Sixteenth Series, Vol. II No. 9 Thursday, July 17, 2014

Ashadha 26, 1936 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

(Vol. II Contains Nos.1 to 10)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, July 17, 2014/Ashadha 26, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Kanety Mohana Rao who was a Member of the First Lok Sabha representing the Rajahmundry Parliamentary Constituency of the erstwhile State of Madras now in Andhra Pradesh.

Shri Rao was also a Member of the erstwhile Madras Legislative Assembly. A veteran freedom fighter, Shri Rao underwent rigorous imprisonment on numerous occasions from 1942 to 1945.

Shri Kanety Mohana Rao passed away on 13 June, 2014 at Kakinada, Andhra Pradesh at the age of 89.

We deeply mourn the loss of Shri Kanety Mohana Rao and convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

The House may now stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the memory of the departed.

11.02 hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for a short while.

_____

11.03 hrs

*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we will take up Question Hour. Q. No. 141, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal.

(Q. 141)

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to state to the Government that the Indira Awas Yojana has been in operation in the country for a long time. [English] It is a sharable scheme. [Translation] Its funding pattern is 75:25. Out of this, 75 percent is borne by the Government of India and 25 percent by the State Government. In the North-Eastern States, this pattern is 90:10.

Madam Speaker, I come from Rajasthan which is a desert region. Even in desert areas, the cost of constructing Indira Awas houses is much higher. Bricks, stone slabs and other construction material have to be transported from distant places. This increases our construction cost substantially.

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

Madam, through you, I would like to know from the Minister whether, in the same manner as you have kept the funding pattern of 90:10 in the North-Eastern States, you are also going to adopt the pattern of 90:10 in the desert areas.

SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Madam, the Hon. Member has desired to know whether, on the lines of the North-Eastern States, the ratio between the Centre and the State may also be kept at 90:10 in their case.

Madam, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that this ratio is applicable to the North-Eastern States and Sikkim. For other States, this ratio does not apply.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, the ratio of 90:10 for the North-Eastern States is quite appropriate. But I would like to state that just as constructing houses in the hilly areas is extremely difficult, in the same manner, constructing houses in the desert regions is also difficult. Therefore, through you, I have made this request.

My second supplementary is that the Indira Awas Yojana applies to the BPL households. But it has often been seen that when fire breaks out and a house gets destroyed, if the person does not fall in the BPL category, then no money is provided under any head for the

reconstruction of the house. It is often said that there is some such provision under the Indira Awas Yojana through which financial assistance may be given in case of fire. In the event of fire, in my view, such a person becomes landless, he becomes household-less and his house also gets destroyed. Therefore, if he is not a BPL but an APL, then a provision should also be made to provide him financial assistance under the Indira Awas Yojana. I wanted to know through you whether the Government will do so or not.

SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Madam, there is a special provision of five percent, which is separately earmarked for this purpose. If such an incident occurs anywhere, then under this special provision, such cases can be considered.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA: Madam Speaker, may I know from the Hon. Minister about the percentage of implementation of this scheme? I would also like to know whether the Government is thinking of providing the total cost of construction to these people – more than 37 per cent -- who are below poverty line. They are unable to contribute even 10 per cent or 25 per cent of the cost. If you make a plan like this, they will not be able to construct these houses. Further, the cost of materials is going up day by day. Whatever land you are giving

them for construction, can you pay to these people who are below poverty line the same price that is estimated by the engineers as of today, since they are unable to contribute even five per cent or 10 per cent?

[Translation]

SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Madam Speaker, the amount in question is admittedly insufficient to fully construct a house meeting all stipulated requirements. However, it must be emphasized that this is an assistance, a grant, not intended to cover the entire cost of construction. This provision has been revised effective from 1st April 2013, and the amount has accordingly been enhanced. Nonetheless, should the Hon. Member and this august House deem it appropriate, the Government may give due consideration to a further increase.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam Speaker, the Indira Awas Yojana is intended for families below the poverty line. However, the BPL survey, which determines eligibility, is a complex exercise. It is based on 32 parameters, is it not, upon which assistance is granted. This survey, however, has become outdated. In our State of West Bengal, it has been observed that many genuinely deserving BPL families have been left out, while several ineligible families have been

included. As a result, our State Government had to introduce a separate Geetanjali Awas Yojana for BPL families. My question to the Hon. Minister is this: will the Government undertake a fresh survey to correctly identify BPL families? And if no such survey is planned, does the Hon. Minister have an alternative scheme in place to address this issue?

SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA: Madam, currently, a socio-economic census is underway across the country. Once its report is available, this issue will be resolved.

[English]

DR. SIDHANT MOHAPATRA: Madam Speaker, in the year 1985-86 the IAY was introduced. It is now almost 28 years after the beneficiaries have constructed their houses under the IAY. All the houses are in a dilapidated condition today. My question to the Hon. Minister, through you, is whether the Government will have any proposal now or in future to give financial assistance to those beneficiaries to renovate or to reconstruct new houses under this Scheme.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION; MINISTER OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS; MINISTER OF SHIPPING; MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT; AND MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI NITIN GADKARI): Madam, the concern expressed by the Hon. Member is correct. With the amount presently available, it is indeed very difficult to construct a house, and the houses that are built do not last for long. Therefore, the Hon. Prime Minister has given a vision that by the year 2020 we shall provide houses to all in the rural areas. To achieve this, it is necessary to review this scheme and also to enhance the financial allocation. In this year's Budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance has also announced a scheme for the Housing Bank. By making use of this, the Government is considering how good, durable houses in the rural areas costing between Rs. 2 lakh and Rs. 3 lakh can be constructed and made affordable to the people.

The Government will examine whatever suggestions are made by the Hon. Members in this regard and will soon bring forward a comprehensive scheme through which the mission of 'Houses for All' in the rural sector can certainly be accomplished.

HON. SPEAKER: I think this would have resolved the concerns of all. Still, Shri Ahluwalia, do you wish to ask anything?

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to state to the Hon. Minister that Darjeeling is the neighbour of Sikkim. Both areas are situated in the same mountain range. You have taken the decision to provide grant-in-aid to the North-Eastern States and Sikkim in the ratio of 90:10. On the other side of the border it is 90:10, while on this side it is 75:25. This appears somewhat anomalous. The areas of Kalimpong, Kurseong and Darjeeling, which are also situated in the lap of the Himalayas, should also be given the same grant. Will the Government take this into consideration?

SHRI NITIN GADKARI: In the present scheme, keeping in view the financial provisions, the point raised by the Hon. Member is very difficult to fulfil. Even under the ratio of 90:10, I would like to inform the Hon. Member and the House that even then a poor family living below the poverty line cannot construct a house with the present cost of construction. Therefore, in this scheme, we desire that such a house should be built which remains strong for at least 15 years and provides facilities to the people. Hence, whether in rural housing funds can be made available at low interest, or apart from that, whether by enhancing the Government's provision we can give them interest subsidy, or provide money at zero percent interest, many such suggestions have come. But the Government has not yet taken a

decision on this. The Government desires that under the present cost of construction, even a small house built in a village should at least give benefit to the people for 15 years. This is not possible merely under the 90:10 ratio. At present, there is no such situation. For the North-East and Sikkim this provision has been made. Very soon, after giving thought to this matter and after taking into account all your suggestions, we shall bring such a scheme. I had earlier mentioned the year 2020, now this is up to the year 2022. Certainly, in the rural sector, the population which is estimated to be more than four and a half crore, how all of them will get houses, for that we will bring forward a plan.

(Q.142)

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister has replied, but many aspects remain incomplete. After agriculture, the handloom industry is the second largest industry in India, where the maximum employment is generated after agriculture. Because of the weavers engaged in the handloom sector, Indian textiles commanded respect across the world. But due to the negligence of the previous Governments, the families of weavers are on the verge of starvation and every year weavers in the country are compelled to commit suicide. The Hon. Prime Minister is making efforts to resolve the problems of the weavers. There are several handloom clusters in the country where the population of weavers is very large, Banaras being one of them. However, the schemes formulated by the Government of India are not reaching the weavers. Cloth manufactured in China is being sold freely in the Indian market. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether the benefits of the schemes which have been framed by the Government for the welfare of the weavers are actually reaching them. Has any review of these schemes been carried out? If so, what are the details thereof? ... *(Interruptions)* How many handlooms and

powerlooms in the country have been closed? Will the Hon. Minister provide information in this regard?

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Madam Speaker, we agree with the concern expressed by the Hon. Member. It is true that the handloom sector has an important place in the country. After agriculture, this sector is the largest in terms of coverage. The Hon. Prime Minister also has a keen interest in it and is concerned about how this sector may be advanced. It is also a fact that during the last five years the number of artisans has not increased. Their number has remained the same or has declined somewhat. Much work remains to be done in this sector. Handloom is a labour-intensive activity. Now people are adopting other technologies instead of this. The income in this sector is low and due to low income, artisans and workers are not interested in this. We have, therefore, launched several schemes for this purpose, one is to provide loans at low interest, another is to extend assistance by way of margin money, and we are also making arrangements for subsidy on its price.

If there is concurrence of the House and the Government, our suggestion is that this sector may also be linked with MGNREGA. The income in this sector is very meagre. We are interested in this matter. We have also requested the Hon. Prime Minister in this regard.

My submission is that the more this sector progresses, the more employment will also be generated. Through the Budget, this House would have also been apprised that the Hon. Minister of Finance has announced several clusters in this connection. We are indeed interested in this matter. If the Hon. Member would like to make any specific point, he is most welcome.

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask your second question.

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister has admitted that the income is declining, due to which this industry is gradually closing down. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that the materials required in the handloom industry have become very costly. Because of the rising cost, today the cloth produced on handlooms has become very expensive, as a result of which its demand has considerably decreased both in the country and abroad. Will the Government take any steps to reduce the cost of the materials used in handloom production? If so, what are the details thereof?

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Today there is intense competition in the markets of the country and the world. For this purpose, we are continuously organising exhibitions. Among the people of the country there is an interest in handloom. But under the

name of handloom, goods produced on automatic machines are being sold. People have interest in buying goods genuinely made from handloom, and looking at their quality, they are also willing to pay the price. We are also providing subsidy on the purchase of yarn.

