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Tuesday, December 22, 2015

Pausha 1, 1937 (Saka)

# **LOK SABHA DEBATES**

**(English Version)**

**Sixth Session**

**(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)**



*(Vol. XIV contains Nos. 11 to 20)*

**LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT**

**NEW DELHI**

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## LOK SABHA DEBATES

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LOK SABHA

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Tuesday, December 22, 2015/Pausha 1, 1937 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Shri Kodikunnil Suresh, Prof. K. V. Thomas, Shri K. C. Venugopal, Shri Gaurav Gogai, Shri N. K. Premachandran, Shri Rajeev Satav, Shri P. Karunakaran and Shri M. I. Shanavas on different issues.

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 all the notices of Adjournment Motion.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Q. No. 321 – Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan.

... (*Interruptions*)

### **11. 02 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Gaurav Gogai and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table. )*

**11. 03 hours****\*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Q. No. 321 – Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan.

**(Q. 321)**

**SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I have gone through the Answer laid on the Table by the Minister. ... *(Interruptions)* Now, I have two questions. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, the emission of carbon and other harmful gases is now a global problem. Developed countries like the USA and European Union are mostly responsible for climate change through excessive use of fossil fuel, nuclear plants and encouragement of arms race. ... *(Interruptions)* They are responsible for 75 per cent of such emissions. So, they must be compelled to take up a greater share of the liability of cleaning up the earth. ... *(Interruptions)* But now, it is the Paris Agreement that will provide the template for future change action not its past. ... *(Interruptions)* Totally ignored the Rio Convention ... *(Interruptions)* This is a huge loss for the developing countries like us. There are some other questions also. I am not going to those.

Now, my question is, why not India raised its strong objection against such disparity before signing the Paris Agreement? ...  
*(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** Madam Speaker, my learned friend has asked a very relevant question. ... *(Interruptions)* But let me assure him that what we have done in Paris is that actually we have made the differentiation between the actions to be taken by the developed countries and by the developing countries in a separate basket. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please go to your seat. There is no issue. [English] Without any issue, [Translation] Why are you creating an uproar?

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please go to your seat. Write names of all these people. I need the names written. [English] I want their names. [Translation] Every day, creating a ruckus without any reason is not at all proper. Please go to your seat.

[English] Yes, Mr. Minister.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** That is why, the responsibility of emitting less carbon is more on the developed countries. So, the developed countries are taking absolute cut in carbon emissions. The emissions from the developing countries will grow but they will walk energy efficiency path; India will walk ... (*Interruptions*) reducing its energy intensity, reducing its emission intensity. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation] In colloquial language, it means more progress with less smoke or more progress with less electricity"... (*Interruptions*)

[English]It is because we are responsible and, therefore, we do not want carbon to be emitted more. But now, America and all other countries that are historically responsible for 90 per cent of the emissions of the world. India is just 3 percent responsible for the emissions of the world historically. (*Interruptions*)

But even on current scenario, their emissions are large. Number 1 emitter emits 24 per cent emissions; Number 2 emitter is USA and it emits 16 per cent emission; European Union emits 10 per cent emission; and we are just emitting five per cent. First three emitters put together emit 50 per cent emission whereas we are at just five per cent emission level. So, we are one-tenth of emissions.

So, their responsibility is more. They have taken absolute emission cut. China has decided to cap its output by 2030. I think with that, the differentiation has been maintained in the actions in mitigations. That is a victory for India because we all will walk carbon efficiency path... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Do not try to disturb the environment of Parliament unnecessarily. Please go back to your respective seats.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN:** Madam, there is no doubt that we have to reduce carbon emission now. But on what cost will we do it? The coal is the main energy supplier ingredient. It will remain the primary source of our energy for the next couple of decades. Now, 60 per cent electricity is produced from coal. But now, after Paris Agreement, India will face a huge pressure from the developed countries to reduce the use of coal in the name of carbon emission. Finally, it will hit our economy, poverty eradication and urbanization also. As per Agreement, India should increase its forestry covered area by five per cent. Now, it is 24 per cent. In the Himalayan

Belt, we have prepared so many hydel power projects, and now, are getting the after-affect of that. India is a thickly populated country. So, it will damage our food security also.

Now, my question is as to how the Government of India would combat against poverty and how it would ensure food security. What is the substitute?... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** Whatever we have agreed in Paris, gives way for India to ensure its development, carry out its poverty eradication programme. Firstly, let me assure the hon. Member that there is no adverse impact on our development or on poverty eradication programme. Secondly, as far as coal consumption is concerned, today, 70 per cent of our energy comes from coal, but we have made a very ambitious target and all non-fossil fuel energy mix capacity will be increased up to 40 per cent. It is huge. Even America could achieve only 30 per cent 2030. But we are going ahead with our programme of 40 per cent because we have, under the hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Modi's leadership, a mission mode programme of 1. 75,000 MW of solar, biomass, wind, onshore, offshore, small hydel and all other non-fossil nuclear energy. Only gas, oil and coal based fossil fuels are there. But about the other non-fossil fuels, we are increasing the share. We will walk the talk. We

will be energy efficient. We will reduce our emission intensity but at the same time, we will not stop our growth path. We will achieve sustainable growth... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ANIL SHIROLE:** Madam, it is possible to create two or three canopies over a large part of our forest. For example, teak forest can have an under canopy of mixed hardwood species and bamboos along with certain shrubs and herbs at lower levels. Such an effort would enable us to sequester humongous quantities of carbon dioxide as biomass. This would also increase soil fertility and improve ground water. Has the Government considered development of multi canopy forests to optimise the role of forests in green initiative? [English] If so, what action has been taken in this regard?... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** A very good question has been asked by my colleague. Let me assure him that we have decided to create new carbon sequestration of the quantity of 2.5 to 3 Billion tonnes of carbon equivalent. That is the new carbon sink which we are creating. We will create it by using the same space as we are constraint of space. But multi canopy forest is one option which we are densifying. ... (*Interruptions*)

I am very happy that in the last two years, [Translation] the area of our forests has increased by 5 thousand square kilometres; the number of forests are increasing. [English] We are growing dense forests from moderately-dense forests and moderately-dense forests from open forests. In doing so, this concept of multi canopy is also being assessed. ... (*Interruptions*)

Now, I am going to Andamans which is covered 90 per cent by forests. I will stay there for three-four days. We are importing edible oil from Malaysia and other countries, which are like Andamans. We can create our own oil stock but we are not doing it. So, intensification of forests and increasing the forest cover is very important. At present the forest cover is 24 per cent but our aim is 33 per cent. Every year we will add in our forest area. As I said, in the last two years we have added 5000 square kilometres in our forests. ... (*Interruptions*)

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL:** Hon. Speaker, India's National Action Plan on Climate Change recommends that the country generates 10 per cent of its power from solar, wind, hydro power and other renewable sources of energy by 2015 and 15 per cent by 2020. Tamil Nadu under the dynamic leadership of our hon. Chief Minister Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is the largest producer of green energy in the country

with about one-third of the green energy generated in the State. ...  
(*Interruptions*)

My question to the hon. Minister is whether the Union Government have any plans to recommend and allocate funds from the National Clean Energy Fund, (NCEF) to the best performing State like Tamil Nadu as a reward and to produce more green energy thereby reducing the carbon emission. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** India is probably the first country to levy a cess on production of coal. We are levying Rs. 200 per tonne. The clean energy fund so generated is now Rs. 20000 crore. From that we are giving funds to all clean energy projects. Today, they are only 35,000 megawatt. We want to double it and take our clean energy projects up to 1,75,000 megawatt. From here onwards, we will add 1,45,000 megawatt in the next six years. So, this is a very good thing. ... (*Interruptions*)

The good news is that through tendering the price of solar power has come down from Rs. 19 some 10 years ago to Rs. 4. 63 now. Therefore, we always consider all the good experiments done in Tamil Nadu and other States. The help is always given for solar energy

evacuation, putting it on the grid, storage and development. Tamil Nadu has done a very good work in this regard. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:** Hon. Madam Speaker, in my Parliamentary Constituency Uran, the Government of India company ONGC produces petrochemicals and gas from crude oil. From the ONGC plant, waste chemicals are released into the air through chimneys and burned. Due to the burning of these chemicals, pollution increases, and the local people face various health issues.

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Minister what steps the Government is taking to control the pollution caused by the chemical gases being released into the air by ONGC. ... (*Interruptions*) I asked the officials of the Environment Department about this matter, and they said that no disease is caused by these chemicals, but the local people complain otherwise. I want to ask the Minister what steps the Government is taking in this regard. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR:** Madam Speaker, the issue raised by Barne ji has the Government's attention. ... (*Interruptions*) We have made the standards a little more stringent and have put in place

a monitoring mechanism for all plants. ... (*Interruptions*) At every point of emission, a device has been installed on the chimneys, and also where effluents are discharged. ... (*Interruptions*) On my mobile, I receive alerts 24 hours a day—if any violation continues even for fifteen minutes, I get an SMS. These alerts are also sent to the respective plants. ... (*Interruptions*) We have brought in a new revolution so that the level of pollution remains low and within the standards. ... (*Interruptions*) We continuously monitor for fifteen minutes, and action is taken accordingly. ... (*Interruptions*) Please do not worry. But if you have any specific information, kindly send it to us. I will ensure an inquiry is conducted. ... (*Interruptions*)

**(Q. 322)****[English]**

**SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:** Madam, this question of coastal security involves terrorism and illegal immigration, and is extremely important for our country.

Madam, through you, I appeal to the hon. Members shouting slogans in the Well of the House, it is difficult to ask this very important question, that they must hear this question in the national interest.

**[Translation]**

**HON. SPEAKER:** They have no national interest. What they certainly have is a vested interest in disrupting and adjourning the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

**[English]**

**HON. SPEAKER:** What can we do? They do not have national feelings.

**SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:** Madam, for the last 15 years, since I was a Member of the other House, I have been raising this issue

of coastal security and I am glad that during this time, a Coast Guard facility has been set up in Odisha. We all know what happened in Mumbai on November 26, 2008. I represent Kendrapara which has 50 kilometres of coastline, which is very vulnerable to illegal immigration. We have a serious problem already of illegal immigration from a neighbouring country across the Bay of Bengal. That is why this issue is very critical.

Odisha has almost 500 kilometres of coastline and that is why this is a crucial question. As you may be knowing, very recently, one Al-Qaeda-related person has been arrested from Odisha. This is how serious the problem is. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for the details that he has given. For example, he has pointed out that manpower issue is the State's problem. My colleague, hon. Member of Jagatsinghpur, Dr. Kulmani Samal, has recently gone to the Paradip Coastal Police Station and seen that we have only a few personnel and we need much more.

The Minister has talked about the facilities that the Union Government is providing. But there is mention, for example, of interceptor boats. Will you commit to getting interceptor boats? You have also mentioned about catering to the training requirements and procurement of four wheelers and two wheelers, which will have to

be done either by the Coast Guard or by authorities of the Union Government. Will you kindly commit to a timeline for implementing these measures, which are crucially required? ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, before giving reply to the queries of the hon. Member, I would like to inform you that hon. Home Minister, Shri Rajnath Singh, has gone to Dwaraka where there was a plane crash this morning just one-and-a-half hours back. Some of our BSF Jawans have died in that accident.

Coming to the question, as the hon. Member has rightly pointed out, coastal security is a major challenge for India because we have a huge coastline in India. Odisha has 476. 7 kilometres length of coastline. So, we definitely understand the challenges we face. That is why we have informed in detail about the steps being initiated by the Government of India.

Now, the hon. Member has particularly raised issues with regard to Odisha. I would like to inform the hon. Member that the total manpower sanctioned is 700 for Odisha. I must compliment the State Government of Odisha that they have already sent 75 people for training. Training is being arranged by the Coast Guard. It is being provided in Paradip. The State Government of Odisha has taken a very

encouraging step for which we will be always forthcoming in terms of our assistance and additional help, whatever is necessary. In terms of jetties also, we have already decided that the earlier decision of Rs. 50 lakh per jetty was found to be inadequate. So, if the State Government comes out with the detailed DPR, we are ready to look after that.

About the interceptors and other surveillance materials, whatever is necessary for the interest of the security of the country, the Home Ministry is abreast of the situation. We are ready to provide all the facilities. For the moment, they will get those items that have been provided. And 15 interceptor boats have been given in Phase-I. Now we are in the stage of Phase-II. In Phase-I, for the coastal security scheme for Odisha, we have already provided 15 interceptors.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Very good.

**SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA:** Madam, my second supplementary is this. I thank the hon. Minister for his detailed response. I would like to point out that of the 18 coastal police stations sanctioned for Odisha, his response states that eight have been completed and seven more are under construction. By proportion to the length of coast line we have, 18 is less. Some of the other States

have got more coastal police stations. I would request the hon. Minister to commit that more number of coastal police stations would be sanctioned.

In part (d) of the Question, he has talked about 26 number of 12 tonnes boats which are sanctioned. They will be provided as funds are available and as required. I would urge him to expedite that immediately because we are today seeing a large number of illegal immigration and terrorist related activities. This is extremely urgent.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, 26 boats will be purchased for the State of Odisha. We will do that very soon. Since 18 coastal police stations have been sanctioned for Odisha, it is good to know that eight of them are under fast track progress. Three have already been completed and two are soon to begin. I think, once all the 18 coastal police stations are completed, we will look for the additional, whenever it is necessary.

[Translation]

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:** Madam Speaker, I would like to thank Hon. Member Baijayant “Jay” Panda ji for raising such an important issue. We all know that in the Mumbai terrorist attack nearly 1,000 people were either killed or injured. Kasab had infiltrated through the sea

route. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that even today, from the Saurashtra-Kutch coast up to Mumbai-Konkan, our sea border faces Pakistan and other countries. There is also the danger that ISIS could use the sea route. Mumbai has vital installations like BARC and oil refineries. In this context, what efforts are being made to strengthen security arrangements and establish more marine police stations?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Hon. Madam Speaker, this question is indeed a broad one, so it requires some detailed explanation. I would like to inform the Hon. Member that after the Mumbai attacks, several steps have been taken. The Coast Guards have been given a key role in coordination, and the Ministry of Home Affairs has been designated as the coordinating ministry. Since then, 195 coastal security operations have been conducted, and from 2009 till now, a total of 127 coastal security exercises have also been carried out. In addition, the Coast Guard conducts community interaction programs with the local people living along the coast. The Indian Navy is responsible for operations in the Exclusive Economic Zone, which begins after 200 nautical miles, while the Coast Guard oversees the stretch from 12 nautical miles up to 200 nautical miles. In the shallow continental shelf, marine police stations have been set up within 1,200 kilometers inland, where the State Police work in coordination with the Coast

Guard. I assure the House that we have not allowed any laxity in coastal security. We have made strong arrangements, and efforts are underway to take even stricter measures in the future.

[English]

**SHRI K. PARASURAMAN:** Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to request the hon. Minister of Home Affairs in view of the recent report regarding the danger and the challenges in the Indian Ocean that there is a need to upgrade the technology in the coastal police stations, particularly to extend the coastal surveillance. Has the Government taken any steps to maintain the existing coastal police stations in the country? If so, has it allocated any funds for this purpose?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** In addition to what I have informed earlier, we have already sanctioned and established 131 coastal police stations and to man those police stations, we need adequate manpower as well as modern equipment for the coastguards to use. We have provided 12-tonne boats and vessels to the number of 150 and we have provided other 75 items like large vessels, rigid inflatable boats and other necessary items. We have already made a total number of 60 jetties across the coastal line. Besides that, we are providing four-wheelers, motorcycles and so many other equipments, whichever are necessary.

So, I share the concern with the hon. Member and we are ready to upgrade whenever it is necessary. The phase-II of the coastal security will end in March, 2016. After that, if it is necessary, we will extend it or we will come up another phase.

[Translation]

**DR. SATYA PAL SINGH:** Hon. Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Minister has rightly mentioned, the coastline is extremely vulnerable and, as he has stated, there are presently three layers of security – the Navy, the Coast Guards and then the Police. In 2003, it was decided that since the Coast Guards did not have smaller operational boats, until they were provided, the Police would undertake coastal policing duties. After the serial blasts in Mumbai in 1993, the concept of coastal security came into being in the country. Yet, even after 22 years, and 12 years since the Coast Guards were to be provided boats, the Police is neither trained, nor well-equipped, nor anybody is willing. They cannot effectively protect the coasts. Therefore, it is imperative to ask when this responsibility will be fully entrusted to the Coast Guards.

Madam, this is an extremely significant question. I have served as Chairman of the All India Coastal Committee, and I must point out

that lakhs of boats operate and it is difficult to determine whether they belong to Pakistan or India. Hence, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister when all boats will be fitted with transponders. Further, I also seek to know by when the crew Members, the sailors and others working on fishing boats and trawlers will be provided with smart cards.

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Hon. Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has raised a question, and I must acknowledge that he himself has been a very senior police officer and is well aware of these challenges. He has asked a very pertinent question. I wish to inform him that some of the boats we have deployed are unable to reach certain areas due to limitations. Therefore, in order to manufacture new boats suitable for such operations, we have signed MoUs with certain Public Sector Units. We are hopeful that these boats will be manufactured in time and made available to us. Alongside, a large number of people go to the sea for fishing.

Under the National Population Registration, we have taken the decision to provide smart cards to all. This will enable us to ascertain who is a genuine fisherman and who may be a suspicious element. ... *(Interruptions)* To identify individuals coming from outside into our waters, arrangements have been made to issue Fishermen Cards under

the National Population Registration. We have also held coordination meetings with different Departments. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to assure the Hon. Member that through the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Government of India is taking comprehensive measures in this regard.

**(Q. 323)**

[English]

**SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:** Thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on this question. ... (*Interruptions*)

The hon. Minister's statement contains the full details of the various schemes of his Ministry but in practice they are not reachable to the beneficiaries. ... (*Interruptions*) They are away from the actual beneficiaries. I request the Minister to establish an effective mechanism so that the benefits reach the actual requirees. ... (*Interruptions*)

We are all aware that the Indian poultry sector represents one of the biggest success stories of the country over the past decade. India is the second largest egg producer and third largest broiler chicken producer in the world. ... (*Interruptions*)

The market is estimated to be worth around Rs. 90,000 crore.

As domestic demand for broiler meat and eggs continues to grow, the Indian poultry industry is expected to see double-digit growth in 2015. ... (*Interruptions*)

We are all aware that 70 per cent of Indian population lives in villages and depend on agriculture as farmers or farm labourers. We

also know that the farm sector is crisis-ridden because of various issues such as lack of remunerative prices, low yield, etc. ...

*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** What is your question?

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:** Whatever crops the farmers grow, they are not getting remunerative prices. ... *(Interruptions)* I am really concerned about this. That is why I have highlighted the crisis in the agriculture sector so that the poultry industry could be an alternative.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Ask your question please.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:** I want to highlight the issue of the farmers in the crisis-ridden agriculture sector and so I am elaborating this to some extent. ... *(Interruptions)*

The prices of the products are artificially brought down by the powerful lobbies like hoarders and black-marketers. That is also one of the reasons why the farmers are suffering. ... *(Interruptions)*

In order to bring the farming community out of the crisis-ridden agriculture sector, poultry farming may be considered as an alternative. Another submission of mine is this. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** You please ask one question. After that, you will get another chance.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:** I would like to know whether the Government will come up with a comprehensive scheme to expand the poultry cultivation in a large scale which will help the small and medium farmers as a supplementary source of income and also the country in several ways. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**DR. SANJEEV BALYAN:** Madam Speaker, poultry is an organised sector and there is no need for any intervention in it. ... (*Interruptions*) Whether it is feed, vaccines or breed, everything is generated by them on their own. As far as the Government is concerned, it supports backyard poultry. In 273 districts where poultry farms exist, farmers are provided chicks under backyard poultry and Rs. 1500 is given for sheds. ... (*Interruptions*) The Government provides assistance only to

rural backyard poultry; it does not provide any support to other forms of poultry. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** The Government does provide.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI MALYADRI SRIRAM:** My next question is not directly related to this Ministry but I want to make a suggestion. ... (*Interruptions*) In India, up to the age of 12, 40 per cent of the children are suffering from malnutrition and under-nourishment. If the agriculture sector and the poultry industry is encouraged, the Government can see whether the children of such people could be supplied eggs through the Mid-Day Meal Scheme by linking both the Departments. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** There are other methods as well.

... (*Interruptions*)

**DR. SANJEEV BALYAN:** Madam Speaker, any State Government can make decisions on what to include in the Mid-Day Meal.

**SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:** Madam Speaker, as the Hon. Minister is aware ... (*Interruptions*) our Bundelkhand region is drought-affected and there is no fodder available for poultry or even for other livestock. ... (*Interruptions*) Due to the non-availability of fodder, animals are dying there. As for the BPL families, as you have mentioned in your reply, they are provided assistance in poultry rearing. ... (*Interruptions*) But the BPL list was prepared nearly 15 years ago. Therefore, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether, for the Bundelkhand region, and particularly for the drought-affected and unirrigated areas like mine, ... (*Interruptions*) the Livestock Mission that you have implemented is indeed welcome, ... (*Interruptions*) and under it you have allocated Rs. 116 crore, but will you earmark special funds for drought-affected and unirrigated areas from that allocation or will you make separate provisions of assistance for such regions? ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please stop now, your question is over.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:** Will you also ensure the availability of feed and fodder for animals? ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** It's enough; sit down! [English] Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)<sup>1\*</sup>

**DR. SANJEEV BALYAN:** Madam Speaker, as I mentioned earlier, at present only one scheme is being run for the BPL families. ... (*Interruptions*) As far as the Hon. Member's question is concerned, there is no plan right now to provide a special package. ... (*Interruptions*) However, since the Bundelkhand Package was already in operation, it included a component of Animal Husbandry, covering goat rearing, poultry, and livestock development. It is expected that something further may come up regarding that package. ... (*Interruptions*) If any provision is made for Bundelkhand in that package, we will make a separate effort to ensure its inclusion. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL:** Madam, I would like to inform the House that in South 24 Parganas District of West Bengal there is no Union Government farm for Khaki Campbell and the condition of the infrastructure in the existing broiler farm is very poor.

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<sup>1\*</sup> Not recorded.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government is ware of the matter and if so what steps have been taken in this regard.

[Translation]

**DR. SANJEEV BALYAN:** Madam Speaker, there are about 272 poultry farms in the country, while the Union Government has only four Central Poultry Development Organisations. ... (*Interruptions*) The Union Government provides assistance to the 272 poultry farms in the States, and in the past few years, each farm has been given an amount of Rs. 80 lakh. ... (*Interruptions*) The farm referred to by the Hon. Member must have either already received the funds, and if not, the funds will certainly be provided. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SHER SINGH GHUBAYA:** Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Agriculture Minister whether, just as he mentioned the poultry scheme for dry areas, ... (*Interruptions*) in some areas where there is the problem of salinity, excessive water, and underground water seepage, ... (*Interruptions*) will the Minister state whether any provision for fisheries has been made under such circumstances? ... (*Interruptions*) Earlier, the Union Government used to provide 80 percent subsidy, but that has now been

discontinued. ... (*Interruptions*) Will the Government restore that subsidy to extend benefits to those farmers? ... (*Interruptions*)

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH):** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member's question pertains to fisheries. Through you, I wish to inform the House ... (*Interruptions*) that under the umbrella of the Blue Revolution, we are bringing a new scheme. ... (*Interruptions*) As far as subsidy is concerned, whatever was being provided earlier, we are not going to reduce it. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Q. 324, Shri Ravneet Singh

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister,

**(Q. 324)**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Jagdambika Pal

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister in his reply has admitted that under the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Policy, 2012, there is the National List of Essential Medicines, 2011. ...*(Interruptions)* He has stated that the Government has been reviewing and re-evaluating the policy. If the policy framed in 2012 is being reviewed and re-evaluated from time to time, then what have been the outcomes of such reviews? As regards the Drug Price Control Order, 2013, ... *(Interruptions)* a list has been prepared under it. Is the Government considering the inclusion of other life-saving medicines, which are vital for the treatment of fatal diseases, in this list? ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR:** Hon. Madam Speaker, it is correct that we exercise control over the prices of medicines under the Drugs (Prices Control) Order, 1995. As a continuous process, revisions are made from time to time. ... *(Interruptions)* The list prepared by the Government in 2013 has been expanded as and when demands have arisen, particularly by taking into consideration the Jan Aushadhi medicines. I would like to inform the Hon. Member that in

response to the concerns expressed by him, we have made substantial additions. In 2013, the list comprised about 530 medicines. After the formation of the new Government in 2014 up to the present time ... *(Interruptions)* under Para-19 alone, we have added 106 more medicines. Similarly, under the category of new drugs, during the tenure of the previous Government, 61 medicines were under control; we have now added 186 more, bringing the total to 883 medicines currently under price control. During the previous Government, this number was only 454, whereas we have increased it by 429, making a total of 883 medicines under control. ... *(Interruptions)* Whenever further requirements arise and suggestions are received, we include them based on the National List of Essential Medicines provided by the Ministry of Health. Our Ministry is working with utmost concern for the welfare of the poor and the consumers. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:** Madam Speaker, food, water and medicines are the most essential needs for human life. I would like to submit that according to a survey, nearly 5 crore 86 lakh people in this country visit hospitals, and apart from them, there are many others who are not included in the survey. Among them, about 90 percent of the poor are in a very dire condition. When we speak of life-saving medicines, they include medicines for cancer, asthma, kidney

ailments and even brain tumour. I would urge the Hon. Minister that the medicines available in hospitals ... (*Interruptions*) only yesterday, one of our Hon. Members had highlighted before you, Madam Speaker, the pain of hospitals in relation to cancer medicines. ... (*Interruptions*) Will you make some arrangement so that life-saving medicines are made available at affordable prices in Government hospitals, thereby ensuring that the lives of poor people can be saved?

**SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR:** Madam, Government hospitals are under the control of the Ministry of Health. I would like to inform the House that under our DPCO, nearly 47 medicines related to cancer are covered ... (*Interruptions*) along with other medicines for serious ailments. That is why, in the past one and a half years, we have brought nearly double the number of medicines under control. As far as hospitals are concerned, if the Ministry of Health takes further steps in this matter ... (*Interruptions*) and if the NLEM is submitted to us with a proposal to include more medicines, we will make every possible effort to bring the prices of cancer medicines further under control. ... (*Interruptions*) I say this with full responsibility. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI DHARAMVIRA GANDHI:** Madam Speaker, the drug price determination policy in our country is deeply flawed. Pharmaceutical

companies are earning profits ranging from 200 percent to as high as 2,000 percent, without any effective checks. I have here a strip of medicine; the printed price on it is Rs. 30, but if one goes to the market, it can be purchased for Rs. 3. Such large-scale loot is being perpetrated upon our consumers and the poor. It is evident that our price determination policy is not right, and therefore, there must be a thorough discussion on it so that this exploitation by the pharmaceutical companies is stopped. Generic medicines, which are meant to benefit the poor, should strictly be sold only at the printed price with a reasonable margin of profit. I request the Hon. Minister to re-examine the price determination policy, summon the companies, and ensure that medicines are sold at a fair price based on their cost of production, with only a reasonable margin of profit. To allow profits of up to 2,000 percent is unjust and grossly unfair to the poor. Will the Government consider this matter?

**HON. SPEAKER:** You just ask supplementary questions, don't give a speech. Hon. Minister, you are trying to do that.

**SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR:** Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has raised a valid question. It was in this very context that the Hon. Supreme Court directed us to take action. For drug price control, including trade margins, the Court has given us specific

directions, and we are working on this. Keeping this in mind, we constituted a Committee under the Chairmanship of the Joint Secretary of the Ministry to examine the matter of fixing trade margins for medicines. The Committee has since submitted its report to us. On that basis, we are positively considering all the recommendations made, so that more medicines can be brought under price control and their prices reduced further.

As far as generic medicines are concerned, the Government has undertaken a very robust programme. Very soon, generic medicines will be made available to consumers across the country at affordable rates. To achieve this, the Government has initiated an ambitious plan to open Jan Aushadhi stores on a large scale. These stores will be set up at every Tehsil and Mandal level. All essential medicines, including those for serious ailments, will be made available in these outlets. It shall remain our earnest endeavour to ensure that the poor have easy access to these affordable medicines.

**(Q. 325)**

**SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL:** Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to raise a question in this temple of democracy. The Minister, in his reply, has admitted that the funds allocated for Indo-Bangladesh, Indo-Pakistan, Indo-China and Indo-Myanmar were not fully utilised. As for Indo-Nepal and Indo-Bhutan, funds were not allocated at all. In this regard, I felt very disappointed when I read a statement of the Defence Minister. Hon. Parrikar, the Defence Minister, had said that the Border Roads Organisation should come entirely under the Ministry of Defence. At present, it is under the Ministry of Home Affairs. My humble submission is that both the Ministries should work together in coordination.

**HON. SPEAKER:** The Defense has not given any such statement.

**SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL:** My supplementary question is, why was the allocated amount not spent, and does the Minister have any alternative plan for expenditure? If not, then why not?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, the Hon. Member has asked a very generic question. Regarding Bhutan, as he mentioned, I would like to clarify that it is correct that the Indo-Bhutan border has not yet been funded either through the Ministry of Defence or the Ministry of

Home Affairs. However, very recently, the Ministry of Home Affairs has approved the construction of the Indo-Bhutan road in the Assam area. But the Assam Government has stated that unless land compensation is provided, they cannot undertake road construction or land acquisition. On this issue, discussions are ongoing in the Ministry of Home Affairs as to how a special provision can be made for Assam. As far as incomplete roads are concerned, most of them have already been constructed. I have given all details in the written reply, and there is no need to repeat them here. But I would like to add that wherever delays have occurred, we have examined the reasons in detail. In cases where land acquisition has not been completed, or where projects are pending due to forest and environment clearance, or in certain areas where fencing or road construction is simply not possible, those are the causes. If the Hon. Member so desires, I can provide the details separately, as I have the complete information with me, though it will take time to explain everything here.

**SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MONDAL:** Madam, my second question is that it is extremely important to strengthen infrastructure in our border areas. Intruders and terrorists are entering our country under the cover of darkness, spreading terror. In such cases, the Union Government often blames the State Government. However, border security is the

responsibility of the Union Government, and the State Government has no authority over it. So why is the State Government being blamed? Through you, Hon. Speaker Sir, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether there is any plan to construct fencing or a wall along the West Bengal border, specifically in the Bhandarpur–Gede–Jangipur sector. If there is, when will construction begin? If not, why not?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Madam, the Hon. Member has raised a very important question and also touched upon political aspects. We cannot blame the State Government for this, nor can we place the responsibility on them, because we operate strictly according to the Constitution and the rules and regulations. Border management comes under the jurisdiction of the Government of India. It is under the Home Ministry, and therefore our border guarding forces manage the international border. The Army does not remain stationed on the zero line; only paramilitary forces are deployed there, as per international conventions. Under these conventions, if any intrusion or irregularity occurs at the border, or if smuggling takes place, the responsibility lies with the Home Ministry and the Government of India. There is no question of blaming the State Government. Regarding your query on what steps have been taken for border fencing and monitoring

irregular activities, we employ surveillance, patrolling, and border fencing technology. Our borders are secure. While there are certain challenges in specific areas where fencing cannot be established, these have justifiable reasons. I wish to assure the entire House that India's borders are secure, and our various border guarding forces monitor them 24 hours a day.

**DR. SANJAY JAISWAL:** Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to ask questions.

Madammy question to the Hon. Minister is regarding the Indo-Nepal border. An amount of Rs. 593 crore has been released, of which Rs. 346 crore has been utilised. Yet, in the past three years, only 16 kilometres of road have been constructed. While land acquisition is indeed an issue, my question is why monitoring is not being carried out. Similarly, the BADP roads deteriorate within six months, becoming unusable, and often cannot even be located afterward. In the State, it is said jokingly that these are Union Government roads, so they broke within six months. My request is whether the Hon. Minister will ensure proper monitoring of the funds sanctioned for the Indo-Nepal border, so that roads are constructed rapidly and maintain quality. Regarding the quality of these roads and BADP roads, either the Ministry should monitor them directly, or through the District

Vigilance Monitoring Committees with involvement of Members of Parliament. Currently, the DVMC has no authority, while the State Government assumes no responsibility, claiming it is Union Government funding. My question is: will the Home Ministry take responsibility for ensuring the quality of these roads?

**SHRI KIREN RIJJU:** Hon. Madam Speaker, the entire northern Bihar borders Nepal, and the total India-Nepal land border is 1,377 kilometres. The Government of India has approved roads along the entire 1,377 kilometres, with a total sanctioned amount of Rs. 3,853 crore. The Hon. Member is correct that there have been delays in implementation. He has also pointed out the reason, which is primarily land acquisition, as new rates have caused complications.

Additionally, environmental clearances pose an issue. I believe the State Government needs to engage robustly in this matter. In Bihar, out of a total sanctioned amount of Rs. 564 crore, only 16 kilometres have been completed. Indeed, compared to other States, road construction in Bihar's border areas with Nepal is proceeding slowly, and I acknowledge this. However, I would like to inform the House that we are fully committed to strengthening border infrastructure.

Regarding BADP, as the Hon. Member mentioned, it is meant for smaller projects, such as constructing school buildings, minor roads, mule tracks, motor tracks, and other small-scale initiatives. While we implement these smaller programmes, major roads under border infrastructure require separate provisions. I assure the House that after this parliamentary session, we will hold a review meeting on border infrastructure and monitor every project where delays have occurred.

**(Q. 326)**

[English]

**SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI):** Madam Speaker, thank you.

I thank the hon. Minister and the National Disaster Management Authority for undertaking a multi-State exercise and awareness campaign to assess preparedness of local authorities to deal with the earthquakes.

As the House knows, earthquake has become a common phenomenon in Asia-Pacific region due to movement of Himalayan plates. May I know from the hon. Minister whether there is any device which can help detect earthquakes before damaging waves hit our area so that we can vacate the premises well in time and can avoid loss and injuries to lives? This is my first supplementary.

[Translation]

**SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:** Madam Speaker, there is no technology anywhere in the world that can detect an earthquake in advance. Japan does possess some technology, but it provides only 30 seconds of warning. Beyond that, no other technology exists. When an earthquake occurs, the National Disaster Management Authority

carries out the rescue operations. However, to this day, there is no technology that can provide prior information about an earthquake. Information about tsunamis, however, can be obtained. When an earthquake occurs in the sea followed by a tsunami, we are able to issue warnings. For example, prior information was given in Odisha, and rescue operations were successfully conducted. [English]

**SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI):** My second supplementary is this.

Till now the Chairman and Members have not been appointed in the National Disaster Management Committee. Why have they not been appointed?

In some of the countries, the Governments have recommended to install P waves and S waves. It is just like a fire alarm. Since Delhi is on Zone IV, it is essential to have these devices at every place.

On 26<sup>th</sup> October, 2015, Delhi was rocked by earthquake. Cracks have occurred in many Houses, particularly in DDA slum area Houses. May I know from the Minister whether the Government will carry out repair works for the Houses that have cracked or will pay compensation to the owners of the DDA slum dwelling units or allow individual owners to carry out the repair works on their own?

