work together in consensus to enact this legislation. My suggestion is that there should be a complete restriction on acid production and sales policy, and the acid trade must be strictly regulated so that traders cannot keep acid stock without a valid license. No acid should be sold to any customer below 18 years of age. Every buyer must produce a valid identity proof while purchasing acid. Traders must maintain a record of every sale and submit it to the police within three days. Licensed stock holders must provide details of all their stock within 15 days to the Sub-Divisional Magistrate, failing which they should be liable to a fine of ₹50,000. As per the guidelines, hospitals, laboratories, or other institutions where acid is required must maintain a record of acid stock and consumption. The Government must also make strong provisions for free medical assistance and rehabilitation of acid attack victims. Plastic surgery treatment is extremely expensive. One surgery is never

enough; in many cases, victims need a series of surgeries, sometimes five to ten operations, and even then, the results are not fully satisfactory. The Government must make provisions to bear these expenses. Acid attack victims are completely shattered physically, emotionally, and socially. They must be provided with psychological counselling and psychiatric support. Society must also be sensitized to adopt a compassionate and empathetic attitude toward them. Whether in educational institutions, workplaces, or public life, they must be treated with dignity and respect. Acid attack survivors face discrimination at every step of life. Therefore, I propose that a dedicated commission be established to address their issues and safeguard their rights.

Sir, other countries have specific provisions for acid attacks. Even in the United Kingdom, there is legislation addressing this issue. Among our neighbouring countries, Bangladesh has enacted what I believe to be the best law globally on acid attacks. We should adopt this model in India. The Government must actively support acid attack survivors.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to establish Acid Controller posts in every district so that acid sales can be properly monitored within the jurisdiction of each district, ensuring

that no individual can misuse acid. Proper monitoring and record-keeping by stockists must be mandated, and records should be submitted to the Government periodically. My suggestion is that an Acid Controller post be set up in every district to prevent future attacks, safeguard the lives of potential victims, and especially protect women, who are the most frequent targets. Women in our society deserve respect, as is the tradition and culture of our country. Therefore, through you, I earnestly request the Government and the Ministry of Home Affairs to bring this Acid Control Bill before the House at the earliest, ensuring that the legislation includes sufficient flexibility to effectively protect victims and prevent attacks.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now. There are still many speakers who wish to speak in support of you.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: That is why I beg to lay this Bill on the Table of the House.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, while expressing my views in support of the Bill presented by Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki, which aims to prevent acid attacks on women by regulating the sale of chemicals, I would like to say that incidents of acid attacks are a grave stain on our country, which prides itself on being the world's largest democracy. It is deeply distressing that chemicals such as hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, and sulphuric acid are readily available at cheap rates in every corner of the country and are repeatedly used as weapons against women. The women most often targeted are those from poor families, Dalit and backward communities, tribal groups, and other vulnerable sections of society. There can be no crime more heinous and inexcusable than one that destroys and ruins an entire life of a woman. These women are forced to endure profound psychological, medical, and social consequences. Perhaps our vocabulary lacks the words to fully capture their pain, suffering, and anguish. The intent of those who carry out acid attacks ranges from disfiguring a woman to subjecting her to lifelong harassment and, in some cases, even murder. An analysis of the motives behind such acts reveals causes that are utterly irrational, frivolous, and senseless.

Chairperson Sir, our Parliament had recognised the seriousness and sensitivity of this issue and, accordingly, enacted a law in 2013. Under that law, provisions were made directing states to regulate the sale of chemicals within their respective territories. Regrettably, the states have not implemented these laws rigorously. Even today, the sale of these chemicals continues openly at cheap rates. The 2013 law also provided for compensation to the women affected by acid attacks, yet in practice, these victims still have to struggle extensively to access it. Very little has changed on the ground. In July 2014, the Supreme Court took note of this matter and directed the governments to exercise control over the sale of chemicals. The Court mandated that licences should be made compulsory for all acid traders, and that the sale of chemicals such as hydrochloric acid, nitric acid, and sulphuric acid, which are commonly used in acid attacks, should be strictly prohibited. It also instructed states to establish a monitoring system in which all buyers and sellers of these chemicals maintain proper records, including names, photographs, ID proofs, and other relevant documents, to ensure accountability and enable identification and punishment in case of an incident. There is still a pressing need for the Government to adopt a more stringent approach. As Dr. Solanki has explained, while there are provisions in our laws for

punishing offenders after an attack, there is insufficient framework to prevent these incidents from occurring in the first place. Effective preventive measures would protect numerous women who currently fall victim to these attacks, saving them from lives destroyed and ruined, and bring a new ray of hope into their lives. Therefore, I strongly support this Bill and urge the Government to ensure its passage, as it will be historic in safeguarding the dignity and future of half of our country's population, and in illuminating a brighter path for them.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Chairperson, this is not merely a question concerning half the population. Life itself cannot be built without women. In our country, women such as Sita and Radha, Parvati and Durga, Ahilya and Kaushalya, Rani Lakshmi Bai, Mother Teresa, and P.T. Usha have made the greatest contributions to our culture and civilisation. Yet, even after 67 years of independence, women continue to face humiliation and atrocities. From the moment a daughter is born, she lives for her parents; as she grows, she lives for her brother; later for her husband; then for her children; and later for her grandchildren. Throughout life, her existence is defined by selfless dedication. Our scriptures, languages, and cultural texts—including the Gita, Quran, and Bible—have spoken of the honour due to women. Yet, in practice, respect has often been denied. Women face atrocities in the name of dowry, widows are mistreated, Sati was enforced, and in a country where simply being born a girl can be considered a misfortune, and where anti-foeticide laws are not strictly enforced, the issue of acid attacks becomes even more grave. This heinous crime of acid violence must be addressed with the utmost seriousness.

I would like to thank the Hon. Member who has introduced this Bill. There has been a continuous process of oppression and

suppression. Many of those who speak here do not even show respect to daughters and sisters in their own homes. Within our Households, women are not treated with due respect—not as mothers. Today, 60 percent of elderly parents in India prefer to live separately from their children. This is according to your own survey. ... (*Interruptions*) Yes, this is the survey of your government. ... (*Interruptions*). Wealthy individuals, Billionaires, and multi-millionaires stay at religious sites and do not wish to live with their children. And yet, in such a country, the need to bring in this law is being discussed. The law exists, but why is it not enforced? Even after repeated directions from the Supreme Court, there is no clarity on where acid can be procured, in what quantity, or for which age group it can be sold. There are no specific regulations regarding whether a 30-35-year-old should be able to purchase acid. Even after girls have been burned, neither the State Governments nor the Union Government have provided proper treatment. Only some NGOs extend help. Until now, neither the Central nor the State Governments have made adequate arrangements for their treatment or for supporting their livelihoods. Strict laws have not been enacted. Girls' and daughters' lives are destroyed, and therefore, there must be provision for life imprisonment or, at the very least, a sentence of 14 years for such heinous crimes. Strict laws are

essential for such grievous offences. Those from weaker and middle-class sections of society often cannot access treatment. In contrast, girls from affluent families receive medical care and support. I urge the Government, through you, to make special legal provisions for girls from weaker, marginalised, and minority communities.

The sale of acid should be restricted to select licensed shops. If even a licensed shop sells acid improperly, its licence should be revoked, a case should be filed, and the person should face imprisonment. The greed of a single individual can destroy multiple lives, and therefore the strictest possible laws must be enacted on this matter. At the same time, strict measures should also be taken to ensure respect for women in this country, to prevent female foeticide, and to curb incidents of sexual assault. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, at the outset I must congratulate my esteemed colleague Dr. Kirit Solanki who has taken pain to introduce this kind of significant legislation in this august House with a view to protecting and safeguarding our womenfolk from the onslaught of acid attacks, which has been increasing at an alarming pace, much to the consternation of all of us.

If you go through the history, it is found that on October 17, 1915 acid was fatally thrown on Leopold Clement of Saxe-coburg and Gotha, heir to the House of Kohary, by his distraught mistress, Camilla Rybicka, who then killed herself. That is why the acid attack some times is called 'vitriolic' attack. The use of acid as a weapon began to rise in many developing nations, especially those in South Asia. The first recorded acid attacks in South Asia occurred in Bangladesh in 1967; in India in 1982; and in Cambodia in 1993. Since then research has witnessed an increase in the amount and severity of acid attacks in this region. However, this can be traced back to significant under reporting in the 1980s and 1990s.

Dr. Solanking was saying that there has been a serious under reporting which sometimes hide the actual number of acid attacks.

Here, through this legislation, the hon. Member has sought to provide for control of sale and distribution of acids in order to prevent the acid attacks on human beings, particularly on women and girls and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. It is the main focus of this legislative document. I am intending to add a few lines to this legislation. Since acid attacks may be motivated by one or different reasons, legislation should focus on the acts that constitute the crime rather than the motive. We should have a very comprehensive legislation on this issue because acid attack can simply be recognised as a heinous crime. It does not kill the victim but it destroys the life of the victim. The life of an acid survivor is beyond description because only the victim knows how she has been undergoing the trials and tribulations of her life.

The legislation should also penalise those who aid and abet this harmful practice and include family Members among those who may be penalised. It should also make acid attacks a “transferable intent” crime providing the same penalties regardless of whether the person injured was the intended victim or not. The law should prohibit the acceptance of informal financial settlement or marriage as settlement of claims. This is under-reported because various kinds of informal measures are often adopted by the perpetrator of this crime. I am

emphasising that the perpetrator should be prosecuted under the murder statutes of the penal code. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]Sir, I will conclude in two minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Other Members also wish to speak on this. Besides, there are other important Bills as well.

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: The specific law on the acid attack should provide a term of imprisonment and fine which is no less severe than what is provided under the murder statutes of the general penal code with the exception of capital punishment. The legislation should provide that no mediation provisions are a part of the legislation on acid attack. It should require the sellers of acids to create and maintain a record of each sale and the identity of each purchaser. I think Dr. Solanki also made some proposition on this issue. It should require the sellers of acid to take all necessary measures to ensure that their supplies of acid are not stolen and immediately report any stolen acid. I would like to draw the particular attention of Dr. Solanki that the legislation should impose a duty upon medical providers to report all cases of bodily harm caused by acid to law enforcement. I would like to draw your attention that medical providers should be drawn into this area. The legislation should also

mandate that police officers investigate any case reported by a medical provider where bodily harm was caused by acid. It should also establish and fund public awareness campaigns and training for all sectors about this harmful practice and its consequences. The legislation should also allow victims to pursue civil remedies against their attackers. Monetary damages should include the cost of reconstructive surgery.