The Hon. Member had earlier mentioned about the import of goods from China. In order to prevent this as well, we have made requests. We have also requested the Ministry of Commerce in this regard so that this may be stopped and the sector within our country may be encouraged.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: Madam Speaker, keeping in view the circumstances, Textile Mega Clusters have been announced for the economic betterment of weavers. In the Textile Clusters, all facilities will be provided to the weavers at one place. Under this scheme, modern handlooms will be established. The Cluster will also include other facilities such as processing units, training centres, workers hostels, fire stations, display centres, printing and packaging units, makeup, fabric design labs, embroidery and storage. This is indeed welcome. Provision for this has been made in the General Budget 2014. I welcome the same.

The silk of Bhagalpur in our State of Bihar is not only well-known in the country but also enjoys great fame abroad. In Chiraiya Block of

East Champaran district, which falls in my Parliamentary Constituency, under the guidance of Mahatma Gandhi and through his associate Shri Purushottam Mathuradas, a very ambitious scheme was initiated in the year 1918 under the name Rajkiya Buniyadi Madhya Vidyalaya Madhubani Kala-Sala. The weavers there undertook various activities such as silk weaving, sweater knitting, honey production, cattle rearing, oil production, paddy husking, soap manufacturing and yarn spinning. The products manufactured there were exported to different parts of the country and also to Government institutions. Particularly, the silk fabrics produced there were very famous and of the highest quality. But today, all these people are struggling with acute financial hardship. ... *(Interruptions)* In Banaras, during the last five years, 50 percent of the handloom units have been closed, the main reason being the import of Chinese yarn. The sale of handloom products is declining with each passing day, which is a matter of serious concern. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask question.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not deliver a speech, only ask questions.

... *(Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI: I am asking questions.

Will our Government take the necessary steps for the welfare of the weavers so that the process of social and economic development may proceed smoothly? ... *(Interruptions)* I am referring to Chiraiya. ... *(Interruptions)* Because of what has been happening there for many years, the people of that area are lying idle. ... *(Interruptions)* What will be their condition and what measures will be taken to uplift them? *... (Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please stick to questions. These speeches are going on too long.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Madam, the Hon. Member has expressed her concern at considerable length. It is also true that silk is one of the principal products of our country. Its demand exists not only within the country but also abroad, and our identity is linked with it. The present Government is concerned about this. Among the Mega Clusters which have been announced,

Bhagalpur has also been included. You have expressed your concern. ... *(Interruptions)* Whatever suggestions you give us, we shall take steps accordingly. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Also, please take Madhubani into consideration.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI VINCENT H. PALA: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Under the Handloom Weavers Comprehensive Welfare Scheme, funds are released directly to the NGOs or implementing agencies concerned. As per the answer given by him, 75 per cent of the funds allocated has been released. For example, in 2011-12, Rs. 104.50 crore was the allocation whereas the fund released was only Rs. 68 crore; and in 2012-13, Rs. 150 crore allocated and the release was only Rs. 127 crore. So, a big portion of funds has not been released. May I know from the Hon. Minister why full release is not made to the agencies and why only 75 per cent of the funds have been released?

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, You have just mentioned that we directly fund NGOs. [English] We are giving money directly to the NGOs. [Translation] We conduct an

investigation, and based on the findings, provide funding as per the recommendations and the need identified. We acknowledge that this funding is insufficient. We personally feel efforts should be made in this direction. The remaining funds are delayed sometimes because certain formalities need to be completed, and if NGOs have not fulfilled that process, there can be delays in receiving the funds. We can certainly assure that such issues will not arise in the future, and there will be no shortfall in the funds allocated. If you have any complaints regarding this matter, please inform us. We feel that the more we advance this sector, the greater the benefit will be.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister has admitted that after agriculture, the maximum employment is generated through the handloom sector. Unemployment is a serious problem in our country, and to address this problem, handloom is an important sector. I would like to ask what steps the Hon. Minister is taking for the development of this important sector. The Government of Uttar Pradesh, particularly in Banaras, Mau and Mubarakpur, which is the area of our respected leader, is providing electricity to the handloom weavers at a minimum rate of Rs. 75 per month. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government of India will also take any

action in this regard or not. ... *(Interruptions)* Respected Netaji, during his tenure as Chief Minister, and Hon. Akhilesh Yadav Ji, during his tenure as Chief Minister, continuously... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You ask your question.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Madam Speaker, this is a matter of great importance. The Uttar Pradesh Government has undertaken the task of providing electricity to weavers there at only 75 rupees per month. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What exactly do you want to ask the Hon. Minister?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: I would like to ask the Hon. Minister what contribution the Government of India will make in this important sector. ... *(Interruptions)* Especially at such a time when you have opened the market for China. ... *(Interruptions)* The situation is continuously deteriorating. Please inquire in Mau and Mubarakpur. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister, if there is any welfare scheme from there, kindly state it.

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Madam Speaker, I would request the Hon. Member not to take my words otherwise. In the Budget, an announcement has been made, if he had heard the Budget Speech that there is a Mega Cluster in Uttar Pradesh. Bhadohi, Banaras, Moradabad and Bareilly are included. Apart from this, there are other problems also, but ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: According to that, it is very little. I have read the Budget. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please, this is not the way.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: I also belong to Uttar Pradesh. I have already written two letters to the Hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh seeking a meeting to discuss the problems of the State, but unfortunately ... *(Interruptions)* I was neither given time by the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh nor was I able to meet and discuss the matter. ... *(Interruptions)* I agree with your point, and whatever scheme you create for Uttar Pradesh, we and you together shall remain active in taking that work forward.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Ratna De, please ask only the question. One single question is taking too much time.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. RATNA DE (NAG): Thank you, Madam. Would the Government offer incentives to the private sector to promote hand-woven textiles in West Bengal in particular and other States in general which would automatically include various artisans, dyers and block printers.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Madam Speaker, what has been stated is indeed correct. In our Ministry's experience of the past forty days, we have observed that the work of artisans is of high quality, and there is a significant need to promote their craft. The Government is actively engaged in this direction. I appeal to all Hon. Members to extend their cooperation in this endeavour. Based on what we have seen, it is evident that artisans' work merits further promotion, and there is clear public interest in it. Should any Member have specific information in this regard and bring it to our attention, appropriate action will be taken accordingly.

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 143,

Shri Sushil Kumar Singh – Not present.

(Q. 143)

KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam Speaker, if we are to achieve true development, the most essential factor is electricity and energy. For the progress of any nation or State, energy remains a fundamental requirement. I represent the Ahmedabad West Parliamentary Constituency in the State of Gujarat. Around thirteen years ago, Gujarat was experiencing a severe power shortage. At that time, the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Bhai Modi, undertook several significant initiatives to make Gujarat a power-surplus State. One such major initiative was the introduction of the Jyoti Gram Yojana. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What is your question?

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam Speaker, the Jyoti Gram Yojana is a key element of the Gujarat Model. At a time when the nation is facing an electricity shortage, the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of Finance, and the Government have introduced the Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay Jyoti Gram Yojana in the General Budget. For this, I convey my sincere gratitude and extend my congratulations to the Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What is your question?

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam, today, in order to establish a lignite-based power station in South Gujarat, the Government of Gujarat has made an important proposal to the Union Government. Even though Gujarat is surplus in electricity today, it is costly. Gujarat has several lignite mines. The Government of Gujarat has signed an MoU with Neyveli Lignite Corporation and has sent it to the Union Government. ... *(Interruptions)* Through you, I urge the Union Government that in regard to the MoU signed with Neyveli Lignite Corporation. ... *(Interruptions)* whether Neyveli Lignite Corporation is prepared to give NOC to the Government of Gujarat and to provide land to Gujarat Power Corporation, and whether the Government will approve it?

HON. SPEAKER: Such a long question should not be asked.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, thank you. With reference to the scheme implemented in Gujarat, I would certainly state that Gujarat is today among the few States where the electricity shortfall stands at zero percent. The establishment of a separate feeder line under the Jyoti Gram Yojana has played a significant role in addressing the State's power issues. Regarding the lignite blocks, the Government of Gujarat has submitted three to four revised mining

plans, upon which certain questions and queries have been raised. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Is the matter concerning the Government of Gujarat being discussed here? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Adhir Ranjan Ji, please keep quiet. Why are you interrupting? The question here is in that very context.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask the second question. Please ask only questions.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that for power production, coal is allocated to the States from the nearby coalfields. As far as Gujarat is concerned, coal is being allocated to Gujarat from the Eastern coal block.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet. This is not the way. If he has a question, he will get the opportunity.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: I would request the Hon. Minister to state whether coal will be allocated to Gujarat from the Western coal block. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not interrupt. [English] He knows it well.

[Translation]

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: The question of the Hon. Member is indeed very important. If we go into the background, the power linkages given over the years were provided from different mines according to the availability at different times. The coalfield nearest to Gujarat is in Western Coalfields Limited. The coal production in Western Coalfields has for many years been supplied mostly to Maharashtra and to the nearby power plants in the adjoining regions. In Gujarat, the power plants came up later, and in the last 10 to 12 years the highest production capacity has been added in Gujarat itself. By that time, since additional production was not available in Western Coalfields, allocations were made from Mahanadi and other coalfields. But in recent days, when I went to Gujarat, this issue was brought to my notice. To rectify this matter, we have constituted a Committee between the Ministries of Coal and Power for rationalisation of coal linkages. Across the country, all the coal linkages are being reviewed, and we shall rationalise the linkages afresh according to the ideally nearest available coal.

SHRI NINONG ERING: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Through you, I would like to provide a little information to the Hon. Minister of Power that in our State there is a potential of 55,000 Megawatts of hydro power and abundant reserves of coal, but because mining has been stopped we are unable to set up even a single thermal project. The hurdles and obstacles created by the Ministry of Environment and Forests are perhaps the reason why our project has not commenced. Recently, you had given us an assurance regarding the Subansiri Project. Today, when there is a power problem in our country, our State has full reserves of coal which we can supply, but in this matter you have given us an assurance. How do you propose to deal with the NGOs and other organisations in this regard?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Thank you. You have drawn my attention to a very important matter. The coal mines in your State had been stopped by the Ministry of Environment and Forests several years ago. Thereafter, some reports were received regarding illegal mining and certain cases are still pending. However, the Government is reconsidering the matter. If coal can be mined legally there and if permission is granted by the Ministry of Environment, then certainly we would also like to set up a power plant based on coal there. Keeping in view environmental considerations, if needed, it will be

established together with your State, otherwise, we shall also be eager to set it up through Central PSUs or by way of bidding.