[Translation]

**SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:** Madam, I would like to inform that the Chairman of the National Disaster Management Authority is the Prime Minister himself. Each State also has its own State Disaster Management Authority. We can provide them with guidelines on constructing robust Houses. Such guidelines exist: for instance, Houses should be constructed to withstand an 8-point earthquake.

For buildings that have become dilapidated or remain incomplete, we emphasise their strengthening. Repeated instructions are issued to all States and Union Territories. Recently, we held discussions with disaster management officials from seven SAARC countries, including Nepal, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, and the Maldives, to review and amend our procedures. After the amendments, all States are directed on the proper methods of rescue operations.

Regarding your query about Delhi, it falls in an earthquake-prone zone. We issue repeated instructions there as well. However, to date, we have not provided any funding.

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Prof. Richard Hay. Now, put a short question because the time is up.

**PROF. RICHARD HAY:** Madam, I was a victim of Tsunami on 26<sup>th</sup> December, 2004. I was in the sea, two kilometers away from the shore but there was no warning signal given by any Government agency those days. I escaped the Tsunami by 30 seconds. Is there any possibility of having a better disaster management system now where the citizens will be warned of such kinds of Tsunami disasters henceforth?

[Translation]

**SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY:** Madam Speaker, we have the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services under our purview, and we are in the process of making amendments there. Once the amendments are finalised, we will inform them accordingly.

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**\*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos.327 to 340

Unstarred Question Nos. 3681 to 3910

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**12. 00 hours****PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):** Madam, on behalf of my senior colleague Shri Ramvilas Paswan, 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) Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.
- (2) Annual Report of the Hindustan Vegetable Oils Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3893/16/15]

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Guidelines (Hindi and English versions) for establishment of Central Agricultural University, New Delhi, December, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3894/16/15]

(2) A copy of Notification No. VC/RLBCAU/Ordinance/7/2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, regarding academic programmes of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Jhansi under sub-section (2) of Section 44 of the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University Act, 2014..

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3895/16/15]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (GENERAL (RETD. ) VIJAY KUMAR SINGH):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015. [Placed in Library, See No. LT 3896/16/15]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Research and Information System for Developing Countries, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3897/16/15]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2014 2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Statistical Institute, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3898/16/15]

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING  
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE**

**(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) Review by the Government of the working of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015.

(2) Annual Report of the Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3899/16/15]

**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 Sarbananda Sonowal, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2008-2009.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3900/16/15]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dope Testing Laboratory, New Delhi, for the year 2009-2010.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3901/16/15]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Sports Authority of India, 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 Sports Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2013-2014.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3902/16/15]

(7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Delhi, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Delhi, for the year 2012-2013.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3903/16/15]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR):** I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Tiger Conservation Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3904/16/15]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre of Excellence for Medicinal Plants and Traditional Knowledge, Bengaluru, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre of Excellence for Medicinal Plants and Traditional Knowledge, Bengaluru, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3905/16/15]

(3) A copy of the Rejection of the Award given by the Board of Arbitration under the Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration for the Union Government Employees Reference (CA Reference No. 1 of 1992) (Hindi and English versions).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3906/16/15]

[Translation]

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

- (1) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Port Blair Municipal Council, Port Blair, for the year 2006-2007, together with Audit Report thereon.
  
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3907/16/15]

- (3) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Port Blair Municipal Council, Port Blair, for the year 2007-2008, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3908/16/15]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 26 of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008:-

- (i) S.O. 2030(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2015, regarding appointment of Chief Judge, Puducherry to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.
- (ii) S.O.2098(E) published in Gazette of India dated, 31st July, 2015, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 281(E) dated 29th January, 2015.
- (iii) S.O.2099(E) published in Gazette of India dated, 31st July, 2015, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 289(E) dated 30th January, 2015.

- (iv) S.O.2349(E) published in Gazette of India dated, 27th August, 2015, regarding appointment of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Patna City to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.
- (v) S.O.2837(E) published in Gazette of India dated, 15th October, 2015, regarding appointment of Additional City Civil and Session Judge to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.
- (vi) S.O.2838(E) published in Gazette of India dated, 15th October, 2015, regarding appointment of Additional 3 District Judge-II, Ernakulam to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.
- (vii) S.O.2839(E) published in Gazette of India dated, 15th October, 2015, regarding appointment of District and

Sessions Judge, Aizawl to preside over the Special Court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

- (viii) S.O.3160(E) published in Gazette of India dated, 24th November, 2015, notifying the District and Sessions Court, Bilaspur as Special Court under Section 11(1) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 for entire state of Chhattisgarh except four districts and appointment of Judge to the said court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.
- (ix) S.O.3161(E) published in Gazette of India dated, 24th November, 2015, notifying the Court of 1st Additional Judge, Jagdalpur as Special Court under Section 11(1) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008 for four districts of Chhattisgarh and appointment of Judge to the said court under Section 11(3) of the National Investigation Agency Act, 2008.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3909/16/15]

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI MOHANBHAI KALYANJIBHAI KUNDARIYA):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2014 2015.
  
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2014 2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coconut Development Board, Kochi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3910/16/15]

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

- (a) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2010-2011.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Kerala Agro Industries Corporation Limited, Thiruvananthapuram, for the year 2010-2011, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3911/16/15]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the M.P. State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2012-2013.

(ii) Annual Report of the M.P. State Agro Industries Development Corporation Limited, Bhopal, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3912/16/15]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

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- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Dairy Development Board, Anand, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3913/16/15]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Small Farmers' Agri-Business Consortium, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Small Farmers' Agri Business Consortium, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3914/16/15]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Ch. Charan Singh National Institute of Agricultural Marketing, Jaipur, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3915/16/15]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Cooperative Union of India, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3916/16/15]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3917/16/15]

- (9) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) explaining reasons for not laying the Annual Reports and Audited Accounts of the Jammu and Kashmir Horticultural Produce Marketing and

Processing Corporation Limited, Srinagar, for the years 1997-98 to 2014-15 within the stipulated period of nine months after the close of the respective accounting year.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3918/16/15]

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

- (i) S.O. 2898(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th October, 2015, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 1908(E) dated 28th July, 2014.
- (ii) S.O. 2899(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th October, 2015, notifying phosphogypsum (granular) as a provisional fertiliser under clause 20A of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.
- (iii) S.O. 2900(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th October, 2015, regarding general specifications of 100% water soluble mixture of fertilizer notifying under clause 13 and 21 of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.

- (iv) S.O. 2901(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th October, 2015, making certain amendments in the Notification No. S.O. 3058(E) dated 8th October, 2013.
- (v) S.O. 2902(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th October, 2015, notifying calcium cyanamide under clause 20A of the Fertilizer (Control) Order, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3919/16/15]

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEAVY INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI G. M. SIDDESHWARA):** 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 Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited, Allahabad, for the year 2012-2013.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited, Allahabad, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3920/16/15]

(b) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Pumps and Compressors Limited, Allahabad, for the year 2013-2014.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3921/16/15]

(c) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) Annual Report of the Instrumentation Limited, Kota, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3922/16/15]

(d) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra Dam, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) Annual Report of the Tungabhadra Steel Products Limited, Tungabhadra Dam, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited

Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3923/16/15]

(e) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) Annual Report of the Andrew Yule and Company Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3924/16/15]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the HMT Limited and the Department, of Heavy Industry, Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3925/16/15]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU):** I beg to lay on the Table a copy

each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 35 of the Land Ports Authority of India Act, 2010:-

- (i) The Land Ports Authority of India (Contracts) Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 850(E) in Gazette of India dated 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.
- (ii) The Land Ports Authority of India (Fee and Other Charges) Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 906(E) in Gazette of India dated 27<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.
- (iii) The Land Ports Authority of India (Lost Property) Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. G. S. R. 851(E) in Gazette of India dated 12<sup>th</sup> November, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3926/16/15]

[Translation]

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

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahatma Gandhi Seva Sangh, Parbhani, for the year 2014 2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahatma Gandhi Seva Sangh, Parbhani, for the year 2014-2015. [English]

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3927/16/15]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Handicapped Orientation Programme Education, Durgapur, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts. [English]

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Handicapped Orientation Programme Education, Durgapur, for the year 2012-2013.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3928/16/15]

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (DR. SANJEEV BALYAN):** I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Federation of Fishers Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3929/16/15]

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Federation of Fishers Cooperatives Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3930/16/15]

**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 (No. 50 of 2015) (Financial Audit) - Accounts of the Union Government for the year ended March, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3931/16/15]

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India - Union Government (Defence Services–Army) (No. 51 of 2015) (Performance Audit) - Implementation of Ex-servicemen Contributory Health Scheme for the year ended March, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3932/16/15]

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

(i) Finance Accounts of Union Government for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3933/16/15]

(ii) Appropriation Accounts of Union Government (Civil) for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3934/16/15]

(iii) Appropriation Accounts of Defence Services for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3935/16/15]

(iv) Appropriation Accounts of Postal Services for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3936/16/15]

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRY (SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI):**

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:--

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Meat and Poultry Processing Board, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Meat and Poultry Processing Board, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015. [English]

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3937/16/15]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI VIJAY SAMPLA):**

Madam, I beg to lay on the Table: ---

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Surabee Mahila Mandli, Shimoga, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Surabee Mahila Mandli, Shimoga, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Surabee Mahila Mandli, Shimoga, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3938/16/15]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Annapurna Association, Devanagere, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Annapurna Association, Devanagere, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3939/16/15]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Jaya Kishan Youth Club, Puri, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Jaya Kishan Youth Club, Puri, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Jaya Kishan Youth Club, Puri, for the year 2013-2014.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3940/16/15]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Maitri Association, Devanagere, for the year 2014-2015.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Maitri Association, Devanagere, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Maitri Association, Devanagere, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3941/16/15]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Commission for Safai Karamchari, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Commission for Safai Karamchari, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3942/16/15]

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Annai Karunalaya Social Welfare Association, Villupuram, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Annai Karunalaya Social Welfare Association, Villupuram, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3943/16/15]

- (8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Gandhi Peace Centre, Salem, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Gandhi Peace Centre, Salem, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3944/16/15]

- (9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Karunalaya Saraswathy Ilam, Kilvellur, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Karunalaya Saraswathy Ilam, Kilvellur, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3945/16/15]

- (10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalaiselvi Karunalaya Social Welfare Society, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kalaiselvi Karunalaya Social Welfare Society, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 3946/16/15]

**12. 01 hours****MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA**

[English]

**SECRETARY GENERAL:** Madam Speaker, I have to report three messages received from the Secretary General of Rajya Sabha:-

(i) “In accordance with the provisions of rule 127 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on the 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2015 agreed without any amendment to the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015 which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, 2015. ”

[Translation] (ii) “In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 4) Bill, 2015, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its

recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill. ”

(iii) “In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Appropriation (No. 5) Bill, 2015, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 15<sup>th</sup> December, 2015 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill. ”

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**12. 02 hours****COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC ACCOUNTS****32<sup>nd</sup> to 35<sup>th</sup> Reports**

[Translation]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Madam, I present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Public Accounts Committee (2015-16):-

(1) 32<sup>nd</sup> Report on the subject 'Indigenous Construction of Indian Naval Warships' based on C&AG Report No. 32 of 2010-11 relating to Ministry of Defence.

(2) 33<sup>rd</sup> Report on the subject 'Unfruitful Expenditure on Establishment of Specific Pathogen Free Shrimp Seed Multiplication Centre - (NFDB)' based on Para No. 2.1 of the C&AG Report No. 23 of 2013 relating to Ministry of Agriculture (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries).

(3) 34<sup>th</sup> Report on the subject 'Employees Provident Fund Organisation' based on C&AG Report No. 32 of 2013 relating to Ministry of Labour and Employment.

(4) 35<sup>th</sup> Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Integrated Child Development Services Scheme' relating to Ministry of Women and Child Development. [English]

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**12. 02 ½ hours**

**COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION**

**10<sup>th</sup> Report**

**SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI**

**(AHMEDNAGAR):** Madam, I beg to present the Tenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation.

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**12. 03 hours**

**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

**5th Report**

[English]

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD):** Madam, I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2015-2016).

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**12. 03 ½ hours**

**RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE**

**1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Reports**

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Railway Convention Committee:-

- (1) First Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Rate of Dividend payable by the Railways to the General Revenues for the years 2014-15 and 2015-16 and other Ancillary Matters'.
  - (2) Second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Role of IRCON in infrastructure building of Indian Railways'.
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**12. 04 hours**

**COMMITTEE ON EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN**

**5<sup>th</sup> Report**

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI):** Madam, I beg to present the Fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Empowerment of Women on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in their Third Report on the subject 'Working Conditions of Women in Railways and Amenities for Women Passengers.

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**12. 04 ½ hours****STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY****Statement**

**Dr. KIRIT SOMAIYA (Mumbai North-East):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, the Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Chapter – I of the Eighth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Energy on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations contained in the First Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Committee on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Power for the year 2014-15.

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**12. 05 hours****STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR****(i)11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH):** Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour:-

(1) Eleventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Eighth report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Textiles.

(2) Twelfth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fourth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Regularisation of Casual Workers/ Artists of Radio Kashmir, CBS Radio Kashmir and Doordarshan Kendra, Srinagar'.

(3) Thirteenth Report on 'Deployment of Contract/ Casual/ Sanitation Workers for perennial nature of jobs in NDMC'.

**(ii) Statements**

**DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR:** Madam, I lay on the Table the following Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Labour:-

(1) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Fifth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the First Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

(2) Statement showing further action taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in their Sixth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in the Second Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Textiles.

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**12. 05 ½ hours****STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES****5<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA):** Madam, I present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources (2015-2016):-

(1) Fifth Report on the subject 'Review of Ground Water Scenario, need for a comprehensive policy and measures to address problems in the country with particular reference to (i) Dark Blocks; and (ii) Contamination of underground water by certain industries.

(2) Sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the First Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2014-15)' of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

(3) Seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Third Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of

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Ministry of Water Resources, River Development & Ganga  
Rejuvenation.

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**12. 06 hours****STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND  
FERTILIZERS****Statements**

[English]

**SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI):** Madam, I beg to lay the following Action Taken Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers:-

(1) Action Taken Statement on Forty-fourth Report of the Standing committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2013-14) on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendation contained in the Thirty Ninth Report (15<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on the subject Pricing of Fertilizers of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

(2) Action Taken Statement on Eighth Report of the Standing committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2014-15) on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendation contained in the Third Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

(3) Action Taken Statement on Ninth Report of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers (2014-15) on Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendation contained in the Second Report (16<sup>th</sup> Lok Sabha) on the subject Demands for Grants (2014-15) of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals).

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**12. 06 ½ hours****STANDING COMMITTEE ON RURAL DEVELOPMENT****16<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR):** Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Rural Development:-

- (1) Sixteenth Report on 'BPL Survey (currently Socio-economic and Caste Census, (SECC-2011).
- (2) Seventeenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Fifth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation.
- (3) Eighteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Sixth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Rural Development).
- (4) Nineteenth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Seventh Report on 'Demands

for Grants (2015-16)' of the Department of Land Resources (Ministry of Rural Development).

- (5) Twentieth Report on action taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighth Report on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

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**12. 07 hours**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL**

**17<sup>th</sup> Report**

[Translation]

**SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR):** Madam, I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants (2015-16)' relating to the Ministry of Steel.

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**12. 07 ½ hours****STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND  
EMPOWERMENT****21<sup>st</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**SHRI RAMESH BAIS (RAIPUR):** Madam, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2015-16):-

(1) Twenty-first Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).

(2) Twenty-second Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

(3) Twenty-third Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Fourteenth Report of

the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

(4) Twenty-fourth Report on Action taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report of the Committee (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

(5) Twenty-fifth Report on the subject 'Persons affected by Alcoholism and substance (drug) abuse, their treatment/rehabilitation and role of voluntary organizations' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

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**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Harish Meena – Not present.

Shri Kaushal Kishore.

**12. 08 hours****STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS****193<sup>rd</sup> to 195<sup>th</sup> Reports**

**SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE (MOHANLALGANJ):** Madam, I lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs:-

(1) 193rd Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Eighty-third Report on the problems being faced by Refugees and Displaced Persons in J&K.

(2) 194th Report on Action Taken by Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the One Hundred and Seventy-third Report on the strengthening of the working of the Ministry of DoNER for effective implementation of Policies, Programmes, Schemes and Projects meant for North Eastern Region.

(3) 195th Report on devastation caused by natural disaster, Hudhud Cyclone, in Andhra Pradesh and Odisha.

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**12. 08 ½ hours**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HUMAN RESOURCE  
DEVELOPMENT**

**271<sup>st</sup> to 273<sup>rd</sup> Reports**

**[English]**

**SHRIMATI KOTHAPALLI GEETHA (ARAKU):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Human Resource Development:-

- (1) 271st Report on Performance of National Sports Development Fund and Recruitment of Sportspersons (Part II).
- (2) 272nd Report on Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations/Observations contained in the 266th Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16) (Demand No. 109) of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Department of Youth Affairs.
- (3) 273rd Report on Action Taken by the Government on Recommendations/Observations contained in the 269th Report

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on Demands for Grants (2015-16) (Demand No. 109) of the  
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Department of Sports.

**12. 09 hours**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY**

**271<sup>st</sup> Report**

**SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI):** Madam, I beg to lay the Table the Two Hundred and Seventy-first Report on Action Taken on the 264th Report on Demands for Grants (2015-16) (in English and Hindi) pertaining to the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises of the Standing Committee on Industry.

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**12. 09 ½ hours**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY  
WELFARE**

**89<sup>th</sup> to 91<sup>st</sup> Reports**

**DR. MANOJ RAJORIA (KARAULI-DHOLPUR):** Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare:-

- (1) 89th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Eighty-second Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Department of Health and Family Welfare.
- (2) 90th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Eighty-third Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Department of Health Research.

(3) 91st Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/observations contained in the Eighty-fourth Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2015-16) of the Ministry of AYUSH.

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**12. 10 hours****STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

**(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 4th Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution. \***

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):** Madam, on behalf of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 4th Report of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Department of Consumer Affairs, Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution.

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\*Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3947/16/15.

**12. 10 ½ hours**

**(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1st Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2014-15), pertaining to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment. <sup>2\*</sup>**

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT):**

Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table, a statement regarding the Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1st Report of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment on Demands for Grants (2014-15), pertaining to the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment.

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<sup>2\*</sup> Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3948/16/15 and 3949/16/15 respectively.

**12. 11 hours**

**(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 14th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation. <sup>3\*</sup>**

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (GEN. (RETD. ) VIJAY KUMAR SINGH):** Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 14th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

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<sup>3\*</sup> Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3948/16/15 and 3949/16/15 respectively.

**12. 11 ½ hours****(iv) India's stand in WTO\***

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN):** Madam Speaker, I am making this intervention in the House today in order to place before the Hon'ble Members the details of the position taken by India at the Tenth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization. (WTO).

The Ministerial Conference was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 15 to 19 December 2015. This was the first such meeting to be hosted by an African nation. This also happened to be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the WTO and during the conference its achievements were recalled by all Members.

The outcomes of the Conference, referred to as the 'Nairobi Package' contains Ministerial Decisions on agriculture, cotton and issues related to least developed countries (LDCs). These cover public stockholding for food security purposes Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for developing countries, a commitment to abolish

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3950/16/15.

export subsidies for farm exports particularly from the developed countries and measures related to cotton. Decisions were also made regarding preferential treatment to LDCs in the area of services and the criteria for determining whether exports from LDCs may benefit from trade preferences.

An important issue that was discussed at the Conference was the future of the Doha Round of trade negotiations which began in 2001 and remains unfinished. India took the stand that the Doha Development Agenda (DDA) must continue after the Nairobi Conference and no new issues must be introduced into the WTO agenda until the DDA has been completed. The DDA was launched as a development Round to benefit a large number of developing countries and LDCs. It seeks to place the needs of developing countries, including LDCs, at the centre of negotiations. This position has the support of a large number of countries, including the G33, the Arab Group and the LDCs.

A few developed countries, including the United States, however, are opposed to the continuation of the Doha Round. The Nairobi Ministerial Declaration acknowledges that Members "have different views" on how to address the future of the Doha Round

negotiations but noted the “strong commitment of all Members to advance negotiations on the remaining Doha issues. ”

India not only made a statement to this effect at the closing ceremony on 19 December 2015 but also made a written submission to the Director General, WTO and the Chair of the Tenth Ministerial Conference, the Kenyan foreign Minister. The Ministerial Declaration records that WTO work would maintain development at its centre. It also reaffirms that provisions for special and differential treatment shall remain integral.

As regards the introduction of other new issues for discussion, the Declaration acknowledges the differences in views and states that any decision to launch negotiations multilaterally on such issues would need to be agreed by all Members.

As the future of the Doha Round appeared in doubt, India sought and succeeded in obtaining a re-affirmative Ministerial Decision on Public Stockholding for Food Security Purposes honouring both the Bali Ministerial and General Council Decisions. The decision commits Members to engage constructively in finding a permanent solution to this issue.

Similarly, a large group of developing countries has long been seeking a Special Safeguard Mechanism (SSM) for agricultural products. In order to ensure that this issue remains on the agenda of future discussion in the WTO, India negotiated a Ministerial Decision which recognizes that developing countries will have the right to have recourse to an SSM as envisaged in the mandate. Members will continue to negotiate the mechanism in dedicated sessions of the Committee on Agriculture in Special Session. The WTO General Council has been mandated to regularly review progress of these negotiations.

All countries agreed to the elimination of agricultural export subsidies subject to the preservation of special and differential treatment for developing countries such as a longer phase-out period for transportation and marketing export subsidies for exporting agricultural products.

Developed countries have committed to removing export subsidies immediately, except for a few agricultural products, and developing countries will do so by 2018. Developing countries will keep the flexibility to cover marketing and transport subsidies for agriculture exports until the end of 2023, and the LDCs and net food-

importing developing countries would have additional time to cut such export subsidies.

The Ministerial Decision contains disciplines to ensure that other export policies are not used as a disguised form of subsidies. These disciplines include terms to limit the benefits of financing support to agriculture exporters, rules on state enterprises engaging in agriculture trade, and disciplines to ensure that food aid does not negatively affect domestic production. Developing countries, such as India, are given longer time to implement these rules.

One of the Decisions adopted extends the relevant provision to prevent 'evergreening' of patents in the pharmaceuticals sector to ensure accessibility and affordability of generic medicines. This decision would help immensely in maintaining affordable as well as accessible supply of generic medicines.

India supported outcomes on issues of interest to LDCs including enhanced preferential rules of origin for LDCs and preferential treatment for LDC services providers.

India already offers duty-free, quota-free access scheme to all LDCs, which provides a comprehensive coverage with simple, transparent and liberal rules of origin.

India has also recently made available substantial and commercially meaningful preferences in services to LDCs and relevant benefits have been notified.

In another area under negotiation, namely, rules on fisheries subsidies, India argued strongly for special and differential treatment. As regards rules on Anti-dumping, India strongly opposed a proposal that would give greater power to the WTO's Anti-Dumping Committee to review Members' practices. There was no convergence in these two areas and, hence, no outcome and, therefore, interests of Indian fishermen have been adequately protected.

At the Ministerial Conference, a group of 53 WTO Members, including both developed and developing countries, agreed on the timetable for implementing a deal to eliminate tariffs on 201 Information Technology products. Duty-free market access to the markets of the Members eliminating tariffs on these products will be available to all WTO Members. However, India is not a party to this Agreement.

India negotiated hard to ensure that the WTO continues to place the interests of developing countries and the LDCs at the centre of its agenda.



**12. 12 hours**

**(v) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 181st Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 180th Report of the Committee on Administration of UTs (Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh), pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs. <sup>4\*</sup>**

[Translation]

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

The status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 181st Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations/ observations contained in the 180th Report of the Committee on Administration of UTs (Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Chandigarh), pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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<sup>4\*</sup> Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3951/16/15.

**12. 13 hours**

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1207 DATED 28.07.2015 REGARDING STATUE OF NETAJI SUBHASH CHANDRA BOSE ALONGWITH REASONS FOR DELAY\***

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

- (1) Correcting the reply given on 28.07.2015 to Unstarred Question No. 1207 by Shri Bishnu Pada Ray, MP regarding 'Statue of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose'; and
- (2) Giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3952/16/15.

**Correction:**

<b>Part of the answer to the given question</b>	<b>for</b>	<b>Read on</b>
(a) and (b)	Yes, indeed. In the matter of Union of India versus State of Gujarat and Others, in S.L.P. No. 8519 of 2006, the directions of the Hon. Supreme Court dated 18.01.2013 were violated, when on 27.09.2014, the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Statue Installation Committee erected a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on	Yes, indeed. In the matter of Union of India versus State of Gujarat and Others, in S.L.P. No. 8519 of 2006, the directions of the Hon. Supreme Court dated 18.01.2013 were violated when, on 27.09.2014, the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Statue Installation Committee erected a statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on Government revenue land, Survey No. 193/1, measuring a total area

	Government revenue land at Dolphin Chowk, Diglipur.	of 0.0101 hectares, situated at Subhasgram Market, Diglipur.
(c) and (d)	No. In view of the reply given at (a) and (b) above, there is no proposal to install the statue at the said site.	No. In light of the replies given at (a) and (b) above, there is no proposal to install the statue at the same site.

### **Reason for Delay**

While preparing the reply to Unstarred Question No. 1207 of the Lok Sabha dated 28.07.2015 regarding the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, information was sought from the Andaman and Nicobar Union Territory Administration. The Administration had informed that the Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Statue Installation Committee had, on 27.09.2015, erected the statue on Government revenue land, Survey No. 193/1, measuring a total area of 1.0101 hectares at Dolphin Chowk, Diglipur. This was in violation of the directions of the Hon. Supreme Court dated 18.01.2013 in S.L.P. No. 8519 of 2006 in the matter of Union of India versus State of Gujarat

and Others. Accordingly, based on the information received from the Union Territory Administration, the reply to the said Unstarred Question was furnished. Thereafter, the process for revising the reply given under Unstarred Question No. 1207 dated 28.07.2015 was initiated.

Now, the Andaman and Nicobar Union Territory Administration has intimated that while submitting the situational report, due to an inadvertent error, it was wrongly mentioned that the statue had been erected at Dolphin Chowk, Diglipur, instead of Subhasgram Market, Diglipur.

The inconvenience caused is regretted.

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**12. 13 ½ hours****STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS... Contd.**

**(vi) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 185th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.\***

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU):** Madam, I beg to make a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 185th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

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\* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 3953/16/15.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now we take up 'Zero Hour'. Shri Tatagatha Satpathy - Not present.

... (*Interruptions*)

**12. 14 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Anto Antony and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have received a notice of privilege given by Shri Venugopal dated 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2105. It is under my consideration.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):** Madam, I cannot allow it from here. (*Interruptions*) It won't work. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** What is it?

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Madam, it is not proper to disrupt the House in this manner and to curtail the right to speak. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam, justice in this House must be equal for all. ... *(Interruptions)* For a whole hour, these Members have obstructed the proceedings of the House. ... *(Interruptions)* Then, at 12 o'clock, they wish to return to their seats and speak. This is absolutely improper. ... *(Interruptions)* Such permission should not be granted by you. ... *(Interruptions)* So long as order prevails in the House ... *(Interruptions)* they choose, of their own accord, to disrupt one hour of work of all Members. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam, this cannot be acceptable. ... *(Interruptions)* On this, all Members require your protection. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** They shall have it.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Madam, the listed business, for which notice has been duly given, should not be allowed to be taken up by those very Members who have disrupted the proceedings of the House for one hour and, indeed, for the past one month. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

**SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA):** Madam, in protest we walk out. ... (*Interruptions*)

**12. 16 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and some other hon. Members left the House.)*

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Manshankar Ninama.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your Member is speaking, please sit down.

*... (Interruptions)*

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have allowed Shri Manshankar Ninama.

*... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

**SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA (BANSWARA):** Madam, I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Mahtab, you too have given notice; you have given a notice. [English] It is under consideration.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** I'll look into it, today and if not, I'll look into it tomorrow.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** You are talking about your notice.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:** Madam, through you, I would like to request the Minister that in my Parliamentary Constituency Banswara, ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** One minute, Shri Manshankar.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, Bhartruhari *ji*.

[Translation]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Madam, I had submitted a Substantive Motion for your consideration [English] so that it can be taken up in the House relating to the decision of the Arunachal Governor. I had given a substantive motion. [Translation] We had been advised that it should be brought forward by way of a Motion. When Shri P. Kumar had raised this matter during Zero Hour, the Parliamentary Affairs Minister, Shri Rudy, had stated that only after a Substantive Motion is moved, can the matter be taken up for discussion. ... (*Interruptions*) I had submitted it on that very day. ... (*Interruptions*) I would, therefore, urge you to take it up at the earliest, as there is very little time. ... (*Interruptions*) ...

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJIJU):** Madam, the matter has gone to the High Court. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** That is not so.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** My issue is not the one that has gone to the High Court. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have to give; you are not supposed to give.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** My issue is not that one. There is no need for you to react. My issue concerns the action of the Governor, which is not under consideration before the High Court. I would again request you to take it up at the earliest. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** I will examine it.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):**  
Madam, I also endorse the views of Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab. ...  
(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** I know, Shri P. Kumar is also endorsing; all of you are endorsing. But it is under my consideration. Yesterday, I saw

it. But, I will take a decision after examining the matter, definitely. I am not saying 'No'.

Shri Manshankar Ninama

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRI MANSHANKAR NINAMA:** Madam, through you, I would like to respectfully submit before the Minister that my Parliamentary Constituency, Banswara-Dungarpur, is a forested and hilly region. ... (*Interruptions*) The local people have been residing there for many years and their livelihood is primarily dependent on agriculture. However, even today, all the residents have not been granted land titles, nor full rights for residence and cultivation. This has caused them immense difficulties. The officials and employees of the Forest Department continue to subject them to mental and economic exploitation. Moreover, they remain deprived of the benefits of all schemes issued by the Central and State Governments.

Through you, Madam, I would urge the Government to take this matter seriously and to immediately grant them land titles and full rights for residence and cultivation over the land currently within their jurisdiction, under the Vanbandhu Scheme. Thank you.

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Manshankar Ninama.

**SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR):** Thank you Hon. Speaker, Madam, I want to draw your kind attention regarding the Airport at Jharsuguda.

Odisha Government and Airports Authority of India have entered two MoUs on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2014 regarding environmental impact assessment studies for the project which have been done. The Consultant was appointed on 26<sup>th</sup> August, 2014 and TRO was approved by the MoEF on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2015. Administrative approval and E/S was accorded for Rs. 176. 90 crore on 20<sup>th</sup> August, 2014. Geotechnical investigation and Topographical survey are completed and further work has been undertaken by the Civil Aviation Department. The State Government of Odisha contributed Rs. 75 crore, which is non-refundable, for the development of infrastructure along with 120 acres of land.

Therefore, it is requested that the work is to be completed on a war footing because this is the second recognised airport, undertaken by the Civil Aviation Department, after the airport at Bhubaneswar,

Odisha. This will serve the local people. It would also speed-up the industrialisation in Western Odisha. IIM has been already set up and courses have already begun there. A large number of engineering colleges, medical colleges RDC offices, DIG office, MCL office along with more than 20 mines, Collectorate offices of Jharsuguda, Sambalpur and Bargarh are also there. Three districts are also getting all facilities.

Hence, early completion of this airport is to be materialised in the interest of the people of Western Odisha.

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Look, the matter of Government High School pertains to the State.

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):** Madam Speaker, since the funds for its construction have been provided by the Government of India, I wish to raise this matter and request you to kindly have it enquired into. In March, under the Ministry of Human Resource Development, 28 schools were sanctioned in Uttar Pradesh to provide quality education to girl students. But it is indeed regrettable that the implementing agency, the Rajkiya Nirman Nigam,

is functioning arbitrarily, managing matters without any declared tender, through its local Project Managers. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI AKSHYA YADAV (FIROZABAD):** Madam, he is directly levelling allegations.

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI:** Madam, I am not levelling allegations against anyone. I only wish to stress the need for examining the quality of construction of these schools for which buildings are being raised for girl students. ... (*Interruptions*) I repeat, I am not levelling allegations against anyone. In our district, at Barakhal in Sant Kabir Nagar Tehsil, a Government Higher Secondary School is being constructed. By now, the work ought to have been completed, but large-scale irregularities are taking place.

**HON. SPEAKER:** If the construction is not progressing, you may also have it inquired into.

[Translation]

**SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI:** Madam Speaker, if that building collapses, girl students may even get trapped under it. Therefore, an inquiry must be conducted through a Central investigating agency such as CPWD, and strict action should be taken against those found guilty.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Ajay Mishra Teni, Shri Harinarayan Rajbhar and Shri Daddan Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sharad Tripathi.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister, you may also have an inquiry conducted. The only question is that the building must be constructed properly.

**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** Hon. Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise an issue relating to farmers.

**HON. SPEAKER:** No allegation has been levelled against anyone.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY:** Due to climate change, the farmers of our country are compelled to face natural calamities every year. The farmer-friendly approach of our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, and the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shrimati Vasundhara ji, by introducing the criterion of granting compensation even when 30 Percent of crops are damaged, has brought a wave of relief among farmers. In the current year, owing to crop losses caused by hailstorms, the Government of Rajasthan had sought Rs. 11,886 crore from the Government of India for compensation to affected farmers.

Against this request, Rs. 1,378 crore has been allocated to the Government of Rajasthan, which has been duly distributed to the affected farmers and agriculturists as per the norms of FDRF. At the time of the hailstorm, the Chief Minister of Rajasthan suspended the entire Session and sent all Members of the Legislative Assembly to visit farmers in their fields, to ascertain their plight. Following this, compensation amounts were provided to them. I would urge the Government of India to kindly release the balance pending amount at the earliest so that farmers may receive compensation commensurate with their losses.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Shri Ramcharan Bohra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri P. P. Chaudhary.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Mulayam Singh, I would like to clarify to you that no allegation has been levelled against any individual. The issue pertains only to the construction work.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Mulayam Singh, please first listen to me, thereafter, I shall hear you.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** This is not an allegation against anyone. If the construction is not of good quality, it merely requires to be examined. There is nothing further in it.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, I know that you will also look into it.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR):** Madam Speaker, in the Constitution, the Nishad community is listed under the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes at serial number 53 as Majhwar. According to the Appendix of Census Manual Part I of the Census of India 1961 for Uttar Pradesh, castes such as Ahirwar, Ravidas, Raidas, etc., are enumerated under their principal caste name, Jatav. Similarly, castes like Kanaujia, Baretha and Rajak are

enumerated under their principal caste name, Dhobi. However, as per the same Census Manual, at serial number 51, synonymous castes of Majhwar such as Kevat, Mallah and Manjhi are not being enumerated under their principal caste name, Majhwar. Nor are they being issued Scheduled Tribe certificates. This is in clear violation of the directions of the Census Department of the Government of India.

Therefore, through you, I urge the Government and the Hon. Minister to take immediate cognisance of this matter and resolve the issue, so that justice may be done to the Nishad community.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Mukesh Rajput and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Anupriya Patel.

[English]

**SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE):** *Adhyaksh Mahodaya*, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise this issue.