[Translation] Sir, it is deeply distressing that even today, in our India, a country where we worship mothers and daughters, women remain the primary victims of acid attacks. Nearly 77 percent of such attacks target women. Therefore, the Government must take immediate steps in this direction to prevent such violence in India. I believe this Bill deserves the support of all Members, and the Government should ensure its passage. Thank you.

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am deeply grateful that you have allowed me to speak on such a sensitive social issue. I align myself with the sentiments expressed by my esteemed colleagues. I would like to emphasise that today, sixty to seventy percent of the victims of acid attacks are women and girls. On one hand, they endure severe physical and mental trauma, and on the other, they face lifelong challenges that often make them feel like a burden on their families. Once a daughter or sister becomes a victim of acid, even if she is employed, she may be forced to leave her job, and often her relatives abandon her. The costs of her treatment and cosmetic surgeries can consume the family's entire Household resources. As you can observe, such tragedies are being witnessed in many of our constituencies today.

Sir, recently an incident happened with a young girl Laxmi, who has been leading a fight for all boys and girls across the country who have fallen victim to acid attacks. Even today, under Laxmi's leadership, the victims are raising their voice at Jantar Mantar, demanding attention to this cause. On 18 July, the Supreme Court delivered a decision recognising that treatment for acid attack victims is extremely expensive. While I will later speak about their rehabilitation, I want to focus on the cost of treatment. The treatment

is so expensive that the Supreme Court recommended at least Rs. 300,000 in assistance. Yet, today, even that amount is insufficient for proper treatment. Despite Right to Information (RTI) efforts across various states, we still only talk about the issue. Whenever any incident of violence or sexual assault occurs, there is nationwide outrage. But do we truly feel the same sensitivity when a sister or daughter becomes a victim of acid, her life reduced to that of a living corpse, a burden on her family? How will we ensure her rehabilitation, her social security, her social dignity? How will her treatment be arranged? Her dreams are shattered, and she ends up living a life of isolation.

I would like to draw your attention to the fact that even today, the Supreme Court's decision of 18 July has not been fully implemented. I consider it unfortunate that until 2007-2008, or even earlier, the Indian Penal Code did not recognise acid attacks as a crime. In 2011, following the Nirbhaya case, a ruling under the Chief Justice addressed the plight of these victims. The greatest distress of the victims today is that they bear the misfortune of circumstances for which they are in no way to blame. No son, daughter, or individual who has become a victim of acid attacks is at fault for the conditions they endure. Sometimes, if a misguided person acts, or if a daughter

or sister responds in any manner to protect her self-respect, honour, and existence, she becomes a target of such attacks. As we express our concern in this House, we must reflect on how society's attitude towards these victims has also changed. If the victim becomes further marginalised—isolated from relatives, from social life, or losing employment—how can she survive? Today, when the world speaks of women's empowerment, and this House and society express concern for women, we must consider how we can ensure their protection and restore their dignity. . Furthermore, the Supreme Court's decision on 18 July, which directed provisions for their treatment and rehabilitation, has raised an important issue regarding the unchecked sale of acid. Despite that decision, acid can still be procured openly by anyone. The Supreme Court had explicitly directed that any shop licensed to sell acid must maintain a stock register recording to whom the acid is being sold and for what purpose. The question is, who will enforce this? Given the way different states respond to such incidents, which authority can effectively prevent misuse? It is imperative that this authority and its mechanisms in the states be strengthened. In fact, the shops licensed to sell acid in each district can be counted on one's fingers, underscoring the urgent need for strict monitoring and control.

Chairperson Sir, you yourself hail from a state where such incidents have been witnessed since childhood. How long will society continue to witness the recurrence of such events? Shall we merely continue to express concern that our daughters, our sisters, or our brothers might fall victim to acid attacks, their faces disfigured? Even if they undergo cosmetic surgery, flesh has to be removed from their own bodies. In some cases, they become bedridden. Surely, this is an occasion for serious concern. When the Minister responds, it is imperative that they also indicate the steps that will be taken following the Supreme Court's decision. This issue is not of concern to India alone; even former United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan stated [English] "Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation and perhaps the most pervasive."

[Translation] In other words, this crime is akin to a leper's affliction. I believe there can be no crime more cruel than this. In Bangladesh, perpetrators of such crimes face not only life imprisonment but also the death penalty. What measures will we take to deter such individuals? Even if an acid victim survives, they exist as a living corpse. There must be stringent punishment for those who commit such acts, so that others learn a lesson and such incidents are prevented. I would like to draw attention to data from The Indian

Journal of Plastic Surgery, 2007, which recorded 780,000 burn injuries. Previously, acid attack victims were merely treated as burn cases. The Penal Code did not provide a separate punishment for them, nor was this treated as a distinct crime. This is one reason why such incidents have increased. Even the reports from the Cornell Law School in 2012 expressed serious concern regarding acid violence. In view of these facts, I urge that at least the provisions for compensation be given due attention. We can look at the attack on Lakshmi, who was only 16 years old. Consider how and where acid was thrown at her face in the Khan Market area of the national capital, Delhi, in 2005. Even today, the memories remain vivid. If acid was thrown at the face of a young girl like Lakshmi in such a prominent area of the national capital, what could be more alarming than this? ... (Interruptions) In conclusion, I reiterate that the Supreme Court's decision must be complied with, stricter punishment must be implemented in this regard, and the existing law must be effectively enforced by the state governments. I thank you very much for giving me the time.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Hon. Chairperson Sir, first of all, I would like to thank Shri Kirit Solanki for introducing this Bill. I also extend my thanks to Shrimati Anupriya Patel, the leader of Apna Dal, for explaining the matter to us so clearly. There are essentially two reasons behind this problem. First, what exactly is acid? As Shrimati Anupriya Patel explained, there are three main acids: Hydrochloric Acid (HCl), Nitric Acid (HNO₃), and Sulphuric Acid (H₂SO₄). Occasionally, Aqua Regia, which is a mixture of Nitric Acid and Hydrochloric Acid, is used to dissolve gold. What happens when these three acids come into contact with human skin? Initially, it affects the eyes, and subsequently the entire face gets disfigured. The effect is the same as a burn injury. Acid attacks produce the same devastation as burn injuries. Why do acid attacks occur? The reason is that the victim often has no understanding of why the acid was poured on them. A girl, perhaps someone considered attractive from afar, may suddenly find herself attacked by acid by a person who admires her from a distance. She may have no knowledge of why this is happening. In an instant, her entire life is destroyed. For the victim, an acid attack is akin to living death. I am profoundly grateful to Kirit Ji Solanki, who, being an eminent surgeon from Ahmedabad, has brought this grave issue to the forefront.

Our country also has an organisation, the Acid Attack Survivors Association. In Kolkata, a businessman called Hemant Kanoria has informed me that there is a London-based international organisation which studies acid attacks and recommends measures to be taken. The incidence of acid attacks is not insignificant. In 2011 the number of women victims was 98; in 2012 it was 101; in 2013 it was 80; the figures for 2014 are not yet complete. I note that the highest number of incidents occurred in Haryana, 10 women victims in 2011, 5 in 2012 and 13 in 2013. This is a form of assault directed at women.

Sir, you will recall that after the outrage on Nirbhaya in Delhi we had extensive discussions in this House. Justice J. S. Verma produced a very good report, on the basis of which a stringent law was framed against violence on women. However, that law did not contain specific provisions for acid attacks. It only referred to the use of corrosive substances. Dr. Kirit Solanki's Bill has three parts. One concerns how the sale of acid can be controlled. There should be a licence for keeping acid and a full record must be maintained at the time of sale. Acid is not needed by the general public. It is used for only two purposes: in school or college laboratories, and by jewellers who work with gold because gold is a very hard material. I am of the view that strict legislation can effectively control the sale of acid.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your speech.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Sir, I will conclude my remarks in two minutes. The number of hon. Members present in the House is rather small, so I would like to make just two or three brief points. Dr. Solanki has proposed that the Union Government should meet the entire cost of treatment for acid attack victims and that a dedicated fund should be created for this purpose. He has also proposed that acid victims be recognised as persons with disabilities and be afforded the same reservations and other entitlements that disabled persons receive. Sir, this is an utterly vile crime. I find it unbearable even to listen to accounts of it. I confess that I am tempted to say the public should take the law into their own hands and capture the culprits. Of course, I cannot, from this floor, exhort people to do that; but such criminals are indeed deserving of the harshest measures.

When one speaks of acid attacks one realises that humans can behave worse than beasts. An acid attack utterly disfigures a young woman's face. I cannot conceive how a person can plan this buying bottle of acid , lurk about waiting for a girl, then rush up and throw acid into her face. It is vile, base and despicable. And yet this happens in our country where we profess to honour women. We chant the names of our goddesses Jayanti, Mangala Kali, Bhadrakali, Kapalini

Durga kshama shivadhatri narayani namastute. Durga, Kali, all our mother-goddesses. We speak of great women such as Bidushi, Moitrayee, Khana, Lilabati, Soti-Savitri, Konnya, Arundhuti, Bohubirbala, Birendra Prasuti we call ourselves their progeny. Great and illustrious women have been born in our country, and yet such behaviour is meted out to these very women. I have not moved an amendment, but Shri Solanki has proposed that the Indian Penal Code be amended to provide life imprisonment for acid attacks. I am of the view that the punishment should be death. There should be no legal justification whatsoever for an act that destroys a young woman's life. The Constitution itself states that nobody shall be deprived of his life and liberty without due process of law. For such offences the death penalty should be considered. We must frame stringent laws so that people are deterred from committing such crimes. We enacted a strong law against rape, yet even then a taxi driver in Delhi violated an educated woman. We must consider what further measures will make would-be offenders afraid to offend.

I once met a pickpocket. He said that he had given up pickpocketing. When I asked him why, he explained that once a pickpocket in front of him had been beaten by a crowd of people and had died. He said he did not want to die like that, and so he abandoned the practice. People

must live in fear that those who commit acid attacks will face no pardon for such crimes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your speech.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. We must all stand together in support of the victims of acid attacks, and I congratulate Dr. Kirit.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you very much for speaking in such good Hindi.

17.00 hrs.

SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to express my support for the Acid (Control) Bill brought forward by Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki.

Sir, in our country, acid has long become an easily accessible weapon used against women. Nearly one thousand such incidents occur across the country every year. The throwing of acid at girls continues unabated, and even today many women remain victims.