As far as the Subansiri Project is concerned, last time when your Hon. Chief Minister came to meet us, we were informed that the objections of the neighbouring State had almost been satisfied. After conducting a study, the Expert Committee suggested that no damage would occur. On that basis I had said that we would commence the Subansiri Project at the earliest. But when further facts came before me and people from the other States came to meet me, I was told that in their States [English] there are some hesitations and some doubts [Translation] still remained. Therefore, I immediately agreed that some delegations, who wanted more information on this subject and who wanted to understand the matter in detail, should be invited to Delhi. At present, since the Session of Parliament is in progress, I will not be able to go there. We shall invite them to Delhi and hold an open and detailed discussion with them. The Union Government is for all States. By satisfying both States and by protecting the interests of both, we shall endeavour to commence it at the earliest.

[English]

SHRI S.P.Y. REDDY: Madam, Andhra Pradesh JENCO receives a part of coal from the Mahanadi Coalfields. Yesterday, the Chairman

of APJENCO was worrying so much because supplies from Mahanadi Coalfields are very irregular, erratic and uncertain. I want to ask the Minister as to why the problems are existing and how fast the Minister can solve those problems being faced in supplying coal from Mahanadi Coalfields to APJENCO.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam Speaker, the Mahanadi Coalfields is a very serious problem that the Government and Coal India are facing. There were two significant issues related to Mahanadi Coalfields which were flagged off to me when I was studying the problem raised by the Hon. Member. The biggest problem that we are facing is in terms of transportation of coal. There were some local issues because of which the truck movement was stopped from Talchar in two sidings. It was not possible to move the requisite quantity of coal that Mahanadi Coalfields can produce.

There was also another problem of a local agitation by the displaced persons whose land was taken for setting up that coalfield. Even though the compensation has been paid and jobs have been provided, 122 families have refused to vacate the area. They have threatened and have continuously put pressure on the coal production and coal evacuation because of which Mahanadi Coalfields is not able to transport the requisite quantity of coal.

I am in touch with the State Government of Odisha. I am extremely happy to say that the Hon. Chief Minister of Odisha was very forthcoming in his support. The local officials and also several Members of Parliament from Odisha in this House have supported my cause. We are quite confident of resolving the issue shortly.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL: Madam, Speaker, I wish to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Government proposes to set up a coal based thermal power project in Poorvanchal region of Uttar Pradesh considering the acute power shortage in this region. If yes, by when and if not, why?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, I think that is a very good suggestion and I welcome more initiative from the State of Uttar Pradesh to enhance the power generating capacity of that State. I think, over the years, the Northern region certainly needs to enhance its capacity. If we look at the shortage, the maximum shortage of power is in Northern India. However, the generation of power is a State subject. We will need the State to come forward with a proposal and the Union Government and its PSUs will be delighted to look at it with an open mind.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, Speaker, during 2001 to 2006, the State of Tamil Nadu was surplus in power under the leadership of

our Hon. Chief Minister Amma and afterwards from 2006-11, there was a lot of power shortage in the State of Tamil Nadu. After she took over again as the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, from whatever the figure is given, she has solved the problem and now there is no shortage of power in the State. At the same time, our Hon. Chief Minister has written a letter to the Union Government requesting for power from the Central pool regularly which is sometimes not happening. Therefore, I would like to request that the Union Government may consider giving power from the Central pool regularly as has been requested in the letter of the Hon. Chief Minister so that there is no shortage of power in the State in future. Towards that end, I would also like to know if the Union Government would come forward to give full power generation capacity to the Koodankulam project as has been requested by our Hon. Chief Minister.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I think that it is a very praiseworthy achievement. Details also show that Tamil Nadu peak shortage in 2012-13 was 13.2 per cent, which in the current year till June period is down to only 9 per cent and I must compliment your State for a very good performance in curtailing the peak shortage in terms of the capacity of the State and managing its electricity better. However, the

important issue that the Hon. Member have flagged to give me an opportunity to lay before the Hon. House and before you that coal has been a very sensitive issue over the years. If you see the coal production between 2009 and 2014, the growth has been about two per cent CAGR over the last five years period. Now, I can give a whole list of details whether it was `go', `no go' areas, whether that got replaced by inviolate areas because of which India could not reach its optimum capacity of coal production and today a country which is surplus with coal is having to import millions of tonnes and States are lying starved of coal and people of India are suffering. I would like to only appeal to the Hon. Members through you if they could help us with their States in resolving land related issues, in resolving right of way issues, in resolving R&R issues, we will be delighted… *(Interruptions)*

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: We are asking it from the Central pool.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Central pool production can only increase if there is adequate coal. We certainly need the help of all the Hon. Members to enhance the coal production. We, on our side, will come forward with as many projects, as many CSR activities to help local areas, but if we are not able to enhance coal mining from these places,

evacuation of coal, setting up of railway lines and more particularly and more importantly if we do not get local support we will not be able to really fulfill the aim of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. I would like to appeal to all the Members to help us give 24x7 power to your States and we will, on our side, come forward with two steps for every one step that you take.

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam, Speaker, the Hon. Minister has not replied to my question on the Koodankulam project… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Last supplementary on this Question. Shri K. Srihari.

SHRI KADIYAM SRIHARI: Madam, Speaker, as per Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, 2014, there is a proposal from Government of India to establish a 4000 MW thermal unit in Telengana. But no mention was made about this particular project in the General Budget. I want to know from the Hon. Minister if there is any proposal in this regard. Coal is available, water is available, land is also available and also it is the promise of the Government of India to set up a thermal project. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to say something on this.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Yes, Madam. The Government of India is committed to setting up a UMPP which will be a 4000 MW project in Telangana. The necessary formalities are underway and there will have to be bidding to have that initiative. The bidding documents are with the Government. They are under review and discussions with various stakeholders. Once the process is complete, the requisite coal block is identified and formalities are complete, we will be forthcoming and expediting the project of UMPP.

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, the Hon. Minister has said that coal is a very sensitive issue. Equally, coal is nowadays a scandalous issue also. Coal headquarters is situated in my constituency in Kolkata. You recently visited Kolkata. You met our Chief Minister in her office and had a long discussion. Have you discussed with our Chief Minister the problems which you are facing in connection with the Coal India Limited? [English] Has she assured her cooperation on all the problems regarding the Coal India Limited? What is the result of the discussion? [Translation] These points may kindly be communicated.

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I had a very good meeting with the Hon. Chief Minister of your State. She was extremely cooperative and willing to consider all the problems which the Coal India Limited and

other Central Public Sector Undertakings are facing. I did flag off particularly the issue of high cess that has been imposed on the coal produced in your State for many years. I have requested your State Government to reconsider it so that more coal can be mined from there to satisfy the needs of power plants.

We have also requested her to allot certain land which will help us to House the displaced persons from the coal mines and enhance the capacity of coal. She has very kindly agreed to look into that matter and I am fairly confident that we will be able to resolve them at the earliest.

(Q.144)

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Speaker, in response, the Hon. Minister has stated that the railway network holds a total of 4, 57, 689 hectares of land. Of this, approximately 47,336 hectares are lying vacant, while 942 hectares are under encroachment. Out of the encroached land, only 87.55 hectares have been cleared. In Western Madhya Pradesh, at Bina station, there are around 3,000 acres of land, a significant portion of which has been unauthorisedly occupied by influential individuals engaged in cultivation. Several bungalows in the area also remain vacant and are being misused. Through you, I wish to ask the Hon. Minister whether any scheme will be introduced to ensure that once land is freed from encroachment, it is not encroached upon again, and whether such land may be leased for commercial use, thereby ensuring the protection of railway property, enhancing revenue, and creating employment opportunities for the youth. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: Hon. Speaker, in Punjab, the BJP Government is there, but there is no electricity. ... *(Interruptions)*

11.46 hrs.

At this stage Shri Bhagwant Mann came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: There is no point in disturbing in the midst of such a question. You are a new Member, please learn the procedure.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the correct way. You are a new Member, please go back to your seat.

11.46 ½ hrs.

At this stage, Shri Bhagwant Mann went back to his seat.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: Madam Speaker, the area of land under the Railway network is about 4,57,689 hectares out of which about 47,336 hectares is the vacant land. Only about 942 hectares are encroached. That means a very meager area of 0.2 per cent of railway land has been encroached. In fact, we are trying to evict the persons who have encroached upon the land. There are several constraints in getting the encroachers evicted from the land. Where there are a large number of encroachers, automatically, there

will be a huge resentment from the encroachers. Due to some political pressure also, we are finding it difficult to evict them.

Law and order is a State subject. The State Government needs to give support to us for eviction of those people. On so many occasions it so happened that States did not give proper support for evicting the encroachers. In some places there are some religious structures because of which it becomes very difficult to clear those encroachments. In some areas, whenever we issue notices to the encroachers, they go to the court and obtain a stay. So, these are the several kinds of constraints that we are facing. In spite of that we are very keen to evict the persons who have encroached upon the lands.

My friend has asked a question especially about the Bina railway station. I will get the details and come back to him as to what is the status regarding this particular issue. I will take care of the things.

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR: Madam Speaker, across the country, particularly in metropolitan cities, it is observed that a large number of slums have developed alongside railway tracks. These slums not only hinder the smooth operation of the railways but also contribute to frequent accidents. I would like to know what measures the

Government is taking to remove such encroachments, and whether there is any plan to construct multi-storeyed housing as a replacement for these slums. Furthermore, under the MFC scheme, which stations have been included in this year's work plan, and how many stations have been covered under the scheme to date?

HON. SPEAKER: The question at present pertains only to encroachment.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: I will communicate the particulars of station-wise details to the Hon. Member. Right now I do not have the station-wise particulars. I am having details about encroachment only with regard to some regions. I will communicate the particulars to the Hon. Member.

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA: Hon. Speaker, has the Government agreed upon any proposal to give 30 percent of railway land to the residents who have encroached the railway land and leave the rest of 70 percent of the land to the Railways? If so, please give us the details in this regard.

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: No such proposal is before the Railways. We do not have any policy with regard to rehabilitation of

the persons who have encroached upon our land. This is a State subject. So far we do not have any policy for rehabilitation. ... *(Interruptions)* We do not have any rehabilitation policy as of now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV: Madam Speaker, in Mumbai, there are numerous economically disadvantaged families residing on land owned by the Railways. These residents include individuals from Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, as well as other regions of Maharashtra. I would like to inquire whether the Government has any plan to regularise the status of these families at their current locations.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: As I just now said, we do not have any policy with regard to rehabilitation. This is a State subject. Of course, what my friend has said is exactly right. In Mumbai, there are people who have encroached upon the railway property. There was a fire incident. People from that area encroached upon the land. For the time being we allowed them to stay because the situation was such. But later on we were not able to evict them. We did not get the support from the State Government.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ: Madam, in North India, there is a large extent of railway land which even today is lying vacant. In the same manner, in Shahjahanpur district, about 900 acres of railway land is lying vacant, which is continuously being encroached upon.

Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister of Railways whether there is any plan on the part of the Railways to establish a Medical College or an Engineering College on that land.

[English]

SHRI D.V. SADANANDA GOWDA: In the vacant land of the Railways we are trying to see that some new projects are taken up. Especially, in certain areas, we have already started taking up plantation issues and in some places, we are trying to see that it is developed. We are also looking at immediate utilization of land for commercial development. Grow More Food is one of the areas that we have taken care of. About 3000 hectares have been utilized for that purpose.

(Q 145)

HON. SPEAKER: Prof. Thomas, please put a very short question.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Hon. Speaker, this is a major Mega Project involving almost all the States in the country. There are differences of opinion. One major question is whether the Government has made proper environmental and ecological study of these projects because this involves rivers throughout the country and the inter-State issues.

[Translation]

SUSHRI UMA BHARATI: Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Member has raised a very important issue. Through you, I wish to appeal both to the Hon. Member and this esteemed House that in our country there exists a vast expanse of land yet to be adequately irrigated. It is from these very regions, suffering from insufficient irrigation capacity, that most complaints of deaths due to starvation have been reported. This important scheme had been under consideration for a long time. From the decade of the 1980s, serious deliberations began on this important scheme. Thereafter, in the year 2002, when it was taken up for more serious consideration, in 2003 a Committee was constituted under the chairmanship of Shri Suresh Prabhu by the then Government, and subsequently deliberations proceeded on it. In 2004, the composition

of this Committee was changed. The Union Government also took a decision in this regard, and even the Hon. Supreme Court from time to time gave its observations on it.

Finally, in 2012, circumstances arose when even the Hon. Supreme Court had to state that this scheme is in the national interest and that it should be implemented at the earliest. The point raised by the Hon. Member is extremely important. This scheme has been deliberated upon so extensively and in so many ways that, just as the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana had been conceived to address the plight of the villages and the dream of connecting all villages with good roads was fulfilled under the leadership of Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, in the same manner, Hon. Narendra Modi Ji and our Government also have a dream that all the drought-prone areas of the country should, in one way or another, be provided with irrigation facilities. As of now, the irrigation capacity of cultivable land in the country will increase by 35 million hectares. We have proposals for the linkage of 30 rivers, and from this, generation of 34,000 megawatts of power will be possible. In reply to the question put by the Hon. Member, I wish to state that the matter is being considered only after taking all these aspects into account. We are making efforts that the rules relating to environment are not violated. We are making

efforts that the uninterrupted and pure flow of rivers is not affected. We are making efforts that the full concurrence of the States is obtained. Only after all these efforts are we proceeding further in this matter, in which there is at present one project which has almost reached the stage of commencement, and that is the Ken-Betwa Project, on which the Hon. Supreme Court has also directed us to initiate action at the earliest. Therefore, the concern expressed by the Hon. Member is also the concern of many environmental experts, and this concern has been voiced in this Hon. House as well. Hence, through you, Hon. Madam Speaker,I urge this Hon. House, being the highest Panchayat of the country, to create such an environment across the nation so that by interlinking the rivers of the country, preparation for irrigation of 35 million hectares and generation of 34,000 megawatts may be accomplished within ten years. Through you, that is my humble request to this Hon. House.

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: The Kerala Assembly has unanimously passed a Resolution against taking up the linkage project of Pamba, Aksankoil and Vaipa link because this is against the interest of Kerala and environment. Whether the Government is looking into it?

[Translation]

SUSHRI UMA BHARATI: Hon. Speaker, we are interlinking only those rivers of the States where the concerned States have given their consent. In cases where mutual consent of the States is lacking, we shall never violate it. Through you, I assure this Hon. House that in respect of all the States connected with the interlinking, the preparations will be made only after ensuring the consent of those States, safeguarding the environment, and preserving the continuity and purity of the rivers, while also making arrangements to provide irrigation facilities. Through you, I give this assurance to the Hon. House.

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*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 146 to 160

Unstarred Question Nos. 985 to 1214

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

12.00 hrs.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SUSHRI UMA BHARATI): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between WAPCOS Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2014-15.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 116/16/14)

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between National Projects Construction Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Water Resources for the year 2014-15.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 117/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Hon. Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-

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

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between National Textiles Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2014-15.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 118/16/14)

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Jute Manufacturers Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2014-15.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 119/16/14)

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the National Handloom Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2014-15.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 120/16/14)

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the Jute Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Textiles for the year 2014-15.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 121/16/14)

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2012-13, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Fashion Technology, New Delhi, for the year 2012-13, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 122/16/14)\

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

(4) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 249(A) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 31st February, 2014, stipulating that a minimum of 90% of the production of foodgrains and 20% of sugar would be packed in jute packaging material during jute year 2013-14 under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the Jute Packaging Material (Compulsory Use in Packing Commodities) Act, 1987.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 123/16/14)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2012-2013.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2012-2013.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 124/16/14)

(3) A copy of the Annual Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Damodar Valley Corporation, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 125/16/14)

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

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the THDC Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 126/16/14)

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 127/16/14)

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Power Grid Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 128/16/14)

(iv) Memorandum of Understanding between the NHPC Limited and the Ministry of Power for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 129/16/14)

(5) A copy of the Damodar Valley Corporation (salaries, allowances and other conditions of service of the Chairman, Members and Member-Secretary of the Corporation) Amendment Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 196(E) in the Gazette of India dated 20th March, 2014 issued under sub-section (1) of Section 59 of the Damodar Valley Corporation Act, 1948.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 130/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) on the progress made in the intake of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes against vacancies reserved for them in recruitment and promotion categories on the Railways for the year ending 31st March, 2013.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 131/16/14)

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rail Land Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2011-2012, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Rail Land

Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2011-2012.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 132/16/14)

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Sections 2, 20 & 36 of the Prohibition of Employment as Manual Scavengers and their Rehabilitation Act, 2013:-

(i) G.S.R. 376(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th June, 2014, notifying that any person engaged to clean water flush sanitary latrines in railway passenger coaches or station area or railway tracks in station area shall be provided the protective gear and devices, mentioned therein.

(ii) G.S.R. 377(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th June, 2014, notifying "railway authority" means the Additional Divisional Railway Manager of the jurisdiction of respective Divisions and for Institutes, Workshops, Sheds etc. Falling in Division's

jurisdiction and the Senior Administration Grade or Junior Administration Grade Officer of the Department maintaining the sanitation in the jurisdiction of respective Production Units or Research Designs and Standard Organisation.

(iii) G.S.R. 378(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th June, 2014, appointing the Health or Commercial Inspectors, wherever assigned the duties of monitoring cleanliness, are hereby vested with the powers, within their jurisdiction, which shall be decided by the Officer nominated by the Additional Divisional Railway Manager in the Division and the Senior Administrative Grade or Junior Administrative Grade Officer of the Department maintaining the sanitation for the jurisdiction of respective Production Units or research Designs and Standards Organisation respectively.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 133/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DRINKING WATER AND SANITATION (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 134/16/14)

12.02 hrs.

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

Central Silk Board

HON. SPEAKER: Item No.9 – Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Madam, with your permission, I beg to move:

> "That in pursuance of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of clause (c) of sub-section (3) of section 4 of the Central Silk Board Act, 1948, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, four members from amongst themselves to serve as members of the Central Silk Board, subject to the other provisions of the said Act."

The motion was adopted.

12.03 hrs

MOTION RE: SECOND REPORT OF BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

"That this House does agree with the Second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th July, 2014."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That this House does agree with the Second Report of the Business Advisory Committee presented to the House on the 16th July, 2014."

The motion was adopted.

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12.04 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re: Meeting of a Journalist with Hafiq Saeed

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we take up `Zero Hour'.

Shri Kharge *ji*,

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, last time the Hon. Minister for External Affairs assured us that she would get relevant information from the Indian Embassy, Pakistan and inform the House about the interview of Vaidik with Hafiz Saeed in Pakistan. Three days have already passed. I would again request the Hon. Minister, through you, that she should make an immediate statement because we are waiting. This should not take much time. The Government should contact immediately and report to the House because the entire House is very anxious to know as to what has happened and what are the communications between the Indian Embassy and the Government.

We would like to know what discussion took place in Pakistan. There is a lot of suspicion among the public and so we are conveying the feelings of the countrymen to the Government through this House.

Therefore, I request that the Minister of External Affairs Minister should make a statement on this matter. We have raised it many times, but I am sorry to say that we are not getting a proper response from the Government. If the same issue is raised in the other House or outside the House, they respond immediately. I am unable to understand as to how we should argue our case, whether we should argue for hours together or we should request the Government as per the rules.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam Speaker, the Government is responsive and also sensitive to the issue. The Hon. Minister of External Affairs instantly reacted on that day and today the Hon. Minister is preoccupied in the other House as questions were there. So, I will convey the sentiments of the House to the Hon. Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: She is busy there. How can she be present in two places?

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not do this. How can it be accepted immediately? Shri Kirit Somaiya, you may speak.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: He will convey it. You have been informed. If not today, it will be conveyed tomorrow. Please, you may take your seat.

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... (Interruptions)

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that yesterday and the day before, three small investors, poor farmers, committed suicide in Maharashtra. A new chit fund scam, similar to the Saradha chit fund scam in West Bengal, has occurred in Maharashtra, namely the KVPL scam. People are losing nearly Rs. 50,000 crore. Thousands of small investors, including labourers, youth, women, small poor labourers and farmers, are distressed. Two months ago, the State Police and the CID had submitted a report on this scam of Rs. 991 crore to the State Government. Today in Maharashtra, whether it be Nasik, Jalna or Aurangabad, people are taking to the streets.

Through you, I would request the Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley, that as chit fund scams are increasing and the State Government, particularly the Maharashtra Government, is not paying attention to this matter, necessary steps be taken. I have already submitted to the Maharashtra Government a list of 41 such companies where the entire savings of nearly ten lakh small investors are being lost. The Government must prevent these poor farmers from committing suicides. I request that the Minister of Finance direct

SEBI and the Home Minister instruct the State Government. Since yesterday, I have been trying to contact the Chief Minister and the Home Minister of Maharashtra, but they have not been available.