I represent Balasore Lok Sabha Constituency which has got two districts, one is Balasore and other is Mayurbhanj. In my constituency, 89. 11 per cent of our population lives in the rural areas and their primary source of earning is agriculture. Agriculture gets repeatedly

devastated year after year because of several reasons – flood, cyclone, and drought. Among various things that cause this devastation, one is River Budhabalanga, which flows through two of my districts. It has a length of about 198 kilometres. Five of my assembly constituencies out of seven, get repeatedly devastated by virtue of the flood in this River. During rainy season there is a huge flood while during the remaining period there is no water. Hence, the farmers of my constituency suffer at both ends. The area constitutes Barsahi block, Betnoti block, Nilagiri, Remuna and Balasore Sadar of my Constituency.

Madam, since the farmers are acutely suffering, I would urge upon the Union Government to consider to construct a barrage in Barsahi and Betnoti area on River Budhabalanga, which will not only have a bearing on the lives of 40-50 thousand farmers directly and several others but also get an indirect benefit out of it.

I also demand that two multi-product mega cold storages be set up in Barsahi and Betnoti area in Mayurbhanj district which falls under my Parliamentary Constituency. Thank you very much.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena.

[Translation]

**KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR):**

Madam Speaker, hroughout the Winter Session, the Congress party leaders made unsuccessful attempts to disrupt proceedings. Yet, under your guidance, this House held a discussion on tackling the drought crisis in the country, despite repeated disturbances. We come here from our constituencies. The people of our regions send us here so that we can voice their pain in Parliament and seek solutions from the Government. But the insensitive Opposition continues to create hurdles.

Madam Speaker, I am a resident of Bundelkhand. The citizens of Hamirpur Parliamentary Constituency have sent me here to raise their issues in this House. Time and again, I have drawn the attention of this House to the problems of my region. Both Parliament and the nation understand the grave crisis that Bundelkhand is facing. Just last night at 11 p.m., the Zee News channel team went to the villages of Bundelkhand and highlighted the true suffering of our farmers through their DNA news programme. For this, they deserve to be congratulated.

Madam Speaker, when we raise these issues, they are often dismissed here as exaggerations — it is said that we, as MPs, magnify the problems of our people. But the truth is, we can only express what is happening. Zee Media has shown the real pain. In Bundelkhand, people are being forced to survive on grass bread. This may sound like an exaggeration, but when a Household runs out of grain, they go to the forest, gather wild grass and fodder, grind it into flour, and make rotis just to fill their hungry stomachs. Because of this situation, people are losing interest in farming and gradually migrating away from their villages. Migration for employment has become a serious social problem in the country. In Bundelkhand, this issue has grown even more severe over the last ten years. Alongside agriculture, alternative sources of livelihood need to be developed in the region. In my Parliamentary Constituency Hamirpur, there is about 200 square kilometres of land along the Yamuna River which remains uncultivated. Farmers there are being forced to sell this land at very low prices.

In my Parliamentary Constituency there is vast land available for farming, adequate resources are present, and there is no shortage of labor. Through you, I would like to earnestly request the Government of India to not only promote agriculture in Bundelkhand but also give

strong emphasis on the development of industries. By doing so, migration from this region can be stopped, and the people can live a prosperous and content life.

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

[English]

**<sup>5\*</sup>SHRI RAMESWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH):** Hon. Madam Speaker. Bogibeel bridge is being constructed across the river Brahmaputra in the Dibrugarh district of Assam. It is the longest bridge in the country . The foundation of this rail cum road bridge was laid by our former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayeeji , on 21st April, 2002. When completed the bridge would connect Lakhimpur and Dibrugarh Lok Sabha constituency in upper Assam providing connectivity to nearly five million people residing in upper Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. The bridge will be of strategic importance to our country as it would facilitate movement of our troops and would supply necessary logistics to its border with China in Arunachal Pradesh. In view of its strategic importance, the project

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<sup>5\*</sup> English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Assamese.

was granted National Project status by the government of India in 2007. But unfortunately, the pace of the project work has been very slow. Although it was expected to be completed within seven years of laying of foundation stone, the project has experienced significant time and cost overruns. I therefore, request the government to take appropriate steps to expedite the construction of the bridge in the greater interest of the people of Assam and complete the project at the earliest. Thank you.

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Sirajuddin Azmal, Shri Radheshyam Biswas, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandele are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rameswar Teli.

**SHRI BHARAT SINGH (BALLIA):** Hon. Speaker, Madam, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. Near Ballia Lok Sabha constituency, on the other side of river Ganga, lies Buxar district of Bihar. A bridge was constructed on river Ganga to connect Buxar and Ballia around 35–40 years ago. Now this bridge has become dilapidated. Due to its weak condition, heavy vehicles like trucks and buses cannot ply on it. Sand from Sonapur, stone chips from Chunar, and coal from Bihar used to come through

this route. Because of the damaged bridge, the supply of coal and stone chips in Ballia has become costlier. This has created serious difficulties for people in building Houses as the prices of construction materials keep rising, causing hardship to the common people.

Through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways. Last year also, I had raised this issue in Zero Hour, and I had personally met the Hon. Minister as well to request that this bridge be reconstructed immediately so that people's hardships can be resolved and the financial burden on them reduced.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bharat Singh.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** This is a matter of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh.

**SHRI BHARAT SINGH:** Madam Speaker, the constituency of Hon. Ashwini Choubey Ji is Buxar, and my Parliamentary Constituency is Ballia. Between the two lies the river Ganga. Because of this, we are forced to take a very long detour. Moreover, even the Rajdhani Express does not halt at Buxar. This is very essential.

**HON. SPEAKER:** That is a separate matter, and this one is different.

**12. 35 hours****SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS**

**(i) Re: Reported deaths of labourers working in Tea Gardens in Darjeeling area of West Bengal.**

**SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA (DARJEELING):** Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for allowing me to raise an important matter during Zero Hour.

A few days ago, our Hon. Prime Minister visited England, where he met the Queen over lunch. Among the many gifts he took, there was one very special item — Darjeeling tea from Makaibari. This tea was presented as a gift, and let me remind the House that the first agricultural product in India to receive a Geographical Indication (GI) recognition at the WTO was none other than this tea from our region.

Unfortunately, today I must draw attention to a grim reality. Since 2002, in the Darjeeling area and the Dooars region, nearly 2,000 tea garden workers have died either due to starvation, famine, or disease. They have been denied the basic facilities they should have received. Even this year alone, around 70 workers have lost their lives in the tea gardens. The business of tea plantations is being grossly

mismanaged. Many tea estate owners are simply abandoning the gardens, leaving the workers to their fate. This, Sir, is nothing short of a heinous crime, because these workers are their employees. Whatever profits or losses occur in the business, the owners cannot shirk their responsibility towards their workers. It is most unfortunate that the Plantation Labour Act of 1951 still governs the sector. Sections 39 and 40 of this Act are such that if an owner or manager of a tea estate takes a decision, it cannot even be challenged in court. No legal action can be initiated unless prosecution sanction is obtained from an Inspector. Hence, there is an urgent need to amend this law.

In the Darjeeling and Dooars region, the lowest wage stands at merely Rs.112 per day, whereas in West Bengal the minimum wage for an agricultural worker is Rs.206 per day. This disparity is sheer injustice. Under the Minimum Wages Act we frame various laws in this very Parliament to ensure fair wages, yet each State follows different yardsticks. It is the tea garden workers who are the worst sufferers under this anomaly.

In States like Kerala and Karnataka, tea garden workers are paid Rs.254 per day, while in our region they receive only Rs.112 per day. In West Bengal, nearly 87 tea gardens do not even possess registration certificates, and are unable to produce them. There are 112 tea gardens

where, in the last ten years, ownership has changed multiple times. Sometimes, chit fund operators become owners, sometimes others, who exploit the workers, earn profits and then vanish, leaving misery behind. Among the 2,62,000 workers, about 95,000 have not yet been provided housing by the tea garden managements. Out of 273 tea gardens, only 166 claim to have hospitals. Regrettably, among these 166, there are 92 so-called doctors who do not even hold an MBBS degree. By showing such persons as doctors, and by placing a nurse beside them in the name of medical centres, grave injustice is inflicted upon the workers. The medical treatment they rightfully deserve is being denied to them. Therefore, through you, Madam Speaker, I demand of the Government that immediate steps be taken to confer land rights upon these workers who have been labouring in these tea gardens for centuries, and that they be provided housing. In cases where tea is not cultivated in parts of the garden, arrangements should be made for constructing dwellings there for the workers. Our Government has proclaimed that every citizen will have a House, a roof over his head. The policy of 'Housing for All' is being brought in, and thus special provisions must be made for the tea garden workers. Until the Minimum Wages Act is properly implemented, all tea garden workers in West Bengal should be declared as belonging

to the Below Poverty Line category, and all facilities extended to BPL families should be made available to them.

Along with this, I would also like to state that the Union Government must constitute an inter-Ministerial committee or a high-powered committee which, in consultation with the State Government, should listen to and resolve all the problems of the tea garden workers. Matters such as why the tea garden industry is shutting down and what measures can be taken to address it must be examined. Madam Speaker, considering the conditions prevailing in 1951 under which the Plantation Labour Act was enacted, there is an urgent need to amend its provisions and bring in a comprehensive amendment. The Tea Board should be directed that whenever a tea garden owner abandons the garden, not only should action be taken against the owner but also arrangements must be made to ensure that the workers there, who are dying of hunger, receive their wages and their provident fund dues. Through you, I also demand that all such workers must be provided relief under the Food Security framework. The Hon. Minister is present in the House. For them, the implementation of Food Security should be made compulsory. ... *(Interruptions)* It has not been provided. ... *(Interruptions)*

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

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please take your seats. The Hon. Minister is replying. You may associate yourselves with this subject.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Kamakhya Prasad Tasa, Shri Rameshwar Teli, Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu, Shri Shankar Prasad Datta, Shri Jitendra Chaudhary, Shrimati P. K. Shrimathi Teacher, Shri M. B. Rajesh, Shri Jose K. Mani, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Nishikant Dubey are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri S. S. Ahluwalia.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** I will not allow everyone to speak. One among you may speak on this subject before the Hon. Minister replies.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**PROF. SUGATA BOSE (JADAVPUR):** Madam, in this conflict between the capitalists and the labourers on the tea plantations of

Northern part of West Bengal, we stand resolutely on the side of the tea plantation workers. The State Government of West Bengal is doing its best to provide food security in a very difficult situation, and we want to bring any legislative changes that may be necessary...

*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Thank you.

All others may associate themselves on this issue.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Madam Speaker, this is a very important issue. The Hon. Minister is also present in the House. However, regarding the Tea Plantation, ever since Independence when these rules were framed, it has remained a matter of crisis. On this subject, the consent of the State Governments will also have to be taken in detail and the Union Government too must take initiative in this matter. If the Hon. Minister wishes to say something on this issue, it would be appropriate.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have already allowed the Hon. Minister to speak on this matter.

[English] Now, let the concerned Minister reply. I am allowing her.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN):** Thank you, Madam Speaker. The hon. Member has raised a very, very sensitive issue.

**HON. SPEAKER:** That is why I have allowed you to speak on it.

**SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN:** Since last year, this is a matter of great concern for us. In fact, I visited North Bengal, particularly, some tea estates from where we have reports of alleged deaths of workers. I have gone and visited, and seen the situation then. But certainly, the hon. Member has raised a very, very important issue and a lot of people have also identified and associated themselves. I will come with a comprehensive reply subsequently.

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is okay.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please do not conduct a cross-questioning in this manner.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. SPEAKER:** She has already said that he will come with a comprehensive reply.

Thank you, Madam Minister. Thank you very much.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri K. Parasuraman.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** The Hon. Minister has stated that she will apprise the House on this matter.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Saugata Roy, what do you wish to say?

... (*Interruptions*)

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** Madam, I wish to state that the Hon. Minister must take steps to reopen the closed tea gardens. The Hon. Minister is prepared to respond on this matter. ... (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Minister wishes to further speak on this subject. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Madam, the hon. Minister has already said that she is going to come back comprehensively on that...  
(*Interruptions*) She has said that... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** The Hon. Minister has said that she will apprise you of this matter. Why are you insisting forcibly.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Minister, would you like to say anything further?

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** The Hon. Minister has already made her statement.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN:** Madam Speaker, I only wanted to reassure the hon. Member that I have given a reply that I will come back with a comprehensive reply on this issue...  
(*Interruptions*)



**SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR):** Hon. Speaker Madam, under the able guidance of our hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I would like to request the hon. HRD Minister to start a Kendriya Vidyalaya school at Pillaiyarpatti revenue village, Thanjavur district, Tamil Nadu. There are 6000 Union Government and Public Sector Undertaking employees and 15000 State Government employees who are working in Thanjavur district. Presently, a school of Kendriya Vidyalaya is functioning in Mappillainaikan patti village near Thanjavur. However, it could not cover all the children of all the Central and State Government employees to provide them with education and there is a need for setting up of another Kendriya Vidyalaya school at Pillaiyarpatti. A proposal in this regard has been submitted to the Union Government. The district administration of Thanjavur has also expressed its intention of providing ten acres of land and assured that temporary building at free of cost will be provided till a permanent school is constructed by the Kendriya Vidyalaya and 50 per cent residential accommodation for the staff as per the norms. Therefore, I request you to initiate necessary action to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya school in Pillaiyarpatti, Thanjavur district at the earliest.

**SHRI S. RAJENDRAN (VILUPPURAM):** Madam Speaker, thank you for this opportunity. I would like to represent the grievances of the salt pan workers of my constituency.

First of all, I would like to mention that in India, our hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is the first person who has introduced Amma Drinking Water, Amma Unavagam, Amma Cement for the benefit of the poor and needy people. Buoyed by the success of the above, Amma Salt is an affordably priced quality common salt which also was introduced. Amma is more concerned about the upliftment of all the weaker sections including salt workers in Tamil Nadu.

Marakkanam is a coastal panchayat town and taluk in villupuram district. The 110 kilometre stretch from Marakkanam to Chennai is called South Buckingham canal. People of ten villages are engaged in salt production. The total salt pan area in Marakkanam is 2900 acres. Most of the workers are from Scheduled castes. Adhidravidar Workers Cooperative Societies are involved in salt production.

Madam, more than 60 per cent and 40 per cent salt pan land belongs to the Union Government and State Government respectively. Hundreds of lessees are involved in salt manufacturing. A majority of

salt workers borrow money at an exorbitant rate of interest. After a year long hard work, the salt produced by the manufacturers is around 25000 tonnes which was washed away recently in the floods.

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** During Zero Hour, please bring only one page written, not two pages.

[English]

**SHRI S. RAJENDRAN:** When they were about to sell their products as a whole, the stock was washed away. Now their livelihood has become a big question mark. I urge upon the Government to send an expert team to estimate the actual loss and take steps to provide immediate relief to all the affected workers.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (RANCHI):** Madam Speaker, through you, I wish to request the Government that in my Parliamentary Constituency Ranchi, which is also the capital of Jharkhand, there exists only one airport for the entire State. Earlier, for several years, Indian Airlines operated a single flight Nos. 809 and 810 connecting Ranchi to two metropolitan cities, Delhi and Mumbai. The flight from Ranchi to Mumbai via Delhi and from Mumbai to

Ranchi via Delhi has now been discontinued. Air India is currently operating Flight No. 417 from Delhi to Ranchi and Flight No. 418 from Delhi to Ranchi, but these do not operate on time. Moreover, the Executive Class, which had been available in this flight for years, has been withdrawn and its schedule has also been altered. Being the State capital, the Ministry of Civil Aviation should enhance facilities. Instead, the limited services already available have been curtailed. The discontinuation of Flight No. 810 from Ranchi to Mumbai and Flight No. 809 from Mumbai to Ranchi has caused immense inconvenience to passengers and has also generated public resentment against the Department. Therefore, through you, I urge the Hon. Minister of the Department to immediately restore Flight Nos. 809 and 810 between Ranchi and Mumbai via Delhi as they existed earlier, to retain the Executive Class which has been removed, and also to connect Ranchi through air services with other important cities of the country such as Bangalore, Chennai, Ahmedabad, and Hyderabad. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Vidyut Varan Mahato, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Ravindra Kumar Pandey and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ram Tahal Chaudhary.

**SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR):** Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour.

Madam Speaker, in Chhattisgarh there is only one airport, situated in Raipur, from where passengers of Odisha, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh travel by air. Consequently, there is constant pressure on that airport and often it so happens that due to non-availability of seats in flights, people are compelled to cancel their journeys even at the cost of urgent work. I represent the Bilaspur region. You yourself have visited Bilaspur and are aware that after the formation of the new State, Bilaspur has become the seat of the High Court of Chhattisgarh, the headquarters of the Railway Zone, Apollo Hospital and the Central University, among other institutions. In addition, the adjoining areas comprise significant industrial zones. Korba Houses NTPC, Ratanpur is a religious site, and the headquarters of SECL is also located there. On the 18th, at Girodpuri, a Jait Stambh taller than the Qutub Minar, constructed at a cost of Rs. 55 crore, was inaugurated at the birthplace of Baba Guru Ghasidas Ji by our Chief Minister. Furthermore, Amarkantak is situated near Bilaspur. In this manner, people from eight to ten districts of Chhattisgarh and four to five districts of Madhya Pradesh travel through this region. If an airport is established at Bilaspur, it will

provide great convenience to the common people. As per the information available to me, in 2014, Rs. 300 crore had been sanctioned by our Government, but till date the work has not commenced, causing undue delay. Through you, I urge the Hon. Minister of Civil Aviation to initiate this work without further delay so that the people of the region may be immediately benefitted from this facility. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Banshilal Mahto and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Lakhan Lal Sahu.

[English]

**SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS):** Madam Speaker, before I raise my issue, I pray to my revolutionary leader, the hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

Madam, you are aware that the recent devastating rains and floods in Tamil Nadu have damaged almost 50,000 Houses. Hence, housing has become the top most priority for the urban poor in Chennai

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has requested the hon. Prime Minister to release a special package for construction of Houses for

flood affected people. The slum dwellers along the city's waterways of Adayar, Coovam and Buckingham Canal have lost their homes. It is for the rehabilitation of slum dwellers and reconstruction of their Houses that our leader demanded a special package of Rs. 5770 crore during the recent visit by the hon. Minister in Chennai.

Madam, it is worth mentioning that according to automobile industry experts, depending on the level of submersion – complete or stalling after being driven in two/ three feet of water – repairs could cost from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 5 lakh. To set right the damaged engine alone could cost about Rs. 1.5 lakh.

Madam, hundreds and thousands of two-wheelers and autos have drowned in the flood in Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Cuddalore districts of Chennai. The hon. Chief Minister has also announced special camps for repair service of affected automobiles.

I request the hon. Minister to release the special financial package of Rs. 5770 crore for housing project and also direct all automobile companies to arrange free repair service of two-wheelers, three-wheelers and cars which have been damaged in recent floods.

[Translation]

**DR. MANOJ RAJORIA (KARALI-DHOLPUR):** Madam Speaker, I wish to draw your attention towards the alarming adulteration in food items. Whether it is any edible product, adulteration has become so pervasive that citizens across the nation are distressed. Recently, whether it was the example of Maggi or Pepsi in cold drinks, adulteration has caused much concern and inconvenience. However, the stringent action that ought to be taken in such matters is seldom pursued with the required rigour.

I also wish to draw the Government's attention towards certain companies operating in India, such as KFC, McDonald's, Pizza Hut and Domino's. Because of their strong networks and aggressive marketing, Indian youth are consuming their products extensively. These companies sell pizza, burgers and packaged food, which are leading to adulteration in our dietary intake and adversely impacting the health of our people, especially the youth. Through you, Madam Speaker, I urge the Government and the Hon. Minister to take cognisance of the disparity between the international standards of these companies and the standards maintained by them in India. I demand that the products sold here must conform to the same international or European benchmarks as maintained elsewhere.

Furthermore, their food items such as pizzas, packaged foods and cold drinks must be subjected to periodic testing. If these companies are found guilty, stringent economic and legal action must be taken against them so that no company in future dares to indulge in adulteration, fearing strict punishment.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Ajay Misra, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Shri P. P. Chaudhary, Shri Daddan Misra, Shri Ramesh Bidhuri, Shri C. R. Chaudhary, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shrimati Anju Bala, Shrimati Riti Pathak, Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat, Dr. Hina Vijaykumar Gaveet, Shrimati Rekha Verma, Shri C. P. Joshi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Manoj Rajoria.

**SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI):** Madam, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the House and the Government to the serious difficulties faced by people regarding the blood donation process in government and private hospitals across various states. Madam, as everyone knows, blood donation is life donation. The blood we donate saves many lives, and this truth becomes most evident when a near one of ours is fighting for life and death due to the need for blood. At that moment, we realise the urgency and make all possible efforts to arrange blood. However, in this context, the

attitude of both government and private hospitals is often disappointing for the patient and their family. A person who donates blood and receives a blood donation card upon completion of the process finds, unfortunately, that if they themselves require blood due to an accident or illness, the hospital administration insists that blood can only be obtained from the same hospital where the donation was made and the card was issued. Under such circumstances, the patient's relatives face immense difficulties, particularly those from economically weaker sections, often resulting in the patient not receiving blood in time, which can lead to death.

Madam Speaker, today, the importance of blood donation has increased manifold among the educated, civilised citizens and youth of the country. They donate blood in large quantities not for themselves, but for the welfare of others, thereby saving many lives. If, in critical situations, government or private hospitals force patients holding a blood donation card to seek blood from other hospitals, I believe such experiences will significantly affect the mindset of these donors and their willingness to contribute in the future.

In this context, I therefore request the Government to issue clear guidelines to both government and private hospitals to address the above issue. These guidelines should ensure that a patient holding a

blood donation card is able to receive blood directly from the hospital where they are admitted, and that the hospital itself can obtain the required blood from the hospital where the donor had made the donation, using the card number. This will prevent the patient from being sent from one hospital to another unnecessarily. I thank you for allowing me to speak on this sensitive matter.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

### **13. 00 hours**

**SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (SASARAM):** Madam Speaker, first of all, I welcome the decision of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Ministry of Urban Development to develop one hundred cities in the country as Smart Cities. It is noteworthy that so far, the Ministry of Urban Development has selected ninety-eight cities across the country for this purpose. In this context, only three cities from Bihar—Bhagalpur, Muzaffarpur, and Bihar Sharif—have been selected, which is not entirely just for the entire state. All three selected cities are in North Bihar, while cities of global, cultural, and tourist significance in South Bihar such as Shahabad's Sasaram and

Gaya, known for the Bodh Circuit, have been overlooked. Justice would have been served if Sasaram and Gaya had also been included under the Smart City plan, as both are internationally significant underdeveloped cities with immense potential for tourism and development.

Madam Speaker, I request, through you, that the Ministry of Urban Development be directed at the earliest to ensure that Smart City development is undertaken in these two places as well.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Dharamvira Gandhi, the subject you raised does not appear to be relevant here, as it pertains to an individual matter.

Shri Bhanro Prasad Mishra and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Chhedi Paswan.

**SHRI DHARAMVIRA GANDHI (PATIALA):** Madam, it is a matter of democratic rights, and I will conclude my speech within two minutes.

Madam, in Punjab, for the past twenty-five days, Sardar Bhupinder Singh, a U.S. citizen who had come to India before the 10th

of this month to meet his family and attend to his business, had unfortunately or fortunately attended the Sarbat Khalsa.

**HON. SPEAKER:** This matter has no relevance to the House.

**SHRI DHARAMVIRA GANDHI:** He has been arrested there, imprisoned, and subjected to torture. This is against the principles of natural justice, against democratic rights, against individual liberty, and contrary to our Constitution.

Madam, I earnestly request you to ensure that the Union Government obtain full information from the Punjab Government regarding this matter, conduct a thorough investigation, and secure his immediate release.

**HON. SPEAKER:** This matter does not pertain to the House.

**SHRI DHARAMVIRA GANDHI:** So that our image in the international community is not tarnished. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI (MATHURA):** Madam, thank you so much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the need to strengthen our public health system. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please sit down. Shri Dharamvira Gandhi, you have spoken your point, you please sit down.

[English]

**SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI:** The National Health Mission (NHM) of the Government of India runs many focussed programmes for the improvement of health indicators, especially related to maternal and child health as women and children living in rural areas bear the brunt of the burden of poor health services. Implementation challenges prevent the execution of policies and programmes in its entirety. Assessing gaps to bridge them and using evidence-based solution in building a roadmap to a substantial health system is the most important process of strengthening our health system.

We are all really blessed people to be living in metro cities with all kinds of facilities available like world-class hospitals and where hospitals with 5-Star facilities are also coming up. What about the poor people who are living in villages, in rural areas? Women, children and elders are suffering because of lack of medical help.

As an MP from Mathura, I have experienced the suffering of all these people in my area, especially in the villages because there is not even a single health sub-centre available there. I see that most of the

young mothers carrying their small babies are undernourished. Also, there is not even a single pregnancy monitoring system available for the pregnant women. If any kind of problem arises in pregnant women, they cannot even reach the hospitals because the roads are so horrible. If there is any heart patient, it is impossible for them to reach the hospital. This is the condition in rural areas.

As per estimates, 40 infants die per 1,000 live births in India while the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) target for infant mortality rate is 26. Similarly, the maternal mortality ratio in India is 167 while the MDH target is 109. As per UNICEF, India has more maternal deaths than any other country in the world.

In my adopted village, Raval, I have organized a medical camp for carrying out medical check up of women. My request is that the Government of India should concentrate on setting up a lot of health sub-centres in rural areas. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri C. R. Chaudhary, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Hemamalini.

Shri N. K. Premachandran, where were you when I called your name?

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Madam, I just walked out and I did not boycott. There is a difference between 'walk-out' and 'boycott'.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am not saying anything about that. You were not there in your seat when your name was called.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** Madam, the banks entrusted private agencies for recovery of arrears of loan amount, including educational loans. The agencies adopted unlawful means for threatening and harassing parents and students for collecting the amount without giving reasonable opportunity for getting the statement of accounts and settle the matter in accordance with law. This becomes a grave social issue.

In my State of Kerala, nationalized banks have entered into an agreement with M/s. Reliance Asset Reconstruction Company in realizing arrears of loan amount from the customers. The said agency and some other private agencies entered into an agreement with banks, including nationalized banks, for realization of non-performing assets of the bank from the customers adopted illegal means for recovery,

which amounts to harassment and threatening the customers. Regulatory or controlling mechanism is not introduced for the monitoring functions of such agencies. It is harassing the poor children also. Those students who have availed of loans from the nationalized banks, these private agencies are harassing and threatening these students and parents.

So, I urge upon the Government to initiate urgent steps to stop the unlawful methods adopted for the recovery of arrears of loans by the banks, including nationalized banks with the help of private agencies. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Jose K. Mani and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri N. K. Premachandran.

**SHRIMATI P. K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR):** Madam, we know that 50 per cent of the population is women in our country. But in Parliament, women's representation is only 11 per cent. The spirit of our freedom movement is reflected in our Constitution which guarantees equality regardless of gender, caste or class. Yet, this equality has not been realized, and women continue to face exclusion and discrimination in their public and private lives.

This is the case, despite the fact that women's political participation is guaranteed by the Constitution. Ensuring women's political leadership is essential for building a strong and vibrant democracy. Therefore, an affirmative action in the form of reservation of seats for women in State Legislatures and Parliament is imperative. The passage of the Seventy-third and Seventy-fourth amendments to the Constitution in 1993 addressed women's exclusion from political participation at the grass-roots level. The implementation of the reservation system has meant that over 1.5 million women now hold position in Panchayati Raj Institutions and local civic bodies. The emergence of effective women leaders has led many States to increase the reservation of seats for women to 50 per cent. However, woman's voice is still excluded from the higher levels of decision-making process and bodies. Successive Governments have been stalling the Bill in the name of consensus whereas all we need to do is pass a Bill in Parliament with the majority of votes.

So, in this august House, I request the Government and the hon. Speaker that the Women's Reservation Bill be put in the next Session of Parliament and to pass it. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri P. K. Biju, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati P. K. Shreemathi Teacher.

[Translation]

**SHRIMATI NEELAM SONKER (LALGANJ):** Madam Speaker, I wish to raise a matter of utmost public importance concerning our farmers during Zero Hour. At present, the paddy procurement centres in Uttar Pradesh are in a deplorable condition. Although the centres have been opened, none of them are functioning effectively. Farmers are unable to sell their paddy at these centres. Consequently, the compelled farmer is forced to sell to middlemen and traders at Rs. 10 or even lower, instead of the declared Minimum Support Price of Rs. 14.50. The widening gap between cost and sale price is causing deep despair among farmers. Until 2010-11, the State Pool itself used to procure and store rice. Currently, the Food Corporation of India undertakes procurement and storage. The State Pool's average paddy procurement stands at 62 percent, whereas the Food Corporation of India has reduced it to 67 percent, adversely affecting the interests of farmers. Meanwhile, rice stocks have accumulated, and mills remain on the verge of closure, leaving many unemployed.

Through the House, I demand that, considering the plight and neglect of farmers, the practice of declaring procurement below the MSP be declared a cognisable offence, and that complete procurement of farmers' paddy be ensured.

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

[English]

**SHRI RADHESHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ):** Madam, my constituency Karimganj has a forest area namely, Pataria Range which is situated at zero point with Bangladesh border. A group of seven elephants move here and there for the last 15 years. Men and elephant have become a serious problem in that area. On 5<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, they attacked the villagers at Basantinagar and Kukital and destroyed six Houses of the villagers. A few years ago some people had been killed by the attack of these elephants. Thousands of acres of agricultural crop get destroyed every year. The local people have already stopped farming. People are afraid and they cannot sleep properly at night in this area. The main problem of this area is the deep forest area situated in Bangladesh side. Due to fencing

work, the elephants cannot go back into deep forest. They are permanently living in the Indian territory. The local Forest Department, Assam has failed to solve the problem. Considering the above fact, I would urge upon the Union Government through this august House to chalk out a permanent project to save both elephants and men by rehabilitating the elephants groups into another deep forest area. I would also request to rehabilitate the affected people by providing sufficient funds.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Radheshyam Biswas.

**SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR):** Madam, India is the second largest producer of silk in the world and Andhra is the second largest State producing silk in India. Andhra Pradesh (AP) has 31,000 metric tonnes of mulberry cocoons production. Sericulture has high employment potential. It is women-friendly and eco-friendly. But, the Government of India has recently reduced the customs duty from 30 per cent to 10 per cent on imported Chinese silk. This has resulted in swamping of South Indian sericulture industry by Chinese silk due to drastic fall in cocoon prices from Rs. 400 in last summer to Rs. 180 per kg now. The bi-voltine cocoon rate in SRU Guntur market in the second week of this month was only Rs. 200 per kg. This gives an

indication of what the status of market is in AP. This has hit very hard the Indian silk market leaving silk farmers and weavers in crisis.

I have a few suggestions. Firstly, keeping “Make in India” initiative in view, I request the Ministry of Textiles, Government of India to increase the customs duty on imports to 50 per cent to protect sericulture sector of the country. As an interim measure, I request the Government of India to give Rs. 150 per kg as incentive to Indian sericulture farmers which will give them some solace from the flooding of Chinese silk.

Secondly, I request for fixing of acceptable MSP for cocoons also to benefit the sericulture farmers. Thirdly, I request the Ministry of Textiles to buy silk from farmers under the Market Intervention Scheme and save them from Chinese onslaught.

Finally, we produce only multi-voltine silk which is of low-wheel quality as it does not give continuity in reeling and threads and have many cuts whereas bi-voltine silk produced by China can easily reel out filament continuously up to 1,000 metres. So, the Government of India should also focus on this.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Arvind Sawant is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jayadev Galla.

[Translation]

**SHRI DADDAN MISHRA (SHRAWASTI):** Madam, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Government of India and the Ministry of Human Resource Development towards the hurdles being faced in the regularisation of Shiksha Mitras in Uttar Pradesh and to demand that these hurdles be removed so that their regularisation may be ensured. For the past sixteen years, Shiksha Mitras in Uttar Pradesh have been rendering teaching services with utmost dedication, receiving a meagre salary of merely Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 3,500. However, following an order of the Hon. Court, Shiksha Mitras have been removed from teaching duties, as a result of which several schools have been shut down. Today, the primary education system of Uttar Pradesh stands completely disrupted. In such a grave situation, I urge the Government of India and the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to remove the obstacles in the regularisation of Shiksha Mitras, to restore their status as primary teachers, and to duly accommodate them. At present, thousands of families of Shiksha Mitras in Uttar Pradesh are on the brink of starvation, and many Shiksha Mitras are being driven to the verge of suicide. Therefore, it is imperative that they be regularised and relief be provided to them without delay.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have made your point. You have already mentioned regularisation three times. Now please take your seat.

Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Ajay Mishra Teni are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Daddan Mishra.

[English]

**SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST):** Hon. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the NDA Government for taking up the cause of women on a high priority basis. For example, *Beti bachao, Beti Padhao* has become a big hit scheme in the country.

Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise the issue of providing free education to a girl child whose family is having only one girl up to degree/post-graduation. It would be in the fitness of things if five per cent seats are reserved in medical and engineering colleges for one girl child from the families. Similarly, the Government may consider providing employment to the one girl child in a family in Government establishments in the country.

If these things are done, I am sure, the spirit of *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao* would become very successful, and this would check female foeticide as well. Thank you.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Dr. Manoj Rajoria are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Gajanan Kirtikar.

**SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM):** Hon. Madam Speaker, the Indian diaspora in Gulf, especially from Kerala, is being fleeced by air carriers during the ongoing peak season by hiking fares exorbitantly. Even the national flight carrier Air India has joined the private sector in holding the Gulf Malayalis to ransom. There is no provocation for the steep hike in air fare when the crude oil price is still ruling low. Further, currently the Gulf countries are passing through a peaceful and politically quiet period with no threat of mass evacuation of Indian emigrants from conflict areas requiring massive air evacuation arrangements by India.

Most of the air travellers from Gulf to Kerala are surviving on very low wages and harsh condition. It would be an uncharitable gesture on the part of the Indian air carriers to make them part with a major share of their earnings just to travel home every year and to spend a few days with their families. It rests upon the Air India, the national flight carrier to hold on to the nominal fare schedule even during the ongoing peak season and also during June-July annual school holidays. This will have a symbolic effect on the private

carriers to fall in line. I urge the Centre to pay heed to legitimate grievance of the Gulf travelers. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI (CHITTORGARH):**

Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to raise an important issue related to farmers. I wish to draw attention to the plight of opium cultivators in Chittorgarh, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh. In this country, under the Opium Act of 1857, this cultivation comes under the Ministry of Finance rather than the Ministry of Agriculture. Due to hailstorms and other natural causes, several opium farmers have suffered devastation. Through you, Hon. Speaker, I urge that such farmers be given relief and that their licences, which were cancelled due to average yield shortfalls and other such reasons, be restored. Under the previous Government, the then Finance Minister had cancelled a deal to export 350 tonnes of opium to the United States. Presently, the only viable way to support and sustain these farmers is by renovating and enhancing the capacity of the two factories at Ghazipur and Neemuch. At present, we are still importing poppy husk in this country. If that is discontinued, our farmers will be strengthened and the renovation of these factories will ensure their empowerment. Through you, Madam

Speaker, I would also like to state that last year farmers in Rajasthan suffered heavy losses due to hailstorms. This year, once again, several farmers have suffered on account of drought. The Government has already sent a survey report there. I strongly urge that, just as the Union Government had extended support previously, it may once again, with sympathy, provide relief to these farmers. Thank you.