My fellow Member, Shrimati Anupriya, as well as other esteemed Members, have pointed out that the Ministry of Home Affairs, pursuant to the directions of the Hon. Supreme Court in Writ Petition No. 129/2006, Lakshmi vs. Union of India & Others, issued on 30 August 2013, recently released a consultative letter regarding measures to prevent acid attacks and to ensure the treatment and rehabilitation of surviving victims. In various regions, raids have so far been conducted at over two hundred traders. According to the guidelines, the Government is attempting to regulate the acid trade; however, numerous cases regarding compensation for victims of acid attacks still remain pending.

The issue of acid use in the context of acid attacks has not been adequately addressed. Among those who have survived such attacks,

the ages range from approximately 11 to 45 years. Over the past fifteen years, around two hundred attacks have been officially recorded. Of these, 76 injured women were between 21 and 30 years of age, and 70.2% of the injured are women. This indicates that our law and order machinery is not fully sensitive or responsive to the safety and protection of women.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, women injured in acid attacks find their lives made utterly miserable. They are often forced to live in social isolation. Our society treats acid attack survivors as if they themselves were guilty, which leads them to sink into depression due to grief, anxiety, and a sense of inferiority. It is a tragic irony of our society that instead of offering support to acid attack victims, we view them as offenders, even though they bear no responsibility for the crime committed against them. According to the Delhi Legal Services Scheme, those whose faces are severely burned in acid attacks receive compensation of Rs. 300,000 to Rs. 700,000; those with burns covering up to fifty percent of their body receive Rs. 500,000 to Rs. 700,000; and those with burns covering less than fifty percent receive Rs. 300,000 to Rs. 500,000. However, given the rising costs of treatment and plastic surgery, these amounts are insufficient. This

compensation must be increased to ensure proper care and comprehensive treatment for the victims.

On 18 July last year, the Supreme Court of India directed the Central and all State Governments to frame rules and laws for the rehabilitation of women victims of acid attacks. More than a year has passed since this directive, yet most State Governments have not complied. State Governments must ensure free medical treatment for acid victims, provide psychological support, and give them priority in employment. We need to change our mindset towards acid attack survivors. Both the Government and society must adopt a humane approach towards these victims.

Chairperson Sir, I would like to make a few suggestions in this regard. (1) Acid attack victims must be provided full judicial support. (2) A comprehensive rehabilitation policy must be framed for the victims. (3) Free medical treatment for victims must be ensured. (4) Wherever acid is used, such as in hospitals or laboratories, strict monitoring must be enforced. (5) Acid victims must receive psychological counselling and priority in employment, as I mentioned earlier. The unrestricted sale and easy availability of acid must be completely prohibited. To ensure swift justice for acid attacks, cases should be heard in fast-track courts.

Chairperson Sir, I earnestly request that a law titled the 'Criminal Injuries Compensation Act' be enacted and this Bill be passed, so that many women victims may receive justice.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Chairperson Sir, I would like to begin by expressing my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Kirit P. Solanki. I shall not repeat anything that has already been stated in this House. I will only say this whether murders are committed by an individual or a terrorist organisation, their number, when counted nationally, is higher, yet it remains relatively small, around a hundred per year. When a murder occurs, one life is lost. But when acid is thrown on a person, their entire life is slowly destroyed, and their family also suffers alongside them. What is even more serious, though Shri Saugata Roy is not present in the House, I would like to say to him, is that this represents a truly grotesque tendency and cruelty, which mirrors the reflection of society itself. Even if a hundred people fall victim to acid attacks in a year, society treats our sisters, daughters, or any victim as if they were criminals. This is a horrifying and deformed manifestation of social pathology. I believe this issue warrants serious consideration.

I would like to make a request to the Hon. Minister. Since this falls under a State subject, it has been left for the State Governments to address. It can be divided into two parts. Firstly, the arrangements for the storage and handling of acid should be ensured by the respective State Governments. The Government has acknowledged

this. On the medical front, Dr. Kirit, who has far more experience than us, has spoken candidly. At the very least, the Government of India should evaluate this matter, whether or not a law exists, so that if there are a hundred victims in a year, the Government can ensure comprehensive medical care for them. Regardless of who leads the initiative or whether the State Government acts, if the Union Government has any role, a path for rehabilitation could emerge; otherwise, victims will spend their entire lives fighting, protesting, and seeking justice without success.

I would like to make two or three points. I previously referred to the grotesque disfigurement caused by acid attacks. This is a consequence of social values, which we must view as our societal responsibility; the law alone cannot provide the solution. Regarding healthcare, I acknowledge that we currently have very little, but at the very least, there should be one dedicated centre. Either financial support should be provided, or a guarantee of treatment should be ensured—so that victims know that if they go to this centre, they will receive medical care. The assessment of treatment requirements can be carried out by medical professionals.

If we categorise the victims, irrespective of the circumstances, under the disability category, it may provide them greater assistance

in their rehabilitation. I am speaking specifically from the perspective of rehabilitation. Regarding the existing laws, I do not wish to recommend any law by citing Bangladesh as an example, but the reality is that the stigma attached to this issue in our country can only be removed by adopting a stringent approach. If the State Governments do not comply, and if the offenders are not punished, as suggested by our Hon. Member that at least certain cases should be fast-tracked, which is not a large number, the Government of India can certainly set the timelines for this process.

The third point relates to the methods of sale. Any measures that have been proposed must be strictly enforced by the State Governments; otherwise, the Government of India should consider bringing in a new Ordinance. Regarding the 2013 Supreme Court decision, the degree to which the States have complied cannot be overlooked, and while we acknowledge the federal structure, social ostracism is not an accepted solution in our country; otherwise, it could have been an effective approach for such incidents. While Shri Saugata Roy speaks of going beyond this, I do not support that view. At least two aspects can be considered, as I have just mentioned. The rules regarding storage, policies, and judicial matters may remain with the States; however, the classification of the victim, the determination

of disability, and the method of providing compensation can be undertaken directly by the Government of India. If the Government sets a clear path for rehabilitation, I believe victims will not have to resort to protests at Jantar Mantar.

The figure which Saugata Roy was referring to is within 100 this year. I do not understand why the Government of India cannot find a solution. I believe that such a grievously affected face can be restored to a dignified appearance. I have faith that under this Government, this restored face will be presented to society and the world with honour.

Thank you. I once again extend my heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Kirit Solanki. Hon. Chairperson, my sincere thanks to you as well.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra – Not present.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I stand here to support the Acid (Control) Bill that has been moved by Dr. Kirit Premjibhai Solanki Ji.

Here, I would like to mention that acid attack is one of the most abominable acts of violence against women. There can be no two opinions about how the perpetrators of this heinous crime should be treated. Acid attack is nothing but an attempt to murder, and it is done to inflict grievous injury. Countries like Bangladesh, where acid attackers face death penalty, have shown that strict laws do act as a deterrent. However, for acid attack victims, whose life has been devastated, disfigured and maimed both physically and psychologically, true justice also includes suitable compensation. Here, I would just like to read the news about two incidents.

“Preeti Rathi, our eldest child, was quiet, unassuming and hard working. She was good in studies and extra curricular activities. Her dream was to get a good Government job. So, when the appointment letter from the Ministry of Defence reached us on March, 28, in 2013, Preeti was thrilled. We were excited. Of the 15,000 applicants for the job, only 500 were selected. It was a big achievement for Preeti. The

letter said that Preeti had been selected for Short Service Commission in the military nursing service and that she must report to the Commandant of the naval hospital, Asvini in Colaba, Mumbai on May 15. In the last week of April, Preeti received a letter from INHS, Asvini. Please read the letter below.”

What happened? When she was going in the platform to board the train, an unidentified and unknown person threw acid on her. Repeatedly, she asked this question till her death. She was just asking, ‘why?’. That question is still reverberating whenever somebody thinks about that girl child of that poor family. Why was she attacked? She was not known to the person who threw that acid on her. She had no connection with that person.

Wherever we come across such incidents that are occurring throughout this country, at least there is some one-sided love affair or somebody wants to take revenge on someone or somebody is not pleased with the behaviour of someone, then there is acid attack. But here is a case where she had been attacked by an unknown person who has been apprehended because the CCTV camera was there in the railway station. At least, that fellow was identified. He has been prosecuted.

The prosecution should be done as has been mentioned by our learned friend. One thing which I appreciate very much, other than what other Members have already spoken, is that in clause 9, he says, “In all trials for offences under this Act, the Magistrate shall follow the procedure prescribed in the code of criminal procedure 1973 for the trial of summary cases.” It should not take long. It should be a summary trial. With a definite timeframe, the prosecution should take place and conviction should also be announced.

I think there is a need--and I would suggest here--to also go into the Evidence Act. In the Evidence Act, I think there is a need to bring in some provision. I think the mover of this Bill will respond to my query. In the Evidence Act, there is a need also to make a little bit of correction relating to acid attack. Some provision also needs to be taken cognizance when we talk about acid attack because ultimately it is the evidence which will follow for prosecution and conviction.

When this Bill was listed for discussion, some lady Members of our House asked me, “Who are the victims of acid attacks?” I would say that 99 per cent are women. Hardly any male person is a victim.

In that respect I would say that it is high time, when a grievous incident of this nature is occurring and is becoming rampant, first is to control the availability of acid and second, whoever is purchasing

or utilizing it, its purpose and record should be maintained. Once this incident occurs, immediately, who has sold it, who has bought it, both the things can be verified as quickly as possible so that the culprit can be apprehended and summary trial also can be done.

I would also agree with what Prof. Saugata Roy just now mentioned. This is a heinous crime and should be punishable by death penalty. As law makers, all of us know that by framing law or by making law, you do not curtail crime but this has happened in Bangladesh.

We have two types of jurisprudence prevalent in our country. One is French jurisprudence by which the dowry law is maintained. The second is British Jurisprudence that until and unless someone is proved guilty, he cannot be pronounced a guilty person. But, in that respect, I would say that death should be the penalty for culprits, who are indulging in this type of grievous incidents.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MEENAKSHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on this Bill. The Acid Control Act, 2014 is establishing certain regulations which, in other circumstances, are available through a Public Interest Litigation or the advisory of the Ministry of Home Affairs. However, I view this as a mandatory and necessary action. Acid attacks are an extremely serious issue, particularly for civil society, and many countries have enacted specific laws to address them. Most notably, Bangladesh is a country with the highest incidence of such attacks, followed by Cambodia, Nigeria, Jamaica, and Pakistan, where acid attacks are also highly prevalent.

17.19 hrs.

(Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

I fully agree with the Hon. Member that there should be a provision for the death penalty in such cases, for I have seen, at close quarters, young girls and women whose faces are not merely disfigured but whose life-sustaining mechanisms, such as the absence of a nose for breathing, are completely destroyed. After the Nirbhaya case, this Parliament amended the law to ensure that in circumstances where life-altering crimes occur, such as rape followed by the removal of a woman's intestines, amputation of hands or feet, there shall be a

provision for the death penalty. This is because one cannot restore the victim's life to normal once it has been so irreparably damaged. Therefore, I believe Parliament must consider the necessity of the death penalty as an imperative. Moreover, this Bill represents a step forward, for it moves beyond merely addressing the aftermath of such incidents and focuses on how such tragedies can be prevented beforehand. [English] It is like nipping the problem in the bud by stopping the sale of acid itself before there is a chance for a perpetrator to buy it without restriction for a victim to suffer from the consequences of such deranged behaviour.

The preventive measures before the commission of the crime, [Translation] as provided under the Bill, include the appointment of a Controller of Acid, who will oversee the purchase and sale of acid in a centralised manner. The Union Government shall also have the authority to ban any individual who sells acid or any such hazardous substance in an unauthorised manner. An authorised dealer shall be the person specified by the law as having prior authorisation from the competent authority. The penalty for violation shall include imprisonment for three years and a minimum fine of Rs. 50,000, or both.

[English] As regards presumption of possession, the assumption that there will be an accused that has committed an offence unless proven otherwise. [Translation] In India, in cases of rape, the law of presumption is applied. Even if medical evidence is not available, it must be established that the offence did not occur, or the presumption must operate against the accused that unauthorised possession of acid was found in their custody. This responsibility rests solely with that individual.

In the same way [English]vexatious search and seizure, any officer going beyond the necessary bounds for search and seizure of acid can be fined up to Rs. 20,000. this will not be an impediment in officers remaining alert to any offence under the act and in preventing attacks on mere suspicion.

Section 166 of the IPC provides that any public or private hospital, which denies treatment to victims can be penalised and the penalty is up to 1 year, and that invocation must happen. Acid attack is described in Section 326 A, and punishment is up to 10 years. Here, when we are looking at amendments to this particular section, the imprisonment could also be increased to death penalty in case it is a life-altering event. I believe that multiplicity of laws need to be avoided, and the provisions should be brought at one single place.

Sir, I will request a little more time because certain suggestions need to be made, and the suggestions are in the nature of practical aspects. As my learned friend said that law is one aspect, which we, as Parliamentarians, can pass, but it is the implementation that brings change in a social set-up. The basic problem with acid attack victims is that their body is so badly disfigured that they have to undergo multiple surgeries. So, the hospitals need to be sensitized. Further, there are no skin banks in India. So, we need to work on skin banks, and this should be an instruction to the Ministry of Health that we need to work on skin banks for grafting processes.

The other suggestion, which I very sincerely wish to make is that the compensation amount, which was said to be up to Rs. 3 lakh be increased up to Rs. 10 lakh because the grafting processes and rehab processes cost a lot of money. The burden should be shifted on to the State Governments also because I have seen cases coming from Bihar, West Bengal and several other States where even when the girls are coming for treatment to a place like Safdarjung Hospital --because that is the only hospital, which is treating burn cases in Delhi -- they do not give accommodation. Those girls are mostly coming from very impoverished and poor homes. The State homes are not giving them AC facility, and they need to be placed in AC atmosphere while they

are undergoing treatment. Perhaps, this instruction could be passed on to the States.

Sir, just one line more, and I must put this forth. I would like to mention about pressure garments. Pressure garments are garments, which these girls need to wear during their disfigurement treatment. These pressure garments come from outside the country, and there is a very heavy Excise and Customs Duty on these garments.

The Government must look at that aspect also. From graft to pressure garment, increasing the compensation and setting up of the Boards is something I would recommend. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (MADHUBANI): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, here has been a very detailed discussion on this subject. Several Hon. Members have also offered important suggestions. Without delving into those suggestions, I would like to say that in this country, education that inculcates values in schools has been restricted, and it has been stated that imparting such education amounts to promoting communalism. When we studied up to the fourth or fifth grade, that is, the middle classes, we used to learn the couplets of Rahim, Raskhan, Kabir, which shaped human character, instilled values, and filled one with qualities of humanity. All of this has been abandoned. Now, education is imparted in such a way that the heart of the student lacks humanity. Society is being steered only towards materialism and consumerism. Such disturbances or attacks occur because the hearts of certain individuals lack humaneness and compassion. We must consider how to instil humanity and human qualities in such individuals. Firstly, there is a need for reform in education. Secondly, people who commit such crimes possess inherently evil tendencies. They can never be truly human. Their disposition and nature are corrupted. Such individuals can be corrected only through punishment. Without the fear of penalty,

society does not restrain itself. The principle of Saam, Daam, Dand, Bheda (conciliation, reward, punishment, and strategic measures) must be applied. The provision for punishment must also be made stricter. Perpetrators of such crimes should be given life imprisonment or the death penalty. Alongside this, all the property of such offenders should be confiscated, and any expenses for the treatment of the victim should be recovered from them. Thirdly, the Government, whether it is the Union Government or a State Government, must ensure without assigning responsibility to any single entity that all expenses related to the treatment of victims are borne by the Government itself.

Finally, I would say that the sale of acid must be strictly controlled and prohibited. A proper law should be enacted so that people are not able to obtain acid casually. If someone does purchase acid, the shop should maintain a record of the transaction so that the purchaser can be traced when required. If we implement such provisions, acid attacks can be prevented.

A longstanding tradition of Indian culture has been to revere and worship women. Yet, despite this, such crimes continue to occur. This indicates a crisis of faith in our own culture, civilisation, values, ethics, and the traditions handed down by our forefathers. One of the

reasons for rising crimes in India is that, with the decline of Indian values and the increasing influence of Western materialism, our society has become distorted by this materialistic mindset. To remedy this, society must move away from materialism, and children should be instilled with proper values from a young age. Education should be imparted in a way that nurtures character, encourages understanding of humanity, cultivates spiritual qualities, and awakens awareness of the soul. This will transform their character, their nature, and their tendencies. If we approach the matter holistically, a solution can indeed be found.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, a very serious discussion is underway here. First of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Member for bringing such a critical issue to the table of this House. They have introduced a very commendable Private Member's Bill. I also note that the Hon. Minister is present here, and I observe that he is taking note of the suggestions being offered by the Hon. Members.

In our country, women are revered as goddesses. There is much discussion about the respect for women, yet it largely remains limited to mere talk. Government buses bear the slogan that the bride herself is the dowry. In my view, merely writing this does not resolve the dowry issue. Writing on walls or engaging in discussions alone will not suffice; real change will come only when these measures are implemented. These matters must not remain confined to debate or discussion; provisions must be made for their enforcement. The Government must take this seriously and enact the strictest possible laws. We also need to change our mindset. If a girl refuses a marriage proposal or a case of one-sided love occurs, incidents take place. Many such incidents have occurred in Punjab. I recall an event from six or seven years ago. Two girls from Gurdaspur District were returning from shopping in a rickshaw, and the next day one of them

was due to be married. A young man, who wished to marry her, arrived on a motorcycle and threw acid on both sisters. The following day, when I read the newspaper, I went to a hospital in Amritsar. I cannot describe the condition of that girl that I witnessed. Through this House, I must commend the young man who intended to marry that girl. He could have refused, but he said that had the attack occurred the next day, she would have been his wife. He went on to marry her on her hospital bed.

Recently, the Morinda attack took place. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to kindly read the statement of the girl involved, which I have with me. She has received a very light sentence. Both her eyes were lost in the acid attack. In her own words, she said – He may come out in two or four years and live his life, but I die every day. My point is that in a murder, death occurs once, but in an acid attack, one dies every single day. This is an extremely heinous crime and must be treated as equivalent to murder. The compensation for it should also be considered on par with murder. God has endowed women with beauty, and though they may survive an acid attack physically, their mental and emotional life is destroyed. I rise above political and party lines to welcome this Bill. We are not here merely to criticise the Government; we will also appreciate it if such measures

are implemented. I urge that this Bill be passed to ensure the protection of women, and the strictest possible laws be enacted. Thank you.

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I support the Acid (Control) Bill, 2014, brought forward by Dr. Kirits P. Solanki. This Bill is certainly deserving of careful consideration. Acid attacks target not only women and girls but also other individuals, and the effects on their lives are devastating. I would like to point out in the House that such poisonous substances are being sold, which young girls and adolescents sometimes consume to commit suicide. There must be strict provisions to control the sale of these substances alongside acid. It cannot be simply stated that this matter falls entirely under the jurisdiction of State Governments; stringent measures are certainly required. There is unanimous agreement among Members that the Government must provide free treatment to the victims. Additionally, care homes should be established in every district for women, girls, and other individuals who are forced out of their homes and, due to poverty, are unable to sustain themselves or afford medical care.

Through you, I would like to request that in every district, arrangements be made to House victims, provide their treatment, and ensure proper care. Secondly, I would like to suggest that such incidents occur more frequently around degree colleges and universities. Adequate security arrangements must be in place at these

locations, and CCTV cameras should be installed as needed, because the perpetrators often escape after throwing acid, and their identification becomes difficult. Therefore, proper measures for monitoring and identification are essential. I firmly believe, as all Members have expressed, that very stringent laws must be enacted for this crime. Acid attacks are even more heinous than murder. Therefore, a strict legal framework is essential. This is my suggestion. Thank you.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful for the opportunity to speak on this discussion, which revolves around a fundamental human value. Associating myself with the sentiments expressed by previous Members, I fully support this Bill. I would like to thank Hon. Member Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, who, with a humanitarian approach, has introduced an important Private Member's Bill. An acid attack victim, whether a child or an adult, suffers a life akin to hell. They neither truly live nor die; they exist in a state of constant suffocation. The Government must take initiative in this regard. Currently, the provisions under the Constitution and IPC Section 326 are insufficient to ensure proper justice for acid attack victims. Furthermore, the absence of stringent penalties under this section emboldens offenders, and many escape before the treatment of the victim even begins. Most acid attack victims are women, who are inherently vulnerable. In times of need, we worship Goddess Durga for strength, Goddess Lakshmi for wealth, and Goddess Saraswati for knowledge. Yet in reality, the gravest injustice faced by women manifests through acid attacks. I would like to draw attention to a specific incident in Harihans, Siwan, Bihar, which occurred five months ago. The young girl was unaware of who harboured affection for her, yet someone approached and threw acid