Therefore, through you, I urge the Union Government that strong action be taken against this chit fund scam in Maharashtra, where numerous people are committing suicides. The owners have fled abroad. The money of the poor must be safeguarded.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Shivkumar Udasi is permitted to associate with the issues raised by Shri Kirit Somaiya.

SHRI AJAY KUMAR (KHERI): Hon. Speaker, my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency Lakhimpur Kheri in Uttar Pradesh is situated in the Terai region, which has highly fertile agricultural land where sugarcane and paddy crops are cultivated in abundance. However, due to the non-payment for sugarcane by the sugar mills for some time and on account of floods which have damaged the paddy crop, the farmers paddy is not being procured either at the Government purchase centres or at the rice mills. This has led to an extremely poor economic condition of the farmers.

Therefore, I urge that the Government, while encouraging non-traditional farming such as cultivation of spices and medicinal plants, for which the agricultural land of Lakhimpur is suitable, should also

promote the establishment of small industries based on the principal crops, so that farmers may be attracted towards the cultivation of medicinal plants and spices. This will also improve the economic condition of the farmers and generate employment opportunities in the region. Through you, I urge the Government to take necessary steps in this regard.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: When it has been said that [English] she is busy in that House, [Translation] it is not possible for her to be present at two places at the same time.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You will certainly receive a response.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It cannot be done immediately.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: There has been no outright refusal. [English] They have not said ‘no’.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jagdambika Pal ji, you may speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMRIYAGANJ): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of this entire House to a matter of urgent public importance. ... *(Interruptions)* At present, when the Session of the Lok Sabha is in progress, ... *(Interruptions)* the elected representatives of the people from Kanyakumari to Kashmir are present in this House to discharge their responsibilities. ... *(Interruptions)* Unfortunately, this year, due to the effect of El-Nino, nearly 500 districts in the country have received deficient monsoon. ... *(Interruptions)* This is the report of our India Meteorological Department. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: When it reaches from there, then I shall inform you.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: In the month of June last year, there was a 43 percent decrease in rainfall compared to the normal rainfall for that month. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No response is obtained during the zero over.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: On the one hand, the farmers are facing the challenge of deficient rainfall and on the other hand, for the Kharif crop ... *(Interruptions)* they require water for the irrigation of their paddy crop. Both these challenges are before the farmers of the country at present. ... *(Interruptions)* When the farmer needs additional electricity for irrigation ... *(Interruptions)* at the same time there is drought. ... *(Interruptions)* Agriculture cannot be sustained merely on the monsoon. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to state that there has been a decline of 27 percent in sowing by the farmers. ... *(Interruptions)* Through you, I urge that arrangements be made for the supply of electricity as per the demand of the farmers in the States today for irrigation to enable them to sow the Kharif crop. ... *(Interruptions)* Because sowing has reduced by 27 percent. The schedule of electricity supply ... *(Interruptions)* is during the daytime. ... *(Interruptions)* If it is provided from morning till evening, then perhaps the declared fixed hours for farmers or rural areas can be met. ... *(Interruptions)* I feel that either you may direct the Government to respond to this issue ... *(Interruptions)* or allow a discussion on it. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Now please conclude your statement.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I understand that today in Delhi, during peak hours, there is a requirement of 5,000 Megawatts. ... *(Interruptions)* If the power crisis continues in this manner, there will be serious problems. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, through you, I would like to urge that the Government pay attention to this matter.

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji, please listen to me.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Madam Speaker, democracy is being murdered in Delhi.

12.13 hrs.

[English]

At this stage, Shri Bhagwant Mann came and stood on the floor near the Table.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not intervene on every matter. This is not the way. You are a new Member. You must learn.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way. Please go back. They are competent.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: You go to your seat. I am warning you now. [Translation] You are a new member. Please understand the ways. These are not the procedures of the Lok Sabha. [English] Please go to your seat.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Why don't you understand? Please understand. [English] Please go to your seat.

12.14 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Bhagwant Mann went back to his seat.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge ji, since you requested, I allowed you. Although you came late, still I allowed you. As the Minister has said,

she is busy in Rajya Sabha. One person cannot be present at two places at the same time. They have said that they will convey.

[English] ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: Madam Speaker, We shall walk out of the House. ... *(Interruptions)*

12.14 ½ hrs.

[English]

Shri Bhagwant Mann and some other Hon. Members then left the House.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): If the matter pertains to them, it should be taken up after the agenda. ... *(Interruptions)* At least the time should be indicated as to when it will be taken up.

HON. SPEAKER: In Zero Hour, it is not the practice that when someone is called, they appear instantly. That is not possible.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam Speaker, this is not acceptable. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: She is raising a matter of utmost importance concerning women. I urge you to listen to it.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P. Karunakaran, would you like to raise the issue of cancer patients?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I cannot compel anyone like this. [Translation] She said, I cannot do it.

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Karunakaranji, it seems you are not interested in raising the issue.

Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher.

[English] ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: She has said that this is not a compulsion.

... (Interruptions)

12.17 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please refrain from making such a compulsion in the Zero Hour. Do not impose a different tradition.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Madam Speaker, I am raising a serious issue which needs urgent attention of this House. This is regarding the continuous sexual assaults against women throughout the country, especially, in the National Capital Territory of Delhi. ... *(Interruptions)* We are discussing this issue for the last several years but the incidents of sexual assault are increasing day by day. A few months ago, when a British young lady was brutally raped in India, none other than the British Prime Minister stated that, 'India is not safe for women'. Is it

not a shame for the country? I would like to know whether there is any stringent law to save our womenhood from such barbaric assaults. *... (Interruptions)*

The incident that happened in Delhi on 13th July inspired me to raise this issue. A 24 year old Spanish girl tourist was molested in full public view for a long time in the Lodhi Gardens, New Delhi. In the same National Capital Territory, a few months ago, a Dutch woman was also raped.... *(Interruptions)*

How far can these atrocities against women be allowed to continue? [Translation] Madam, through you, I humbly request the Hon. Prime Minister to set up special fast track courts in every State to trial such cases exclusively in a time bound manner and give exemplary punishment to the culprits. Long trials of cases will allow the culprits to escape and commit such crimes again and again.... *(Interruptions)* Thank you, Madam.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P. Karunakaran is permitted to associate with the issues raised by Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Sushil Kumar.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Madam Speaker, I would like to raise my issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Okay.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Madam Speaker, this issue is related to the alarming report on cancer. Every day we are witnessing that the number of cancer cases has risen throughout the country.... *(Interruptions)* I request the Government to introduce a special cancer treatment programme for cancer patients. If a person is affected by cancer, no doubt, all assets of his family would be gone.

So, what I would like to request from the Government is that more facilities should be provided in all the States, especially, in the Government hospitals. Along with that, financial assistance should also be provided to the cancer patients for their treatment. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Kirit P. Solanki is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri P. Karunakaran

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12.18 hrs.

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

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

(i)Need to check illegal sand-mining in rivers of Fatehpur and Hamirpur districts of Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI (FATEHPUR): In the districts of Fatehpur and Hamirpur in Uttar Pradesh, large-scale illegal mining of morang is being carried out from the rivers by leaseholders using

* Treated as laid on the Table

poclaines and lifters, in connivance with the local authorities. As a result, the natural course of the rivers is rapidly changing. Continuous operation of machines is causing pollution. Aquatic creatures and birds living in the rivers are falling victim to untimely deaths due to pollution. Because of illegal mining, the people of the region are repeatedly facing natural disasters. In the past several years, in many areas of the region, unnatural incidents such as cracking of the land have occurred. The leaseholders are openly violating the mining norms. There is an urgent need to put an end to the illegal mining being carried out by machines.

Therefore, I earnestly request the Union Government to ensure that mining of morang is carried out only at the designated leased sites, strictly in accordance with the norms, and with all prescribed safety measures.

(ii) Need to improve the standard of higher education in the country

[Translation]

DR. NEPAL SINGH (RAMPUR): For the past several years, the standard of higher education in the country has been continuously declining. The principal reason for this is that thousands of vacant posts of teachers in the universities and colleges of the country, including Uttar Pradesh, have not been filled. The manner in which the responsibility of teaching work is being entrusted to ad hoc or retired teachers is making the situation even more alarming.

The academic sessions are not running on schedule. Examinations are not being conducted on time. Practical examinations are taking place in a haphazard manner. Research work has virtually come to a standstill. The students who, after passing the 12th class, take admission in colleges, when they come to know of the actual situation, feel cheated.

I would urge the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development to kindly take immediate necessary steps to prevent the aforesaid situation from becoming explosive, so that the knowledge of students may be enhanced and new avenues of employment may be opened.

(iii) Need to ensure proper implementation of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government to some important points relating to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana project in my Parliamentary Constituency Jamshedpur. At the outset, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance who, in the Union Budget 2014-15, allocated Rs. 14,389 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, reiterating the commitment of our Government. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was launched by the Union Government in the year 2000 with the objective of connecting villages with a population of more than 250. As per the guidelines of this scheme, it is expected to be completed within 9 to 12 months. But the greatest irony is that in my district, the construction of some rural roads has not been completed even after 13 years. The condition of rural roads is dilapidated and the guidelines of the scheme are being openly flouted. Collusion has been found between the contractors and NPCC officials. A study has also revealed that the roads sanctioned during 2008-09 are still incomplete and the roads that have been constructed

lack quality. In the tendering process, standards and eligibility criteria have been ignored. This is a Naxal-affected area and the villagers living in remote villages are deeply agitated over the manner of implementation of this ambitious project.

Therefore, I request that this important project which connects rural India be prevented from failure and an impartial inquiry be conducted by experts.

(iv) Need to build a dam on river Ghaghara in Sitapur district, Uttar Pradesh to prevent annual flood and erosion caused by the river in the district

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH VERMA (SITAPUR): In my Parliamentary Constituency Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh), a dam has been constructed on the river Sharda in Lakhimpur district. However, no dam has been constructed on the Sitapur side of the boundary, due to which floods and erosion frequently occur in Sitapur. I urge the Government that a dam may also be constructed on the Sitapur side of the river Sharda so that Sitapur may be freed from floods and erosion.