[Translation]

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Gajendra Shekhawat, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri C. R. Chaudhary and Dr. Manoj Rajoria are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri C. P. Joshi.

[English]

**SHRIMATI RENUKA SINHA (COOCH BEHAR):** Respected Madam Speaker, I am very grateful to you for giving me a chance to say something about my constituency

My constituency is Cooch Behar. I want to draw the attention of the Minister of External Affairs through you that the people who have come to Cooch Behar from the enclaves of India are penniless because most of them could not sell their lands due to the urgency of their coming here. So, will the Minister consider declaring a package for

the establishment of the people who have come to India from Bangladesh?

My other point is this. Many of the people of the enclaves of India who have fled away to Cooch Behar are residing in different places of Cooch Behar. They had to flee away due to torture by the land mafia. They have deeds of land of their own. So, if the Minister thinks about their registration as Indians, they will be very grateful. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE (AURANGABAD):** Madam Speaker, after the NDA Government came to power, several historic decisions have been taken. The Government of India created a separate Ministry for the protection of River Ganga. The campaign of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao has been turned into a people's movement. Through you, Madam Speaker, I urge the Government to declare Gomata as the Rashtramata at the earliest for her protection. Everyone accords respect to Gomata. No one's life is complete without her milk. Moreover, cow dung and cow urine are also considered effective in curing cancer and other ailments. Then why should we not accord the status of Rashtramata to Gomata, who is revered like a goddess?

Gomata is a treasure of virtues, and there is no hesitation in recognising or accepting this fact. In India, we have a National Flag, a National Anthem, a Father of the Nation, a National Bird and a National Animal. In the same manner, Gomata should be declared as the Rashtramata.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Chandrakant Khaire.

**SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH):** Madam Speaker, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Railway Minister to the Mallawan Railway Station situated in Bilgram Assembly Segment of my Parliamentary Constituency, Misrikh. Madam Speaker, Mallawan Railway Station has long remained neglected and deprived of basic amenities. There is no arrangement for drinking water at Mallawan Station, nor is there a proper platform or even a tin shed for passengers. Through you, Madam Speaker, I urge the Hon. Railway Minister to ensure the early upgradation of Mallawan Railway Station and the provision of essential passenger facilities there.

**SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH):** Madam Speaker, I am raising a grave issue before this House during Zero Hour. Recently, the World Health Organization has stated that across the

globe, 9 million people are affected by tuberculosis. The serious aspect is that out of these, 2.3 million cases are in India. Each year, around 3 lakh people die due to this disease. Although efforts are being made for its control, the country suffers an annual loss of Rs. 1.3 lakh crore as nearly 17 crore man-days are lost owing to inability to work. With regard to medicines, I wish to state that a new drug, Bedaquiline, has been introduced. Though we are attempting to make it available, it is being supplied in limited quantities. This medicine is required for MDR and XDR cases. Another alarming report points out that around 40 percent of the population might have latent tuberculosis. I wish to draw the Government's attention to this grave situation.

There is also a machine called GeneXpert. At present, there are only 120 such machines in the entire country. Moreover, taxes are levied on this machine. Through you, Madam Speaker, I urge the Government to exempt this machine from taxes and to procure it in greater numbers at the earliest. This machine conducts rapid molecular tests, which help in the early detection of MDR patients. Hence, I strongly appeal to the Government, through you, that the taxes on this machine be removed immediately and assistance provided to people. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri Rahul Shewale, Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath Gaikwad, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Arvind Sawant.

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA):** Madam, I thank you for allowing me to speak. Bihar is being neglected in several respects. The Union Government is continuously neglecting Bihar. Bihar should be granted the status of a Special State.

**HON. SPEAKER:** The same matter is being raised every day.

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV:** This demand is being raised again and again that Bihar should be granted Special State Status. ... (*Interruptions*) Cuts are made in schemes, Bihar is discriminated against, and justice is not done. The same kind of treatment is meted out to other backward States as well. In PMGSY, in the field of education, in the health sector, and in Indira Awas, there have been huge cuts in funds. In the sectors of SC, ST, and OBC too, there have been major reductions. Bihar suffers from drought on the one hand and floods on the other.

Our demand is that Bihar should be given Special State Status. In matters of electricity, water, roads, National Highways, and

transport—and especially in our parliamentary constituencies of Banka, Bhagalpur, Munger, and Lakhisarai—several schemes are pending, for which funds should be provided by the Centre. Bihar must be granted Special State Status. We demand not once but a thousand times that justice be done to Bihar.

**HON. SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again at 14.30 hours.

**13. 27 hours**

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

**14. 32 hours**

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

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

**SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS. . . Contd.**

**(ii)Re: Anonymous telephone calls and abusive SMSs on Hon'ble Member's cell phone.**

[English]

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):** Sir, I want to give an information.

Sir, I am receiving threat calls in my mobile since last evening. I received the first SMS at 1. 25 p. m. Normally, I do not go through SMS received from unknown phone numbers. Here in this message it was mentioned: “You will be killed in Delhi and your dead body will be taken to Kalighat”. It is a place where my Chief Minister resides. After that, it is also written that you are bastard’s son. It is with me on my mobile and everything is there.

Then, a second SMS came asking me: “ Why are you silent in spite of my intimation to you?” Then he accused me by telling something in a very absurd wording which I cannot mention here due to prestige of the House. I tried to check it up before I talked with the Chief Minister of West Bengal. She categorically made a tweet and

held a Press Conference also in Kolkata. She also suggested me to place it on record on the floor of the House.

Sir, I sent a counter SMS on that number and I found that he received it. After that he sent me two more SMS – one at 2. 15 p. m. and another at 2. 24 p. m. These two are also having a language which is dangerous in nature. I feel that they are so much ugly language that on national television, these are shown with blank spaces.

One year ago, when I was badly ill and was on life and death battle, three thefts took place at my residence in Delhi itself. After that, I shifted to MS Flats for security reasons. But I do not know what is going to happen now. Last time, the hon. Speaker and the Home Minister took major steps. But these things are going on continuously. I do not know who this person is and from where these are coming but everything is there with me on record. I would request you to direct the Home Minister to look into this matter... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now you listen to the Minister.

[Translation]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF**

**PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the subject raised by Shri Sudip Daa is for the Union government ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SULTAN AHMED (ULUBERIA):** Why do you question everything? ... (*Interruptions*) This is a very serious matter. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** We have stood up only to respond to a serious matter. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, the issue raised by Sudip ji ... (*Interruptions*) regarding the Chief Minister of West Bengal ... (*Interruptions*) Would you not like to hear the reply on the question raised about your Chief Minister? ... (*Interruptions*) On that very issue, it is being stated that in a tweet by the Chief Minister of West Bengal, certain facts have come to light, suggesting that perhaps some people ... (*Interruptions*) What is that force which is threatening her or through which some kind of communication has been made? On this matter, Sudip Da has provided information. Whether it is the Chief Minister of any State, their security ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY:** This threat has been given to me, and it is my mobile. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Member had earlier also raised this matter, stating that he has received a threat. Certainly, we take cognizance of this because if any Member faces a threat or there is any possibility of danger, then the Government of India will take every possible step to ensure the security of our hon. Members. There will be no hesitation in this regard, and we assure you of the same.

Today, there has been an accident involving a BSF aircraft, due to which the hon. Home Minister has gone to the site. Since then, he has not yet returned. If you so desire, we would also like to share information regarding that incident. Once the information is received, and if you wish, we shall provide that information to the House, but at present it is not available. ... (*Interruptions*) I shall certainly convey this matter to the Home Minister and assure the hon. Member that the concern raised by him will receive our full attention.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Mr. Minister, you may convey the feeling of the hon. Members to the hon. Home Minister.

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**14. 37 hours****MATTERS UNDER RULE 377\***

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

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\*Treated as laid on the Table.

**(i) Need to reschedule the working hours of offices in public and private sector to resolve the problems of traffic and pollution in Delhi**

[Translation]

**SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHAR):** I would like to place an important matter before the Government. Recently, the Delhi Government has passed an order that odd and even numbered vehicles will ply on alternate days in Delhi. This has created a lot of difficulties for the people of Delhi.

I would like to make a suggestion. Instead of running odd and even numbered vehicles on alternate days, the working hours of Government and private offices may be staggered—say from 8.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. and from 12.00 noon to 8.00 p.m. Furthermore, instead of having a uniform Saturday-Sunday holiday, some offices could observe Friday-Saturday as their weekly off, while others could have Sunday-Monday. This would reduce pollution and also provide relief to the people.

**(ii) Need to expedite construction of Dobra-Chanti bridge in  
Tehri district, Uttarakhand**

**SHRIMATI MALA RAJYA LAXMI SHAH (TEHRI GARHWAL):** I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards my Parliamentary Constituency Tehri Garhwal (Uttarakhand). In areas like Pratapnagar, Jakhnidhar, Dhanashali and certain parts of Uttarkashi, located around the Tehri Dam reservoir, the people have long been awaiting the construction of the proposed Dobra-Chanti bridge based on modern technology. The first tender for this project was issued in 2006. Initially, the estimated cost was ₹90 crore, but it is now expected to rise considerably. Till now, THDC has already paid ₹132 crore to the company for construction. In the last ten years, despite spending more than ₹1,000 crore, the bridge still remains at the design-testing stage, and no final decision has been taken, resulting in no progress in construction. Meanwhile, several irregularities in the work have come to light, and responsible officers must be held accountable. The former MLA of Pratapnagar, along with many others, has been sitting on a strike for the last 4-5 months.

Therefore, through you, I request the Union Government that in view of these circumstances, a committee from the Ministry of Power be sent to the bridge construction site. Considering the problems of more than two lakh people in the affected region, the bridge construction work should be started immediately on humanitarian grounds, and in the meantime, round-the-clock free motorboat service should be provided for the local people.

**(iii) Need to allot lands to eligible persons under 20- point programme in NCT of Delhi**

[English]

**DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI):** In the matter of allotment of land to Dalits, other poor and landless persons for their housing under the 20-Point Programme, 1975, till date, land has not been allotted to all eligible beneficiaries. The beneficiaries should be allotted land as per the aims of the 20- point programme as well as the judgment of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in the case of Hukam Chand and others vs. Union of India besides resolution of the Gram Sabha dated 25. 2. 1984 by virtue of which the Pradhan is the competent authority for allotment of land under the programme. Now, when this land is sought to be acquired by the Government and/or its agencies in the larger public interest, the entitled beneficiaries should not be made to suffer and not be granted alternative plots and payment of due compensation. That the matter is still pending for resolution is due to delay attributable to resolution of the Committee formed by the Hon'ble Lieutenant General of Delhi, and beneficiaries should not be made to suffer on account of this delay. Even the Delhi Development

Act, 1957 and Nazrul rules modified by the order dated 30. 1. 1987, persons allotted agricultural land under the 20 point programme are eligible for allotment of alternative plots and hence the Government should act immediately in this matter.

**(iv) Need to include people belonging to Bengali Namoh-Sudra  
Caste of Chhattisgarh in the list of Scheduled Castes**

[Translation]

**SHRI VIKRAM USENDI (KANKER):** Namoh Shudra Jati came to India as refugee. The displaced Bengali refugees, Namoh Shudra, from Bangladesh and East Pakistan were settled in various parts of present-day Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh states. Most of them belonged to the Scheduled Caste category. In the year 2001, the Chhattisgarh government proposed to include the Bengali community, Namoh Shudra, displaced as refugees, into the Scheduled Caste category. Most of the people of the Namoh Shudra caste are agricultural workers. Bengali Namoh Shudras settled in Chhattisgarh have the citizenship of India. Presently, they are residing in Pakhanjur (Paralkot) Bachel in Chhattisgarh, Dharampura (Jagdalpur), Mana (Raipur) Dharamjaigarh, Ramanujganj etc. The financial condition of many families is not good there. Many are unemployed. Varnasankar Namoh is the seven major sub-caste of the Shudra caste - 1. Siali, 2. Cora, 3. Teenager, 4. drains, 5. Mecho, 6. Nunia, 7. Chashi. Only the maximum number of Siali sub-castes have come to Chhattisgarh. All

rituals, such as birth, marriage, death, etc. , follow the same way as Hindus. Since Namah Shudra is not a new caste, along with West Bengal, they have Scheduled Caste status in 8 states of India. The Chhattisgarh Legislative Assembly has passed a Non-Governmental Resolution and sent it to the Union Government.

Therefore, I request the Union Government that necessary steps should be taken at the earliest to give Scheduled Caste status to the Namah Shudra Bengalis of Chhattisgarh.

**(v) Need to construct airport at Giridih and Dhanbad districts of Jharkhand for domestic flight and also helipads at select places in the State**

[Translation]

**SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH):** My Parliamentary Constituency, covering Giridih and Dhanbad districts, is well known for several reasons and is also a major source of revenue generation. In Giridih district lies Parasnath (Madhuban), a famous Jain pilgrimage site located about 40 km from the district headquarters. Similarly, at around 65 km from Giridih is Deoghar, a highly revered religious destination for Hindus. Every year, crores of devotees from across the country and abroad visit these places for jalabhishek and darshan. In addition, several major public sector undertakings like DVC, CCL, and BCCL operate in this region, and due to the presence of Left Wing Extremism in certain areas, a large number of paramilitary forces are deployed here. Despite this, Giridih and Dhanbad districts lack the facility of domestic air services as well as helipads in the Naxal-affected areas. This absence leads to an annual loss of crores of rupees in both human and economic terms,

while tourists are deprived of visiting these historic and renowned sites. It is worth mentioning that domestic air services were started in Gaya to develop the Buddhist circuit, which has benefitted airline companies as a source of revenue and also provided adequate facilities to tourists with government support.

Therefore, through you, I urge the Union Government to develop airports in Giridih and Dhanbad (Jharkhand) and commence domestic air services. Further, I request that helipads be constructed in the Naxal-affected areas to support tourism development, improve the functioning of public sector undertakings, enable quick response during emergencies, aid development in disturbed areas, and enhance the government's revenue.

**(vi) Need to set up a hospital with modern health care facilities  
in Kairana Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

**SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA):** In the past four months, there has been a severe outbreak of dengue across most parts of the country. Even in the national capital, Delhi, thousands of people were affected, and a large number of deaths occurred. My Parliamentary Constituency, Kairana, too, was severely hit by dengue, leading to the death of hundreds of people. Unfortunately, there were no adequate arrangements for treatment at the local level. Private practitioners exploited the situation and subjected the affected families to heavy financial exploitation. Even today, dengue continues to affect villages in my area. In addition to this, due to contaminated water and adulterated food, thousands of people are suffering from serious diseases like heart ailments, tuberculosis, and cancer. In my constituency, at places like Kairana, Shamli, Thanabhawan, Nakur, and Gangoh, not a single hospital equipped with modern facilities exists. Poor people are unable to afford treatment in private hospitals and are thus compelled to succumb to these diseases, often leading to death.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to immediately establish a modern hospital, equipped with all necessary facilities, at any of the above-mentioned locations so that the lives of lakhs of people can be saved from such serious ailments.

**(vii) Need to set up a hospital with modern health care facilities  
in Jhunjhunu district, Rajasthan**

**SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT (JHUNJHUNU):** There is an acute shortage of medical facilities in Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan. The hospitals and dispensaries here are facing a severe lack of staff and doctors. These hospitals are also not equipped with modern equipment or operation theatres. Since there is no major hospital or trauma centre in the nearby areas, people are compelled to travel either to Delhi or Jaipur for treatment, which causes immense hardship due to the long distance. Many a time, in cases of accidental emergencies, people even lose their lives due to the absence of timely medical facilities.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to establish, in Jhunjhunu district of Rajasthan, a centrally funded hospital equipped with all modern facilities.

**(viii) Need to arrange land for construction of building for Zila Pradhan Dak Ghar at Begusarai district, Bihar**

**DR. BHOLA SINGH (BEGUSARAI):** Even after 65 years, the Head Post Office of Begusarai district in Bihar neither has its own land nor its own building. For a long period, the postal and telegraph employees have endured great hardship, but successive governments failed to pay attention to their plight. Over the years, the department's employees have set an example of perseverance in their struggle. Efforts were made to acquire the land of the old jail premises, situated in front of the Begusarai district headquarters, for constructing the Head Post Office building. The Union Government has already sanctioned ₹1 crore for this purpose. However, since the land falls under the municipal corporation's jurisdiction, the State Government is demanding an additional ₹14 lakh. As a result, the situation remains unresolved. On 13.12.2015, during the 59th annual conference of the district postal employees, I witnessed their anguish firsthand. I assured them that positive efforts would be made by the Government to resolve this matter.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to take the necessary steps to transfer the land of the old jail premises in Begusarai district of Bihar to the postal department so that the employees may discharge their official duties smoothly.

**(ix)Need to accord status of Central University to Deen Dayal  
Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Uttar Pradesh**

**YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR):** Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, is not only a major religious, spiritual, and cultural center, but also an important hub of trade and education in Eastern Uttar Pradesh. Among the population of over 3 crore people in this region, the only university named after Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Ji is situated in Gorakhpur. The Gorakhpur University was established in the year 1956-57. It serves as the sole center for higher education needs not just of Eastern Uttar Pradesh, but also of the Terai regions of Bihar and Nepal. Due to the limited resources of the State Government, the quality of education has suffered, and the university has not been able to play its full role in the cultural, social, and economic development of the region. This year marks the birth centenary of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Ji, and this university is the only one in the country named after him.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government that, considering both the religious and cultural importance of Gorakhpur and the occasion of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Ji's birth centenary, Deen Dayal

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Upadhyaya Gorakhpur University, Gorakhpur (Uttar Pradesh), be declared a Central University.

**(x) Need to implement the Scheduled Tribes and Other  
Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act,  
2006 in letter and spirit**

**SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE (MANDLA):** Under the Forest Rights Act, 2006, a provision was made to give lease to the citizens living in forests but so far this law has not been followed throughout the country. Due to this, people are still wandering to get leases in many states.

Secondly, the Government had also made a provision to convert forest villages into revenue villages. But since this conversion has not yet taken place, developmental works in these villages remain stalled. Along with this, a large number of cases related to both community and individual claims are still pending.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to issue directions fixing a definite timeline for resolving this problem.

**(xi) Need to check contamination of ground water caused by industrial effluents and other pollutants in Hathras Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

**SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR (HATHRAS):** In my Parliamentary Constituency Hathras (Uttar Pradesh), the poisonous water of the Aligarh Drain passing through Sasni is spreading cancer among the people, as the groundwater has been contaminated by this drain. Due to illegal animal slaughter, blood and other waste from slaughterHouses, as well as dangerous chemicals from factories, are being directly discharged into the drain. This continuous discharge has severely polluted the groundwater. The hazardous chemicals also produce a strong foul smell, which is adversely affecting the health of the nearby residents. Because of this polluted drain, even the drinking water from taps in the surrounding areas has become contaminated. Consuming this water is causing a steady deterioration of people's health, and many are falling prey to deadly diseases like cancer. The contamination of groundwater is also affecting vegetables and other crops.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government, in public interest, to immediately conduct testing of the drinking water, stop the dumping of blood and waste from illegal animal slaughter into the drain, and ensure that factories install water treatment plants so that people's lives can be safeguarded.

**(xii) Need to provide passenger facilities including development of railway platform at Bhannaur railway station in Machhlishahr Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh**

**SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD (MACHHLISHAHR):** In my Parliamentary Constituency Machhlishahr (Uttar Pradesh), at Bhannaur station situated between Janghai and Jaunpur, though the station building exists, essential facilities like a proper platform are absent. Due to this, passengers are compelled to jump down directly from the coaches, which often results in injuries. At times, there is even a risk of getting stuck between train compartments. The problem becomes far more serious when pregnant women, elderly men and women, and children face great difficulty in boarding or alighting, especially since the district headquarters is far away. Around 30 to 35 villages depend on this station for train services. Furthermore, the important Wadhwa–Varanasi road, which is the main route of transportation in that area, passes right beside this station, from where people from another 50 villages come to catch trains.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to kindly upgrade Bhannaur station by providing platforms and other necessary facilities

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in view of the hardships faced by passengers. I, along with the residents of my constituency Machhlishahr (Uttar Pradesh), shall remain ever grateful.

**(xiii) Need to address the loan requirements of small entrepreneurs under MUDRA Bank scheme**

**SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHAHJAHANPUR):** The Prime Minister's MUDRA Bank Scheme is an ambitious initiative aimed at providing financial self-reliance to the informal sector, which will serve as a boon for underprivileged groups. The scheme seeks to encourage extremely small and self-employed businesses while providing institutional credit at affordable rates to entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and other disadvantaged groups. It is explicitly stated that priority will be given to entrepreneurs from Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.

The initial products of the Prime Minister's MUDRA Bank Scheme are categorised as Shishu, Kishore, and Tarun, under which loans of up to Rs. 50,000 are provided under the Shishu category and Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 5 lakh under the Kishore category. However, due to the apathy of banks and the lethargic attitude of officials, lower-tier entrepreneurs are unable to benefit from this scheme. There are approximately 60 million micro-business units in the country, mostly single-owner enterprises engaged in trade or service activities that

cater to the daily needs of people. Among these, 62 percent are owned by individuals from Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, or Other Backward Classes. According to the 2013 survey by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO), there are 57.7 million unorganised sector entrepreneurs in India with total capital of Rs. 11 lakh crore, of which only 4 percent reaches them through institutional channels; the remainder is met through non-institutional means. This sector provides employment to 120 million people. In contrast, large corporates have received loans amounting to Rs. 58 lakh crore from banks over the past 22 years, creating employment for only 22 million people. This demonstrates that commercial banks are not effectively reaching small entrepreneurs. Due to the lax approach of bank officials, the poor and small-scale workers are unable to access loans for business purposes, forcing them to approach moneylenders, thereby falling into their clutches and becoming victims of financial and psychological exploitation.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to issue appropriate guidelines to the agencies implementing the Prime Minister's MUDRA Bank Scheme to ensure that the maximum number of entrepreneurs are able to benefit from this initiative.

**(xiv) Need to release balance fund sanctioned for development of tourism in Godwad circuit in Rajasthan**

**SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI):** I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that, with a view to promoting tourism, a project for the development of the Godwad Circuit in the districts of Pali, Jalore, and Sirohi in Western Rajasthan was approved by the Government of India. For this project, an allocation of Rs. 643.19 lakh was made, of which only Rs. 128.63 lakh has been released so far as the first installment. The expenditure of the allocated funds has been incurred by the Rajasthan Tourism Development Corporation and the Department of Archaeology and Museums. The completion of the Godwad Circuit project will be possible upon receipt of the remaining funds from the Government of India. This project will not only promote the development of world-famous sites in my Parliamentary Constituency such as Ranakpur, Narwaria, and Jawai Dam, along with Kotra and Narovi Baoris, but also ensure the conservation of numerous archaeological sites and heritage structures, including Nadol, Ghanerao, and Neemaj.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Tourism to kindly approve the release of the remaining Rs. 520.56 lakh for the Godwad Circuit Development Scheme to further promote tourism in Western Rajasthan. The proposal has already been submitted by the State Government to the Union Government.

**(xv) Need to address the issues pertaining to education, sanitation, housing, drinking water and power-supply under Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) in Kishanganj Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar and also set up Madarsa Buildings in the State under MSDP**

**SHRI MOHAMMED ASRARUL HAQUE (KISHANGANJ):** I would like to know the amount of funds allocated under the Multi-Sectoral Development Programme (MSDP) for the construction of Madarsa buildings in my Parliamentary Constituency Kishanganj (Bihar) to facilitate and promote education among the minority community. Under this programme, apart from creating beneficiary-oriented income and employment opportunities, MSDP also provides for projects related to education, sanitation, pucca Houses, drinking water, and electricity supply. I request that funds be released at the earliest for these initiatives in Kishanganj, with special attention to the construction of financially assisted Madarsa buildings. So far, out of 240 Madarsas in Kishanganj, 149 buildings have been constructed while 91 remain pending. In Purnia district, out of 103 Madarsas, 72 buildings have been constructed and 31 are yet to be completed.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to ensure that all remaining Madarsa buildings in Bihar are completed under the MSDP scheme.

**(xvi) Need to tackle the menace of stray dogs in Kerala**

[English]

**SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):** I request the Government to kindly tackle the menace of stray dogs in the country. As per reports, Kerala alone has a stray dog population of 2.5 lakh. Every year, more than one lakh people in the State are bitten by stray dogs. Majority of the victims of stray dogs are women and children, and the unexpected attacks of stray dogs inflict terrible shocks to victims. Therefore, the stray dog menace virtually affects 'Right to Live', and 'Freedom of Movement'. People in the State have sought the urgent intervention of local bodies and the State Government in tackling this issue. However, at present they are helpless to protect the interest of people. There are certain provisions in the Animal Birth Control (Dogs) Rules, 2001 that allows stray dogs to wander on streets. Having aggrieved by this issue certain human rights associations have filed the Public Interest Litigation in the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Accordingly, the Hon'ble Court has sought the response of the Government of India and State Government on this

issue. Therefore, I request the Government to kindly consider the plight of the people in this regard.

**(xvii) Need to convert Gandhigram Rural University into a  
Central University**

**SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL):** In 1956 the Government of India experimented with Rural Institutes. Fourteen such institutes came up in all. While others fell by the way side, the one at Gandhigram was to claim status as a Deemed University in 1976. The Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI) was founded in 1956, with undying faith and deep devotion to Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary concept of 'Nai Talim' system of education. It attracts students from all over the country and abroad. Its courses have a rural tilt.

Today, it has become a nationally and internationally recognised Institute for its contribution to rural education, so much so that the New Education Policy of the Nation reflects the principles evolved here in developing the rural university concept. It has, at present, about 2300 students and 125 teaching and 250 non-teaching staff. The programmes offered here have attracted students from abroad every year. The Gandhi gram Rural Institute is re-accredited with 'A' Grade by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).

A government-appointed panel of experts which reviewed 126 deemed universities, had found only 38 to be deserving for the deemed tag and put them in category A, one among them is the Gandhi Gram Rural Institute.

I urge upon the Union Government to provide financial assistance of Rs. 200 crore to the GRI under the Union Government's Rashtriya Uchchatar Shika Abhiyan (RUSA) scheme, so that the present infrastructure may be upgraded in the coming days.

Further I request the Ministry of Human Resource and Development that the Gandhigram Rural University in Tamil Nadu should be converted into a Central University for raising the benchmark for academics and research.

**(xviii) Need to increase the purchase price of milling copra**

**SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (POLLACHI):** Coconut growing is the main occupation of agriculturists of Pollachi Parliamentary Constituency.

As per guidance of our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, I have debated in this august House to increase the purchase price of milling copra to Rs. 140 per Kilo. Despite the repeated requests made through this House, the Union Government has fixed the procuring price of milling copra at Rs. 55. 50 per Kilo by increasing just Rs. 3.

Hence, I urge upon the Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare to increase and fix the purchase price of milling copra to Rs. 140 per Kilo immediately.

**(xix) Need to promote the cultivation of potato**

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** My Parliament Constituency Arambagh, the largest sub-division in Hoogly District is located on Dwarakeswar River Bank. As it is an agricultural fertile land, rice and potato are cultivated more.

Potato, a vegetable with a variety of vitamins, minerals is good for human health. Studies also reveal that potato decreases risk of heart disease, & increases energy. It contains fibre which helps to reduce cholesterol in blood and helps to prevent constipation.

Potato is also considered as a comfort food as it is available round the year and is the number one vegetable crop in the world. It strengthens our bones, boosts anti-oxidants, maintains blood pressure & reduces cancer cell growth. Reports say potato is also used in Siddha Medicines.

I wish to state that Agriculture Ministry and Ministry of Food & Civil Supplies should bring more new schemes and announce attractive subsidies, so that more farmers cultivate potato. Ministry of Food Processing should set up Mini Food Parks in Arambagh. Outlets like Haldirams, Lays, Tangles etc should be opened in Arambagh.

As Potato has so many benefits, I urge upon the Union Government to take necessary steps to promote the cultivation of potato in the country particularly in my constituency.

**(xx) Need to tackle Filariasis**

**DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY):** Even after 63 years of Independence, the problem of Filariasis is continuing. Filariasis is a parasitic disease caused by microscopic worms transmitted through bite of mosquito. It can cause horrible disability and disfigurement in the inflicted people. With vast-changes in life style, diseases like diabetes and cancer has increased. It has been reported in the newspaper that India would have to postpone the goal of lymphatic elimination by two years. Eradicating Filariasis is considered very important next only to Polio. Such is the magnitude of the problem. It is said that over 137 districts of the country are affected by Filariasis. It is astonishing to find that at present 35 crore people in 137 districts in 13 states continue to remain under the lymphatic Filariasis risk. It is the duty of the Health Ministry to create awareness among the poor and general public about the risks associated with Filariasis. I would like to request the Health Minister to generate more and more public awareness about the disease.

**(xxi) Need to regularize the adhoc employees of IOCL, Paradip**

**DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR):** On 23 November, 2015, Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) through their advertisement invited applications for proposed recruitment in various posts including the Junior Office Assistants without regularizing the services of adhoc employees, who were recruited on the basis of their displacement due to establishment of IOCL in Paradip, Odisha. It has also not been mentioned in the advertisement about the quota supposed to be reserved for displaced families as well as for those who are already continuing in the post of Office Assistants and other technical jobs on adhoc basis. The most important point is that in some of the cases the employees recruited on adhoc basis have been imparted required training for the purpose by the IOCL Authority and they also fulfill all other criteria except the upper age limit. As per the said advertisement of IOCL, they are not eligible to apply for the post from the view point of age limit as they are already in those posts on adhoc basis for the last seven to eight years. So, a sense of insecurity has gripped the adhoc employees. Hence, it is necessary to address their grievances as per the MoU signed between IOCL and Government of Odisha.

Therefore, I urge upon the Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas to order the IOCL authorities to regularize first the adhoc employees recruited on the basis of their displacement because of IOCL establishment and then recruit as per the advertisement.

**(xxii) Need to ensure payment of insurance money for loss of crops to the farmers in Marathwada region of Maharashtra**

[Translation]

**PROF. RAVINDRA VISHWANATH GAIKWAD (OSMANABAD):** I wish to draw the Government's attention to the problems faced by farmers suffering from drought. Today, farmers across Marathwada, Maharashtra, and many other parts of the country have been driven to suicide due to the severe impact of drought. I was deeply distressed when I met the families of the affected and deceased farmers in my Parliamentary Constituency. A major issue is the non-payment of full crop insurance amounts. Farmers pay separate premiums for each crop to the insurance companies, and therefore they are entitled to compensation for all crops, which they are currently not receiving. Similarly, when fodder subsidies for livestock are to be disbursed, the amount should be directly deposited into the farmers' accounts rather than routed through agencies. At present, the government provides Rs. 35 for small animals and Rs. 70 for large animals, which is inadequate and should be increased. Additionally, farmers suffer significant losses when seeds fail to germinate. In such

cases, high-quality seeds should be made immediately available, and compensation should be provided for losses incurred due to non-germination.

Furthermore, no subsidy is granted when Kharif or Rabi crops are damaged due to fluctuations in the monsoon, and electricity Bills are not waived on time. These problems persist even today, while farmers in Marathwada continue to face the worst drought conditions.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to take immediate and urgent measures to address all these issues in the interest of the farmers.

**(xxiii) Need to set up skill training institutes in Malkajgiri  
Parliamentary Constituency in Telangana**

[English]

**SHRI CH. MALLA REDDY (MALKAJGIRI):** I would like to raise one very important issue today which concerns the people of country in a great way. As you are aware that the entire country is now making a gradual change to online and making everything electronic. The Government of today under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi has also launched the digital India initiative to help the country make a transformation towards the same. According to this programme, the Government seeks to connect each other and the people and the government electronically. It aids in ensuring effective governance. It also aids in reducing the dependence on paper by making everything available online. The parliament is also leading from the front by going paperless. It is here that I would like to point out that my constituency Malkajgiri, in Telangana, is the biggest constituency in India with more than 30 lakh voters is ideally suited for the government to set up skill institutes to arm the people with computer literacy. I would like to request to set up skill and computer training

institutes here. This will greatly help in ensuring that the people there get employment opportunities. By making the people aware of the benefits of digital world, the Government can also reap the benefits by initiating cashless transactions and transfer of subsidies. It is, therefore, necessary for the Government to set up more computer centres in districts to act as facilitation centres for the people.

**(xxiv) Need to set up Base Transceiver Stations of BSNL in Pratapgarh Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh to augment mobile and internet connectivity in the region**

[Translation]

**SHRI KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH (PRATAPGARH):** In my Parliamentary Constituency of Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh), consumers in both urban and rural areas are facing severe inconvenience due to the acute shortage of Base Transceiver Stations (BTS). Mobile internet and landline internet connections operate at very slow speeds. Frequent call drops result in repeated disconnections, and over the past years, thousands of consumers have terminated their connections due to the poor services of Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL). At present, 124 Base Transceiver Stations are operational in the district, while there is a demand for an additional 60 BTS. The process for installing BTS for 3G and 4G data networks in 2 urban and 7 rural areas is still pending.

The District Magistrate of Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh), through letter number 139/111 dated 24.03.2015, had informed the Chief General Manager of this issue, but it has not been taken seriously.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government, keeping the interests of the consumers in mind, to release funds for the installation of 60 additional Base Transceiver Stations as well as BTS for 3G and 4G data networks, so that disruptions can be eliminated and communication services restored.

**(xxv) Need to revisit the existing recruitment policy for Nurses and Paramedics for overseas employment**

[English]

**SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM):** Wreckless exploitation of Indian paramedical personnel, especially nurses from Kerala by both the recruitment agencies and the overseas employers had jolted the Indian Government to ban recruitment/placement of nurses by private agencies for overseas employment.

This move solely empowers the Government agencies to handle recruitment of paramedics for overseas placements. However, it has turned out to be a counter-productive with India losing a major share of such overseas employment opportunities to its traditional rivals like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines and Indonesia. The Government agencies lack the requisite infrastructure to handle the volume of work hitherto handled by professionally run private agencies and also lag behind in motivational aspects. As a corollary to enforcement of this new policy, recruitment/placement of nurses/paramedics overseas has become standstill.

The Government needs to revisit the policy without compromising on issues relating to exploitation of job aspirants and at the same time augment the handling capacity of the Government agencies manifold to tap the overseas employment potential to the fullest.

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**14. 37 hours****DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193****Price Rise. . . Contd.**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, the House will take up Item No. 42.

**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):** Since there is a discussion pending under Rule 193 which had been going on for the last two weeks and Shri P. Karunakaran had initiated the discussion on the matter of price rise. So, we would like this discussion to be concluded because tomorrow is the last day. After that at 4 o'clock we can take up the legislative business if the Chair finds it appropriate. But we can now start the discussion on Rule 193 so that the discussion can be concluded, otherwise there would not be any reply to the discussion. Tomorrow is the last day of the Session and so it would be very difficult and so we would like to take up the discussion on 193 now.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** If the House agrees to what the hon. Minister is suggesting, then we can take up the discussion under Rule 193.

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Sir, yes.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Sir, what about the other Bills?

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** That is why it has been suggested by the hon. Minister that we can take up the discussion under Rule 193 and then at 4 o'clock we will see that.