on her. I would like to requested the local authorities, but they stated that no provision existed to assist. I took her to Safdarjung Hospital for treatment, even spending some personal funds. Despite immense efforts, she lost one eye. Witnessing her disfigurement and her fearful, scarred face moved us profoundly. I express my deepest gratitude to Dr. Kirit P. Solanki and, through you, urge the Union Government to take all necessary steps to prevent such incidents in the future.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Deputy Speaker
Sir, I rise to express my support for the Bill introduced by Dr. Kirit P. Solanki. It is a matter of great shame that even after the Nirbhaya incident two years ago, acid attacks continue to take place in our country. There are various forms of acid attacks on young girls and women. Sometimes, a daughter becomes a victim due to a rejected suitor, sometimes a sister suffers because of a failed husband, and at other times, mothers, sisters or daughters fall prey to the misdeeds of a rogue. Today, there is an urgent need to develop two types of prolonged strategies to prevent such heinous attacks. Firstly, before the crime occurs, an environment must be created in the country so that no individual dares to commit such despicable acts. Often, such attacks are described as cowardly acts of failed lovers, yet the reality is far more sinister. A person who yesterday was under my protection could be arrested the next day for committing murder. Such individuals come disguised as friends, but reveal themselves as treacherous snakes in the sleeve, poisoning someone's entire life so that the victim suffers throughout. It is indeed a matter for reflection how such people live their lives. In this context, there must be provision for the strictest possible punishment. Additionally, for every

district where such cases occur, a centre should be established to provide proper treatment and care for the victims.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY): Deputy Speaker Sir, today Dr. Kirit P. Solanki has introduced the Acid (Control) Bill. Dr. Solanki is a doctor and has expressed deep concern regarding the issue of acid being thrown on women. Many Hon. Members, including Dr. Kirit P. Solanki, Shrimati Anupriya Patel, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Adhir Chowdhury, Shri Jagdambika Pal, Shri Saugata Roy, Shrimati Jayshreeben Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Shri B. Mahtab, Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi, Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav, Shri Bhagwant Mann, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Om Prakash Yadav and Shri Rattan Lal Kataria have made important observations and suggestions regarding acid attacks. These contributions are highly valuable. I too hold that acid attacks constitute one of the most heinous crimes against women. Such an attack leaves not only physical scars on the victim's body, but also causes prolonged mental trauma that affects her entire life. Preventing these incidents at any cost is a firm resolve of the Government of India. With a view to addressing this issue comprehensively, the Ministry of Home Affairs has taken several measures. These include not only controlling the storage and sale of acid, but also ensuring that offenders are appropriately punished and victims are provided with relief and rehabilitation. As

per the directives of the Hon. Supreme Court, the Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared a draft legislation titled “Poison Possession and Sale Rules, 2013”, which has been circulated to all States and Union Territories. Based on this draft, most States and Union Territories have framed their own rules. This legislation not only provides for licensing of individuals engaged in the trade of acid, but also imposes strict conditions on the purchase, storage, and both wholesale and retail sale of acid. The intent of this comprehensive legislation is to maintain oversight of acid from its point of manufacture all the way to its end-use. The implementation of these rules by the States and Union Territories is being closely monitored by the Hon. Supreme Court. The measures, concerns, and safeguards expressed through the Acid (Control) Bill, 2014 introduced by the Hon. Member have been appropriately addressed through these draft rules, and efforts are being made to resolve the issues highlighted therein.

I would like to inform the Hon. Members that, rather than responding to each individual point raised, I will provide an overview of the steps the Government has taken in response to the collective suggestions.

First, regarding the regulation of acid sales, provisions have been made for licensing and monitoring at the district level. The District

Judge, supervised by the SDM, will oversee licensing, stock verification, and control. If acid stock is found to be either deficient or excessive, a fine of Rs. 50,000 will be imposed. In response to Dr. Kirit's suggestion for an authority, I would like to clarify that the District Judge acts as an effective authority overseeing the entire district. Typically, there are three to four SDMs in a district to assist in this monitoring. Any movement of stock, whether to a shop or a private location, will be checked, and fines will be levied as necessary. Shrimati Jayshreeben suggested that cases should be fast-tracked. For this purpose, the Ministry of Home Affairs will issue directives to the States, and the Government will continue to monitor the progress of these measures.

Under the current rules, the licensing of acid sales will be carried out by the District Magistrate or an officer appointed by the State Government, strictly in accordance with the established provisions.

Regarding compensation, the States have been directed to provide a minimum of Rs. 300,000 to each victim. The Government is still in discussions, but the proposal is that the Union Government will establish a Victim Compensation Fund. As suggested by Members, the States will provide at least Rs. 300,000 as compensation, with the possibility of additional amounts being considered. For free treatment,

the Ministry of Health has issued instructions to all hospitals, ensuring that any expenses incurred for medical treatment will be fully borne by the Government. The Health Ministry of the Union Government has comprehensively planned for this.

Several Hon. Members have also raised the issue of punishment. I would like to inform that previously, individuals attempting acid attacks were sentenced to five, seven, or ten years of imprisonment.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The time allotted for discussion on this Bill was up to 5.50 p.m. Now the time is extended till the discussion on the Bill is over.

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY: Previously, the punishment for an acid attack was ten years' imprisonment, which has now been enhanced to life imprisonment. In addition, I would like to mention two or three other points. Sections 326(A) and 326(B) have been added to the Indian Penal Code alongside Section 326. Following the incorporation of these provisions, we conduct continuous monitoring. The Ministry of Home Affairs issues monthly letters to ensure whether victims have received compensation. As has been pointed out, there are around one hundred cases in which compensation has

not yet been disbursed. We will make every effort to ensure that these victims receive their due. Today, all Members have provided very valuable suggestions, and the Government will take all necessary stringent measures in this regard. I express my sincere gratitude to all Members who have contributed such constructive suggestions.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Sir, I have introduced the Acid (Control) Bill concerning the heinous acid attacks on women. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to all my fellow Members of Parliament for their open and unanimous support on such a sensitive issue. I am particularly grateful to the Government and especially to our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, as well as to the Minister. When Shri Narendra Modi first addressed the House, he affirmed that our Government would remain sensitive towards women and would always adopt a firm stance against their oppression. I am satisfied with the response provided by the Minister and urge the Government to take due cognisance of this issue and implement the strictest possible provisions. I would like to request all necessary efforts be made in this regard. With this, I withdraw my Bill and once again extend my sincere thanks to all Members.

[English]I beg to move for leave to withdraw the Bill to provide for control of sale and distribution of acids in order to prevent the acid

attacks on human beings particularly women and girls and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for control of sale and distribution of acids in order to prevent the acid attacks on human beings particularly women and girls and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I withdraw the Bill.

17.54 hrs.

**SENIOR CITIZENS (PROVISION OF GERIATRIC AND
DEMENTIA CARE) BILL, 2014**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now we shall take up Item No.75 – Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Sir, I thank you for allowing me to move a Bill titled the ‘Senior Citizens (Provision of Geriatric and Dementia Care) Bill, 2014.

Sir, I have moved this Bill especially to bring to light and to deliberate in this House the problems that our older generation is facing or will be facing in near future. A disease like dementia – loss of memory – is affecting a large number of people of our society. I came to know about this disease and many of came to know about this disease after the former President of the United States of America, Mr. Ronald Regan, was affected by that disease. That is how, the whole world came to know that here is a disease which is not curable and only certain amount of treatment can be given and that treatment is only to take care of them so that they do not make mistakes and be victims of certain circumstances.

Dementia is a disease ... *(Interruptions)* Parkinson is different. Dementia is a syndrome usually of a chronic nature caused by a variety of brain illness. So, it is forgetfulness and is disconnect between ones thinking process and his speaking ability. One will be aware that certain things are happening around him but he will not find the actual words to express himself. At times when one is inside his room, inside one's House and one feels like going outside and when one goes outside and moves around in the streets, one does not then recollect as to which was the way to come back to one's own House. He does not recognize his House again. At times a person even does not recognize his own children and relatives. It is not Perkinson but it is Dementia... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):

You mentioned about Ronald Regan and that is why I told Parkinson.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: The word that came into more use was Alzheimer. Alzheimer and Dementia have a very thin line of difference. Parkinson was a general concept which the medical world and the general public were using in the 60s. But later on when the doctors of neurology and Neuro Sciences surveyed the matter, they have said that this is something of Dementia and something of Alzheimer.

Sir, as I propose this Bill for consideration of the House, I would like to say that we have been talking about demographic dividend, the country's youthful demographic curve transaction into a geronatalogical bulge by 2020, but the plight of the aged will aggravate. India which had traditionally enjoyed a robust joint family system that had taken care of the elderly yet the sweeping currents of globalization is rupturing our social fabric and is having a baleful effect on our society. With the disintegration of the joint family system and the emergence of the nuclear families, elders are increasingly getting neglected, uncared for and in some cases, maltreated. Elderly people rarely complain, at least not in public. But if you enquire about their well-being, the tales of sorrow are endless.

Here I am reminded of a story. Some 100 years ago, a famous writer of Odiya literature, whom we consider as the father of modern Odiya literature Fakir Mohan, had written a short story named *Dak Munshi*. The story is like this. An old *chowkidar* had devoted all his life to bring up his son. The son got educated and got a good job and became a Post Master. One day this old man went to meet his son. He met his son, stayed there for a night. But the next day when he was coming back, a friend of his son went to that office and asked, 'who is this old man going out'? The son said, 'he is a servant who has come

from my village'. From that day the old man decided not to have any contact with his son. The dream that he had of having a better living in his old age was shattered and he was relegated to his own fate. That is how the story ends. This is, no doubt, generation gap. But my concern here is about taking care of the older people. As nuclear families are now the rule of the day, the number of older people is increasing day by day. The population of senior citizens, as a percentage of total population which stood at 7.5 per cent during 2001 census is likely to increase to 12.4 per cent in 2026 as per the report of the Technical Group constituted by the National Commission on Population.

So, in that respect, I would say that greater responsibility is now both with the State Governments and the Union Government. Therefore, I would say that, other than taking care of their health, there is also a need to take care of their well-being.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab, you may continue next time.

Now it is 6 p.m. We may now take up 'Zero Hour'. Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

18.00 hrs.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Deputy Speaker Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on such a very serious matter. Many children from our State of Bihar are pursuing their education in various cities across the country. This morning, I was informed via telephone that at the Ganpati Institute of Technology and Management College, Bilaspur, Yamuna Nagar, in the State of Haryana, approximately 100 students from Bihar have been held hostage and physically assaulted. Not only that, they were attacked with knives, resulting in severe injuries to their abdomens. Two of the children are currently fighting for their lives.