(v) Need to take necessary measures to construct the broad gauge railway line between Agra and Etawah in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRI BABULAL CHAUDHARY (FATEHPUR SIKRI): Madam Speaker, the construction of the new broad gauge railway line from Agra to Etawah via Fatehabad-Bateshwar began in 1999-2000. It was duly approved by the Railway Board. However, the project remains incomplete due to non-availability of land from the district administrations of Agra and Etawah. This line will benefit thousands of people living in Agra, Etawah, and nearby areas. I request the Union Government to issue directions for the early completion of this work.

(vi) Need to evolve a mechanism to ensure time-bound payment of agricultural produce procured by Government agencies from farmers under MSP Scheme particularly in Bikaner Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): In my Parliamentary Constituency Bikaner, under the MSP scheme of the Ministry of Agriculture of the Union Government, the procurement of agricultural produce, particularly Gram, is presently being carried out by various agencies. It has come to my notice that despite procurement of Gram by these agencies, payments are not being made, which is causing resentment among the farmers. I demand from the Hon. Minister of Agriculture, Government of India, that a mechanism be evolved to ensure timely payment for all agricultural commodities procured under the MSP scheme, so that farmers may not have to make repeated demands for their payments. The UPA Government, during the last ten years, failed to put in place a system of timely payment and procurement is still being carried out under the same arrangement. In this context, I demand from the Agriculture Minister that firm arrangements be made for timely payment in consultation

with the procuring agencies of the State Governments, particularly in my Parliamentary Constituency Bikaner, Rajasthan, where gram has been procured by Government agencies and the payment is still pending.

(vii) Need to undertake four-laning of National Highway from Kannauj to Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH): There is a need for the construction of a four-lane road from the historic city of Kannauj to the commercial city of Sitapur in Uttar Pradesh. The Kannauj-Sitapur route is of immense importance owing to its ancient historical events and commercial significance. This road commences from kilometre 350 of National Highway No. 91 (New Delhi-Kanpur via Kannauj), crosses the holy river Ganga, passes through Mallawan, Sandila via Kothawan and near Ramgarh Sugar Mill, and further through the sacred pilgrimage centre of Naimisharanya, finally reaching Sitapur. With its construction, the New Delhi-Kanpur National Highway and the New Delhi–Lucknow National Highway will be interlinked. The completion of this road will accelerate commercial activities in my Lok Sabha Parliamentary Constituency Misrikh as well as in Central and Eastern Uttar Pradesh, thereby enabling the all-round development of the people of the region. Kannauj is a historic city whose description still exists in history. The sacred pilgrimage centre Naimisharanya, mentioned in our scriptures, and the holy Misrikh

pilgrimage centre, which preserves within itself the history of the sacrifice of Maharishi Dadhichi, are revered by crores of countrymen with profound faith and devotion. For the preservation and development of these ancient pilgrimage sites, the construction of a four-lane road is most essential.

Therefore, I earnestly request the Union Government to kindly issue necessary directions for the expeditious construction of the four-lane road from Kannauj to Sitapur.

(viii) Need to ensure timely payment of pension & gratuity to retired employees of Heavy Engineering Corporation Limited, Ranchi, Jharkhand

[Translation]

SHRI RAM TAHAL CHOUDHARY (RANCHI): I would like to draw the Government's attention to certain irregular activities. These relate to the workers and employees of the Heavy Engineering Corporation in my Parliamentary Constituency, Ranchi. This Corporation has several plants and divisions where machine tools and other equipment are manufactured by the workers and employees. But it is with regret that I have to inform that the pension and gratuity payable to the workers and employees upon their retirement from HEC have not been disbursed. For this, the workers and employees are compelled to run from pillar to post and their families are facing many hardships. Some families, upon not receiving pension after retirement, have even been driven to starvation.

I urge the Government that the pension and gratuity of the employees and workers retiring from HEC be paid immediately.

(ix)Need to sanction adequate funds under Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission to facilitate electrification of villages and hamlets under Barmer Parliamentary Constituency, Rajasthan

[English]

COL. SONARAM CHOUDHARY (BARMER): I represent Districts of Barmer and Jaisalmer in Rajasthan which are backward and deficient in essential services. I would like to submit that *50% of the population* of these Districts is without electricity. The Government of India under the first phase of Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission sanctioned about Rs.300 crores for BPL families. However still *50%* families of APL and BPL are without electricity in Barmer and Jaisalmer districts of Rajasthan.

Under II Phase, families falling under APL and BPL categories are still to be electrified. The Government of Rajasthan has sanctioned some works for electrification of hamlets (DHANIYAN) with population more than 100 but still there are 22,300 BPL families to be provided electricity. There are 23,809 hamlets with a population of more than 100 population yet to be electrified.

Survey of some Blocks like Siwana, Balotra, Barmer, Chauhtan, Shiv, Baytu & Jaisalmer in Phase-II is in progress. However, work has not been allocated due to paucity of funds. The Government of India had taken a decision three years back that remaining villages and hamlets would be electrified by the year 2015-16.

Keeping in view the above facts, it is requested that funds under Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Mission may be sanctioned as was done in the past so that the work of electrification in the above said remaining villages/hamlets could be taken up at the earliest.

(x)Need to set up a branch of CGHS at Tellichery or Vatakara in Kerala

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Attention of the Government is drawn towards the acute lack of CGHS service in various parts of the country. The reach of the scheme is so limited that many eligible people, especially in the later years of life, are unable to avail of the facility because the area where they ultimately settle after retirement is not covered by the scheme. Such areas are plenty. The northern districts of Kerala is a stark example. Patients in such areas cannot bank on the CGHS which has an office, clinic and outlet only in Thiruvananthapuram.

I understand that this is the position in many other states also. There is an urgent need to extend the functioning of CGHS to all areas, at least by way of Branches. I earnestly call upon the Health Minister to set up a branch of CGHS at Tellichery or Vatakara in Kerala for the benefit of people of North Kerala.

(xi)Need to expedite the completion of Kumbakonam to Virudhachalam broad gauge railway line and extend doubling of railway track from Trichy to Thanjavur upto Kumbakonam in Tamil Nadu

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): In the beginning of the year 2016 in Kumbakonam which is in my Mayiladuthurai Constituency, we are going to celebrate the Great Mahamaham Festival that comes once in 12 years like Kumbhamela in North India. The railway mode of transport was the best, used by lakhs of pilgrims who visited Kumbakonam during the last mahamaham festival 2004. Around one crore pilgrims are expected to visit this place in the next Mahamaham festival in 2016. Further, a huge increase of passenger traffic is also expected during the next Mahamaham. Therefore, I request the Union Government, Ministry of Railways to take immediate steps to take up the Kumbakonam to Virudhachalam broad gauge rail route in time in order to connect the western districts of Tamil Nadu with Kumbakonam. Hence to cope up with the demand, track doubling of Trichy, Thanjavur may be extended up to Kumbakonam and be completed well before the Mahamaham festival.

(xii) Need to set up National Monuments Authority and issue suitable orders to ASI for not insisting upon NoC for construction from people living in Sriperumbudur Parliamentary Constituency, Tamil Nadu

[Translation]

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN (SRIPERUMBUDUR): In my Parliamentary Constituency of Sriperumbudur, lakhs of people have been residing in Tambaram, Paliavaram and also other legislative constituencies for the last many decades.

The State Government of Tamil Nadu has provided all the basic amenities and has approved the layout and the housing schemes also. But the Archaeological Department has been preventing the local bodies and other State Govt. agencies not to issue NoC to them, citing the Archaeological Sites and Remains (Amendment and Validation) Act, 2010. Moreover, the ASI is insisting for NoC and the same is not being granted, since the National Monuments Authority alone has got that power and the said body is yet to be set up.

Actually, the Archaeological Sites and Remains Act is proving to be a hindrance and causing hardships to the people.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to issue suitable orders to the ASI to not insist upon NoC for undertaking basic activities for the welfare of the people of the region.

(xiii) Need to ensure better interface between Banks and Self-Help Groups under National Rural Livelihood Mission in the country particularly in Hooghly district of West Bengal

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) which is renamed as Aajeevika is the largest comprehensive and ground breaking poverty reduction programme in the country. But when it comes to execution, we find difficulties, and the approach towards disbursement of credit is tardy. Self help groups find it difficult to coordinate with the Banks in the execution of NRLM. When it comes to meetings of the sub-committee of the DCC for NRLM, banks do not attend. In such a scenario, how can the self help groups resolve the problems cropping up between banks and self help groups. The Government should instruct the national banks to attend such meetings so that existing issues being encountered by the Self Help Groups who are implementing NRLM could be resolved. The linkage between the bank and the Self Help Groups should be free from hassles and the disbursement of credit should be a smooth affair in order to achieve the goal of promotion of Self employment in the rural areas particularly among women. I would also like to bring it to the kind notice of the Government that when states are already under

financial burden, their burden should be shared by the Centre. There is an urgent need to promote priority sector lending among the grass root rural banks in Hooghly district of West Bengal. There is also a need to change the mindset of the bankers so that the NRLM becomes a successful endeavor in not only reducing poverty in the rural areas but also eradicating poverty.

(xiv) Need to ensure better implementation of the mid-day meal scheme in schools in the country

[Translation]

SHRIMATI VEENA DEVI (MUNGER): India is a country where 315 million students are found, of which 112 million are of the age of four years. During the last decade, enrolment of students in schools has increased from 79 percent to 92 percent. Yet, 1.4 million students are still deprived of schooling. The Government has launched several schemes at the primary school level to make the education system more attractive in the country, one of which is the mid-day meal scheme. Under this scheme, children are provided with lunch. The Government believes that by attracting children with good and nutritious meals, their interest in attending schools will increase. However, despite the merit of this scheme, due to improper implementation, it appears unable to achieve its objectives. Incidents of contaminated food have created fear among children and parents instead of attraction. In our State Bihar, incidents of distribution of contaminated meals have become common.

Therefore, I urge the Government that effective modifications be made in the implementation of this scheme. If its implementation cannot be made clean and healthy, then children should be provided cash in lieu so as to sustain their interest in education.

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12.19 hrs.

THE SCHEDULED CASTES AND THE SCHEDULED TRIBES (PREVENTION OF ATROCITIES) AMENDMENT BILL, 2014

[Translation]

THE MINISTER FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT): Madam Speaker, I beg to move:

"That the Bill to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989, be taken into consideration."