**SHRI P. R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the discussion on price rise. I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to our beloved leader hon. Amma also for giving me this opportunity to speak on this discussion.

The very sharp rise in price of food and essential commodities is a phenomenon that characterized the last few years of the erstwhile UPA Government. This was caused due to the poor macro economic management of the Government of India. Some of those inflationary trends have persisted in the tenure of the present Government as well. The overall inflation has been kept under check. Food inflation has not been effectively tackled. Some decisive action by the Government of India is essential to ensure that the common person is protected against the rapid rise in price, particularly food and essential commodities.

In the State of Tamil Nadu, the State Government under the capable leadership of hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has taken a large number of appropriate measures to ensure that the common people and the poor and the vulnerable are protected against the rise in price of the essential commodities. One of the first decisions of hon. Amma after assumption of Office as Chief Minister in May

2011 was to announce and implement free supply of 20 kilograms of rice per month through the Public Distribution System to about 1. 83 crore families in the State.

Tamil Nadu's PDS is the best functioning Public Distribution System in the country as recognised by many economists and scholars both in India and abroad. The supply of free rice in the PDS has greatly helped the vast majority of families in the State and protected them against the rise in food prices.

The well functioning Public Distribution System in Tamil Nadu has also been effectively leveraged by the State Government to reach other essential commodities to the people of the State at reasonable prices. One litre of refined palm oil is supplied at Rs. 25 and one kilogram each of urad and tur dal are supplied at Rs. 30 per kilogram to all family card holders as part of the Special Public Distribution System. The State Government incurs an expenditure of Rs. 1861 crore on the Special PDS out of its own budgetary resources every year.

The steep rise of prices of vegetables and pulses is a very serious concern in Indian homes in recent months. It has made the life of common people, poor and middle class people in particular miserable.

The price of pulses and other essential commodities including the petroleum products have reached an unreachable maximum. The sky-rocketing prices of vegetables and pulses have made any average middle class family think twice before buying or consuming them. The big question is why is there a constant food inflation.

Frequent fuel price rises affect the prices of all other essential commodities dearly. Hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has opposed the frequent revision in fuel prices, that too when the international price of crude oil is down to an all-time low in the last ten years. The hon. Prime Minister should intervene and make necessary efforts to have a price control and regulation policy to put brakes to such consistent hikes. The Centre getting revenue by revising excise duty but passing the burden on the common man was 'an unjust act'.

The people of Tamil Nadu, rich or poor, thrive mainly on idli, vada, dosa and sambar as their staple food and quite naturally depend on pulses and grains. The people of Tamil Nadu who consume larger quantities of various types of pulses are the most affected due to the sky-rocketing prices of vegetables and pulses in the recent times.

In an attempt to stabilise the soaring prices of pulses and augment their availability, the Government of Tamil Nadu, under the dynamic leadership of the hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, have ordered to sell 500 metric tonnes of tur dal in its cooperative outlets at subsidized rates. Half a kilogram of tur dal is priced at Rs. 55 and one kilogram of it is priced at Rs. 110. Imported dal is being sold through 36 outlets run by TUCS, North Chennai, Chintamani Cooperative Societies and 20 Amudham departmental Stores and available in 11 cooperative outlets in Madurai, 14 in Tiruchirappalli and 10 in Coimbatore. The PDS outlets would continue to sell the subsidized tur dal, urad dal and palm oil at Rs. 30 and Rs. 25 respectively. These timely initiatives would help stabilise the market rate of tur dal. It is because of the efforts taken by the hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma that the ill effects of price rise on the poor and middle class people have been reduced considerably.

With the change in eating habits, many families consume pulses in excess of what is supplied in the Special PDS each month. They purchase them in the open market in order to moderate the increase in prices of dal in the open market. The Government of Tamil Nadu has also launched a Market Stabilisation Fund with a provision of Rs. 100 crore for effective market intervention through the cooperative

wholesale stores network to moderate the prices of dal in the State. A total of 230 tonnes of urad dal and 120 tonnes of tur dal were supplied through this mechanism which helped to substantially bring down market prices, effectively curbing the hoarding tendency through market means.

Recently, when the Government of India imported 5,000 metric tonnes of unmilled *thuvvar dal* and offered it through the States, Tamil Nadu was the first State to lift 1,000 metric tonnes. The Tamil Nadu Universal Public Distribution System, commended both within India and elsewhere, is a model food security programme. This vital programme requires constant vigil and monitoring so as to ensure that the benefits continue to reach the deserving persons and to plug leakages. Hon. Tamil Nadu Chief Minister Amma has ordered officials to ensure that the process of collection of bio-metric information through the National Population Register is expedited and the State is in a position to issue smart cards to all families in the State at the earliest.

The Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has also launched several initiatives to make available fresh vegetables to consumers in urban areas, while at the same time ensuring that vegetable farmers get

remunerative prices. As part of many measures taken by this Government to combat price rise, 48 Farm Fresh Vegetable Outlets have been opened in Chennai. Consumers are now able to buy vegetables at reasonable prices and at the same time farmers get both an assured market and remunerative prices. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** May I request the Members to take their seats? Hon. Members, please go to your seats.

**SHRI P. R. SENTHILNATHAN:** Already 2,482 metric tonnes of vegetables valued at Rs. 7. 38 crore have been sold through these outlets. To ensure sustainable vegetable supply, 10,493 farmers have been provided with crop loans of Rs. 55. 22 crore for the cultivation of vegetables have been provided. Amma had instructed the District Collectors to open Farm Fresh Outlets at appropriate locations in their districts for the benefit of the public.

Why are the prices of pulses, vegetables and other essential commodities increasing continuously in India? It is not only due to a poor harvest or due to a bad monsoon. There are ten important man-made reasons which result in the rising prices of pulses, vegetables and other essential commodities.

There are global inflation, less space for cultivation, less production of pulses, increased cost of production, improper management and distribution, fuel price rise and increased cost of transportation, hoarding, many mediators, supply chain mismanagement, and increased demand for protein-enriched food and green vegetables.

It is unfortunate to see India's villages face a sharp spike in food prices in 2016, as a second year of drought drives up the cost of ingredients such as sugar and milk, and poor transport infrastructure stops falling global prices from reaching rural areas. While urban dwellers have seen some cheaper imported food products, benefiting from global deflation, that has not filtered through to rural areas, given poor roads, rail and a lack of storage facilities for perishable goods.

Prices of vegetables like onions, tomatoes and potatoes have already been rising. Palm oil prices have also climbed in the last two months, while milk prices have risen by ten per cent. Edible oil prices in India, which meets nearly 70 per cent of demand through imports, are also likely to rise, given the scant rainfall in palm oil producing countries.

Meanwhile, scarcity of fodder and water is expected to hit local milk production. The lesser production will obviously allow prices to rise. The rural economy contributes around 50 per cent of Indian Gross Domestic product and is already showing signs of strain as the Government has cut down the once generous subsidies that shielded farmers and villagers. Agriculture income has dropped nearly by 50 per cent due to drought. They borrowed loan from banks for seeds and fertilizer, but now they do not know how to repay the loan.

Continuing the past trend of significant increases in the Minimum Support Price of pulses, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs raised those of *masoor* and gram, the two most sown in the rabi season, by Rs. 250 a quintal. A bonus of Rs. 75 a quintal has also been recommended over and above the MSP, a total increase of Rs. 325 a quintal as compared to 2014-15.

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs also authorized the Food Corporation of India, along with other procuring agencies, to undertake procurement of pulses and oilseeds. The MSP of wheat, the biggest *rabi* food grain, has been raised by Rs. 75 a quintal, the highest increase in recent years. If the money we spend on importing pulses reaches our farmers, there will not be any suicides or shortage of food

grains. There has been an overall increase in the prices of almost every commodity.

It is high time the hon. Prime Minister concentrated and focussed more on domestic policies because a lot of things require the intervention of the Prime Minister. Just as onions left many crying, it is now the turn of pulses (*dal*). The price of the poor man's staple has doubled and there is no visible measure to check its spiralling growth. While India has reached self-sufficiency in many food items, which include milk, rice and wheat, it has not been able to do the same with pulses. While all these revolutions had their own God Father like Varghese Kurien or Prof. M. S. Swaminathan, pulses, one of the most used ingredients in the Indian kitchen, had not found support from any quarter. Approximately, an annual import Bill of \$ 2. 6 Billion is incurred by India only on pulses. If this amount were to reach our farmers, they may never think of leaving farming – leave alone committing suicide. Lack of policies or clarity on agriculture planning has led to this crisis which is not going to abate in the near future.

As a rule, the demand for all commodities reaches a peak during the festival season in India. Pulses are no exception. India is facing a crisis because of deficient rainfall in one end and excess rainfall in the other side. But we cannot blame this alone for this crisis. Crisis is

mainly in *tur* and *urad dals*, two of the most consumed pulses, as total pulses' production dipped to 17.2 million tonnes last year against 19.25 million tonnes in the previous year. Domestic production may be just 17 million tonnes against the demand of 27 million tonnes. Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh are the major pulse-producing regions followed by Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. Canada, Ukraine, the USA, Australia, Myanmar and a few African countries contribute to India's pulses need.

Pulses production in India has shown less than 40 per cent growth during the last five decades and this has led to almost halving the *per capita* availability to 30 grams now. So, this precisely means the prices are doubling at an alarmingly low periodicity.

We also have to take stock of the Green Revolution and what it has achieved. Though we are self-sufficient in rice and wheat, crop rotation has made the soil of some of the Northern States unfit for use. The result is there for all to see. But crop rotation and diversification could have helped retain the soil. But we never put other essential commodities in this agriculture cycle and the net result is that the farmers of Canada, Myanmar and Australia are benefiting instead of our own.

Approximately, India's annual import Bill of pulses alone is \$ 2.6 Billion. Imagine this reaching our own farmers, they may never think of leaving farming – leave alone think of committing suicide! Just see the granaries of public distribution system like Food Corporation of India wareHouses. Wheat and rice are rotting because we are over-producing both. Why cannot we replace one of these with pulses? The question is: who will the farmers go to if something goes wrong with these decisions?

It is not that we cannot incentivize the production of pulses. There are many ways to do it and India's climate is suited to grow most of the lentils we consume. The Minimum Support Price is also not transparent and it depends on various political factors. Some of the lentils do come under MSP but they are not attractive enough for farmers to concentrate merely on pulses. Not all pulses come under the ambit of MSP. But more than MSP, it is procurement guarantee that matters.

To feed our growing population, we need at least 30 million tonnes of lentils by 2030 which is close to five per cent growth annually. We are no way near it. So we will continue to burn our foreign exchange reserves forever. By merely checking the prices of pulses, inflation is not going to be under control. There has been an

overall increase in the prices of almost every commodity. People are now destined to live with it. It looks like the Government should go by correct advise and take correct economic action on the ground.

Inflation in India generally occurs as a consequence of global traded commodities and the several efforts made by the Reserve Bank of India to weaken rupee against dollar. This has been regarded as the root cause of inflation crisis rather than the domestic inflation. According to some experts, the policy of the RBI to absorb all dollars coming into the Indian Economy contributes to the appreciation of the rupee. When the US dollar has shrunk by a margin of 30 per cent. Reserve Bank of India had made a massive injection of dollar in the economy make it highly liquid, and this further triggered off inflation in non-traded goods.

The Amma Canteen scheme, a brain child of the hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*, which is now renowned across the world, and studied by governments and experts from different parts of India and the world, has also had a salutary impact on keeping a check on food prices in Tamil Nadu. In *Amma* Canteens *idlis* with *sambar* is supplied at Rs 1 and curd rice at Rs 3 and *sambar* rice at Rs 5.

There are a number of other commodities which are also supplied at reasonable prices in Tamil Nadu. I would specifically like to highlight the *Amma* Mineral Water, *Amma* Salt, and *Amma* Cement programmes which ensure availability at reasonable prices of commodities prone to price increase due to cartelization and other factors. These interventions have had a salutary effect on market prices of such commodities. VAT on domestic LPG has also been completely exempted to ensure that price of domestic LPG is kept reasonable in spite of deregulation of LPG prices.

Through many such innovative and imaginative schemes, the Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of *Amma* has managed to ensure that the common people in the State have been protected against the ill-effects of price rise. This is no mean achievement.

Our leader, *Amma* has rightly cautioned against the implementation of the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme in areas where the availability and price level of commodities is a key concern. These are primarily the food, fertilizer, LPG and kerosene subsidy schemes, where the availability of the essential commodities and affordable prices is the key concern, and merely transferring the monetary equivalent of the subsidy being incurred, and that too on a pre-

determined and fixed basis, will not adequately protect the food and nutritional security of the common people. Such a scheme would expose the common people who depend on the Public Distribution System and fertilizer supply to the vagaries of the market and deprive them of essential commodities. Hence, the Government of India should exercise the greatest care and caution in expanding the scope of the Direct Benefit Transfer scheme beyond those schemes which currently involve cash transfer at present, like scholarships and pensions. This is the unequivocal stance of the AIADMK Party.

What can the Government of India do to bring down prices and protect the poor? I would like to suggest to subsidize food items including pulses and edible oil; roll back the additional excise duty levied on petrol and diesel announced earlier this year; enable cheaper movement by rail by reducing the freight rates for essential commodities; reduce the toll fee collected, particularly from freight vehicles; and provide adequate input subsidy to farmers to encourage production of pulses and oil seeds with assured price and purchase mechanism.

All these factors to be taken into account to control price rise in India. I urge upon the Union Government to take appropriate steps to control the soaring price rise graph and maintain the prices as lower

as possible for the poor and middle class people of this country on the lines of hon. *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma*. With these words, I conclude.

**15. 00 hours**

[Translation]

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am deeply grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on such an important matter. This House bears witness, as do our Prof. Saugata Roy and other Members from the previous Lok Sabha, that during the 15th Lok Sabha, there was hardly any session when we did not discuss inflation. At that time, the continuous rise in petroleum prices had made the daily lives of the common people extremely difficult, especially in accessing essential commodities. I believe you are also aware that in the 16th Lok Sabha, those who moved proposals to discuss inflation have done so while the entire country observes. If inflation is indeed a critical issue, then during Question Hour, when Hon. Members have the right to ask questions and the Government and Ministers are accountable to respond in accordance with the expectations and aspirations of the public, it is their duty to ensure that these concerns are addressed. However, the manner in which Question Hour and subsequently Zero Hour are disrupted by some Members, followed by walkouts, raises serious questions. I wish to point out that by disturbing Question Hour in this way, they are undermining the rights of the other Hon.

Members of this House. While the House is engaged in discussing matters affecting the public, these Members sit idly in the Central Hall or in their residences. Perhaps this explains why the public elected them in such small numbers. Certainly, both the House and the nation are observing their conduct and will see the purpose of their presence here.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to point out that if the Members of the Opposition were present here, I would have asked them what they consider to be the cause of inflation. At present, they are raising the issue of rising prices, yet when our Government, that is, the NDA Government, assumed office, on 7 May 2015, our Minister for Food convened a meeting of all the Food and Civil Supplies Ministers of the States and Union Territories to deliberate on this matter. It is true that agriculture falls under the purview of the States. When our Government was formed on 26 May 2014, the very first action taken was to announce stringent measures against all those indulging in hoarding and black-marketing across the country. However, this authority rests with the State Governments. If inflation exists, it is imperative that the States take necessary measures to curb it. As the Hon. Member from Tamil Nadu has just highlighted, their State Chief Minister Amma has implemented measures to sell

sambhar, idli, and dosa at affordable rates to the general public. Such steps are the responsibility of every State Government, and in this regard, the Government of Tamil Nadu has successfully fulfilled its duty.

Regarding the Essential Commodities Act of 1955, if there is any hoarding or black-marketing, action must undoubtedly be taken under this Act. I wish to clarify that, at present, there is certainly no undue inflation, whether it concerns food grains or vegetables. Recently, there was a shortage of pulses. This occurred because of unseasonal rains during March-April and the impact of natural disasters over the past two years. Consequently, instead of the required 22–23 million tonnes, only 17 million tonnes of pulses were produced. Viewed in this light, there was a shortfall of five to six million tonnes of pulses, which caused a rise in prices. However, as soon as pulse prices began to rise, the Union Government deserves appreciation for instructing all States that, in the event of a shortage, they may import pulses up to 30 September 2016, with import duty waived by the Union Government. This was a measure to ensure that pulses were available to the public according to their requirements. To ensure availability, the Union Government permitted the import of 5,000 million tonnes of tur dal according to the allocation and demand of the States. Since

this is based on the requirements of the States, they are responsible for purchasing it. Even exports of pulses were restricted by the Union Government to prevent shortages within the country. Furthermore, the Government of India formulated a planned scheme to stabilise the market. For the first time, a Price Stabilisation Fund was created, along with a corpus of Rs. 500 crore. This corpus fund is used to build buffer stocks. During harvest, the produce is procured and stored as a buffer, to meet the demand wherever required.

Sir, the Public Distribution System is entirely a State subject. If the State Governments do not take definitive measures to ensure supply, the responsibility of delivering wheat, rice, or any other food grains and essential commodities rests with the Food Corporation of India or the agencies of the Government of India. The Hon. Minister will elaborate in detail on the requirements of the States and how, accordingly, wheat, paddy, and other grains were allocated to them. Even today, there is no shortage of food grains. We wish to state before the world that whatever the requirements of the people of this country may be—be it wheat, rice, or any other commodity—we have surplus stocks to meet those needs, and the Union Government ensures this. However, if prices rise despite this, the State Governments must undoubtedly take appropriate measures. States

have been granted this authority under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955, and the Prevention of Black-Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980. Both these laws empower the States, and it has been advised to all States and Union Territories that a limit should be maintained on pulse stocks to prevent hoarding. Guidance was further provided that, in case of a shortfall in pulse production due to natural factors such as water scarcity, the States should conduct raids against hoarders and black-marketeers. Nevertheless, despite this advisory, raids were conducted in only 14 States.

You would be surprised to know that the government which claims to represent the common man did not conduct a single raid against black-marketing or hoarding in Delhi. Not a single raid took place in Uttar Pradesh either. In contrast, raids were conducted in Maharashtra, and from Maharashtra alone, we seized 86,709 tons of pulses that were hoarded. Following this advisory, in these 14 States, we had seized approximately 130,000 tons by 23 November 2012. Furthermore, when onion prices rose recently, the Government of India decided on measures to control prices and ensure availability of essential commodities. For instance, the Minimum Export Price for potatoes was fixed at not less than 450 USD on 20 February 2015.

Similarly, for onions, it was fixed at Rs. 250 per metric ton on 7 April 2015. This was not a small measure. Just one month and eight days after the Government assumed office on 26 May 2014, it decided that if any State attempted to create an artificial shortage through black-marketing or hoarding, such actions would now constitute a punishable offence. Previously, hoarders could continue their activities, and even if State Governments took action under the Essential Commodities Act, they could secure bail from the courts immediately.

I would like to congratulate that, immediately after our government came to power at the Centre, hoarding was made a non-bailable offence, so that the public would face minimal hardship. Today, with the steps taken, the Government of India has declared zero import duty, and naturally, if the States begin to procure under this provision, the intended outcome will be achieved.

I would like to make a point regarding the recent discussions on inflation and how it is measured. The gauge of inflation can be seen in the rise of petroleum prices, or through increases in the Consumer Price Index (CPI), the Wholesale Price Index (WPI), or the repo rate. These three indicators are globally recognised measures for assessing inflation, not just in India. Certainly, since the formation of the Hon.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government, if one observes the situation, the inflation we face today is far lower than before. All Members present here are witnesses that, until 2014, inflation was in double digits. Today, gold is cheaper, vegetables are more affordable, and even onion prices have come under control, dropping below Rs. 30. Steel prices have also reduced. To illustrate, the CPI was 14.97 percent in 2009, 11.17 percent in 2012, and 9.13 percent in 2013. When our government assumed office in 2014, the CPI dropped from double digits to merely 5.86 percent. This is undeniably a significant achievement for the government. Moreover, the CPI has continued to decline in 2015, reaching 5.75 percent. The world is now taking notice because, since the formation of the Narendra Modi government, both the CPI and the WPI have shown a positive trajectory. In fact, the WPI has been negative for the past year, with no increases recorded. These are official figures, not ours; they are released periodically by national and international agencies. As of now, the WPI stands at -1.99 percent, and it has remained negative over the past year. Hon. Members, we used to say that when investment happens, growth will follow, and when growth occurs, employment will increase. The measure for this, if any, is reflected in the GDP.

Today, if you observe, a major concern had been that our GDP was continuously declining. By 2014, the situation had reached such a point that no one was willing to invest in India. Even those who had invested were beginning to withdraw their investments. Even domestic investors like Tata, who traditionally never invested abroad, began exploring opportunities in South Africa and other European countries, reasoning that capital investment might be safer and more profitable outside India. Similarly, foreign investment was virtually absent. When a country receives neither domestic nor foreign investment, how can growth be achieved? Without growth, there is no capital formation, no expansion of industries, and the thousands of young people graduating in IT and CS—millions of hands—would have no avenues for employment. This was a pressing concern. During the previous government's tenure, not only was inflation a problem, but investment too faced significant obstacles. Both domestic and foreign investors doubted whether employment avenues would exist in the country.

Through you, Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I wish to highlight that the Prime Minister of Japan recently visited India. What he stated is a matter of significance. Until now, we were primarily importers from the world. But for the first time, people are beginning to realise the

potential of domestic manufacturing. Were they present here, I would certainly have said: congratulations are due. Many used to mock the 'Make in India' slogan daily, yet now, with the Japanese Prime Minister signing an MoU with us, thirty thousand cars will be exported from India to Japan. A country that has historically led the world in development is now recognising the reality of 'Make in India' on the ground. It is not just the scale of investment that is noteworthy. You have seen that approximately Rs. 85,000 crore has been invested in the Bullet Train project. We all recall, in the 15th Lok Sabha, sitting in this very Central Hall when the President of the United States visited. The US President stated that they were bringing 50,000 jobs with them. There was a sparkle in his eyes as he mentioned bringing investment. You were all present in the Central Hall when the President of the United States declared that they were bringing employment opportunities to our country.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Many hon. Members want to participate in this discussion. Please try to be very short. The Minister is going to reply tomorrow.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:** Sir, I am the first speaker from my party, so I will begin. If you do not give us a chance, how will the work proceed? I will briefly talk about our Government's GDP. I will take just two to three minutes more. I wish to emphasise that these are not our own figures; these are the statistics provided by the Central Statistics Office. I would like to state that the GDP, which indicates the growth rate, was 5.1 percent in 2012-13, 6.9 percent in 2013-14, 7.2 percent in 2014-15, and has since increased to 7.5 percent. I believe that in the coming days it will reach 8 percent. Through this House, I am pleased to inform the people of our country that, in terms of growth rate, only China is ahead of us in the world, and under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, India has risen to second place globally. Naturally, with the way our GDP and development are increasing, global confidence in us is also growing. You can see this worldwide, whether it is the President of China, the Prime Minister of Japan, leaders from Australia, David Cameron from the United Kingdom, or Barack Obama. In any global forum, whether it is a BRICS Summit, a United Nations conference, or a G20 Summit, when our Prime Minister stands and addresses the world's Heads of State, it is not only his personal esteem that rises; the honour of India's 1.25

Billion people also rises. We feel proud that the India, which was once considered unsafe for investment, is now attracting global attention. Recently, the President of the United States praised our efforts. It is not because we are the ruling party or BJP Members that we say this. You can see how Time Magazine covered it, and how Barack Obama himself acknowledged the delivery under his leadership and the vision of building a new India—India is moving successfully in that direction. I believe that as GDP continues to rise, the pace of development will accelerate, leading to increased employment and reduced poverty. Consider the Repo Rate: on 29 January 2013, it was 7.75 percent. Today, on 29 September 2015, it has reduced to 6.75 percent. This reduction in the Repo Rate is considered an indicator to boost the country's economy. These are the official figures of the Reserve Bank of India. Certainly, this demonstrates that today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, the Bharatiya Janata Party—NDA Government is successfully boosting the country's economy. In the coming days, not only will the economy grow and the rate of development increase, but the youth of the country will undoubtedly find employment in their own hands. With regard to petroleum prices, you may have observed a continuous reduction. Previously, before each session, there used to be an increase in petroleum prices. Today,

as prices have been steadily decreasing, when our Government assumed office, the price of petrol was Rs. 71.56 per litre and diesel was Rs. 57.28 per litre. Today, petrol stands at Rs. 60.48 per litre and diesel at Rs. 45 per litre. Naturally, when the Government allowed petroleum prices to be market-driven—since these prices cannot be set solely by us and are determined according to international market trends—we did not impose direct control. Therefore, any reduction in international prices directly benefits consumers here, resulting in lower petrol and diesel prices. I will take an additional two minutes, and this is how the process will unfold.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Sir, cess is increasing, but where is the reduction coming?

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:** It is increasing, but you all are aware of how much of it is the States' share, as you are discerning. For example, in the case of VAT. I believe that of the current increase, 50 percent is going to the States. If the States were to reduce their taxes even today, I am sure, Shri Bhartrhari Mahatab would agree that naturally consumers would benefit further. You must note that we believe in a federal structure. As per the 14th Finance Commission, we increased the devolution from 32 percent to 42 percent. Even now, in the case of coal auctions, for the first time, the States are directly

benefiting. Regarding the so-called coal scam, I do not wish to delve into it today... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** When will it happen?

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:** The States have already begun receiving their share... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Be it the Centre, be it the States, both have to control prices. It is their role to do it.

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:** That is true.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** So, do not put your perspective from one side only.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:** That is correct, but I would like to state today that there is certainly no inflation in the country. If the onion crop in Nasik failed due to natural causes, or if pulses production was low, then prices naturally rose. Even so, the Union Government acted promptly by creating buffer stocks, imposing zero import duty, and allowing imports from abroad to ensure availability for every individual. Naturally, for the first time in India, prices are under

control and accessible to the common person. It is only required that the States implement the Essential Commodities Act or the Food Security Act. Many States have still not implemented the Food Security Act. They must implement it and ensure that 70 percent of the country's poor receive their due share of food. If the States cannot deliver supplies to the people's plates, if they cannot ensure under the Essential Commodities Act that the poor sitting in fields, courtyards, or huts have access to essential items, then this system cannot succeed. Some States are performing well. I have already mentioned Tamil Nadu. If other States emulate such measures, it would be commendable. Today, Chhattisgarh is performing the Public Distribution System exceptionally well. The Government of Shri Raman Singh has done commendable work. Whether it is Madhya Pradesh or Chhattisgarh, the Public Distribution System in these States ensures that no poor person faces difficulty in obtaining grains, wheat, or other essentials. Therefore, I believe that today you will all agree, Professor Sougat Ray will agree, and the country will also agree that prices are under control.

[English]

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am very lucky to be speaking on this price rise issue debate at the fag end of this Session, which was initiated by our learned colleague Shri P. Karunakaran.

Sir, I just heard Mr. Jagdambika Pal speaking on Obama, China, Britain, Japan, and how the Japanese Prime Minister praised us without speaking on the price rise. I shall not cast my net so wide. All I will say, he has said that the inflation is under control. Led by a spike in food prices, especially pulses, Consumer Price Index based inflation for November rose to 5.41 per cent from 5 per cent in October. Though the general inflation may be under control yet the food inflation is rising, which is a cause of concern for the common man.

Sir, I think, there is something wrong with the macro management of the economy because worldwide commodity prices are falling. Oil prices have fallen. Brent crude is now being sold at less than 35 dollar per barrel. So, in India, every price should have fallen. Still we see the costs of some essential commodities, particularly pulses, are rising. Also sometimes onions, sometimes

tomatoes, start being sold at Rs 60 a kilo. The whole problem is that the Government has not passed on the benefit of oil price fall to the consumer. Rather the Finance Minister is taking the petroleum sector as a 'milch cow' to get more excise out of the same. If he had lowered the prices of petroleum products, this inflation would not have touched this level. This is wrong macro-economic policy. Jagdambika Pal Ji was eloquent on what Obama had said in press but may I say that 'Make in India' is still a slogan. The investments in India that were expected have not taken place. It is a dream which the dream-marchers of BJP are selling but it has not touched the reality. So, I shall confine to what Karunkaran Ji has started. He not only mentioned what is wrong but he also suggested ways of improving things. I shall, therefore, confine myself to the actual price rise which has mainly taken place in pulses.

Sir, the price of *arhar* which is commonly used by people rose to Rs. 200 a kilogram. Now, we have to remember that the retail and wholesale inflation in this fiscal was down but the inflation in prices particularly of pulses is undesirably high in a country where an average Indian spends five per cent of his food expenditure on pulses because pulses is the only vegetable protein which is available to the poor people.

Now, there are supply constraints due to lower production and higher demand. It is because of rising incomes. More people are buying pulses in the rural areas which has led to the spike in prices. There has been three consecutive monsoon shocks affecting the *kharif* season output and weather disturbances in March 2015 affecting the *Rabi* crop. The global pulse prices are elevated. The rupee has become weak because the rupee has fallen to 67 rupees per dollar. That means it is costlier to import today. The macro-management is again wrong. Why is the price of rupee falling while Obama is praising India? Sir, not only *arhar*, but *moong* and *urad* have been selling on the higher side at Rs. 112 and 152 respectively per kilogram. The Gram *dal* was retailed last month at Rs. 75 per kilogram. This is very high.

This year, it is expected that the *dal* price will be steepest in ten years. Now, at this point, I must mention that why the pulse price is so high. Let me mention that India has become self-sufficient in all food items in the last ten years. There are only two things which we are importing. One is pulses for which Rs. 18 to 25 thousand crore are spent every year for import and the other is edible oils for which we spend Rs. 30,000 crore. Now, I want to know whether the Government has any plan to improve the production of these things. Unfortunately, it is true that there is problem in pulse production. In West Bengal, for

instance, farmers are spreading the *dal* seeds after the *kharif* crop has been harvested. So, they do not do separate cultivation for *dal*. The other problem is that this *dal* is not seen as a commodity to be produced because there is a fixed procurement price only for rice and wheat. So, if the farmers produce more rice and wheat, they can get more money through procurement prices. There is no proper mechanism for procurement of *dal*. As a result of which also this is happening. *Dal* is a leguminous crop. That means it does help in self-pollination. So, it is somewhat difficult to increase the productivity of pulses unless we really take to what Dr. Swaminathan had suggested. He suggested that let us build pulse villages – villages which will only produce pulses.

What Dr. Swaminathan had suggested has not been implemented. We had the Green Revolution in wheat; we have had a revolution in rice production. Today, 100 million tonnes of rice is produced in the country and nearly 100 million tonnes of wheat is produced in the country, which is why the Government can give the whole thing in a food security system. But *dal* compared to that is about 15 million. If I may mention, we have not given enough attention to the cultivation of *dal*.

Then, let me come to Ramvilas Paswan ji. What has the Food Ministry done after the dal prices started rising? They introduced zero import duty for dal. They also said that they have set up a price stabilisation fund at a cost of Rs. 500 crore. They also said that the Government would import 5000 metric tonnes of tur. But this is a drop in the ocean. Every year roughly three to five million tonnes of pulses are imported. If the Government imports only 5000 metric tonnes, how is it going to solve the problem?

Then, why have the prices of pulses risen? Please do not mind my saying so but there is a saying in the country that the political base of the BJP consists of traders in different cities. Whenever the BJP Government is in power, they think that it is a good opportunity to raise prices and make money. I know that Ramvilas ji does not belong to BJP, he belongs to the Lohia and Jai Prakash variety of politics. But what can he do? He is alone in a big Cabinet of BJP people. Why I am blaming that some traders are responsible for this – please listen to me. What are the main places we import from? The biggest import centre last year was Canada followed by Australia, followed by Russia, then followed by Myanmar and then some African countries like Malawi.

I was in Vancouver, Canada recently. It is true that all these dals come from Vancouver. But Vancouver so far away that it takes a long time. As a result of which the import is never timely. It was clear in the beginning of this year with the deficient monsoon that there will be shortage of dal. Actually, compared to 23 million tonnes of demand our production would be around 17. 2 million tonnes. If we had imported in time, it would not have happened. But the problem is that Ramvilas ji does not have import in his hand. Import of dal is totally left to the private traders. These people delay the import till the prices can rise further. My suggestion is that the import should be in time. The Government should ensure that import takes place in time.

Then, sometimes foolishly, what happens is that six ships landed in Mumbai port. The Maharashtra Government has introduced a law that one cannot hoard beyond one and a half quintals of dal. So, the ships stayed in Mumbai port for 15 days before the problem was resolved and in the meantime the prices rose further. I think that one major step would be to import on time and that too from countries which are closer to India like Myanmar and even Malawi, a country in Africa. But now the idea should be to produce more pulses in this country and make the farmers interested in it.

What is happening is that the farmers are unwilling to grow pulses due to price risk, low and declining profitability. A high fluctuation in prices is meant that farmers are sure of getting stable returns. This has led to a large scale substitution of area under pulse cultivation with other high value crops which give comparatively higher returns. Pulses are highly risk prone because most of the production is rain-dependent. Eight-five per cent of pulses are grown in areas where there is no irrigation. Merely 16 per cent of the total area is covered by irrigation. Hence, the crop is highly vulnerable to monsoon shocks. So, the Government should have some plans to improve it. But where will it do the planning? [English] On the one hand, we want more agricultural production and on the other hand, Shri Jaitley is cutting Plan outlay on agriculture. What is the position? In 2013-14, budget for agriculture was Rs. 17,788 crore. In 2014-15, it was Rs. 11,531 crore. Compared to 2013-14 actuals, this year's Budget Estimates are only Rs. 11,657 crore. So, it has come down substantially in comparison to what it was in 2013-14. Unless you spend more on agriculture, how can you expect that we shall be self-sufficient in any crop?

Sir, I am almost winding up my speech. For cotton, we had allowed GM – genetically modified - or Bt. cotton. Now India is one

of the biggest exporters of cotton. We have not introduced GM crops in other areas - neither pulses nor edible oils. I say that by all means, take all precautions so that they are not dangerous either to land or to human beings, but unless you introduce the modern technological crops, it is not possible to do it.

What has the Minister insisted on? He instructed the States to resort to de-hoarding. As I said, out of 17 million tonnes of production, how much has the de-hoarding yielded? Sir, you will be surprised to learn that the total amount de-hoarded is only 1,33,000 tonnes. Seventeen million means one crore 70 lakh tonnes. Out of that, in de-hoarding, you have discovered only 1,30,000 tonnes. The strange thing about it is that this quantity is lying in government godowns. Out of 1,30,000 tonnes seized by way of de-hoarding, only 26,000 tonnes were disposed of while the rest is lying with the Government. So, what is the point in going for de-hoarding, if after de-hoarding, you are not able to distribute those stocks?

Sir, the present problem in prices, apart from macro economic management, is led by rise in pulse prices followed sometimes by onions and sometimes by tomatoes which cost Rs. 60 per kilogram. But my fear is that unless the Government takes a positive policy for improving edible oil production, the edible prices, for which we are

dependent on imports, will also rise. So, we are very concerned that the poor man may not be able to buy it. Earlier, he had rice and onions. Onions became costly and the rice is cheap. Now with improvement in income, he took to pulses, lentils because a large population of India is vegetarian and for them pulses are the only protein. Now, we are depriving people of India of this vegetable protein. It has become a luxury rather than an essential thing to build up the bodies of our children.