Sir, Hon. Minister of Home Affairs is present here. I earnestly request that you intervene with the Government of Haryana to ensure a thorough investigation of this matter. The children who are fighting for their lives must be provided with immediate protection, and those held hostage should be released and safely returned to their homes. This is our sincere request to you.

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Ministry of Minority Affairs to issues concerning the minority communities residing in my Ambala

Parliamentary Constituency. I urge that a framework be prepared to formulate policies for the development of the minority communities in my constituency. In Haryana, after the Mewat region, my Parliamentary Constituency has the second-largest minority population. However, there is no major educational institution in my area providing quality education for the minority community. As a result, the schemes and programmes run for the welfare of minority communities in India are not fully benefiting them. Therefore, I earnestly request the Minister of Minority Affairs to take special steps to ensure the empowerment, development, and provision of equal opportunities for the minority communities.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Sir, I would like to bring to your attention through you that under the DDA Master Plan 2021, the area falling under Zone O has not yet been brought under the Master Plan. However, in 2007, under the DDA Master Plan, the capital city of Delhi was divided into 15 planning zones. Urban Delhi was divided into eight zones (A to H), the Urban Extension Area into six zones (J to N), and the Yamuna riverfront area was designated as Zone O. Zone O refers to the area settled along the Yamuna River. In the areas falling under Zone O, all construction and repair activities are completely prohibited. This zone encompasses approximately ten

to twelve villages, including Sadatpur, Jagatpur, Harinagar, Meethapur, Jaitpur, Madanpur, Sonia Vihar, among others. On 29 March 2006, the High Court ordered a ban on construction within 300 metres of the river. However, when the DDA prepared the Master Plan, this distance was extended to six kilometres. The residents living within this range whose Houses were constructed prior to the 2006 Master Plan are mostly poor. When they attempt to construct new Houses or repair existing ones, they are prohibited from doing so. Furthermore, the Government has not been able to provide essential facilities such as dispensaries and schools in this area. As a result, the residents there are forced to live a life of hardship. Repair work is also prohibited. If anyone carries out repairs, the poor residents are required to pay service fees to Government officials, otherwise their work is stopped. Meanwhile, the Government has provided areas in Madanpur Khadar for rehabilitation, where construction has been carried out. In addition, regular colony Houses have been built, a sports village was constructed in the name of the Commonwealth Games, and the Delhi Secretariat has been established. The Government is constructing such important buildings there. However, the thousand-year-old villages of Meethapur, Jaitpur, and Harinagar,

located one to one-and-a-half kilometres from the Yamuna, are being harassed in the name of Zone O.

Through you, I would like to request the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi, the Delhi Government, and the Ministry of Urban Development to reclassify the areas beyond 300 metres from the river into Zone H, so that the exploitation of the residents can stop and they may be provided with essential basic facilities.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency Damoh, there is the Nauradehi Sanctuary, which the Government intends to establish for the first time in Madhya Pradesh under the Cheetah Project. Through you, I would like to address three points to the Government of India, particularly the Ministry of Environment and Forests. First, the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act passed by the Government of India must be strictly adhered to at the time of compensation. From my constituency, 23 villages are being acquired, of which three—Kushiyari, Rampura, and Chakkipla—have already been acquired. A total of 407 families have been displaced. Sir, this involves 15,000 hectares of agricultural land across 23 villages. The provision to provide land in exchange for the land being acquired is not being implemented anywhere. Merely providing compensation is

insufficient, especially since this is a very underdeveloped district. The Nauradehi Sanctuary spans two districts, Sagar and Damoh. I earnestly request that the Government ensure that the entire family of farmers, who have resided there for generations, are given land in exchange when they are displaced. Otherwise, it would constitute a grave injustice. The neighbouring district, Narsinghpur, has land ten times more expensive than this area. Even after full compensation, they will not receive even a quarter of equivalent land. Therefore, I earnestly request that the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act be strictly followed and that arrangements for their rehabilitation be made beforehand. Unlike other places where the displaced are better accommodated, such a plight should not befall them. I also thank the Government of India for permitting the access route that was being blocked. For these villages being acquired, if the access routes are provided and rehabilitation is ensured, I believe it would constitute justice for them. The Government must sincerely consider the pain of these farmers. Thank you.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUMDUM): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I may be permitted to raise a matter of urgent public importance during 'Zero Hour' in the House today.

I draw the attention of the House to certain policy decisions being taken by the Ministry of Textiles that would be detrimental for the survival of the jute industry. As you are aware, the markets for jute industry is protected under the Jute Packaging Materials Act, 1987 whereby there is an annual review for reserving percentage of jute packaging material to be used for packing of food grains and sugar.

Under the provisions of the JPMA Act, the Standing Advisory Committee is constituted to recommend the reservation percentage every year. For the year 2014-15, the SAC meeting was held on 3rd July, 2014 wherein the Indian Jute Mill Association represented that full capacity and raw material is available to cater to 100 per cent requirements for packaging of food grains and sugar. However, contrary to facts and figures presented by the IJMA, the SAC took a decision to recommend 90 per cent for food grains and 20 per cent for sugar.

Subsequent to the SAC recommendation, the Ministry of Textiles has received comments from the Min of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, the Ministry of Chemical and Fertilizer, the

Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Finance as well as a decision taken by Group of Officers at the Cabinet Secretariat on 16.10.2014 held to discuss the 'Crisis in Jute Sector', suggesting removal of sugar packaging from the ambit of JPMA and the need for reduction in reservation percentage for food grains in the current year phasing out over the next two to three years. Any such decision taken by the Union Government would be a death knell for the jute industry and affect three lakh jute workers. Many of them are in my constituency.

The West Bengal Chief Minister has written to the Minister of Textiles earlier this month requesting him not to go ahead with the proposed reduction of reservation of jute packaging and to draw up along with States like West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, etc. an appropriate plan for diversification of the jute industry. The Centre should heed to this. Thank you.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I may be permitted to associate with the matter raised by Prof. Saugata Roy.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please send the slip.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Sir, it has been 67 years since our country attained Independence, yet even today, many of our

roads continue to bear the names of those who oppressed our people and plundered our treasures during the colonial era. Now that India is a free nation, we have a long list of martyrs. Many of whom remain unsung, known only within their local regions.

Through you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would like to urge that roads should now be named after those martyrs. It is indeed unfortunate that roads still carry the names of those who inflicted suffering upon our people. If roads are named after our heroes such as Seva Singh Tikariwala, Shaheed Udham Singh, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Ashfaqullah Khan, Veer Savarkar, and Abdul Hamid it would truly honour the spirit of freedom. These great freedom fighters deserve that recognition, not those who looted our nation and oppressed our citizens. This is a matter of utmost seriousness, and through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards it.

DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important matter. As all the Members of this august House are aware, the late Shri Gopinath Munde Ji was a towering leader of our nation. He served as a Minister in the Government of India and also as the Deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra. He devoted his entire life to the welfare of the poor, the

Dalits, and the backward classes. On 3rd June, 2014, he tragically lost his life in a road accident, and today, he is no longer among us. Incidentally, today marks his birth anniversary.

Through you, I would like to urge the Government that a memorial be constructed at the site of the accident where he lost his life, and that the road be named Gopinath Munde Marg in his honour, so that we may pay a true tribute to his memory. Thank you.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Janardhan Singh Sigriwal – not present.

[Translation]

SHRI BODH SINGH BHAGAT (BALAGHAT): Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to raise a matter of urgent public importance. The subject of my Zero Hour submission is as follows. At present, the sowing of rabi crops such as paddy, wheat, gram, linseed, and mustard has either commenced or is about to commence across the country. Farmers are in dire need of urea, DAP, and other chemical fertilisers. However, in the districts of Seoni and Balaghat in Madhya Pradesh, due to the unavailability of fertilisers, farmers are unable to procure them. This has caused great concern among the farming community. As a result, agricultural production will decline, leading to severe

economic losses for the farmers. There is deep distress and growing resentment among them.

Through you, I urge the Government to take immediate steps to ensure adequate and timely availability of fertilisers to the farmers.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri K.C. Venugopal – not present.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for having given me this opportunity.

Through you, I wish to draw the urgent attention of this august House to a very important matter regarding the safety and security of the coastal belt. India has 7517 kms. long and vulnerable coastal line and the maritime interest of the country assumes paramount importance. The 26/11 Mumbai attack was an eye-opener and it makes us more alert to the need for vigilance on the coastal line.

Our Coast Guard and the Navy are, in fact, taking very effective steps to face the threat to our maritime interest. The Chinese presence in the Indian Ocean and also the presence of their submarines in Colombo pose serious threat. The Chinese claim over international waters with all its neighbours is also creating an alarming situation in

the region especially when the Indian Ocean is emerging as the centre of gravity as far as maritime interest is concerned.

Under these circumstances, I urge the Government to take urgent steps to safeguard our interests against the threats and protect our coastal line. I also urge the Union Government to alert the coastal States and Union Territories so that people along the coastal belt are involved in the security of our country in a better manner.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Deputy Speaker Sir, I have been elected from the Banda Parliamentary Constituency, situated in the extremely backward region of Bundelkhand. My constituency comprises two districts where there are no major industries. Thousands of unemployed youths migrate to distant regions of the country in search of work. Due to this large-scale migration of families from both rural and urban areas, numerous Houses remain locked and abandoned. In Banda district, there was a spinning mill that employed thousands of people, but it has been non-operational for a considerable time. Similarly, in Chitrakoot district, work had begun to establish a glass factory, and significant progress was made, but for a long time now, nothing has been happening there. In both locations, machinery is either rusting or has gone missing. My

constituency also has abundant granite and silica sand, which could serve as the basis for setting up industries.

Through you, I would like to request the Government of India to expedite the reopening of the spinning mill in Banda and the Float Glass Limited in Wargar, Chitrakoot, and to establish at least one major industry in each of these two districts. This will help address the problem of unemployment and pave the way for the development of this backward region.

SHRI ARJUN LAL MEENA (UDAIPUR): Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity during Zero Hour to raise a significant issue concerning the livelihoods of the tribal communities in the State of Rajasthan.

Sir, I would like to draw attention to the expansion of the Tribal Sub-Plan area (TSP). According to the 2011 Census, the total population of Rajasthan is 68,548,437, of which 13.5 percent comprises Scheduled Tribes. I come from a division where districts such as Udaipur, Rajsamand, Chittorgarh, Sirohi, Pratapgarh, and Pali are home to communities including Bhil, Meena, Garasia, Damor, and Gameti, among others. However, these communities have not been included within the Tribal Sub-Plan area. As a result, the Scheduled Tribes in these districts are unable to access the benefits of various

schemes and programmes implemented by the Government of India and the State Government. I would like to express my appreciation to the esteemed Chief Minister of our State, Shrimati Vasundhara Raje, whose Cabinet has recently passed a proposal and forwarded it to the Union Government, recommending the inclusion of the Scheduled Tribes residing in these districts within the Tribal Sub-Plan area, so that the deprived sections can avail the benefits of the developmental schemes run by both the Central and State Governments.