Madam Speaker, with your permission, I would like to make a few remarks. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Are you suggesting that it should be referred to the Standing Committee?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Madam Speaker, as per your order. If you permit, I shall speak now; if you decide otherwise, I shall speak later. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This should be referred to the Standing Committee.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Madam, whatever decision you take, since this Bill has now become the property of Parliament, your decision shall be binding. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: It should be referred to the Standing Committee.

SHRI THAAWAR CHAND GEHLOT: Very well. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Now, we shall commence the discussion on the General Budget.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

... *(Interruptions)*

12.21 hrs.

[English]

At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge went back to his seat.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You all will also have to abide by the rules. If you wish to disturb the House, there is nothing I can do. You had even approached me during Zero Hour, but as you were late, I had nevertheless said that I would allow it to be raised in the House. If it is agreed to here by the Treasury benches, I have no objection.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Firstly, you will not speak to me while standing here. Please go to your seat. I am addressing Mr. Kharge, not you. This is not the proper way to speak while standing in the Well. Yes, Mr. Kharge ji, you know very well, when the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has said that "She is busy in the other House," if he speaks, your point will be conveyed there. You will have to wait for a short while. You cannot compel it to happen immediately. If he speaks, I have no objection. There is nothing I can do in this regard. I can’t compel. If you wish to disturb, it is up to you.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It is up to him.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No, I am not angry.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Madam, please remove them first. What is the use? How can I deliver my speech in such circumstances? ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, I talked to you. ... *(Interruptions)* It is your responsibility. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: What can we do about it now? He has said that he will do it there.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I think he has gone. He must have gone there whatever it is, but it should have come from there. I am unable to make a statement.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharge ji, you know better that this is not the proper procedure. This will be undertaken. I am unable to specify when this will be done.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: We can discuss with them later.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Why not here, you may inquire about that. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Let him come, we will discuss.

Shri Mulayam Singh.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, how can I speak under such circumstances... *(Interruptions)*

In such a situation, how will I speak? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharge ji, this is not the proper way. I shall not speak to any Member standing in the Well. Mr. Kharge ji is speaking, let him speak. But the point is, I cannot compel. You will

listen when he comes. Now he has assured that he will convey the matter there. It does not happen like this.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You may speak whenever you wish, raise the matter, and have a discussion, it does not happen automatically. I have assisted you and given you the opportunity to raise the matter. They have informed, [English] They have replied. It is not like that. It should not be like that. Please.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way. I am sorry.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: How can I speak? It is very difficult to speak under such circumstances. ... *(Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now you may request them. This is their way. What can I do?

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* Not recorded.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: This is not a trivial matter, it is the country's Budget. Please make them quiet. ... *(Interruptions)* What is this? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please, there is no need for everyone to speak. [English] Shri Venkaiah ji, do you want to say something?

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You all first go back to your seats now.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge ji, the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs is replying now.... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please, let all Members return to their seats. It cannot be allowed that anyone may stand wherever they wish.

... *(Interruptions)*

12.24 hrs.

[English]

At this stage, Shri Deepender Singh Hooda and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: No, nobody will speak.[English] I am not going to allow anybody. If the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs want to say something, let him say. [Translation] It is not the proper way for everyone to rise and speak while standing.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam Speaker, the leader of the Congress parliamentary party Shri Khargeji is a very senior leader. He is aware of the rules, regulations and procedures of the House. He has raised an issue. In spite of the fact that the Government could decide the timing, but still knowing the seniority and also the severity of the

matter, which he has raised, I went out and then contacted the Hon. Minister of External Affairs. Her business in the Rajya Sabha is over. She would be coming to this House at the earliest. She would make a statement about the issue raised by Shri Mallikarjun Khargeji.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This is exactly what I was telling you.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Shri Mulayam Singh ji.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister has already spoken.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I am thankful to the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs. He has promised. His heart is very large! [Translation] The chest may be small, but the heart is large. [English] I agree with that.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: But you have not trusted me.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I have no heart to your argument. *... (Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I was telling that he had gone out. But you did not trust me. It is okay.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Regarding the subject we were discussing, the Hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment requested your approval to refer the Prevention of Atrocities against Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes Act to the Standing Committee, which was accepted. Our primary objection is... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You cannot raise that up now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, why can we not raise it? It is a Bill to replace an Ordinance. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharge ji, it does not happen like that.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, we accept an Ordinance brought even for the sake of a Private Secretary, but this is the Prevention of Atrocities SC-ST Act. ... *(Interruptions)* This law has been enacted for 23 percent of the people. If the Ordinance made for 23 percent of the people is not to be converted into law. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharge ji, it has already been done, it cannot be brought back.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...[**]

HON. SPEAKER: Khargeji, you know better. You are a senior person. [Translation] What has happened cannot be revisited for discussion. At that moment, you were causing a disturbance.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: So, the matter is over. Now, Shri Mulayam Singh.

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[*] Not recorded.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This matter has now been referred to the Standing Committee.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): We have to discuss about the 30 per cent of our population.... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This has been referred to the Standing Committee.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: We have referred it to the Standing Committee. [Translation] You should understand the matter. You may discuss this in the Standing Committee. If you create less commotion, then the matter will be better understood.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, Mr. Mulayam Singh ji.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I just want to bring it to your kind notice. Kindly bear with me.

HON. SPEAKER: No, please. I cannot go back.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I cannot revert to the matter that has already been discussed.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You should have raised this matter at that time.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Mulayam Singh ji.

*(Interruptions) ...**

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, you come and discuss whatever was already decided. I am sorry.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

* Not recorded.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh ji.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, I have risen to speak.

Madam, the beginning of bad days has started with this budget because Modi Sahab had said that good days are about to come. ... *(Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh Ji, one minute please. She is here.

12.30 hrs.

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER….Contd.

Re: Meeting of a journalist with Hafiz Saeed

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF OVERSEAS INDIAN AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): Madam Speaker, I have just been informed by the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs that perhaps the Leader of the Congress Party, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge ji, has sought to know about

the report of the High Commissioner in relation to the meeting of Shri Ved Pratap Vaidik with Hafiz Saeed.

First of all, I may inform you that on the very day when this matter was raised here, while replying orally I had made it absolutely clear that, with full responsibility, I state that the Government of India has no connection whatsoever either with that visit or with his meeting with Hafiz Saeed. Thereafter, this matter had concluded here. No further question was put to me, nor did I make any further reply. However, in the other House there exists a convention of clarifications, although it applies to suo motu statements. But they relaxed the rules slightly and clarifications were sought there. One such clarification was this. Someone stated that perhaps Ved Pratap Vaidik himself had said in an interview that the Indian High Commissioner was aware of my meeting. In reply to that, I had said that I had sought a report from the High Commissioner, which is awaited. Once that report is received, I shall inform the House. Since this matter was not raised here, I did not state it.

But this is our house and since Shri Kharge desires to know, through you, I would like to inform the House that the report from the Indian High Commissioner has been received. In that report, he has stated in the clearest possible terms that he had no knowledge

whatsoever that Shri Vaidik was going to meet Hafiz Saeed. Therefore, the question of facilitating such a meeting does not arise at all. Shri Vaidik went to meet him entirely without the knowledge of the High Commissioner. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Now I request you to take action to prosecute him.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharge ji, what happen to you today?

... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You take action against him.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Saugata Roy ji, please take your seat.

... *(Interruptions)*

12.33 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET(2014-15) – GENERAL DISCUSSION

DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL) (2011-12)…Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Madam Speaker, I extend my sincere thanks to you and also to my colleagues from the Congress who have given me this opportunity to speak.

Madam, as far as this Budget is concerned, I would like to state categorically that with this Budget the beginning of bad days has commenced, for it was proclaimed that the beginning of good days would come. It is our clear submission that the beginning of bad days has taken place. Will this Budget reduce inflation? I would like to ask whoever may be here, the Hon. Ministers sitting in this House, will your Budget reduce inflation? There is no mention of it anywhere. The most serious problem facing the nation today is inflation. Inflation is not coming down; rather it has increased. From the very day the Hon. Prime Minister took oath, inflation has started to rise. Through this Budget, instead of heralding good days, the beginning of bad days has

taken place. Therefore, through you, Madam, we wish to know what is their direction and what are their priorities. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharge ji, what happen to you today? Mr. Kharge, What's the matter today?

... (Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

HON. SPEAKER: Only Shri Mulayam Singh ji's statement will go on record.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Such kind of conversation does not go on record.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I have said that only your speech shall go on record. Please speak.

* Not recorded.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am speaking. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please don't do that. What's the matter today?

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Have you given the time to him or to me? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: They are stating this, do you have any objections to it?

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Do you wish to seek our support or not? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN): It is very wrong that when Netaji is speaking, Interruptions are being made. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We will support you, kindly allow me to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

AN HON. MEMBER: Please do not lend your support to them, their support has already been secured. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It is due to that very reason that they have lost.... *(Interruptions)* We had saved their Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, I was saying that through this budget ... *(Interruptions)* how will I speak? I can not speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Hon. Speaker, I have a point of order. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

AN HON. MEMBER: It is not a point of order now. What point of order is there?

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: There is no point of order. Now, please demonstrate by speaking. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please restrain them from interrupting. You can address your matter later, we will also support you. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: You have disturbed Netaji a lot. Now I wont let anybody interrupt. Is this the way? Netaji was allotted a specific time. What is this? I will also not let you speak. I wont let

anybody speak. ... *(Interruptions)* They are disturbing at the time of Netaji's speech.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Hon. Speaker, I have a point of order.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please state the rule. [English] Under which rule do you want to raise the point of order?

... (Interruptions)

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: I am raising a point of order under Rule 376(1), "The point of order shall lay to the interpretation or enforcement of these rules as regulate the business of the House and shall raise a question which is within your cognizance." ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, what our leader, Mr. Kharge was saying was that, during the disturbance in the House, when the House was not in order, a decision was taken to refer a very important Bill affecting the well-being of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities of this nation to a Standing Committee whereas the practice of this House for the last 60 odd years has been that Ordinances being

converted to Bill cannot be referred to Standing Committees. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please understand one thing as well. A point of order can be raised only regarding the business currently under consideration. Whatever happened in the midst of your disruptions cannot be addressed. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav.

... (Interruptions)

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: But, Madam, it happened, when the House was in disorder. *... (Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: That is not how it works, please. The current business is ongoing, that was done. [English] You know better, [Translation] having been a Minister.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: But, Madam, that is the decision we are objecting to*...(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: How can it be possible? [Translation] As we have moved beyond that point, I would request that we refrain from raising points of order regarding past matters and focus on the current issue at hand. If you have objections to the discussion, you may speak.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Kharge, what is the matter today? Do you not wish to discuss the budget?