Even, milk prices rose. So, I would urge upon Shri Ram Vilas Paswan that he must be a little firm on traders. Do not leave the whole trading to private traders and ask the States, follow it up, for serious de-hoarding operations and distribution of the quantities seized. Take quick policy decisions, because next year also there will be pulses shortage, so that we are able to import in time.

With this, Sir, I say that it is a serious situation and the Government should rise to the occasion. I am sure Mr. Paswan is doing his best but maybe his hands are tied by economic policies of the Government as a whole. But I do hope that this happens in the interest of the common people of the country.

Thank you, Sir.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to take part in the discussion on price rise raised by Shri P. Karunakaran, and I hope the discussion concludes today and the Minister also is able to reply. At the outset I would say this is not the sole responsibility of the Minister for Food and Consumer Affairs because this also involves the Ministry of Finance to a very great extent.

Before coming into those details I would say, Sir, that India's official numbers say retail food inflation was 2.15 per cent in July but the actual situation, however, was the opposite. Skyrocketing onion and other prices showed food prices were more than doubled from last year. The sharp spike in Dal prices maybe among the biggest worries for Indian Households today. The study by CRISIL says this year's increase is the steepest in a decade. Inflation may have dropped significantly owing to reduction in oil prices from last year's level, but what is also true is that most Indians still find prices of goods and services consumed on a daily basis growing beyond their comfort level.

This year's deficit monsoon has not only affected pulses production but has also severely damaged growth of vegetable production. The scarcity situation has all the more been worsened by

the unscrupulous middlemen and hoarders. The amount of care and vigilance expected to be maintained by the Government is also wanting. India's dependency on imported pulses grew from 2.7 million tonnes in 2010-11 to almost four million tonnes in 2015-16. Some say we have developed a taste for Dal, it has become our staple food, but is it not falling off our plate because of soaring prices? The Dal is on the boil, as has been mentioned. Pulses are falling off the poor man's plate. Prices have hit the middleclass. I am constrained to say here that food price inflation is rearing its head again. The steady rise in the Consumer Price Index over the last four months suggests that inflation risk remains. CPI ...

**THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAMVILAS PASWAN):** What about CPM!

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Consumer Price Index, as we call CPI, inflation for November is at 5.41 per cent is running well below the RBI's target of six per cent for January. But food prices are displaying signs of flaring up again.

The price rise can be attributed to the structural problems that persist in our economy. These structural problems were due to supply constraints that discouraged adequate supply of food grains and other essential commodities to the Households. On the other hand, being a consumption-driven nation, the demand for essential commodities is high. Thus, the demand and supply mismatch contributes to the price rise.

Our dietary pattern has undergone a change, no doubt. Even in villages it has undergone change. Demand in Households has gone up. But the price rise in India is not because of globalization, it is because of domestic structural problems which affect the supply of essential commodities. I may here give an example. In 80s, 500 gm of butter was only Rs. 9. Today it is Rs. 189. In 35 years there has been a 200

per cent increase. Price of six eggs used to be Rs 18. Today, it is Rs 30. That is 66.66 per cent increase. One kilogram mutton stood at Rs 180 in early 2000s. Today, it is Rs 480 per kilogram. That is 166.66 per cent increase. I have quoted three instances- butter, egg and mutton. These are all food items that normally middle class people take once a week. ... (*Interruptions*) I am also coming to the price of sugar. As for vegetable, in season, no vegetable was more than Rs 10 per kilogram. Today, even during season, the price does not come down less than Rs 30 in retail. Are you not surprised? Should we say that it is supply side factors that have contributed to this resurgence in food prices. If the Government does not have an answer, then whom should one blame? I would state that the policy response to this supply pressure has so far relied heavily on firefighting such as creation of buffer stocks, higher imports, crackdown on hoarders and stock hoarding- four metric tonnes of stock hoarding limits of crops. Measures to raise production through higher support prices or input subsidies have been rather late in coming.

Here I would like to mention two reports. One report is that of the Standing Committee on Finance which was submitted in 2009. I am just quoting the second last area where the Committee had found out, when it was dealing with the subject of inflation and price rise.

“Monitoring of prices is the primary responsibility of the Department of Consumer Affairs through the Price Monitoring Cell, which is stated to be monitoring the prices of 17 essential commodities. The retail prices on daily basis and wholesale prices on weekly basis are collected by the Monitoring Cell from different centers across the country. Price policy and management of inflation at macro level is within the purview of the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs). The Department of Food and Public Distribution is charged with the prime responsibility of management of the food economy of the country. ”

You see the dichotomy here. ... (*Interruptions*)

".... This department is supposed to keep a close watch on the stock and price levels of foodgrains and to ensure their adequate availability at reasonable prices in different parts of the country. However, during the course of examination of the subject, the Committee have found that various issues concerning inflation and price rise, that required to be addressed in a coordinated manner, were being considered in isolation by the respective Department alone. Neither the Ministry of Finance (Department of Economic Affairs) nor the Ministry of Consumer Affairs,

Food and Public Distribution could provide a holistic perspective in the matter. The Department of Consumer Affairs, which is the nodal monitoring agency, seems to have been reduced to a mere data collecting/compiling organization. The inputs collected by them do not appear to be influencing price policy, which is the domain of the Ministry of Finance.... ”

This is the report which the Committee had given to the Parliament in 2009. I do not know how far Shri Ram Vilas Paswan will be able to throw true light on the action the then Government had taken and steps that have been taken by this Government in the last 18 months. The suggestion was to bring in a co-ordination between specific Ministries of Finance and Consumer Affairs, as the Committee recommended.

**SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD):** Sir, when we started this discussion we demanded that some Minister from the Ministry of Finance should be here. He has made a strong point but no one is here. We have pointed it out last time.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The Food Minister is here; other Ministers are here. They will take care. The Home Minister is also here.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** The recommendation was an effective mechanism for inter-Ministerial co-ordination and follow up to be put in place for facilitating prompt response. This was the recommendation of the Standing Committee. Normally, after the Standing Committee submits a Report, an Action Taken Note is also submitted. I went through the Action Taken Note. This Action Taken Note was submitted in December, 2013; the Report was submitted earlier in 2009. So, the Action Taken Note came after four years. This was basically relating to the issue of sugar. Now, that hon. Member has left after raising the issue of sugar.

The Action Taken Note states that 'Any subsidisation of sugar import by Union Government would discourage the sugar mills merchants to contract import of sugar.' However, the Ministry seems to have conveniently ignored the fact that the decision not to import sugar by Central public sector agencies at a crucial juncture eventually led to a demand-supply mismatch of sugar in the market. This was relating to the sugar aspect. But the crux of the issue which I had raised in the main Committee was a thorough inquiry into this matter so that persons responsible for how the sugar price made a spiral increase during that period in question leading traders to make windfall gains could be identified and brought to book. We are yet to know what

steps the then Government had taken and who were responsible. This was a clear-cut Report of the Standing Committee asking the then Government to take action. I would request the present Minister to find out this Report and to also convey to this House what steps have been taken. We would all be obliged if the special monitoring mechanism that the committee had suggested during that time is set up so that independently the Government can act. It is not the sole responsibility only of the Consumer Affairs Ministry.

Now, I want to come to a very sticky question. Tell me, do you not believe that the *dal* crisis which recently hit the country was more man-made than natural? I may quote here from India Today TV, which through a special investigation has revealed the *modus operandi*. *Arhar dal* was available in the market for less than Rs. 70 a kilogram. Now, it is Rs. 180. It went up to more than Rs. 200; now, it is Rs. 180. The *satta* operators are having a field day. They manufactured artificial scarcity. Their tentacles spread from Myanmar, all the way to African countries which are major pulse producers. Big importers based in Mumbai procure and take delivery of stock but hoard it at foreign ports. Prof. Saugata Roy said that the ship came to Mumbai but that was happening in UPA term. The stocks were brought; it was languishing in Kolkata Port, it was languishing

in Mumbai Port. That was happening during that period. We had also raised it in the House. Now, what has happened this time is that the hoarders are purchasing them from foreign countries and they are hoarding it in Africa, they are hoarding it in Singapore. They are not allowing the ships to pass the Malacca Strait. They are being hoarded there until there is a conducive atmosphere in our country and until the price has risen to such a height.

[Translation]

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** You also suggest how to control it.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** I would like to make a suggestion. They are purchasing from there, but the market is right here. This is where the goods will be sold, yet you are granting them permission. [English] Your monitoring mechanism is not only confined within the state. You have to look beyond the borders.[Translation] If someone is purchasing from Myanmar, someone is purchasing from Africa, someone is purchasing from Vancouver, you have Indian missions there too.

**SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN:** We have ascertained the matter you are referring to. There is truth in what you say, and it is indeed a serious issue. We have been making efforts on this for the past three

to four months. It is a positive development that our Shri Jayant Sinha has joined. However, regarding the foreign aspects you mentioned, the importers—this time 4.5 million tonnes were imported. Our domestic production has decreased. Our production stood at 17 million tonnes, while the demand was 22.6 million tonnes. The 4.5 million tonnes import from abroad was necessary. Yet, as reported in Mail Today recently, people were purchasing from abroad and keeping it at the ports, and when prices slowly increased here, they released it domestically. We have also inquired with the Commerce Department and held meetings on this matter. We do not have records of how much the government purchases and where it is stored. We only have that information once it reaches our country. In this regard, I have said that if you have any suggestions, please put them forward.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** How much more time you are going to take?

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** I would conclude my speech within three to four minutes.

Sir, it seems the Government is aware of what has happened. The Government is also aware why this situation has cropped up but what

I find to my dismay is the Government is not aware of how to tackle this situation. This Ministry of Food and Consumer Affairs does not have the scope to go beyond the borders but there are other agencies within the Government which can tackle that situation. If you want my suggestion we can share it, but it is necessary. It is not unique for our country alone. There are other countries also which have faced this type of constraint. Let us understand how they have tackled. We are dealing with food price. We are dealing with essential commodities. How have others tackled this?

If some of our traders, importers buy certain things from foreign market and store it in foreign ports, there are provisions. We have now already gone into global trade. We can intervene because ultimately the market is not there. Market is in India. Ultimately he has to bring it to India to sell the product. Here I would say that an investigation has been made and these operations, as we have said, have already come to light. You have also mentioned that months have passed. Similar operations had occurred in the UPA regime but there was no one to respond to. At least this Government is responding, is asking for suggestions. I think we can tackle it. There are laws. I think the Consumer Affairs Department is actually implementing that law. If I purchase food stock at a certain price with an intention to sell it in the

market, how much profit can I earn? The Government has to intervene there and it can fix a price. If the import price is this much, if you have purchased it at such and such price you can sell it at this price. You cannot sell a dal which you have purchased from a foreign market at Rs. 80 per kg. at Rs. 180 per kg. in India.

**16. 00 hours**

Then there will be transport and other costs.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Anyway, the Ministry of Finance would know the price when they are clearing the stock. They know the purchase price also.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Sir, it has to be.

I would like to understand from the Government why the food prices are up even as Wholesale Price Index decline continues. WPI based deflation continues for 13<sup>th</sup> month in a row which is the longest since 1975. Has anyone in the Government gone into this aspect? [English] Can anyone explain it from the Government side? If you are aware of any answer, please tell us what are you doing about it?

With these words, I conclude.

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**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Sir, as per the Business, we have Insolvency and Bankruptcy Bill listed in the name of Minister of Finance. There were some suggestions from different quarters that this needs a deeper scrutiny. Therefore, I am holding discussions with our friends in the other House also whether we can send it to a Joint Committee of Parliament so that a thorough study can be made.

Our friends in Lok Sabha have already given consent but I need to get a consent of the Members of the Rajya Sabha. I have to be frank with the House that if I get the consent then we would take that route. Otherwise, we have to take up the Bill after the other Bill.

So I would request the Deputy-Speaker, Sir, to allow discussion on the Payment of Bonus Bill now. Meanwhile, I will complete the consultation process in the Rajya Sabha and come back to the House.

The discussion on price rise will continue afterwards.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I think the House agrees.

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Yes.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** The Minister of Finance is also here. If he can throw some light on this aspect, it would be good. Otherwise, tomorrow again the things get diluted.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The discussion on price will continue afterwards.

**16. 04 hours****PAYMENT OF BONUS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2015**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Now, we shall take up Item No. 43.  
Hon. Minister.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA):** Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, be taken into consideration. ”

Sir, it is my privilege and honour to introduce the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015, which will benefit crores of poor workers of our country.

The year 2015 is the 125<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar who always worked for the labour force from the core of his heart. In India, the word ‘labour’ is a force to reckon with. Productivity of human resources, *viz.* , labour, being an important input besides land capital which plays a significant role in determining the over all economic growth of the nation.

‘Labour’ is in the Concurrent List. Various legislations have been enacted by the Parliament as well as the State Legislatures to protect the interest of the labour force, particularly those who are in the unorganized sector. The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 is one of the legislations. It applies to every factory and every other establishment in which 20 or more persons are employed on any day during an accounting year.

Two ceilings are provided under the Act, namely, Eligibility Limit and Calculation Ceiling. While the Eligibility limit is Rs. 10,000 per month, the Calculation Ceiling is Rs. 3500. These changes were made in the year 2007 and were made effective from 1. 4. 2006. Minimum bonus is 8. 33 per cent of the salary or wage earned by the employee during an accounting year. Similarly, maximum bonus is 20 per cent of the salary or wage earned by the employee.

In the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015, the eligibility limit is proposed to be increased from Rs. 10,000 per month to Rs. 21,000 per month as per clause 2 of the Bill. The calculation ceiling is also be raised from Rs. 3500 to Rs. 7000 or the minimum wage for the scheduled employment, as fixed by the appropriate Government, whichever is higher, as per clause 3 of the Bill.

Another amendment is the previous publication of draft subordinate legislations for inviting objections and suggestions before notifying the final rules, etc. which is in consonance with other labour laws, as per Clause 4 of the Bill.

As per the Bill introduced by me on the 7<sup>th</sup> December, 2015, these amendments would be effective from 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2015. However, hon. Prime Minister desired that this benefit be made effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2014. Therefore, an official amendment is going to be moved to make the changes in the Act with effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2014. It will, I am sure, bring cheers to crores of labour force of our country and their family Members. This is also a clear vision of the NDA Government led by our hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi. I am also thankful to the hon. Prime Minister for giving this advance New Year Gift to crores of poor workers of our country.

With these words, I commend this Bill for the consideration of this august House.

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

“That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, be taken into consideration. ”

**PROF. DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA (BARDHMAN DURGAPUR):** Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this Bill.

I am really happy that I am speaking on a Bill which is really for the benefit of a vast majority of poor workers of our country. I must thank the Government for thinking about this Bill. As the hon. Minister said, it is written in the Bill that it will come into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2015 but now, probably another amendment is to be moved so that it will come into effect from the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2014.

Bonus is a thing which is something extra and over anybody's regular pay and everybody feels happy when they get something extra. Bonus in the employee's life is very important because those who get bonus are poor people. They think about this yearly bonus and keep it with them thinking about spending the amount for various purposes. They wait for it throughout the year. We must congratulate the Government for increasing it. It will be Rs. 21,000 instead of Rs. 7,000. That is almost more than double. It is very good. Just now we are discussing about inflation and price rise. Taking that into consideration, I was just thinking whether it is inflation-linked because we are increasing it after 25 years. It was fixed in 1965 and

after 25 years we are increasing the amount, which the employees are allowed to get as bonus. I would like to know whether it should be little bit more. Generally for 25 years we say silver jubilee. So, I would like to know whether it should be increased as per the inflation or atleast extending the limit upto Rs. 25000/-.

In section 12 of the principal Act, it is said: “for the words “three thousand and five hundred rupees” at both the places where they occur, the words “seven thousand rupees or the minimum wage for the scheduled employment, as fixed by the appropriate Government, whichever is higher”. That is also very welcoming step. It has been mentioned, “seven thousand rupees or the minimum wages”. It is also said that where the employees’ pay is more than Rs. 3,500, they are also be in the Rs. 3,500 bracket. My question is this: If somebody is getting a payment of Rs. 2,000 or Rs. 2,400, what will be the amount they will get?

According to another amendment, the Government may come out with some rules or regulations regarding these things. But it is not clearly mentioned in the Bill as to what sort of Government regulations will be there. It is not in the legislation. It will be the Government’s schedule and how can they come in to this Act. That is my question.

With these few words, I thank the Ministry for bringing this Bill to the House. Thank you.

[Translation]

**SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, on the occasion of the 125th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Ji, and with pride I also say that in three days' time we shall celebrate the birthday of our great leader Atal Ji. I find both occasions to be appropriate. I believe this will serve as a tribute to Dr. Ambedkar Ji and will also reflect our respect towards Atal Ji. The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015 has been introduced here today.

Amendments have been proposed in two sections, which have already been referred to by the Hon. Minister as well as by our esteemed lady Member. I do not wish to repeat them, since the provisions in Section 2 and Section 3 are quite clear. A third point, which has not been mentioned so far, is that in accordance with legislative practice, there is also a proposal to insert an enabling provision for prior publication for the purpose of inviting objections and suggestions. If any objections or suggestions are received, they will be placed before the people in advance. I welcome this provision, and I extend my thanks and congratulations to the Government.

Sir, Atal Ji used to emphatically say that in a welfare state, shops, Houses, roads, bridges, culverts and offices may all be built, but the fundamental question before us is: should a worker be satisfied only with his wages, or should he also be given something beyond that? That something may take the form of social security, or of bonus, or any other recognition of his labour beyond mere remuneration. This, in my view, is the most important question before this august House. I believe that all of us here respect the hard work of the daily wage labourer, and we also witness it closely. But it is a fact that from the Minimum Wages Act of 1948 till today, while we have certainly said that whatever is additional will go to the worker—and we must congratulate the Government for this—much work still remains to be done. I would say to the Government that you have doubled the entitlement after such a long gap. The last amendment was in 2007, but the economic decisions that should have been taken were not taken, as even our esteemed lady Member has pointed out. For this, I congratulate the Government: you have indeed taken a step forward, and it is a dignified step—that at least you mustered the courage to double it.

I would like to make another point regarding the matter of ceiling. My humble submission is this: why should the ceiling always

be fixed at the maximum? Instead, let there be a minimum ceiling prescribed, ensuring that no worker is paid less than that threshold. This is my earnest suggestion to the Government. The Government should certainly give serious thought to this, for otherwise we will repeatedly have to return to this august House with amendments. If at some future stage the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 is amended, inevitably, we shall have to revisit these figures here in this House. While I extend my congratulations, I also urge that if a ceiling must be fixed, then let it be a minimum ceiling, not merely an upper one. Do not be overly anxious about maximum ceilings. A proper mechanism should be devised for this. When Pay Commissions are constituted in this country for the employees, will this matter be linked with their recommendations? Alternatively, I have another suggestion. We often hear grand claims about the indices of industrial development in this country. They have a direct bearing on this issue. Whenever production takes place, great emphasis is laid on cost. But is there ever the same transparency with regard to profits? Through you, Madam Speaker, I have two concrete suggestions for the Government. Either establish a correlation between the recommendations of the Pay Commission and the bonus, thereby avoiding the need to bring such amendments repeatedly before

Parliament. Or, whenever there is a change in the Minimum Wages Act, create a mechanism that ensures that the rights of the workers remain intrinsically tied with it. If the matter is linked with the indices of industrial growth as well, I believe it will be a more sound and balanced arrangement. Such a mechanism, if created, will not only save valuable time of this Parliament but also safeguard the rights of the workers. I would also like to submit one more point. If an industry incurs losses, it simply does not pay bonus. But I must ask, with full sense of responsibility, does it then mean that the worker has no right to celebrate Diwali or other festivals? Can the basis of bonus be that it will only be paid if the industry makes profits? That cannot be just. These are issues which, I believe, require very careful and minute deliberation by this House. Whenever such Bills are brought forward, we must all come prepared with the mindset of truly safeguarding the rights of the workers. I am fully aware that the Minimum Wages Act has never been able to establish itself in a fully transparent manner, because of its inherent limitations.

I am a farmer and I know very well that the nature of agriculture differs vastly in the hills, the plains and the plateaus. If we speak of the Minimum Wages Act, then people like myself, who come from Bundelkhand, would find it extremely difficult to comply with such

uniform provisions. We would not be prepared for it. Therefore, I believe that uniformity in this matter is not always possible. Decisions relating to industry should be treated separately, and those relating to agriculture should be treated independently. However, in the matter of bonus, when we identify certain sectors such as industry, and when we seek to correlate it with the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, we must also recognise the need to undertake appropriate work in that direction to ensure fairness and balance.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, in conclusion, I would only say that there is no need for me to speak at great length on this matter. But I do recall the time when our great leader, Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, had brought a Bill on Social Security in this very House. Everyone speaks of being sympathetic towards workers and of safeguarding their rights. Yet, I firmly believe that whether it is the Bharatiya Janata Party or its Government, we do not walk the path of confrontation. We believe that harmony must be established between both sides. Without any provocation, we can, in this very House, unanimously enact the best possible laws for the welfare of workers whose voices are often associated with strife and conflict. The work that this Government has undertaken, and more importantly, the occasion on which it has been done, I say once again, is a true tribute to Bharat

Ratna Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, who always stood for the protection of the rights of the underprivileged. It is equally a tribute to our Constitution makers who enshrined such protections. Furthermore, it is a mark of reverence to our leader Atal ji, whose birth anniversary falls three days from now, and in whose honour we uphold his vision that in a welfare State, beyond wages and hard labour, there must also be provision for reward and dignity. The happiness of the worker and the well-being of his children must be safeguarded. This Bill secures that very right. With these words, I express my support for the Bill and conclude my submission. I thank you for granting me the opportunity to speak.

**SHRI BALBHADRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this Amendment Bill.

Sir, even before Independence, under the prevailing governance there existed the provision of gratuity. If a ruler was pleased, he would offer some reward in the form of gratuity. In the same manner, this bonus is nothing but a new form of giving something out of pleasure, and not for the purpose of pleasing. However, there are two or three fundamental aspects wherein I see variations in the Act. Take for instance a company, a factory or any establishment. All contribute to its functioning, whether it be a worker or a top executive. Everyone works and remains engaged for the benefit and profit of the organisation. My objection is that by increasing the limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 21,000, only a limited number of people will gain from it, while the rest, including those on higher posts who are also working for the same organisation, will not get anything. Should they not also be entitled to some benefit? If it is to be made compulsory that only a select group is to be paid bonus, then it would be more appropriate to raise their salary itself.

The second point is that, as a measure to counter inflation, we have already made provision for Dearness Allowance (DA). In such

circumstances, is there really any necessity for an additional bonus over and above this? Moreover, every ten years we set up a Pay Commission which strives to correct the deficiencies in the payment structure. Even now, when the Seventh Pay Commission report is awaited, why is there a need to announce bonuses or attempt to amend the Act beforehand? I do not believe this is very necessary. In the original Act itself, as one of my friends has already pointed out, there is a provision that whether a company runs at a loss or at a profit, bonus must still be paid. Some people argue that since one is already drawing a salary for rendering service, should it also be mandatory that over and above this, irrespective of profit or loss, a bonus must be given? Such a stipulation, in my view, is not justifiable. I was reading Clause 10 of the Act, where it is clearly stated...

[English] Whether or not the employer has any allocable surplus in that accounting year, bonus has to be paid. [Translate] This compulsion of paying a minimum of 8.3 percent bonus is questionable. In my view, such payments ought to be made only when the company, the owner, the department or the establishment itself is in profit. If there is no profit, yet a mandatory bonus has to be given, then for that purpose Clause 4 in the Schedule provides for offsetting

and unsettling. But this, in my opinion, should apply only to the year in which we are talking of giving the bonus. [English]

Sir, when this amendment was being brought in, I felt that certain changes were also needed in this regard. In the same Act, in the same law, there is yet another provision under Clause 31A that speaks of a productivity-linked bonus. Both these provisions are placed side by side in the same statute. We may either pay a simple bonus or a productivity-linked bonus. In my considered opinion, a productivity-linked bonus would be far more effective. Some companies and certain departments are already following this practice. The effect is that every officer, irrespective of post, class or grade, receives a share proportionate to the profit of the company, in accordance with their pay scale or by some other determined method. It is not that we are against the workers, but everyone who contributes to the company must also be entitled to a fair share of its benefit.

Any individual who performs well must certainly be encouraged. My slight objection is that since the Pay Commission's report is about to be submitted, what was the urgency to bring in this amendment at this juncture? If the Government would accept the view that a productivity-linked bonus should be given, rather than retaining only the two existing provisions, it would be more equitable. At present,

there is arbitrariness in certain sectors where some are paid only a flat bonus, and others do not benefit at all. I do not wish to say much more. If the Government subsequently brings about changes in this regard, it will indeed be welcome. Thank you. Namaskar.

[English]

**SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015. The Bill seeks to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. The Act provides for the annual payment of bonus to employees of certain establishments including factories and establishments employing 20 or more persons. Under the Act, bonus is calculated on the basis of the employee's salary and the profit of the establishment. If the establishment says that it has not earned profit, it would decline to pay bonus. What is the solution for such type of a situation? Who will monitor whether an establishment is in profit or not? Since I am in the midst of trade union activities, I know that in Mumbai and other parts of Maharashtra, there is a tendency among the corporate companies to make duplicate annual reports and accounts and misguide the Government agencies. What is the penalty for such under-estimation of profit by certain companies? This aspect has to be looked into very carefully.

Sir, the Act mandates payment of bonus to employees whose salary or wage is up to Rs. 10,000 per month. The Bill seeks to increase this eligibility limit to Rs. 21,000 per month. The Act provides that the bonus payable to an employee will be in proportion

to his or her salary or wage. However, if an employee's salary is more than Rs. 3,500 per month, for the purpose of calculation of bonus, the salary will be assumed to be Rs. 3,500 per month. The Bill seeks to raise this calculation ceiling to Rs. 7,500 per month or the minimum wage notified for the employee under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The Act provides that the Union Government may make rules to implement its provisions. The Bill seeks to mandate prior publication of such rules in the Official Gazette to allow more public consultation.

As per the Statement of Objects and Reasons, the Union Government has been receiving representations from trade unions, individuals and various associations for enhancement or for removal of the above ceilings. After due consideration, the Union Government has decided to enhance the eligibility limit for payment of bonus from ten thousand rupees per mensem to twenty-one thousand rupees per mensem. The Union Government has also decided to raise the calculation ceiling from three thousand and five hundred rupees per mensem to seven thousand rupees per mensem or the minimum wage for the scheduled employment, as fixed by the appropriate Government, whichever is higher. This amendment in the Act to increase wage ceiling and maximum amount of bonus was one of the assurances given by the Centre after 10 Central trade unions,

including the trade union affiliated to the Shiv Sena went on one day strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. I am glad to say that the Union Government has accepted nine demands out of twelve submitted by the trade unions. It will benefit many workers working in small and medium enterprises in Maharashtra and in other States.

One thing is not clear to me. The hon. Minister says that the Bill will come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015. But recently we have received the amendment; it is made now 2014. We are going to pass it today. I do not know how it could be given retrospective effect. The hon. Minister may kindly explain this. It is because, the amendment is already submitted, so there is no necessity of this explanation.

It is a simple Bill. I am myself associated with the trade union movement in Maharashtra; I have no hesitation in supporting this Bill. Thank you very much.

**SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI):** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir, for giving me an opportunity. First of all, I welcome and I support the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill on my own behalf and on behalf of our Party.

As you know it very well, Sir, we consider workers as a very valuable asset for the country. It is only because of their hard work and patience that India is growing at a very fast pace. This Bill definitely helps the workers' welfare. It is because they are increasing the eligibility limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 21,000 and also they are enhancing the ceiling for bonus from Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 7,000, whichever is higher.

As we all know, for any industry or for any society, wealth is important. If the industry is doing well and if they are having wealth, the wealth should be shared by the workers and the society.

I would suggest the hon. Minister that bonus also should be linked up with productivity. As some of our colleagues suggested, even for sick companies also, they have to give bonus. But, practically, we know very well, it is very difficult. So, when bonus is

linked with productivity, definitely, productivity will increase in this country.

Our hon. Prime Minister is talking about 'Make in India'. We have the skilled labourers in our country. But unfortunately, since independence we are not managing our human resources properly particularly, the workers community. It is just because of the trade union politics and the wide gap between the management and the trade unions. So, when the trade union politics are minimised in the industries then only the productivity will be increased.

We are insisting on all the companies to increase their CSR to two per cent. I would also like to suggest the hon. Minister that, at least, one per cent profit of every company should be given to their employees in the form of bonus in addition to what this Bill proposes to give. The labour laws are very weak in our country in respect of welfare of the workers, for their Houses and for their children's education. We know that the workers are working for their whole lives but if anything happens to them neither the management nor the Government will come to their rescue. They will just give them some amount and settle the issue. It is just an eye-wash. That should not happen. We should always try to give social security and safety to our workers. Then only, they can work comfortably and given their best

to our industries, either it is a private industry or any Government organisation. We have very weak labour laws even after independence.

Now, we have a very good Minister Shri Dattatreya *garu*. He also came from a very backward background. He is also having a long association with the workers. He knows personally the problem of the workers. That is why I suggest that, at least, in his tenure, we have to make stringent labour laws for the welfare of the workers of the country. We have to give social security and respect to the workers in our society. They should not be ill-treated. There should not be any kind of insecurity for the workers. The Government of India and the State Governments should always come for their rescue. Then only they will work properly and the productivity will go on.

Once again, I want to congratulate our hon. Minister for bringing a wonderful Bill for the welfare of the workers of this country. Thank you.

**SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY (CHEVELLA):**

Thank you Deputy-Speaker, Sir. This is the time of festivals. We recently have Dussehra and Deepawali. Soon we have Christmas and other holidays. This is the time of bonus also. I think, the hon. Minister Shri Bandaru Dattatreyaaji definitely endeavoured himself to the masses of labours and so did the Government.

Sir, this is a welcome Bill. Our party supports it. I think, most of us here support it. In the Payment of Bonus Act of 1965, they had prescribed a certain bonus based on productivity and profits. I think, this Bill plans to increase both the slabs and the criteria whichever is higher - 8.33 or Rs. 7,000. They increased the slab from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 21,000. The Act amended the eligibility and the base of bonus from Rs. 1,600 a month in 1965 to Rs. 10,000 a month in 2007. Now, it is going up to Rs. 21,000.

Sir, while I welcome this Bill, I see one significant flaw in this Bill, that is, the sharp cut-off of Rs. 21,000. If a person is actually having Rs. 21,000 salary and an employer wants to punish him, he can give an increment of Rs. 500, with the result, he goes outside the slab, and actually he will have a loss of Rs. 20,500 to his annual income. Actually, an employer can punish his employee by giving him an

increment of Rs. 500 if that person is having a salary of Rs. 21,000. So, I think that it is a flaw and the Government needs to look into it.

One of the things that I propose is this. Yes, Sir, this is a festival season. Everyone should be happy; not three of my neighbours here and three of my neighbours there and I should not be unhappy. I think, the better proposition is that if we have slab on a sliding scale declining up to Rs. 42,000. So, at a salary of Rs. 21,000, we can have 8.33 per cent; at Rs. 25,000 it can be seven per cent and at Rs. 42,000 it can be zero. So, this will make everyone happy, and there is no loss to anyone.

While our Party is, of course, more concerned about the employees, we also would like to understand as to what the impact on revenue collection and tax collection is. By increasing bonus, you are also reducing the profits. The company pays tax on their profits. In the last Budget Session, the Finance Minister announced tax exemption up to Rs. 2,00,000 income per year for individuals. So, the bonus amount which is going out of the profits and into the employees is also not taxable. So, we would like to understand what the impact on revenue collection is.

Sir, there is really not much to speak except to congratulate and say a few things but I would also like to take this opportunity to suggest one more thing. The maximum limit that is prescribed is 20 per cent. Why can this not be enhanced to at least 40 per cent. ? The minimum is 8. 33 per cent and the maximum is 20 per cent. So, if some companies want to be generous and warm-hearted, they can actually increase it at their discretion and give it to their employees. We can exclude employees earning above Rs. 1,00,000 or Rs. 2,00,000. So, it will actually go to the lower level employees, who really need bonus.

Before I sit down and once again congratulate the hon. Minister, I would like to draw the attention of the hon. Minister to the plight of many employees. Under the guise of outsourcing, under the guise of part-time and under the guise of contract employees – we all know and I am sure the hon. Minister is also well aware of this – a lot of injustice is being done to the contract and outsourcing employees. There is no prescribed timing. They made to over work. They are under paid. There is no overtime. No health care facility is giving to them. So, I would request the hon. Minister to look into these issues.

Once again I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill. It is a festive season, and the Minister has endeavoured himself to the entire workforce of the country.

Thank you.

**SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

Sir, till the enactment of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, demand for bonus was not a statutory right but a judicial right only. The word 'bonus' is a *Latin* origin, which we know. It means 'gift' or 'boon' but in the truest sense of the term in industrial field, it is really the deferred wage or salary which has not been paid at the time of payment of wage or salary and being given later on.

Sir, in the early European days, traders in Europe who had come to India used to make some *ex-gratia* payments because they were satisfied with their large profits. The practice of bonus payment as a periodical payment could be said to have begun during the First World War when the industries made huge profits.

There has been a long history of struggle of workers throughout the world, in general and throughout our country, in particular. Ultimately, the Government of India appointed a Bonus Commission on December 16, 1961. Some of its recommendations were implemented in the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. In one its recommendations, the then Bonus Commission had said that 60 per

cent of the available surplus should be distributed as bonus. But still, it has not been implemented in the case of industries.

Nowadays, bonus is regarded as a part of emoluments by the workmen. For the purpose of amendment, in Section 2 of the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, it is said: 'For the words "ten thousand rupees", the words "twenty one thousand rupees" shall be substituted. In Section 2 of the Principal Act, 'the words "three thousand and five hundred rupees" has been replaced by the words "seven thousand rupees" as minimum wage noticed by the appropriate government, whichever is higher.

Sir, for the purpose of this amendment, I would make a humble request to the hon. Minister. In the last few years, we have seen Billionaires are increasing from 54 Billionaires to 100 Billionaires. Is it possible without accumulation of maximum profit by industries? So, it is by way of accumulation of profit.

It is found that the Indian capitalists are getting more profits as compared to others from all other countries of the world. The percentage of getting profit in India is more than what is there in the other countries of the world. There are numerous cases in our country where employers earned profit to the tune of more than 40 per cent as

per their declared statement. So, on the one hand, it is being talked by our Government that they are doing a lot about the goodness and benefit of the workers whereas on the other hand the budget on social security purpose is getting reduced. In the 2013-14 Budget, for the social security purpose of labour, the allocation made was Rs. 2,920. 71 crore; in the year 2014-15, it had been decreased to Rs. 2,668. 88 crore; and in this year's Budget, another reduction is there, and it has come down to Rs. 2,587 crore only.

So, in this regard, I have to make a specific demand to the hon. Minister, which is also the demand of the maximum numbers of trade unions, to please remove the ceilings on eligibility of bonus. Calculation of bonus and enhancement of calculation formula, ceiling on gratuity should be done away with. Here, Rs. 21,000 is the ceiling. The persons who are doing job, the persons who are technically sound, are getting more than Rs. 21,000 as wage or salary. That means they are having something in the profit making. So, they should also get the bonus. For this reason, we have been making amendments. We may have another amendment also in the coming days.