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA (MANDSOUR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House, through you, to the condition of the Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary located in my Parliamentary Constituency of Mandasaur. The Gandhisagar Wildlife Sanctuary is situated on the banks of Asia's largest man-made lake and spans an area of 142 square miles. It borders the State of Rajasthan and holds significant importance from both tourism and environmental perspectives. However, the forest density within the sanctuary has drastically declined. The entire world is concerned about environmental degradation, and our forests are no exception, with a marked reduction in density. Furthermore, no serious initiatives have been undertaken for the protection of wildlife in the sanctuary.

Through you, I would request the Hon. Minister that efforts be made to restore the forest density of this sanctuary so that it may serve both as a protected area for wildlife and as a developed tourist destination. It is hoped that with such initiatives, the sanctuary will be transformed and developed into a renewed and sustainable form.

[English]

DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you very much for allowing me to raise an important issue relating to my constituency Jagatsinghpur, Odisha.

Konark Sun Temple built in the 13th Century AD is conceived as one of the most sublime monuments and prime tourist attractions of India is situated in Odisha. It has also been inscribed as a World Heritage Site by the UNESCO. But unfortunately, the gigantic structure of the temple is now in a dilapidated condition due to its exposure to saline ingress, heavy rains, growth of vegetation on the temple etc. Despite this, no comprehensive action for its repair or maintenance is being taken up.

Hence, I would like to draw the kind attention of the Minister of Culture as well as the Minister of Tourism and urge them to take necessary steps as early as possible to preserve the structural resources of Konark Sun Temple.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw your attention to a very serious issue. The fire that first broke out in Delhi subsequently spread to Agra and then reached Ludhiana. In Ludhiana, a 180-year-old church was attacked by anti-social elements on the 9th. During this attack, the church's security guard, Gabriel, was grievously injured. There was an attempt to seize the land belonging to the church. These miscreants continued their attempts for one to two hours. However, as you are aware, the Government in Punjab, led by the Akali Dal and the BJP, did not take any notice of the incident. Despite my repeated phone calls, no action was taken by the police.

Sir, through you, I would like to request the Government to ensure that these criminals are apprehended promptly and action is taken against them. Our Hindu, Sikh, Muslim, and Christian communities are like flowers in a bouquet, and their beauty is in their blossoming. Any attempt to suppress, attack, or seize from them could worsen the situation in Punjab and across the country. Therefore, I earnestly hope that the Government will pay immediate attention to the law and order situation in Punjab.

SHRIMATI RAKHA VERMA (DHAURAHARA): Deputy Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

Sir, within our Parliamentary Constituency, in Sisaia of Lakhimpur Kheri district, there is an urgent need to construct a community hall for destitute widows and women living below the poverty line. Additionally, it is essential to provide such women with training to motivate them for employment and to ensure their equal participation in society.

Through you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would like to request the Government to kindly consider these demands sympathetically and take the necessary action.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now actually the list of balloted names is over. Some hon. Members requested that they want to raise some urgent matters. I can permit them provided they take only one minute each. Otherwise I cannot allow. So, I request them to cooperate and make only the points very briefly.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (MADHUBANI): Deputy Speaker Sir, a minimum wage has been prescribed for skilled

and unskilled labour. Accordingly, failure to pay them their due wages invites legal action. However, it is the misfortune of our country that in India, there are thousands and lakhs of individuals who have completed engineering degrees, such as B.Tech., M.Tech., or other professional qualifications like an MBA, for whom no minimum wage has been prescribed. These young engineers, despite their qualifications, are often compelled to work for a mere Rs. 15,000 per month, performing tasks akin to those of ordinary labourers. This is an insult to their talent, skills, competence, and efficiency.

I urge the Government to ensure that a minimum salary of at least Rs. 25,000 per month is prescribed for these engineering graduates. I would like to request the enactment of a law to make this mandatory across all companies, whether in the Government or private sectors, so that no engineer is employed for less than Rs. 25,000 per month. Where such cases already exist, their remuneration should be raised to this level. This is my earnest appeal.

[English]

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to bring to your notice the plight of 24 fishermen from Kanyakumari District in Tamil Nadu who were arrested by the Bangladesh Navy on 9.12.2014.

Sir, 24 fishermen belonging to Tamil Nadu engaged as fishing labourers on a share basis, went for deep sea fishing in three boats from Bettuagad near Kolkata in West Bengal on 17th November, 2014. These 24 innocent fishermen have been arrested by the Bangladesh Navy for allegedly crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line on 9.12.2014.

These innocent fishermen are the sole breadwinners of their families and are engaged in deep sea fishing in order to earn their livelihood. Their arrest and detention will severely affect their families and dependents in Tamil Nadu.

Hence, I urge upon the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India to coordinate with the High Commission of India in Dhaka, Bangladesh and intervene at the diplomatic level to secure the immediate release of these 24 fishermen from Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSWOOP SHARMA (MANDI): Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the Mandi Parliamentary Constituency. In Kullu district, Himachal Pradesh, priceless idols, 363 years old, from the historic Raghunath Temple were stolen on the night of 8th December 2014. This incident has caused a deep shock to the religious faith of the people in the State. These idols had been brought from Ayodhya. This is a grave loss for the Dev community, as it can erase the entire history associated with them. These idols were created by Lord Shri Ram during the Ashwamedh Yagna. The world-renowned International Dussehra of Kullu traditionally commences only after the worship and rituals of Lord Shri Raghunath, which is now under question. For four days following the theft, the entire Kullu market remained closed, and many people are yet to recover from this grief.

Sir, through you, I earnestly appeal to the Government of India to ensure that the historic idols of Shri Raghunath Temple are not taken out of the country and to make special arrangements to apprehend these cunning thieves at the earliest. I thank you very much.

SHRIMATI JYOTI DHURVE (BETOOL): Deputy Speaker Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency of Baitul and Harda districts, farmers are deeply concerned due to a sudden shortage of urea fertiliser. After

sowing their crops, they urgently require urea fertiliser. At present, only 30 percent of the fertiliser is being supplied through Government societies by IFFCO and NFL, whereas private dealers are supplying the remaining 70 percent. This disparity is causing difficulties for the farmers. Through you, Deputy Speaker Sir, I earnestly urge the Government of India to increase the supply through these Government societies from 30 percent to 60 percent, so that farmers receive fertiliser promptly and without delay.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MANDAL (BARDHMAN EAST): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I am deeply grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak in the temple of our Republic for the first time today. I would like to raise an important issue regarding onion storage facilities. In Burdwan district of West Bengal, a significant quantity of onions is cultivated. However, onions often have to be brought from Nashik in Maharashtra for storage and then transported back to Bengal, which substantially increases their prices.

Through you, I earnestly request the Minister to consider establishing at least one onion storage facility in our district to make our farmers self-reliant in onion cultivation.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHAHJAHANPUR): Sir, it is with a heavy heart that I bring to the House an issue that affects all our lives. Across the country, water and environmental pollution are causing a rise in serious kidney diseases. This grave illness is increasingly affecting people aged between 20 and 45 years. I am sure, as you can understand, that except in Delhi and other major cities, facilities for kidney treatment and dialysis are not available in most districts.

Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency alone, there are today 4,000 to 5,000 kidney patients who are compelled to travel to Delhi, Lucknow, or Bareilly for treatment. Kidneys are not easily available, and dialysis, required every three days, is extremely expensive.

Through you, I urge the Government of India to formulate a policy to control water and environmental pollution. Furthermore, in districts where essential medicines, equipment, and treatment for serious kidney diseases are unavailable, these should be made accessible. In particular, I would like to request that nephrologists be encouraged, provided special facilities, and posted in every district to ensure proper care for patients.

[English]

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, agriculture is a big traditional occupation in my Tiruvnnamalai Constituency. Apart from cultivation of paddy, cultivation of flowers like malligai, mullai, roja and chambanki is also carried out widely due to suitable climatic conditions. These flowers are in great demand and they are being taken to several parts of the country. They are also being used elsewhere for perfume manufacturing.

Due to the absence of cold storage facilities and non-availability of perfume manufacturing units, most often flowers get perished and suffer price fluctuations causing loss to the farmers. In order to help the flower growers to get steady and remunerative earnings from flower cultivation, the Union Government may kindly establish godowns with cold storage facility. A perfume manufacturing unit may also be set up there which will help reduce production cost.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Deputy Speaker Sir, why is it that time and again, sometimes in Assam, sometimes in Maharashtra and elsewhere, students from Bihar are subjected to the

greatest cruelty and atrocities in this country? To beat with rods, detain and rag 50 students of Nalanda simply over money, or to abduct girls and sell them, are matters of the gravest concern. Madhepura, Purnia, Katihar, Saharsa and Kusrilal, the Seemanchal region are home to many Dalit and minority families who are extremely poor. In those areas girls are being brought to Rajasthan, Haryana and Punjab under the pretext of marriage or employment and sold for Rs. 40,000–50,000 after the marriage. A gang operates there. Just as the Nalanda students were beaten with rods, such incidents against students are occurring repeatedly in Haryana, where there is a BJP Government. Through you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, I urge the Government to ensure the protection of those students. A gang in Punjab and Haryana is engaged in bringing poor people and selling them; a girl was recently sold in Panipat.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to protect the girls of Bihar and to expose and apprehend that gang so that the honour of Bihar's girls may be safeguarded.

[English]

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): Thank you Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir. I am raising an urgent public importance issue pertaining to my North West Delhi Constituency.

In the year 1981, 82384 applicants had registered for plots in Rohini. This Scheme was floated by Delhi Development Authority. So far 25,000 registered applicants have not got their plots despite the fact that the Supreme Court had given clear-cut directions in the month of July that by 30th November, all the applicants should be given possession letters. But so far only 11,000 of them have received possession letters and the remaining 13,000 applicants are yet to get the letters. They have been running from pillar to the post for almost 33 years now.

I would request the hon. Minister of Urban Development to address their grievances at the earliest.

Thank you.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to an important matter that India has the highest incidence of Tuberculosis in the world. The situation has further compounded because the drug resistant TB has also been growing alarmingly in our country.