So, it is better that ceiling should not be there and bonus should be there. In our 1961 Commission, it was said that 60 per cent of the profit should be given as bonus and now, we are seeing that 40 per

cent of the profit is being accumulated by the industrialists or employers. As there is no ceiling for profit, then why ceiling for this bonus only. This is our humble request to the Minister that there should not be any ceiling, removal of ceiling should be there and with these words, I conclude.

**SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI):** I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity. I also thank the hon. Minister for Labour for taking the cause of the workforce in a serious manner. Very recently, the minimum pension has also been increased to Rs. 1000 for the workforce. This is a very big welcome step where India is more labour intensive. However, many of our colleagues have mentioned that it would be very ideal if the ceiling limit is removed. At the present juncture, taking the ceiling limit upto Rs. 21,000 is a welcome step. It is also a welcome step because it covers all the people – the skilled, the unskilled, manual, supervisory, managerial, administrative, technical, clerical and all the factories and companies who have 20 and above employees. This is a welcome step. The commitment to the Government is not much. Perhaps when compared to our larger Budget, it is only Rs. 3000 crore. Many hon. Members were asking as to why it is required. There is a spiralling price rise. It was right from the beginning. I will not say that this has happened in any particular Government. Where the Government employees salaries are much less when compared to the private sector salaries, this kind of bonus, minimum bonus even without the productivity and a larger bonus which is linked to productivity is a welcome step. Since we have a large workforce which is unskilled and manual, they have

to look after their parents and all that. With the meagre salary that they are getting in the Government sector, it is impossible for them to look after on all the occasions like the festivals, marriages and education.

The workforce and trade unions are looking to the hon. Minister. The hon. Minister is himself a great trade unionist. The workforce and trade unions are looking for the reformation of labour laws. All the people are looking at him. The trade unions have a fear that the labour laws may be liberalized but instead of that, we are of the opinion that the social security and the employment security of the employees may be protected.

In my opinion, irrespective of a company whether it is making profit or not, minimum bonus should be paid. A bonus of 8.33 per cent should be paid and it is being paid also. A balance has to be drawn between the labour and the capital because India is a labour intensive with most of the people as unskilled labour. We also need to protect our staff against the onslaught of the globalisation. The famous economist Keynes wrote once on multiplier effect. Blue collar wage earners are consumers. All the present people are also consumers. Their next generation will be a talent pool. India needs to be in the knowledge economy tomorrow. The deprived workers are a drag in

the present and in the future. Therefore, it is high time that we have raised this and we have to protect them.

With these few words, I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity.

[Translation]

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak on the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015. I had in fact prepared myself to speak on the issue of inflation, but had to concede to the request of the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs.

It is imperative that workers receive a bonus, that labourers receive a bonus. There are two categories of labourers – one is the organised labour force and the other is the unorganised labour force.

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Shri Jai Prakash belongs to the organised class, and we are in the unorganised class.

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV:** Thank you Sir.

Both organised and unorganised workers toil hard, burning the midnight oil and sweating it out. They are called workers, labourers, but they are not helpless—yet in this country they are made helpless. The true value of their hard work, their labour, their sweat—this is the foundation, the very base, on which stand the buildings, the palaces,

the domes, and the five-star hotels where we go and sit, where people live in luxurious bungalows. But the sweat that flows is of the workers—whether organised or unorganised, they are not helpless. Whether they work in factories, or they are beedi workers, or rickshaw pullers, all of them toil and all of them are destroyed by the blows of inflation. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had given the slogan: “Stop inflation, control prices, otherwise there will be a complete halt.” This was not merely a question of inflation, it was a question of people’s lives—of bread, of hunger. Just as a fish gasps without water, in the same way, if a human being does not get employment, food, wages, or bonus, then how will he buy medicines for his children? How will he arrange the marriage of his son or daughter? He will be trapped in countless difficulties. That is why our attention must remain focused on the workers. The stone breaker, the earth carrier, the man with the spade—just as there is a saying that whether it is winter, summer, or monsoon, the postman always comes, similarly whether it is winter, summer, or monsoon, the worker must go to his labour. The stick also falls on him, and yet he goes—for the fire of his stomach and the needs of his family. He breaks mountains, he works as a sanitation worker, he builds Houses. That is why people speak of the pen and the spade: one writes with a pen, the other works with a spade. I believe the

importance of the spade should be greater than that of the pen. Sensitive people will realise that even though a pen is in my hand, the importance of the spade is far greater—because in this country, some people die eating too much, while others die crying with an empty hand. Instead of leaving the worker only to cry, if we give him a bonus, it will be a great relief and a blessing for the poor labourers.

Sir, I will take just one more minute. For women workers, if a special consideration were given in the matter of bonus, it would have been better if a specific clause for women could have been included. The weavers too toil hard. I want to say, not only for them but for all workers, that the Bill which has been brought is fine in its own place. Yet, somewhere, more must be done in the interest of workers. There should not be a sharp divide between the pen and the spade—rather, greater emphasis should be on the spade. It is the labourers who pave the road to prosperity for our nation. With these words, I conclude my submission.

[English]

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Earlier I told the House through you, hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, that we were considering of sending that Bill to the Joint Committee and we were holding discussion in that regard. But I am sorry to inform the House that some parties are not willing for the same. That is why the Government has decided to take the Bill itself after this Bill. I have a habit of taking the House into confidence. That is why I just want to inform the House that that Bill will be taken up after this Bill. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD):** It is very difficult to take that Bill. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** The Bill may be sending to the Standing Committee. How can this Bill be directly taken up. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** We will see it after this Bill is over.

**17. 00 hours**

**SHRI E. T. MOHAMMED BASHEER (PONNANI):** Sir, I congratulate the hon. Minister for bringing this legislation. This House was really expecting very comprehensive labour law reforms. Hon. Minister himself stated recently that a major legislation with regard to labour was pending. Anyhow, I hope that such a legislation will come in future.

Sir, this Bill is confined mainly to three things. One, it increases the eligibility limit of salary from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 21,000. The second thing is that the calculation of bonus will be made at the rate of Rs. 7,000 per month or the minimum wage notified under the Minimum Wages Act, whichever is higher. The third thing is the prior publication of the rules and retrospective effect from 01. 04. 2015. These are the main clauses of this Bill. These are good things.

What I am saying is that bonus is having a different interpretation and dimension now. Bonus was once treated as charity or *ex gratia*. Now bonus is a legal right and industrial disputes can be raised on the issue of bonus. Now it is legally having that status. Minimum bonus is 8.33 per cent and the maximum is limited to 20 per cent. I would

suggest that this maximum limit of 20 per cent should be substantially increased. There is a logic behind it.

Similarly, two main amendments are very much required in this Bill. As I told, the maximum limit of 20 per cent should be enhanced. I would submit that we have to realise that labour is the biggest contribution in an industry. Human capital is the first thing which is followed by money and machinery. Unfortunately, human capital is not taken into consideration properly. Similarly, in our present Payment of Bonus Act, there are seven categories which are excluded from the purview of the Act. I would request the hon. Minister to re-examine that aspect also.

Sir, we have to realise one thing that 90 per cent of the employees in our country are working in the unorganized sector. We have also to think about what we can do for the workers in that sector.

At present, workers are dismissed from service on the ground of misconduct and as a result, they are disqualified from getting bonus. That is not fair because bonus is paid on the basis of days' work and earning, and not on the basis of character or conduct as such. So, that clause may also be amended.

Sir, structural changes are needed in this regard. Due to constraint of time, I do not want to take much time, but I would like to say one thing that the hon. Minister is a very honest Minister. He must come forward with basic reforms in the labour laws. This Bill is only a small thing. Anyhow, this is well and good.

With these few words, I conclude. Thank you very much.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Sir, I fully support the Bill because this Bill has come to this House for consideration after a series of strikes – 24-hour bandhs and 48-hour bandhs - and it is an assurance given by the Government to the ten trade unions in the country that bonus reforms would be made. As a part of this, the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill is coming for our consideration.

I fully support the two proposed amendments regarding the eligibility for bonus – raising the pay ceiling limit from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 21,000 and raising the limit on calculation of bonus from Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 7,000. I fully support these two proposals.

I am not going into the details of the bonus. We know that during the 1950s and 1960s, the bonus used to be considered as a part of the profit, but subsequently after the enactment of the Payment of Bonus Act, it is an accepted principle in the country that it is ‘deferred wages’. So, bonus is not part of profit, but it is absolutely ‘deferred wages’.

Most of the hon. Members from various corners of this House have stated that bonus should be linked with productivity. I fully support this view because productivity and production can be increased if you give such an incentive to the workforce. I would

suggest that the productivity linked bonus should be independent of and separate from statutory bonus. The statutory bonus should never be coupled or linked with productivity because there are a lot of incidents about which we know from our experience of having been in the trade unions. Most of the industrial establishments in the country have a liking to have bonus which is linked with productivity. If it is linked with productivity, definitely they will make their balance sheet in such a way that there is no productivity and most of the workforce in the country will be out of the ceiling of bonus. So, definitely the productivity-linked bonus should be a bonus other than that of the statutory bonus, which the Act envisages.

Also, there is a serious apprehension among the workforce in the country that the labour laws in the country are going to be weakened. The Government is taking into consideration the Second National Labour Commission's recommendations. There are five major recommendations. One of them is the codification of the labour laws. The Government is moving in that direction. I am not opposed to the codification of labour legislations. I fully support the codification of labour legislations. But I want to place on record the apprehension of the trade unions that on the pretext of codification of labour legislations or labour laws, the labour laws are getting weakened.

Codification is the need of the hour and it is better for the performance of the labour laws in the country. But it shall not infringe or take away the right of the workforce in our country, existing statutory rights are never taken away, that assurance we want from the hon. Minister.

I would like to quote the hon. Minister's statement which I fully agree with because the Minister is doing wonderful work in this matter of labour law. I am also a Member of the Consultative Committee. The Minister had assured and I quote, "The Government considers workers as very valuable assets for the country and it is only because of their hard work and passion that India is growing at a very fast pace". This is a very good observation on the part of the Minister and the Government.

Unfortunately, most of the economists, the neo-liberal reformist economists, do not subscribe to this view or they do not confirm this view. So, definitely this passion should be taken into consideration of the labour reforms in which the codification is going to take place. Codification is in respect of industrial relations, wages, social security, safety and welfare of the workers. Definitely this should be codified without infringing upon the rights of workers which are in existence under various statutes. We have 44 labour legislations in the country. These 44 labour legislations have to be codified into five or

four as the Government desires, but it shall never infringe upon the rights of the workers.

I have moved a proposal of an amendment regarding the ceiling limit. The trade unions' opinion, as just now my learned friend has already cited, is that the ceiling limit has to be taken away. Why should we have a ceiling limit? Let the ceiling limit be taken away. That is the long pending demand of the workforce. Anyway, it is coming up to Rs. 21,000 and we do appreciate that, and also we do support. At the same time I would like to make another point and that is regarding the allowances. This Rs. 21,000 should be excluding the allowances.

When we passed the Bill in respect of payment of salaries and allowances of the High Court judges and Supreme Court judges, we passed an amendment. What was the amendment? It was about the encashment of the leave benefit of the High Court judges and the Supreme Court judges. In that case, all the allowances availed by judges will be incorporated within the meaning of wages. As far as the workers are concerned, the wages mean only the minimum wages plus DA. Basic wage plus DA is the wage structure. But as far as the judges are concerned, all allowances will come. So, my submission is,

excluding the allowances this ceiling limit may be accepted. That is the amendment proposal which I have made.

With these words, once again I support the Bill. I conclude.  
Thank you, Sir.

**SHRI C. N. JAYADEVAN (THRISSUR):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

Sir, this Bill is brought for enhancing the eligibility limit of the employees for payment of bonus from Rs. 10,000 per mensem to Rs. 21,000 per mensem, and to raise the calculation ceiling from Rs. 3,500 per mensem to Rs. 7,000 per mensem for the minimum wage or the scheduled employment as fixed by the appropriate government whichever is higher.

This enhancement of limits does not make any difference considering the inflation and consequent rise in the wages of the employees over the years since the last amendment was made. Basically, the payment of bonus is supplement to wages and therefore taken as deferred wages. Linking bonus partly to profit sharing may at the most be construed as to what extent the deferred wage is to be accepted over and above the prescribed minimum limit which at present is 8.33 per cent even in case of no profit. Therefore, fixing the payment and eligibility limit is extraneous to the concept and meaning of bonus. Moreover, the Supreme Court has already said that bonus is a part of salary and there should not be any ceiling on it, both for the eligibility limit and calculation ceiling. Almost all the central

trade unions have demanded for the removal of conditions on payment of ceiling and eligibility limits in a series of meeting with the Government.

I, in the name of my party the Communist Party of India, request the Government to reconsider their demand in this regard and bring about a fresh amendment to the Payment of Bonus Act to remove all conditions on payment of ceiling and eligibility limits.

**SHRI M. UDHAYAKUMAR (DINDIGUL):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, I express my sincere thanks and gratitude to our beloved leader hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* for giving this opportunity to speak about the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015 before this august House.

This Bill is to double the wage ceiling for calculating bonus as Rs 7,000 per month for factory workers and establishments with 20 or more workers. The Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015 is to enhance the monthly bonus calculation ceiling to Rs 7,000 per month from the existing Rs 3,500 per month. The amendment will be made effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2015. The Bill also seeks to enhance the eligibility limit for payment of bonus from the salary or wage of an employee from Rs 10,000 per month to Rs 21,000. The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 is applicable to every factory and establishment in which 20 or more persons are employed on any day during the accounting year.

The Bill also provides for a new proviso in section 12 which empowers the Union Government to vary the basis of computing bonus. At present, under section 12, where the salary or wage of an employee exceeds Rs 3,500 per month, the minimum or maximum bonus payable to the employees are calculated as if his salary or wage

were Rs 3,000 per month. Our Tamil Nadu Chief Minister *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has protected the interest of thousands of employees working in various Departments of Tamil Nadu Government.

The last amendment to both the eligibility limit and calculating ceilings under the said Act was carried out in the year 2007 and was made effective from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2006. The amendment in the Act to increase wage ceilings and bonus calculation ceiling was one of the assurances given by the Centre after ten central trade unions went on one day strike on 2<sup>nd</sup> September. The Payment of Bonus Act, 1965 was enacted with a view to providing for the payment of bonus to persons employed in certain establishments on the basis of profit or on the basis of production or productivity and for matters connected therewith. Thereafter, the Act was amended several times and lastly amended in the year 2007. According to clause (13) of section 2 of the Act, 'employee means any person (other than an apprentice) employed on a salary or wage not exceeding ten thousand rupees per mensem in any industry to do any skilled or unskilled manual, supervisory, managerial, administrative, technical or clerical work for hire or reward, whether the terms of employment be express or implied. '

However, according to section 12 of the Act, the bonus payable to an employee whose salary or wage exceeds three thousand and five hundred rupees *per mensem* shall be calculated as if his salary or wage were three thousand and five hundred rupees *per mensem*.

The Union Government has been receiving representations from trade unions, individuals and various associations for enhancement or for removal of the above ceilings. After due consideration, the Union Government has decided to enhance the eligibility limit for payment of bonus from ten thousand rupees *per mensem* to twenty-one thousand rupees *per mensem*. The Union Government has also decided to raise the calculation ceiling from three thousand and five hundred rupees *per mensem* to seven thousand rupees *per mensem* or the minimum wage for the scheduled employment, as fixed by the appropriate Government, whichever is higher.

Section 38 of the Act empowers the Union Government to make rules for the purpose of giving effect to the provisions of the Act. Since, the said section does not provide for the previous publication of the rules, it is proposed to insert an enabling provision providing for previous publication for the purpose of inviting objections and suggestions in tune with the other legislations pertaining to welfare of labour.

In Tamil Nadu, Amma's efforts for the welfare of the labour force and the Act help the labour. The Government has come forward to help the labour. The Bonus Act is the right of the labour. Giving more bonus to the labour union is welcome on behalf of our Tamil Nadu Government as directed by hon. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma. We welcome the Bill.

Thank you, Sir.

**SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG):** Thank you, Deputy-Speaker, Sir, for allowing me to speak on this Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

The Bill provides for payment of bonus to persons employed in certain establishments on the basis of profits or on the basis of production or productivity.

The Act provides bonus to employees of certain establishments including factories and establishments employing 20 or more persons. Under the Act, the payment of bonus to the employees whose salary or wages is up to Rs. 10,000 per month. The Bill seeks to increase the eligibility limit to Rs. 21,000 per month. Under the new Act, the casual labour and the contract labour are eligible for bonus. The law stipulates that an employer is mandated to give a minimum bonus of 8.33 per cent of the salary. So, the worker earning Rs. 7,000 per month will receive a minimum bonus equivalent to 8.3 per cent of his salary.

An employee is entitled for bonus only when he has worked for 30 working days in the year. Considering the cost of living and other connected matters, it has to be reviewed. There should be no upper

limit of salary for getting bonus. Everybody working in various sectors should get bonus.

Labour voices have been silent; over the years trade unions have been sterilised. But without a vibrant, well-paid workforce, India will not have a domestic demand to fuel its 1.3 Billion people economy.

If companies do not pay bonus on time, the Government should take legal steps and speedy justice should be given to the labourer's family. I want the assurance from the hon. Minister who is present here.

I have a suggestion to the Minister that there should be a provision of giving bonus in advance for the employees who have some emergency in their families. At least 50 per cent of the bonus should be given to them in the case of an emergency.

On behalf of our Party, All India Trinamool Congress and our hon. Leader Mamata Banerjee, on this festive occasion, I welcome this Bill and support it. Thank you.

[Translation]

**DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I thank you for granting me the opportunity to speak on the Payment of Bonus (Amendment) Bill, 2015.

This Bill, brought forth by our esteemed Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and the Hon. Minister of Labour and Employment, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya ji, is indeed a significant piece of legislation aimed at encouraging workers employed in the organised sector. I rise in firm support of this Bill. At the outset, I would like to commend my Government for the steps it has taken in the interest of employees. The very first bold decision taken by our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji was to raise the pension amount, which used to be as meagre as Rs. 25 or Rs. 50 for many retired employees, to Rs. 1,000. Following this, our Government took another historic step in the form of the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana. The third step was the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, the fourth was the Atal Pension Yojana, and alongside these, an important initiative was also introduced to provide benefits to EPF account holders through the Smart Card Scheme.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, we have no hesitation in stating that nowhere else in the world are wages as low as they are in our country. Yet, our Government has felt the pain and distress of our workers. As regards the matter of bonus, before I proceed to speak specifically on this Bonus Bill, I wish to submit that the practice of granting bonus in India began after the First World War, when certain textile mills paid their workers a bonus of 10 Percent of wages. Thereafter, given the growing demands of the working class, it became necessary to frame proper rules for the payment of bonus. The Standing Labour Committee established by the Government of India recommended that a tripartite committee be constituted to deliberate on every aspect of bonus payments and submit its recommendations. The Government accepted these recommendations, and on 29 May 1965, an Ordinance was promulgated, which later became the Payment of Bonus Act. Although several amendments have been made to this Act from time to time, the last amendment was carried out in the year 2007, wherein the ceiling for bonus was raised to Rs. 3,500. This law is applicable to every factory and establishment where at least 20 workers are employed. If for any reason the number of workers falls below this threshold, yet the factory or establishment has already come under the ambit of this Act, it shall still remain bound to pay bonus to its

workers. I consider this provision to be of great significance and in the true interest of labour, for it ensures that no worker can ever be deprived of bonus payments. Until now, workers earning up to Rs. 10,000 in wages were covered under the Act. This ceiling has now been raised to Rs. 21,000, which I regard as a most commendable step. Those workers who had previously fallen outside the ambit of bonus will now be eligible to receive it. Likewise, the enhancement of the ceiling for bonus payments from Rs. 3,500 to Rs. 7,000, keeping in view today's cost-of-living index, is indeed a timely and encouraging measure.

Hon. Deputy Speaker, the most important feature of this Bill is that the Government has taken into account the memoranda and suggestions received from the trade unions, and after due consideration, in the interest of workers, it has been decided that the revised ceiling for bonus shall be made applicable with effect from 1 April 2000.

In conclusion, I would only say that Hon. Prime Minister, with the spirit of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, has worked in this direction ... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I extend my wholehearted support to this Bill.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the rich walk every day to digest their meals, while the poor walk 100 kilometres to figure out how they will get their next meal. This is the stark difference in our country. We walk to digest our dinner, while the poor walk in search of food for the morning.

Sir, the poor and the workers have always remained the basis of votes. They have either been told to live on fate, God and destiny, or since Independence they have been handed out mere doles through our political system. I wish to quote what an economist, Prof. Batra, has said. According to Chetan Roy, the Executive Director of the world-renowned consultancy firm Morgan Stanley, India's wealth increased by more than 1 trillion dollars within four years under his tenure. Yet, the benefit of this increase in wealth has remained extremely limited, accruing only to about 2 percent of the population. According to SEBI, only 4 to 7 percent of the population in the country actually hold shares, and even within that, the overwhelming share belongs to company owners. As per the data, out of 570 Billion dollars, 350 Billion dollars have gone directly into the hands of the owners. You will be astonished to know what Prof. Batra pointed out: two major industrialists who once held assets worth Rs. 1 lakh 90 thousand crore, their combined wealth has ironically multiplied to Rs.

11 lakh crore after division between them. The gulf between the super-rich and the common man is deepening and widening every day. The wealth generated through liberalisation has not flowed into the homes of the poor and the common people, but rather has been imprisoned in the palaces of a small fraction of the super-rich.

You will be astonished to know that in 1983, the estimated total black wealth in the country was around Rs. 36,786 crore, which today has skyrocketed to Rs. 9 lakh lakh crore. Prof. Batra has stated that, truth be told, the real blessings of Lakshmi in this country have favoured the Billionaires and millionaires. Reports about the growing number of Billionaires and millionaires in India appear daily in the pink newspapers.

The UNDP notes that alongside Billionaires and millionaires, the number of poor continues to rise. Approximately 80 percent of the country's population still survives on less than one dollar per day. I support this Bill, but I must emphasise that my approach has always been practical. I would like to stress that it must be balanced. For instance, what balance exists for workers in agriculture, and how can a fair system be ensured? The bonus is acceptable; today it is being granted. People have also received charity, and several schemes such as the Atal Pension Yojana have been introduced. But will you

provide workers with shares in factories? Will you, through cooperatives, involve workers in agriculture? Will workers have a stake in the factory? If workers were given a share of the wages or profits of any factory, there would be no need to provide a bonus. Workers would not have to live at the mercy of God, fate, or destiny. Workers must not, at any cost, become victims of this government or the political system. Rather than giving them a bonus, they should receive a stake in the factory, and a stringent law must be enacted to protect the rights of workers, ensuring that no owner or factory proprietor exploits them... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA:** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, today our Hon. Members have deliberated on the Bonus Amendment Bill, 2015 with great seriousness. All those who have spoken so far, from all sides, have welcomed this historic decision of the Government. I wish to extend my gratitude to everyone, to all parties, and also on behalf of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

Regarding the Bonus Amendment Bill, you have highlighted two important issues: one is the ineligibility limit and the other is the calculation limit. Let us first look at its history. Concerning the Bonus (Amendment) Bill, in 1965 the ineligibility limit was Rs. 1,600 and the calculation ceiling was Rs. 750. Twenty years later, in 1985, the ineligibility limit was Rs. 2,500 and the calculation ceiling was Rs. 1,600. Subsequently, in 1995, the ineligibility limit was Rs. 3,500 and the calculation ceiling Rs. 2,500. In 2007, the ineligibility limit was Rs. 10,000 and the calculation ceiling Rs. 3,500. Nine years later, after this Government came to power, as our friends have mentioned, we did not delay this matter. I was planning to address it earlier, but due to the Bihar elections there was a slight delay. We held tripartite meetings with representatives of as many national trade unions as possible and reached a significant consensus. We had already consulted with the trade unions, who expressed great satisfaction. I

would like to inform you that the ineligibility limit has been raised from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 21,000, and the calculation ceiling has been adjusted to Rs. 7,000.

Our friends Shri Saugata Roy and Shri Premchandran, have proposed certain amendments, requesting a further increase. When such demands come, I shall respond. The Union Government had decided to implement this from 2015, but our Prime Minister personally consulted with us and suggested that it be rolled out from the New Year 2016 so that all poor workers could benefit. Following his approval, we moved the amendment. This Government is deeply concerned for the welfare of the poor and the workers. Their minimum wage must be increased, their skills enhanced, and maximum wage security provided. This is the commitment of our Government. In the coming days, our Government will provide social security to workers. Wage security, job security, and social security are three crucial issues. The Prime Minister has launched the flagship programme Make in India, which also includes Skill India, thereby strengthening our technical skill base. Hon. Members have discussed minimum wages at length, and the National Trade Unions have deliberated extensively on this matter. I have also discussed this with the State Governments. Through broad consensus, a National Minimum Wage

Bill will be brought to this House, establishing a statutory provision so that every poor worker receives a minimum wage. Until now, it was only an advisory, non-statutory provision. We aim to go beyond minimum wage to ensure fair wages for our workers. In foreign countries, the proportion of technical skilled workforce is much higher; in our country, it is only 1.7 percent. To increase this workforce, we have taken steps for skill development. There are two to three important points that I shall present before you.

Shri Premchandran made an important point that labour law reforms are being undertaken, which indeed should be done, as it is a necessity for the country. As he stated that [English] the Second National Labour Commission has recommended codification. The Second National Law Commission was headed by the eminent trade union leader, Shri Ravindra Verma. He gave recommendations meant for our national interest. In those recommendations, codification is also there. We are going to do further codification. All 44 Central labour laws will be converged into four labour codes. The first labour code will be the code on industrial wages; second one will be the code on industrial relations; third one will be on social security; fourth one will be the safety and security of workers. These are the four major codes.

The paramount theme of my Government's labour reforms is to safeguard the interests of the workers. We are not at all going to take away the rights of the workers in any way. But a misinformation campaign is going on in this country. This campaign is going on in this country without having a proper knowledge. I have held 21 tripartite committee meetings with labour unions. There will be no infringement of rights of workers. All these measures are in the interest of the workers and are in favour of the workers. All the labour reforms are going to be in the interest of workers.

Whenever the Bills come before the House, I will definitely discuss them. Regarding other important aspects, I want to inform you that I am very much concerned about two things. One is, in India the unorganised workforce is very high. About 93 per cent of the workforce is unorganised. In terms of numbers it is approximately 40 crores.

[Translation] You all have expressed considerable concern regarding this matter. Members have highlighted a particular issue, and I have already explained the Government's view: implementing all of this will place a burden of Rs. 6,203 crore on the Union Government. Nevertheless, this historic decision will benefit millions

of poor workers across the country. Therefore, I urge all of you to pass this Bill unanimously.

[English] Lastly, I want to respond to some of the clarifications sought by hon. Members. I would like to thank Dr. Mamta Sanghamita for her support to the Bill. I would like to clarify that, suppose an employee gets a wage of Rs. 2,500, he or she would get bonus as per the formula of  $\text{Rs. } 2,500 \times 12$ , and the minimum bonus is 8.33 per cent.

I wish to inform the House that the amendment was made in 2007. I welcome the suggestion.

I have taken note of the suggestions of the hon. Members and I will definitely consider those suggestions and will examine them. Thank you.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965, be taken into consideration. ”

*The motion was adopted.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Now, the House shall take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

**Clause 2      Amendment of Section 2**

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** Yes. I beg to move:

Page 1, lines 5 and 6, --

*for* “twenty-one thousand rupees”

*substitute* “twenty-five thousand rupees”. (1)

I proposed that in page 1, lines 5 and 6, for “twenty-one thousand rupees”, that is the upper ceiling, one should substitute “twenty-five thousand rupees”. My purpose of moving the amendment is to bring certain matters to the attention of the Minister. Of course, we want the

minimum amount to be raised. He has already raised it from Rs. 10,000 to Rs. 21,000, which is welcome. I would like it to be increased further to Rs. 25,000/- The only thing which I want to point out to the hon. Minister is that the concept of bonus as has been stated by the hon. Minister ought to be changed. In the Statement of Objects and Reasons, he has said that bonus will be paid on the basis of profits or on the basis of production or productivity and for matters connected therewith. I strongly object to this. I think bonus is a right of the employees. Then, it should be treated as a deferred wage. They will calculate the allocable surplus and the companies will not give any bonus. I have the experience in the trade union movement.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I shall now put Amendment No. 1 moved by Prof. Saugata Roy to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri N. K. Premachandran, are you moving your amendment No. 3?

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** I beg to move:

“Page 1, lines 5 and 6,--

*after* “twenty-one thousand rupees”

*insert* “(excluding all allowances)” (3)

I have already stated that it should be excluding all allowances because the High Court Judges’ and Supreme Court Judges’ allowance is being considered for calculating encashment of leave. Suppose that be the case, the same principle should be applicable to the working force in our country.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I shall now put Amendment No. 3 moved by Shri N. K. Premachandran to the Vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury – not there.

The question is:

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill. ”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 2 was added to the Bill.*

**Clause 3      Amendment of Section 12**

[Translation]

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Prof. Saugata Roy, are you moving Amendment No. 2?

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

Page 1, line 9,--

*for* “seven thousand rupees”

*substitute* “eight thousand rupees” (2)

The Hon. Minister, of course, has increased the basis of calculation from Rs. 3500 to Rs. 7000 which is welcome. I want to raise it further because the hon. Minister talked of bringing in four labour codes. I shall request him not to yield to the pressure of the big business and corporates for labour reforms where they want to have the right to hire and fire, take away the basic security of the workers. If that happens in the name of labour laws, labour reforms, we shall oppose it tooth and nail on behalf of the working class of this country.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I shall now put Amendment No. 2 moved by Prof. Saugata Roy to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Shri Premachandran, are you moving your Amendment No. 4?

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** I beg to move:

“Page 1, line 9,--

*after* “seven thousand rupees”

*insert* “(excluding all allowances)” (4)

Sir, it is the same thing.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** I shall now put Amendment No. 4 moved by Shri N. K. Premachandran to the vote of the House.

*The amendment was put and negatived.*

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That clauses 3 and 4 stand part of the Bill.”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clauses 3 and 4 were added to the Bill.*

### **Clause 1**

*Amendment made:*

Page 1, line 3,-

*for* “It shall be deemed to have come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2015. ”

*substitute* “It shall be deemed to have (7) come into force on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of April, 2014. ”.

(Shri Bandaru Dattareya)

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That clause 1, as mended, stand part of the Bill. ”

*The motion was adopted.*

*Clause 1, as amended, was added to the Bill.*

*The Enacting formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.*

**SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA:** I beg to move:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed. ”

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

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed. ”

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Sir, I take just one minute.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You have not given it in writing. You cannot ask like that.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** In the Third Reading, we can always speak.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** You have to give it in writing. Then only, I can allow. All right, just tell what you want.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** I want an assurance from the hon. Minister that in the name of labour reforms, the employers will not be given the right to hire and fire. That is all.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The question is:

“That the Bill, as amended, be passed. ”

*The motion was adopted.*

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Sir, in fact, the hon. Minister needs to be congratulated because it is a very historic thing. It is also because bonus has been raised, and that too retrospectively, which is something unheard of in the recent days. We must all compliment the Minister and also the Government and the Prime Minister.

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**17. 45 hours****INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE, 2015**

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Item No. 42. Before we take up the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015, we have to allot time for discussion on the Bill. If the House agrees, we may allot two hours.

Hon. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will call you.

... (*Interruptions*)

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** We object. ...  
(*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If necessary, we would extend the time. There is no problem.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Always we can extend the time. No problem.

... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I will call each hon. Member.

... (*Interruptions*)

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** I stated in the House. Some of the hon. Members who are raising this issue now were not there in the House then. For the second time, I stood up and explained to the House as to what has happened. At the cost of repetition, I am saying this. Some of the Members were not there at that time. ... (*Interruptions*) Let me complete. When some Members have brought to my notice that they want to study the Bill further, we thought among ourselves, consulted some Parties and then said, why not send the Bill to a Joint Committee of Parliament. Then, I talked to some of the Parties. Some Parties are also willing to give the names of their Members.

Unfortunately, when I went to the other House and started talking to people; some people said `yes`; some people said, `no`. We do not want to have a Joint Committee at all. The experience has been that whenever there is an important legislation, we try to discuss it in the House; sometimes we refer it to the Standing Committee. The

Standing Committee in its collective wisdom – Standing Committee means both Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha – makes some recommendations, and when the Bill comes back to Lok Sabha; after the Lok Sabha approves the Bill, the Bill goes to Rajya Sabha. Rajya Sabha is again sending it to the Select Committee. The purpose is, this is an important legislation where 'Ease of Doing Business' is involved. That is why, we have suggested that instead of having two times referring it to two Committees, let us have one Joint Committee. That is the spirit in which we have suggested. But unfortunately, I do not want to name the Parties, some of the Parties said, 'no', we do not want to agree to this. That being the case, there is no way. ... *(Interruptions)* Indian Parliament consists of both Houses. We should go by the experience. So, Parliament, in its collective wisdom, can refer it to the Joint Select Committee or to the Standing Committee also.

Here, the Government is of the view that we should not delay it further. It is something to do with reforms. It would accelerate the economy also. That being the case, we thought, and we are left with no option because some Parties are adamant of not joining this. So, we wanted it to be discussed and taken up now itself. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** I would call each one of you. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay. Please try to be very brief.

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):** I just want to draw your attention because today hon. Minister, Venkaiah *ji* called me at his chamber. I met him, and he instructed or requested me to send two names. One from Lok Sabha.....

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** He has already accepted that.

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY:** One from Rajya Sabha. What transpired is this. Why is the floor management vacillating in such a manner? We have submitted our names. Accordingly, we have taken a decision that it is going to be a Joint Select Committee. Venkaiah *ji* convinced me as to how far it is better. I told him that Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab is asking for a Standing Committee. He convinced me as to why Standing Committee is not better; better it is to go for the Joint Select Committee. When all the Opposition Parties are of the opinion that it should go to the Joint Select Committee, I feel that it is better to go to the Joint Select Committee.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Normally when a Bill is introduced in the House, it is referred to the Standing Committee as per the Speaker's decision. We have a system of

Committee since 1993 that important Bills are referred to the Standing Committee. I fully endorse what the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said. There is an urgency to pass this Bill but urgency does not mean that we bypass the Standing Committee. The Standing Committee is a Mini Parliament; it is an all party Committee where the collective wisdom of the Parliament is reflected.

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):** Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, normally the Ministers are obliged to reply to queries of the hon. Members. But now I am putting a query. What happens if in Bill after Bill the unanimous wisdom of the Standing Committee is questioned, not accepted and it is again referred to a Select Committee of the Upper House? How does one legislate under those circumstances?

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** I was coming to that aspect because what the Parliamentary Affairs Minister said and now the Finance Minister has also said is, now the Lok Sabha will deliberate and pass it and the wisdom of the Rajya Sabha will prevail and again the Bill will come back to us. This is the situation. To tide over the situation, this is not the answer.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, if he just yields, I will submit the Government's point of view. I think Mr. Mahtab is extremely experienced to understand that the strength of parliamentary democracy is that by amendments and alterations we eventually reach a consensus and by consensus the Bills are passed. The Indian Parliament set up one of the best traditions to have the Standing Committee mechanism where Members of Parliament from both Houses of Parliament are represented. It has never happened in the history since the Standing Committees were set up that getting a legislation passed becomes an obstacle race where some sections of the House feel that only obstacles are to be created and the Government's job is to jump over those obstacles. That is not how legislations can be done.

This House – I have said so outside and I have no hesitation in saying it now though I am a Member of the other House – is a directly elected House. It is elected on a manifesto; it is elected on a mandate. Occasionally it can happen that there is a difference of opinion. The Government has gone through the Standing Committee mechanism in all cases. The Standing Committees come out with unanimous recommendations. They go to the other House. Not as an exception,

but almost as a rule, the Standing Committee is bypassed and the other House says, 'we will now refer it to a Select Committee'.

Now we have four methods by which we can bring a Bill to this House. The first is, if it is a Money Bill, it can be passed here, it has to be discussed in the other House, but the other House does not vote on it. The second is, if it is very urgent, we can bring it here, make a request to the Chair to dispense with the Standing Committee route and pass it. The third is that ordinarily every Bill should go to a Standing Committee and I concede that. The fourth is, the same set of rules say, it can also go to a Joint Committee. Let me submit that in this Bill, there are ingredients of a Money Bill. But we felt that it is better to have both Houses express their wisdom on it so that if it can be improved upon, the Government is open for it.

The Parliamentary Affairs Minister Mr. Naidu discussed with every section of the House and says, 'let us have a Joint Committee because the Standing Committee mechanism is being repeatedly challenged'. It is challenged because the Standing Committee recommendations, in at least a dozen legislations, have not been accepted and they are again referred to a Select Committee. So, let there be a Joint Committee mechanism where both Houses are represented. The Joint Committee will submit its Report in due

course, it will come up before this House and then it will go to the other House. All parties in this House agreed for it and, therefore, when my friend from Trinamool Congress says, 'we were asked', he is absolutely right. One party agrees in this House and even gives the names and then its representatives in the other House say, 'we do not accept Joint Committee'. ... [Translation] (*Interruptions*) It is one party; let us not name it. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM (RAIGANJ):** Do you accept it as a veto?... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Please, let him finish.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** I do not accept it as a veto but to use your Marxist phrase, there are enough fellow travellers that they have. When they see that they can obstruct, they would love to obstruct. Therefore, we are now in a situation, if we go in for a Standing Committee, its findings will be questioned in the other House even if it is unanimous. If we go in for a Select Committee, this House is willing but one party in the other House will veto it.

**SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD):** All other parties are agreeing to only one Committee.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** All right. May I just propose – when at least all the parties are represented here – can you come tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock and tell us all are represented? So, we will have a vote in the other House and by a vote we will have a Select Committee. But you vote here for a Select Committee and in the other House you say we do not want a Select Committee.

Sir, may I just tell you, we can play these Parliamentary tactics but the world is not going to wait; this country is not going to wait; the economic legislation has to go on. Mahtab *ji*, with your experience, please suggest to me, what is the quick way out by which we can consult everybody, have the wisdom of all the sections and then legislate. Or, is it only an obstacle race where there is one party which wants to create obstacles and my only job is to jump over those obstacles? That is not how a legislation is framed in this country.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Deputy Speaker, Sir, he has given an elaborate answer explaining the situation that is prevalent. We fully appreciate the concern that has been expressed by the Government. But, is it over? When you go to Rajya Sabha, even if it is passed tomorrow, if not today, the same problem will persist because that is the design.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It has already been explained; the Minister also replied.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** You have identified the design. If that is the design, you have a Select Committee.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Dr. Venugopal.

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Minister has already explained but, anyhow, I want to share my view with the hon. Members. It is a big Bill amending and codifying 11 statutes. It is a normal procedure to send a fresh Bill to the Standing Committee. Further, we received this Bill only on Saturday when we were all in our constituencies. Also this Bill has many controversies. So, it should be sent to the Standing Committee for detailed scrutiny. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN:** Thank you, Deputy Speaker, Sir, fully listening the deliberations made by the hon. Finance Minister, I would like to know from the Government, we have not avoided the Standing Committee at present though there are some obstacles in the Rajya or at any other place. Not only the Standing Committees are meant to scrutinize the Bill, as far as the legislation is concerned, we are really

discussing only half of the legislations. Half of the legislation is done by the Secretariat. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** All right. Karunakaran *ji*, that is enough. Already you have made your point.

Hon. Members, Shri Arun Jaitley, hon. Minister of Finance had requested hon. Speaker not to refer the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015 to the Standing Committee as the Bill intends to promote the ease of doing business and needs to be urgently enacted. Hon. Speaker has accepted the request.

The hon. Minister.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximisation of value of assets of such persons, to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance the interest of all the stakeholders including alteration in the order of priority of payment of Government dues and to establish an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Fund and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration. ”

**18. 00 hours**

If the hon. Chair desires, I can explain it now or it can explain it at the end of the debate.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** No, you can explain it now.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, the present position with regard to the insolvency and bankruptcy in India is that we have many different legislations. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If the House agrees, can we extend the time of the House by one hour?

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there are two ways. One is extending it by two hour or two and a half hours, whatever the House wants and finish it. The other one is extending it by an hour and then completing it tomorrow because some of the hon. Members want to go early tomorrow. I have my own problem. Otherwise, I have no problem in sitting at length. Let us extend the House by one hour and then discuss it tomorrow. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** First, we will extend it by half an hour. Then, we will see whether it can be extended up to one hour.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** I am straightway conceding what hon. Leader of the AIADMK and others have said. My first preference would be not to have it by a Money Bill, not to do it directly but to have it after consultation. Please get all your colleagues to agree to a Select Committee in both the Houses and there and then I have a Select Committee. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** It is Joint Committee.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** I am sorry, I am using the word ‘Select Committee’ but it is a Joint Committee of both the Houses. ...  
(*Interruptions*) Premachandranji, my only object is that please discuss it but it cannot go to Committee and Committee and Committee. ...  
(*Interruptions*) That means, we will never be able to legislate. ...  
(*Interruptions*) This country cannot wait. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Deputy-Speaker, Sir, let us start the discussion now and continue it tomorrow. Let everybody get an opportunity. ... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** If you can persuade all your colleagues, even tomorrow morning, I will be agreeable. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Let the Minister explain.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Let me explain. ... (*Interruptions*) After all, all the hon. Members want to understand. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Mr. Premachandran, I will call you after the Minister’s remarks.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM):** Sir, as per Rule 75 (1), we can initiate the discussion, we can start the discussion in principle. Let the hon. Minister initiate the discussion in principle of the Bill. Let the consensus come tomorrow. Then, definitely he can opt for the options as envisaged in Rule 75 (1). Let it not be a threadbare discussion. ... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** If the House agrees, can we extend the time of the House by one hours?

**SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS:** Yes.

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Okay, we extend the time of the House by one hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Sir, in case a business runs into such losses that it becomes completely insolvent or bankrupt and cannot run then, what are the consequences? [Translation] The assets which are lying in that business go wasted. The workmen who work there do not get a rupee. Their families start starving. The secured creditors and the bankers do not get their money. The unsecured creditors do not get their money. Revenue and taxation does not get money. So, it is one of the essential aspects with regard to ease of doing business, just as

entry into business must be made easy for those who become insolvent or bankrupt rather than allow the bankrupt or the liquidated asset to be wasted and frittered away. Then, there must be an easy formulation of an exit. What is the exit which is available today? I will start with companies and then come to individuals or I can start the other way. With regard to private individuals who do business, there is a Provincial Insolvency Act. So, at the district level every district in the country has an insolvency court. This insolvency mechanism has existed for decades. It has completely become defunct and whatever becomes insolvent in terms of individual or a limited partnership goes to the insolvency court. The insolvency court recovers the assets and starts distributing it. Virtually nothing reaches as far as the workmen or the creditors are concerned.

As far as companies are concerned, there are different methodologies. One methodology that exists in the original Companies Act, which is commercial insolvency, is the inability to pay your debt.

So, if you are unable to pay your debt, the creditor will issue a notice and start winding up proceedings. If you are wound up, you will go before the official liquidator in the High Court, which is a procedure that takes years; your assets will be liquidated in

accordance with the priority, which is called a waterfall provision. So, the Companies Act has a provision where the first amount will go to taxes; then some amount will go to secured creditors; some amount will come to workmen, etc. and then that money itself is distributed.

The second mechanism, which was created in 1985, was created that under the Sick Industrial Companies Act, that is, BIFR was created. So, when the economic performance, financial performance of a company is sliding down, the company enters BIFR. Once it enters BIFR, it acquires an iron curtain around it. When it acquires an iron curtain around it, no creditor, no workmen will ever get his dues till the iron curtain of BIFR remains. BIFR will try to revive it, appoint an operating agency. Very few companies have seen a revival. Ultimately, an order of winding up comes; if revival is not possible, assets are squandered, and they go back to the company court in the High Court, where again they are distributed in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act. Not many workmen or creditors or taxation authorities have got their dues.

There is another mechanism, which is also the Debt Recovery Tribunal, where banks and financial institutions can move for recoveries of their moneys and they can recover their moneys through DRT.

There is a fourth mechanism which was set up in the year 2001, which is the SARFAESI Act, where instead of the bank chasing the debtor or the debtor chasing the bank, they create a situation whereby the bank and financial institution will issue a notice and take possession of the assets of the debtor, and then recover their own money by sale of those assets. There also we have seen, and my friends in Parliament will agree, that workmen again are the sufferers and they come down very much in low priority.

Now, an Expert Committee was set up. This Expert Committee prepared a draft of this Bill. The draft was set out for public consultation. All these insolvency and bankruptcy laws have been consolidated into one. It is a mechanism by which two kinds of bankruptcies or insolvencies can come about. One is with regard to companies and limited liability institutions, and the other is with regard to the private individuals and the unlimited liability institutions. Those mechanisms have been mentioned. After those companies become insolvent, there are insolvency professional agencies; there is a regulator created to manage those agencies, which will look after the professionals, and this will develop into an important institution. Then, finally, when a company or an individual becomes bankrupt or insolvent, all his assets will be taken into

custody. Therefore, we have changed the priority, which is called the ‘waterfall’ provision as to how the moneys will be distributed. So, while distributing the money, the workmen will get their subsistence in the first instance. [Translation] The worker’s foremost right will be one year’s wages, so that they receive some remuneration. [English] Along with him, some secured creditors will come in. After that, the unsecured creditors will come in. Thereafter, the taxation authorities will come in because if the taxation authorities come right on top, they will take away everything and workmen, banks and financial institutions will not get anything. Therefore, the Government, by virtue of this, is taking a big hit. We are amending the Income Tax Act, the Central Excise Act, the Customs Act and the Finance Bill. All those financial legislations are being amended. So, moneys going into the coffers of this Government go down in priority so that other claimants – workmen, secured creditors and other creditors – go high up on this. So, we have changed that. It is a progressive piece of legislation. The purpose of this legislation would be that assets of businesses which cannot function should not remain unutilized. Those assets recovered; and the stakeholders, that is, the workmen, the secured creditors -- we have also taken care of the non-workmen employees -- get the first right. Thereafter, the unsecured creditors

come in; and thereafter, the taxation authorities come in. For this purpose, while also giving monies out of the Consolidated Fund, we are creating a Bankruptcy Fund.

I could have styled it even as a Money Bill as I said. But I want discussion because it is an important piece of legislation, and I do not want it to rush it through. As Shri Premachandranji made a very reasonable suggestion, please persuade all your colleagues. We are willing to go to one Committee. But we cannot go to Committee after Committee, which means assets of thousands and thousands of crores would be lying idle in this country; workmen would be starved to death and not getting anything; banks and financial institutions would be squeezed out; monies of the revenue would be remained there because we are playing a political chessboard with each one of us. That cannot be accepted.

Therefore, if you are willing for a Joint Committee. Every wisdom of the Standing Committee has been questioned in the other House. I do not want to refer to the proceedings of the other House. Therefore, we have to come out. The alternative mechanism mentioned in the rules of this House and the other House is a Joint Committee. So, if everybody agrees to a Joint Committee of both

Houses, I am willing for it. Otherwise I am willing to take a chance. Let this House pass it and we will see what happen in the other House.

With these few words, I commend this Bill to the hon. House.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** Sir...

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** Mr. Premachandran, whatever you have suggested, he has already accepted.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** So, let us take it tomorrow.

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** No, no.

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** The Minister has made a discussion in principle of the Bill. We accept it. Let us come tomorrow. Suppose the Joint/Select Committee is not possible.

**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):** Let the discussion start. If something comes up tomorrow, we will discuss it tomorrow... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN:** Under what rule would it be discussed?... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Everything is not happening as a matter of principle. So, if the other House has to refer it to the Select Committee, let it be done tomorrow, so the next three months can be utilized. Otherwise what will happen is, you pass it tomorrow; it goes to the other House in February or March, then we go to sometime later next year. After all, please understand that the country is passing through a very critical phase in terms of economy. We need reforms/legislations. Introduced in 2011, and we are towards the end of 2015, the GST is still being held up for political reasons.

Therefore, people also have expectations from this House. This should be taken up for consideration today. What happens in the other House, will happen tomorrow. If the other House has the wisdom to say: “We agree for a Joint Committee”, I have expressed my reasonableness. I am agreeable here and now... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI MOHAMMED SALIM:** But, Sir... (*Interruptions*)

**HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER:** The hon. Minister has already accepted your suggestion.

... (*Interruptions*)

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

“That the Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to reorganization and insolvency resolution of corporate persons, partnership firms and individuals in a time bound manner for maximisation of value of assets of such persons, to promote entrepreneurship, availability of credit and balance the interest of all the stakeholders including alteration in the order of priority of payment of Government dues and to establish an Insolvency and Bankruptcy Fund and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration. ”

Now, Dr. Kirit Somaiya.

[Translation]

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Bill is not called a bankruptcy card, it means bankruptcy. In fact, when Shri Arun Jaitley was speaking, the entire nation outside Parliament was discussing who we are going to declare insolvent whether it is the parliamentary democracy or the parliamentary procedure itself. Some may face financial insolvency, some may display the bankruptcy of their own intellect, but in recent days, what has been happening raises a question: are we, for our personal political gains, about to push the country's economy into insolvency?

The 21st-century generation is questioning us on this. We should not be so proud or arrogant about our economic position. There are examples before us. The United States witnessed the subprime crisis and, after five years, recovered from it. Recently, a country like Greece has gone bankrupt. To all Hon. Members present in the House, and those absent as well, I make a single appeal: do not look at it from the perspective of political insolvency. Today, if you are thinking about using this to affect the popularity of the BJP or of Prime Minister Modi, ensure you are not inadvertently pushing the nation's economy towards insolvency. Currently, the Finance Minister, Shri

Arun Jaitley, is informing us that the entire country is watching GST. Today, the whole country is observing the Insolvency and Bankruptcy process. Our colleague, Shri Mahtab, is present here. Both of us are Members of the Finance Committee on Public Accounts.

[Translation] Hon. Deputy Speaker, we discussed NPA in this committee. [English] what is the status of NPAs? [Translation] this Government came into power just a year ago. Regarding NPAs or what we term as such assets, including stressed assets, where have we reached today? Presently, NPAs and stressed assets have reached 17.5 percent. This means, out of Rs. 100, there is concern whether we will even recover Rs. 18. Furthermore, if a bank attempts to recover that money, and the company tries to declare itself insolvent or seeks bankruptcy, what happens? One court refers the matter to another, from one law to another, and then a third law applies. I would urge the Finance Minister to instruct his Ministry to provide data on how many partnership firms or companies over the past 25 years in India have declared insolvency, and of their assets, how much were actually recovered and returned to creditors. Can you name even a single company? I am a Chartered Accountant. [English] What we study and what we are practising is totally different. [Translation] Today, the situation is such that studies indicate that in developed countries like

the United States, the insolvency process is completed within two years, whereas in India, it can span across two generations. Therefore, I would first appeal to the Finance Minister and also thank him that today you have taken a step forward. Please do not reverse this step; continue to move forward. If any party, for its own political interest, or to benefit its leader, seeks to obstruct the progress of the country, then this Lok Sabha and Parliament must not be hindered.

I would like to make one more remark regarding Shri Arun Jaitley. Over the past two days, various discussions have taken place, and some have tried to create controversy. However, we are not here merely as Members of the Bharatiya Janata Party or even the NDA, but we take pride in Shri Arun Jaitley's dedication, intelligence, commitment, and integrity. Shri Jaitley, the step you are about to take is a very significant measure for the Indian economy. We see that our city of Mumbai is the financial capital of the country. Many companies there have shut down. Their assets, entire buildings, are in disrepair. On inspection, machinery has corroded, and years have passed – ten, fifteen, twenty-five years. Whose money is this? Whose assets are these? This is money borrowed from banks. This is the creditors' money. This is the workers' money. Workers approach us saying that their four years' salary has not been paid. Workers come

and say that their provident fund dues have not been received. Workers come to us saying that they need to fund a surgery for their son, but their hard-earned money is stuck. At such times, shall we act merely for our ego? Today, the country is progressing. The 21st-century generation is looking ahead; they aspire to touch the moon. Progress has been achieved because of everyone. Nobody could have imagined that BSNL would be profitable in 2015 or that Air India would turn a profit. This has happened because of us all, and because of the youth of the 21st century. If we wish to accelerate this progress further, then such Bills, whether termed the Bankruptcy Bill, Economic Bill, or Economic Reform, must be passed. I earnestly appeal to the Hon. Minister to not stop here. If we look at GST, we all collectively passed it. The passing of GST is estimated to increase GDP growth by 2 percent because of the reduction in wasted energy and funds lost to corruption. Ease of doing business is our shared policy. By delaying such Bills, one generation passes on debts to the next, with provisions in the law stating that even if the company's building is gone, it is declared bankrupt, and the debt must eventually be repaid. We must put an end to this mindset here. The Presidency-Towns Insolvency Act, 1909 is more than 105 years old. A hundred-year-old Act cannot match the realities of today's economy. I appeal,

in conclusion, that this is a 21st-century Bill. Let us pass it unanimously and push the country's GDP forward by 8 to 10 percent. With this prayer and in support of the Bill, I extend my thanks.

[English]

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):** Sir, let me state at the outset that as a Member of this House I do not appreciate the way in which the Bill was brought. The rule is that you always bring a Bill before the Business Advisory Committee. The Business Advisory Committee allocates time and then we discuss the Bill. Without going to the Business Advisory Committee to bring a Bill to the House is not proper. I wanted to point that out to you but you did not let me. But anyway, put it on record.

I heard the Finance Minister on why he has to bring the Bill. In the morning the talk was that the Joint Committee of both Houses will be formed. Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay on behalf of our party even gave the names of our proposed representatives. But after that the Government turned and did a flip-flop. They said that they will discuss the Bill and pass it, if not today, tomorrow. This is not the way a legislation, and such an important legislation particularly, should be passed.

The Finance Minister expressed his frustration with the way legislations may be processed. I appreciate that as Finance Minister, he has committed to the nation that he will get the GST Bill passed.

Somehow or other, we passed the Bill in Lok Sabha. The Government has a clear majority. But they could not get it passed in the other House. Now, it is not our problem or our fault if the ruling party does not have a majority in the Rajya Sabha.

I think that politically, they should take the reality into consideration before they bring revolutionary Bills. They do not have a majority in the present bicameral system. They have to find a way, but the way Mr. Jaitley has found, I think, is not proper. Ultimately, politics consists of reaching out and convincing people. However intransigent, we talk with rebel groups in the country. Why can the Government not reach out and talk to the opposition parties and find a solution? After all, they are the ruling party, they are the Ministers. The responsibility is solely theirs, but I find a problem with this.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Since you are on a question of fact, have I stated anything wrong? I will just correct the facts.

Forget reaching out, those who are not coming on board, we have reached them out Session by Session, in Parliament and in meetings at their residences. The Prime Minister has also spoken to them. Still if somebody decides that India's progress must be halted, then this House cannot ignore that harsh reality.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** The Finance Minister is quite right. He talked of tea parties that took place at various places, but we, in the Parliament, are not aware of this. It was never reported that they have tried these, these tricks. We only learn from the newspapers that such and such person had a tea party with such and such person. Is this the way a legislation should be placed? You are an experienced parliamentarian, Sir. You please consider.

May I say that we have in the story books a story of doing something on the rebound? Say, a boy is in love with a girl or a girl is in love with a boy. Then, the girl rejects the boy. Then, what happens? On the rebound, the boy goes and marries some other girl. This is called an action on the rebound. It seems to be that Mr. Jaitley takes actions on the rebound.

The first thing he did after losing the Bihar elections is that he went and announced FDI for many items. He told me that day that I have a problem with FDI. I have no problem with FDI. All I want to say is that I have a problem with the way Mr. Jaitley is trying to introduce FDI. Every different item of FDI should be separately scrutinized, before you take a decision. At one go, you do not announce FDI, which is what Mr. Jaitley said.

Especially I remember Shrimati Sushma Swaraj's speech against FDI in retail. I do not know how, after that, there is a total flip flop by the Government on FDI. Our State also welcomes FDI, if brought in the proper sectors, but our party does not approve of FDI in defence, to which the Finance Minister seems committed. So, securing a political point against a minor person like me - you do not question my *bona fide* about FDI - is not done.

Again, Mr. Jaitley has done another act on the rebound like that jilted lover. The day he learned that Goods and Services Tax Bill will not be passed in Rajya Sabha, he went ahead and brought this Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. I read statements from his Revenue Secretary, one Mr. Shaktikanta Das... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** He is Economic Affairs Secretary.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Yes, he is Economic Affairs Secretary. He is an IAS officer from Odisha Cadre, I think.

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR):** He is from Tamil Nadu.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** Maybe, he is from Odisha, Cuttack, I believe.

Again, the Economic Affairs Secretary says that this is the most important reform-based legislation after GST. You have not got the best, so you are choosing for the second best. We could not pass the GST, so you have brought the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** They are not alternatives.

**PROF. SAUGATA ROY:** It seems that you have done this on the rebound. Otherwise, why should it be done in a hurry? Why there is confusion, I do not know. This is the feeling I have about the Bill.

Sir, you are an experienced parliamentarian. On the last but one day of Parliament, they come out with a Bill which has 252 clauses, which seeks to amend 11 different Acts – Income Tax Act; Customs Act; Central Excise Act; SARFAESI; Debt Recovery Tribunal Act, Company Law, etc. This is being done with one Bill, being passed after two hours discussion, as per your idea. It seeks to amend 11 Acts. Strangely, it is called a Code, but technically how can it be called a ‘Code’? Why because in a Code, all the other Bills will have to be repealed. He has not repealed any Act excepting one. So, this is also not a proper Code, if I may say so.

Now, as I said, all of us did not get enough time to study the Bill. Still, we did not fly away from the responsibility of speaking on this

Bill. Again, I refer to another weakness of Lawyer-Ministers of all times. When Mr. Kapil Sibal was the HRD Minister, he brought in a large number of legislation on education like Right to Education Act, Foreign Educational Institutions Bill, etc. Excepting one, none of the other Bills were passed, though they were placed in Parliament. Mr. Jaitley is going in the lawyer's way of bringing in legislation when none is needed. We studied in the Standing Committee on Finance the Benami Transactions Bill. It was the considered opinion of the Members, which we will give in a report later, that it was not necessary to bring in that Bill. They felt that the Income Tax Act, 1961 could have been suitably amended to cover the aspects in Benami Transactions Bill. He also brought a Bill relating to foreign black-money, in order to bring in black-money from abroad. I do not know, apart from creating fear in the minds of many, what that Bill seeks to achieve.

As we have repeatedly said, the Prime Minister's promise of bringing back black-money stashed in foreign shores remains an unfulfilled dream. The common man waits in hope, looking at the sky, as to when Rs. 15 lakh that are supposed to be put in his account will fructify.

Mr. Jaitley is good at drafting the Bills. He is good at bringing them to the House, but I have certain points on which I need clarifications. As I said, we came back to Delhi on Sunday night. I was told that this Bill with 252 clauses was supplied to us on Saturday morning in our Delhi address. We are in the House throughout yesterday and also today. At 5. 00 p. m. we are told that this huge Bill is coming. Now, I want to ask the Finance Minister a few simple questions.

I do not know why he calls it major reforms legislation. In fact, he is not doing anything which will encourage investment further. He has brought a Bill dealing with companies which are closed or on the verge of being closed or going into liquidation or on the verge of going into liquidation. I do not know how it is a big reforms Bill. How it will bring more investment to India etc.

Now, let us study one or two aspects. As a trade union person, having been associated with the fate of many companies which were closed down, what did we do? When the creditors were pressing the company, the company got closed one day. In our State, the rule is that you have to give two months' notice. They gave the two months' notice. But the statutory dues of the workers remained pending. So, the creditors went to the High Court and obtained an order to appoint

a Liquidator. An Official Liquidator was appointed and this Official Liquidator then started the process of selling off the assets of the company. The priority was listed. We always pleaded in the High Court – though we are not lawyers but through our lawyers – to please give the priority to the workers’ preference. Workers have a lot of demand. But this process was not entirely unworkable. I will say that in many companies, this liquidation proceeding did give some money to the workers. I will give you a famous example. Long before Sharda, there was a Sanchaita Investment case in West Bengal. Sanchaita was some sort of a secret chit fund which went burst. Many middle class people had kept money over there. The creditors went to the High Court. A Liquidator was appointed. I know that the Liquidator for five years slowly started paying something to those depositors who had filed an application with him. Ultimately I think, they got 25 per cent or 30 per cent money that they had deposited with Sanchaita. As Shri Jaitley claimed that this was not a workable thing, I would say that it was partly a workable thing. He has totally dismissed it. Maybe, Shri Jaitley may have appeared for liquidation of the sub-company. I do not know on which side. That was a process that was known.

Secondly, he talked about the Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR). First, the idea was that if a company loses

money for three consecutive years, then they went to a body called the Board of Industrial Finance and Reconstruction (BIFR). We, as workers, used to go to the SCOPE Complex to give our deposition to the BIFR. Then they announced a reconstruction. In many cases, even the public sector undertakings were going to the BIFR from 1991 onwards. I will give an example. Shri Jaitley will verify it. The Bengal Chemical and Pharmaceutical Works is a Government of India company under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers. It went to the BIFR. The BIFR gave a package. The Union Government gave money. The company is running well. Now they say that the BIFR created a thick screen through which nobody can penetrate. The idea of the BIFR was and should be that you should reconstruct the company, so ask the State Government to give up some of its sales tax claims, even ask the Centre to give up some of its tax claims, and also in an equitable fashion try to satisfy the creditors so that a future remained for the company.

Now, Mr. Jaitley is venturing into uncharted territory when instead of BIFR he suggests a fresh mechanism by which the problem of sick industries will be met. I do not know. Mr. Jaitley like all Governments likes to set up more bodies which will mean more employment and employment to important people. We have a

Member here. Her husband was a Member of the AIFR, the appellate body for the BIFR. So, Mr. Jaitley is again forming a Board with a lot of power. It will be called Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. How many Boards have been set up by Government of India? BIFR was set up by Government of India. Why do you need more Boards all the time to really sort out the problems? This is increase of the bureaucracy.

Sir, I want that some of the Members of the Board should be banking professionals. It is not mentioned in the composition of the Board. The basic idea is to how to settle the law with the banks.

Now I come to my next point. Mr. Jaitley has totally said that all this is not working. There was the SARFAESI Act. The full name is very big. The full name is the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interests Act, 2002. It is known as SARFAESI Act, which again is being subsumed into this Act. Now SARFAESI Act came with a new idea. I told you earlier about liquidation. The next process was BIFR. The third is the SARFAESI Act. When a bank was not getting money from the debtor, from the company, then there will be application of the SARFAESI. The bank will get total control. Then what happens is that a new sort of company came into being overnight. These are called asset

management companies. They were not there before. They only came into being after SARFAESI Act was enacted.

These asset reconstruction companies are going about doing their job in trying to reconstruct the company. The idea is the same. Use the assets so that something can be salvaged and some money can be given. Now Mr. Jaitley, our hon. Finance Minister, has gone a step further. He said, no, we will have new types of professionals. They are called insolvency professionals, professionals who are experts in winding up companies. And we will have resolution professionals. It is alright you create some employment or some sort of professionals. But my basic idea is that we are again going into a blind alley, a trap in over legislation, in creating too many multiple agencies. Without going into any of the details, we are going into a situation where more will be at stake.

Why are we concerned? That is because in our State there are sick companies. In my Constituency there are any number of sick companies which closed down and we hold the workers' hands for years together. We do not want to go further into blind alleys.

Lastly, he has talked about a new fund with this Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India. His idea, if I understood correctly, is that

all the assets should go into the Consolidated Fund of India and then that fund will be transferred to this Board. They will decide on the payment to the different creditors. My simple question is whether it is only the asset of the closed companies or it is some money that the Government will give to revive sick companies. If that is so, the question remains, there are small fraudsters and there are big fraudsters like Kingfisher. They have siphoned off money from a company and now the company goes into liquidation. Will the Government pay from the Consolidated Fund of India to revive or pay back the fraudsters? So, that question is not quite clear to me from the law as such.

I still want that this Bill should go to the Standing Committee. I am the Member of the present Committee. The last Standing Committee was headed by Shri Yashwant Sinha, one of the most efficient BJP Members and father of our hon. Minister of State for Finance. They gave reports on so many important legislations. Why has Shri Jaitley, for want of a majority in Raya Sabha, lost faith in the Standing Committee process which has been one of the high marks, one of the bright spots of the Parliamentary system where people sit together and discuss. Shri Nishikant Dubey and Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab agree on points and then proceed on that. ... (*Interruptions*)

We can only talk of ourselves. Shri Jaitley, you are a big Minister and the leader of the Rajya Sabha. Why are you losing faith? Just for political expediency, please do not destroy or disturb an institution which has been set up. As I mentioned throughout my speech, in his hurry to bring a reform on the rebound, he has gone in for massive 252-clause legislation. I saw a statement by the Secretary General of CII Shri Chandrajit Banerjee, the only person who has welcomed it, saying how it will improve the ease of doing business in India. These Chambers and Confederations represent only the interest of the corporate classes. I do not know of a single case where any Chamber of Commerce has taken up the case of a single sick industry. They only think what is profitable for them. So, I do not know whether I can congratulate him, but if Shri Jaitley is satisfied with the certificate of General Secretary of CII that it will improve ease of doing business, good luck to him. May India prosper.

[Translation]

**SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. There has been extensive discussion in the House that, given the importance of this Bill, it should be referred to a Standing Committee or a Joint Committee. Hon. learned Minister has explained the present circumstances, and rightly so.

If we consider the industrial sector of our country, many industries, whether public sector, private sector, or individually owned, are currently non-operational. Major industries such as steel, fertiliser, chemicals, textiles, and even some financial institutions and banks are either weak, sick, or shut down. In Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh, the sugar industries are similarly affected. Workers who have been employed there for years have become unemployed. They are not receiving their salaries, nor are they being paid their legal dues. On another front, machinery in industries in which we have invested crores of rupees has deteriorated due to rust. Unfortunately, over the past ten years, the UPA government paid little attention to this sector. Under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi and with the guidance of learned Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, our government has

taken steps and presented this Bill in the House. Prior to this, there was no legislation addressing this issue.

We must commend the Minister for introducing not one, not two, but eleven laws simultaneously. I would like to read out the names of these Acts: the Indian Partnership Act, 1932; the Central Excise Act, 1944; the Income Tax Act, 1961; the Customs Act, 1962; the Recovery of Debts Due to Banks and Financial Institutions Act, 1993; the Finance Act, 1994; the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002; the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Act, 2003; the Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007; the Limited Liability Partnership Act, 2008; and the Companies Act, 2013. Considering this scenario, if we are to declare insolvency or bankruptcy, we must base our actions on all these laws; otherwise, we will not succeed. I would also like to thank the Minister for prioritising the claims of workers. Many of us represent workers in some capacity. As the Chairman of the Fertiliser and Chemical Committee, I visited Pimpri in Pune. As a Shiv Sena MP, we had also brought an issue to your attention regarding H.L. Company, which in 1954 became the first antibiotic company in the country. It has its own distinct history. When Kasturba Gandhi was ill and required antibiotic injections, they were

unavailable, and perhaps due to this misfortune, she passed away. This prompted Pandit Nehru to establish this company in 1954. Unfortunately, for many years, the company has not been operational due to a lack of working capital. It is running at a loss and has not been functioning properly. For approximately 14-15 months, workers have not received their salaries. When I visited the company, it had orders worth Rs. 20 crore at that time. Currently, the company owns 266 acres of land: over 100 acres for the plant, about 100 acres for offices and quarters, and 66 acres lying vacant. If some of this land, particularly the excess land, is sold—for instance, a government agency like MHADA in Maharashtra is willing to purchase at Rs. 18 crore per acre—then a decision needs to be taken to find a solution. If the government currently lacks funds, revenue could be generated from this land as well.

I have observed the condition of many chemical industries, and it is the same. I have also seen the state of several fertiliser industries, and it is identical. We have a Heavy Industry Ministry, which indicates that these were very large industries, and indeed they were. Yet today, out of 37 such industries, only two are operational. Therefore, unless we take decisions one way or another, further losses will ensue. There will be loss of machinery, loss to workers, and

additional setbacks. Moreover, these are national properties, whether they belong to the public sector, the private sector, or individual establishments. Ultimately, this is national property. If we do not utilise these national assets appropriately—reviving where revival is necessary, and undertaking liquidation where liquidation is required—future losses will be unavoidable. Hence, perhaps today’s losses could prove to be a blessing in disguise. This, I believe, will be a blessing. Our learned Minister has also made provisions that:

[English] “The above Act will support credit market and facilitate more investment leading to higher economic growth and development.”

[Translation] Yes, this will ensure that we can continue production. Thirdly, they have acted wisely:

[English] “The said Code also seeks to provide for establishment of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India.”

[Translation] A board will also be constituted here. Alongside this, it has been provided that:

“The Code also proposes to establish a fund to be called the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Fund of India for the purpose specified in the Code. ”

[Translation] A commendable provision has been included in this Bill, meaning that after comprehensive consideration and consolidation of all relevant laws, including the reference to DRTI here, this framework will be beneficial for us in matters of insolvency and bankruptcy.

In conclusion, I wish to convey a few more points to the Minister. In Maharashtra and across the country, there are numerous cooperative industries. These serve the common man and the small-scale worker. For various reasons, mismanagement sometimes occurs, at other times government policies lead to mismanagement, and at times, due to the lack of modern technology, they cannot compete on equal footing, resulting in losses. Therefore, there should be provisions for their revival as well. If such measures are included in the proposed work-out framework, these cooperative industries can also be granted relief. I firmly believe that if we consider all aspects,

the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Code Bill, 2015 will serve the welfare of the nation, its citizens, and the industrial sector. Hence, I wholeheartedly support this Bill on my own behalf and on behalf of my party, Shiv Sena.

[English]

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, 23<sup>rd</sup> December, 2015 at 1100 a. m.

**18. 59 hours**

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, December 23, 2015/Pausha 2, 1957 (Saka).*

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