In addition to it, I would like to draw the attention of the House to one another horrifying discovery has been occurred in India whereby it has been found that India has also become the highest number of Tuberculosis among the children out of 22 countries in the world. Every year, 74,000 to 1,30,000 children are dying due to Tuberculosis.

Diagnosing TB of those children is difficult because they do not produce enough sputum for the test. So, the situation calls for a well coordinated action plan, rather I would suggest on a war footing measure. All the Anganwadi workers should be trained in such a way that they can detect Tuberculosis among the children in our country.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA (TONK-SAWAI MADHOPUR): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, through you, I would like to raise an important matter in the House. People of Rajasthan have to travel long distances for medical treatment. In and around my

Parliamentary Constituency of Tonk-Sawai Madhopur, there is no hospital comparable to AIIMS within a radius of 100 to 150 kilometres. Patients are compelled to go to Jaipur, Kota, or even Delhi for treatment. This results in substantial expenditure on travel and accommodation, and they face numerous hardships en route.

In my constituency, due to the presence of saline and fluoride-laden water, people are suffering from several life-threatening diseases. My constituency covers approximately four hundred Panchayats, and this demand is of utmost importance to the local population. Through you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, I would like to request the Government of India to establish an AIIMS-like hospital in Tonk, Rajasthan. The local hospitals currently functioning there lack essential equipment; X-ray machines are often out of order and medicines are frequently unavailable. While there is a shortage of doctors across the country, the State itself faces a severe deficit of medical professionals. Therefore, I strongly believe that an AIIMS-like facility should be set up in Tonk.

[English]

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing me to speak on an important issue of construction of the International

Monument of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Arabian Sea at Mumbai for which the approval of the Union Government has not been released by the Union Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change so far.

Sir, in this connection, I would like to submit that the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority has submitted the proposal through their letter dated 5th February, 2014 along with the minutes of the 88th meeting with the Ministry of Environment and Forests to consider a special dispensation under CRZ Notification, 2011 for the proposal of installation of the statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Arabian Sea at Mumbai as permissible activity.

Through you, Sir, I would request the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to look into the matter and consider a special dispensation under CRZ Notification, 2011 for the proposal of installation of the proposed statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Arabian Sea at Mumbai. The powers may be delegated to the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority under CRZ Notification, 2011 to recommend this project from CRZ point of view to project proponent/planning authority at the State level. Thank you.

SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to thank you for allowing me to raise an important matter in this House.

I would request that all the express trains should have a stoppage at the Kodai Road railway junction, which is the gateway of Kodaikanal Tourism.

In Tamil Nadu, our hon. People's former Chief Minister, Amma has facilitated road transport in such a dynamic way that the public finds very easy to travel throughout the clock and throughout the nook and corner of Tamil Nadu. Similarly, Railway also should function for the convenience of the people and not for any profitable business.

Tourists are finding extremely difficult to reach Kodaikanal, the Princess of the Hills because of non-stoppage of express trains like Vaigai, Nellai, Pothigai, Guruvayur express trains at this station.

I live close to this railway station. Since there is no stoppage of express trains here, it is very difficult for me too to move anywhere on time.

If there is a stoppage of all the express trains here, there will be a possibility to increase the number of tourists. If it is not possible for all the express trains to have a stoppage at this station, at least Vaigai and Guruvayur express trains should have a stoppage at this station.

I have written a letter to the hon. Railway Minister six months back and till today nothing has happened. The General Manager of the Southern Railway had conducted a meeting last month at Tiruchi in which he had explained that the exclusive power of stoppage of trains remains only with the decision of Parliament.

I would, therefore, request the hon. Railway Minister to take speedy action to have the stoppage at the Kodai Road railway junction. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, Rajasthan has 32,000 mines, employing over 2 million people. In my area, the Kota-Bundi Parliamentary Constituency, more than 200,000 labourers work in these mines. These workers are suffering from severe lung diseases, including silicosis, caused by silica and other ores.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Many labourers struggle with life-threatening conditions by the age of 40. There are no facilities even to diagnose minor illnesses. Essential investigations such as lung tests, biopsies, CT scans, and pulmonary function tests are unavailable. Although a Pneumoconiosis Board has been established, there is no facility even for spirometry tests. I therefore request that the Central

and Rajasthan Governments, through their Mines and Health Departments, jointly ensure proper medical examinations for mine workers and create a safe environment for treating those battling life-threatening illnesses. I also urge the Union Government to establish a comprehensive system for the medical care of mine workers.

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to raise a very important issue. As you all know, Haryana has always been at the forefront in sports. Athletes from Haryana have consistently enhanced the nation's reputation in every international competition. Over the past several years, if we look at international events, athletes from Haryana have won 30 to 50 percent of the country's medals. In the Commonwealth Games, 21 out of 39 gold medals came from Haryana. In the Asian Games, 34 out of 106 medals were won by athletes from Haryana. In the Olympic Games, 4 out of 6 medals came from athletes with a Haryana background. Under the sports policy "Win Medals, Get Rewards," young people in Haryana have been encouraged to pursue sports. I am pleased that the Sports Minister is present here, but there are discussions suggesting that the Haryana Government intends to alter this sports policy merely because it is associated with the former Chief Minister. I firmly believe that sports should not become a political

issue. It is the responsibility of the Union Government and the Sports Ministry to safeguard a policy under which our athletes have won 40 to 50 percent of the medals. The officials of the Sports Ministry have highly appreciated this sports policy.

Secondly, there has been a longstanding demand for a National Sports University in Haryana. While one has been established in the North-East, we sincerely hope that a National Sports University will soon be set up in Haryana. This demand has been consistently raised, and we continue to urge the Government to address it at the earliest.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Deputy Speaker Sir, in our Siwan district, Bihar, a leprosy ashram was established in the name of the country's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. This institution provides treatment, accommodation, food, drink, and clothing to leprosy patients who have been abandoned by their families or neglected by society, and who face hardships everywhere. The Union Government used to grant Rs. 36 lakh annually to this institution, but after 1996, the Government suddenly stopped the funding. As a result, the patients there are left distressed and in severe difficulty.

Deputy Speaker, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to consider the rising cost of living and provide at least

Rs. 50 lakh annually to this institution. This is my earnest appeal to you.

SHRI JAGADAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, the Food Security Act was passed by this esteemed House, and we are all witnesses to that. However, the previous Government did not implement it in the States. The Act stipulates that 70 percent of the population would receive coarse grains at Rs. 1 per kilogram, wheat at Rs. 2 per kilogram, and rice at Rs. 3 per kilogram. It was to be implemented across all States and Union Territories. In this regard, the Ministry of Food, Government of India, issued two warnings and extended the deadline, as the promise was that from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, every family, whether a labourer or otherwise, could receive 35 kilograms of foodgrains per month. Even if a family's income is below the minimum threshold, no family should face starvation. I would like to highlight that on 4th April, the Union Government issued a deadline, stating that if the Act is not implemented, foodgrain supply to Above Poverty Line (APL) families, who receive subsidised grains, will be stopped from 5th April. This will undoubtedly create a major crisis.

Through you, I urge that the Act be implemented in all States. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I beg to draw the attention of the Government of India to the increasing number of pilgrims travelling between Chennai and Shirdi. Presently, only one Express Train, Shirdi Express is operated between Chennai and Shirdi, that too weekly once.

The Train No.22601 starts from Chennai on every Wednesday morning and reaches Shirdi on the next morning with a journey time of nearly 25 hours. On the reverse side, the same train, No.22602, starts from Shirdi to Chennai and reaches Chennai on the next day.

This train stops in 23 stations between Chennai and Shirdi and covers a total distance of 1392 kilometres. In view of this, a large number of pilgrims in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh use this train to visit Shirdi. Since there is only one train every week, the reservation tickets are booked within a few hours of opening.

I urge the Government of India and the Ministry of Railways to operate this train on all the seven days of the week so that the passengers of both the States get the benefit. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG AAPPA BARNE (MAVAL): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, in my Parliamentary Constituency of Maval, there are two ancient historical caves, Karla and Bhaja, which are under the supervision of the Archaeological Survey of India. Near Karla Cave is Lonavala, and close to the cave is the famous Ekavira Devi Temple. The Ekavira Devi Temple is a major place of worship for the Agri community. Every year, millions of tourists and devotees from Raigad, Mumbai, Konkan, and other parts of Maharashtra visit the temple for darshan and to see the caves. During Navratri, the number of visitors and devotees increases manifold, yet there is no special facility for transportation, which results in considerable difficulty for those travelling there.

Therefore, I urge the Government to direct the Archaeological Department and the concerned authorities to establish a ropeway to the Ekavira Devi Temple at Karla Caves so that tourists and devotees can easily access these historic caves and the temple. Thank you.

[English]

***SHRI RAMESWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH):** Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a very important issue. The Congress Government in Assam is harassing the Bengali Hindus residing in the state by declaring them as D-voters. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to intervene in this matter to ensure safety and security of the Bengali Hindus residing in the State of Assam. I also request the Union Government to take urgent steps to grant them Indian citizenship. It may be mentioned here that nowhere in our country the Bengali Hindus migrated from Bangladesh have been harassed in such an inhuman manner. As a result of such humiliating treatment meted out to Bengali Hindus, a few days back, a person namely Arjun Karmakar hailing from Assam's Cachar district committed suicide. In this regard, I would also like to draw the attention of the Union Home Ministry for early settlement of the issue.

***SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR):** Thank you, Hon'ble Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government of India to a very serious issue being faced by the tea estate workers working in the tea gardens in Assam. The Congress Government in Assam has hatched a conspiracy to discontinue the

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Assamese.

supply of ration provided to the tea workers. As per an agreement signed between the tea estate owners and tea labourers, it is the responsibility of the tea estate owners to provide ration because with a meager daily wage of Rs.94, it is not possible for a tea worker to make both ends meet. I warn the state Government not to indulge in such conspiracy with the sole aim of depriving the tea workers of the supply of ration. The Assam Government should also refrain from spreading misinformation to malign the Union Government. In the mean time, I would also like to appeal the State Government to take appropriate steps to hike the daily wage of tea estate workers. The tea labourers should get their wages for Sundays and other holidays also. It is worthwhile to mention here that while other parts of our country, a tea worker gets Rs.220 to Rs.250 as daily wage, in Assam he gets just Rs.94. We have in Assam about 920 tea gardens that produce 51% of the country's total tea. But the condition of our tea workers is very bad. Sir, it is a very serious issue and I would like to request the Union Government to take urgent steps for betterment of tea estate workers.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Monday, the 15th December, 2014 at 11 a.m.

18.51 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, December 15, 2014/Agrahayana 24, 1936 (Saka).

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