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We acknowledge, but the point we raised... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Mulayam Singh, just a minute. The fact is that there are 314 new members, so I am speaking a little for their benefit, please understand. You all are experienced. The matter being raised relates to the Bill on SCs and STs brought today by Hon. Minister Thaawar Chand Gehlot. It has been decided that this will be referred to the Standing Committee. The Speaker has the authority in this regard. The Standing Committee will be constituted, and it will include members of all kinds, from both sides, both ruling and opposition. They may discuss the Bill as much as they wish, and after discussion, it will return here for passage. It is not the case that issues concerning Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, or matters of injustice or oppression, should not be raised here, that is also acknowledged. A decision was made from the Chair, and we moved on to the next item. The Chair cannot be held responsible for the disruptions at that time. The Chair has given its decision, and I think there should be no further discussion on this matter. It will be referred to the Standing Committee, which will include all types of members.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You may discuss and state whatever you wish regarding it. You have done this many times before.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now please be quiet. Mulayam Singh Ji, you may speak.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: We cannot revisit.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): You yourself were not serious.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Ganesh Singh, please take your seat. The Chair has made a decision, now allow him to speak.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It has been decided that it will be referred to the Standing Committee. You please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, thank you very much, and my thanks to you as well. Regarding this Budget, I can say that it marks the beginning of difficult days. I say this because the Prime Minister had stated that the beginning of good days has commenced. It was promised that inflation, which stood at 25 percent, would be immediately reduced. Has inflation decreased? No, it has

risen. The Prime Minister had assured the reduction of inflation, yet it has increased. When responding to this, please clarify why the beginning of good days has turned into the beginning of bad days, and why inflation has risen. This was the platform on which you won the election. Will you always win by misleading the public? You will not be able to mislead the House. Even if your numbers are fewer, Madam Speaker, with your guidance, we will present our arguments firmly, and the nation will see how the public has been misled with falsehoods. You have now obtained a majority, leaving no excuse.

Madam Speaker, we wish to know the priorities of the Government. The Budget does not mention reducing inflation or unemployment. It was promised that every young person would be provided employment and jobs. Please tell us when this will happen. ... *(Interruptions)* when, and how many people will be provided employment and job. ... *(Interruptions)* This was your promise made to the public. The youth have stood in your favour expecting jobs and employment. You now have obtained a majority. ... *(Interruptions)* For several years, no party had a majority. Now, there can not be any excuse, you have a majority. When will you fulfil the promises you made? Some promises were made on oath that they would be fulfilled immediately. Inflation was promised to be reduced by 25 percent, yet

instead of decreasing, it has risen. You had assured that inflation would be reduced within a month, but now one and a half months have passed.

The second point I would like to make is, as I have stated, that for nearly thirty years coalition Governments were in power. You have now obtained a majority. You can no longer offer any excuse. Fulfil the promises made to the common people. When will you commence this? So far, you have not begun, and inflation has only increased. You had stated that as soon as the Government is formed, black money would be brought back. How much black money have you repatriated? The Hon. Minister will also respond to this. Please also inform how much black money exists. You cannot bring back black money from abroad, I am aware of this. You had made a promise in this regard, yet you have not been able to deliver. There is also significant black money within our own country. You could at least retrieve that. You conducted raids on small shopkeepers. Please inform the House how much black money was recovered. How much black money have you collected? You do not have the courage to raid the wealthy. Why is this so? We are aware of everything.

Where are the largest industrialists in Asia? There are six industrialists in Gujarat. The Prime Minister is a resident of Gujarat.

He was elected from the Parliamentary Constituency of Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and became the Prime Minister, yet he is Gujarati. The six largest industrialists in Asia are in Gujarat. Have you sought their assistance? Have you held discussions with them? Since they are from your State, discussions would certainly have taken place. The House wishes to know what was discussed. We wish to cooperate with you so that black money returns to the country and the nation develops. We are on that side. Please state how much black money you have recovered and how much black money exists in this country.

You have indeed taken one step by forming a committee to recover black money as directed by the Supreme Court. What has that committee done? What advice did the committee provide to you? Have you convened meetings of the committee? Have you contacted them? Surely, you must have done so. Following the Supreme Court's directive, the committee was formed, and you must have had some communication with it. Even if you leave aside black money held abroad, I would like to say that no foreign direct investment or private sector funds will be required; there is ample capital within our own country. We trust that the Hon. Minister of Finance will, in his response, mention how much black money will be integrated into the

economy and by when. You are a capable person. You are learned and wise.

Will this Budget reduce unemployment? There is no mention of this in the Budget. The greatest problem in the country is unemployment. I wish to point out that the youth will not wait for long, and dangerous consequences may arise. You have not provided employment to the youth, despite having promised jobs. The youth have historically supported the Samajwadi Party, yet all the youth have joined your side. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to present the reality of the nation to the House. Why should we speak in a roundabout way? The youth have joined you in expectation of employment. How many youth have you employed, and by when will employment be provided to the remaining youth? There is no mention of this in the Budget. I must state clearly that if the anger of the youth erupts, the consequences for the nation could be severe. Therefore, I would like to caution you that this Budget does not fulfil the promises made to the youth. ... *(Interruptions)*

This Budget must provide incentives for small industries. Our clear policy has always been that until cottage industries are operating in every household, unemployment cannot be eliminated. We acknowledge that it is not possible to provide employment to

everyone, as there are not enough jobs, yet there are many opportunities. Begin providing some employment. We are speaking in your favour. We are speaking to save the country because the youth are listening. They will not wait for long. If they rise in protest, it will be a dangerous signal for the nation. We must support the youth in this, and you must do so as well. You have promised employment and jobs and received votes for it. All the youth voted for you, and you have obtained a majority. Now that you have a majority, there can be no excuse. Previously, we had coalition Governments, which gave us the excuse of not being able to act alone. Now that you have a single-party Government, that excuse has ended.

You are saying here that smart cities will be built and excellent airports will be constructed. Please also tell us how many people will be provided employment through these projects. Do you have these figures? You must have prepared the projects, so all the details must be before you. Only from this will it be clear how many people you are providing employment to. You will build cities, but why not develop villages? I would like to ask this. ... *(Interruptions)* Our India is rooted in villages. Until the villages are prosperous, people will not be happy, and farmers will not be prosperous, India can never be strong. This is an agriculture-based country. Everyone has

acknowledged this. You have also acknowledged it, they have acknowledged it, and we have acknowledged it. This was the lifelong message of Chaudhary Charan Singh ji. He always began and ended his speeches with the concerns of farmers, villages, and poverty. All farmers recognised him as their leader and will continue to do so. He remains undisputed to this day. What have you done? You have done nothing for farmers and nothing for the youth. No solution has been provided for employment, how many people will be employed, and within what time.

Hon. Minister, in your response, please provide details of both permanent and temporary employment, and their numbers, how many people will be given permanent jobs and how many temporary jobs. As I mentioned in my previous speech, 6 crore people have registered, and there are more than 6 crore others seeking registration. Agricultural labourers and other unorganised workers are separate. Approximately eighteen crore people in India are unemployed. The day these eighteen crore people receive employment, India will become strong, prosperous, and happy. Simply demonstrate this much work, and we will support you. Your Budget contains no mention of how many people will be provided employment. Does this Budget provide any benefit to farmers?

Hon. Hukam Singh Ji is seated here. Has the Government of Uttar Pradesh not waived Rs. 1,650 crore of farmers loans? Is irrigation not provided free of charge? Is education not free? Are medicines not free? For serious illnesses such as cancer, liver, kidney, and heart disease, if free treatment is available anywhere in India, it is in Uttar Pradesh. If free education is available anywhere, it is in Uttar Pradesh. If free medicines are provided anywhere, it is in Uttar Pradesh. You must undertake some work. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, I would like to state this. ... *(Interruptions)* Was this not communicated to the farmers. ... *(Interruptions)* Shall I conclude my speech. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You may speak.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: I am speaking, you should make them stop. ... *(Interruptions)* I will conclude my speech very soon. I do not intend to deliver a long speech. I would like to communicate clearly with the Government about what it is doing, as the people and I want to know the Government's actions because I have certain allegations. You have now been in Government for one and a half to almost two months, yet no substantial work has been done. I acknowledge that you have not acted in these one and a half

to two months. You had stated that we would eliminate inflation, but one and a half months have passed. This cannot continue. ... *(Interruptions)* I am informing you of this. Therefore, I am cautioning you that you still have ample time. Hon. Minister, when you respond, please address all these matters. At the very least, provide employment to people and reduce inflation. You have mentioned in the Budget that loans will be provided to landless farmers, and the provision is Rs. 8 crore. Please ensure that this facility reaches the landless, because they are the ones who usually do not receive such benefits. Hon. Minister of Finance, you have allocated Rs. 8 crore, so it must reach those for whom it is intended, otherwise it will also go to those who already own land. This has been happening repeatedly. At the very least, the money meant for the poor should reach them. You have stated that farmers will be taught skills, do you intend to ruin India? If you teach farmers skills, they will leave agriculture. This will reduce production. When production decreases, where will the grain for consumption come from? At least farmers, through their labour, produce enough grain for sustenance. Our Government has provided certain facilities, such as free irrigation, among others. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Mulayam Singh ji, you have spoken. Please conclude your speech. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We haven't said anything yet. ... *(Interruptions)* The law and order situation is entirely inappropriate. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Personal discussions will not form part of the proceedings.

... (Interruptions)[*]

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Law and order is worst in Madhya Pradesh. ... *(Interruptions)* The highest number of rape cases are in Madhya Pradesh. ... *(Interruptions)* The highest number of rape cases are in Rajasthan. ... *(Interruptions)* Are these figures not correct? ... *(Interruptions)* Everyone please be seated. ... *(Interruptions)* The Hon. Home Minister is present here, he should clarify. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Home Minister, please confirm that the highest number of rape cases are in Madhya Pradesh, the highest number are in Rajasthan. ... *(Interruptions)* In India, the lowest number of rape cases are in Uttar Pradesh, with only 2 percent. ... *(Interruptions)* In Madhya Pradesh, it is 10 percent. ... *(Interruptions)*

[*] Not recorded.

These are not my figures, they are your Home Minister's figures. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Rakesh Singh Ji, you have spoken.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please read carefully. I am giving your Home Minister's figures, not my own. These are not my figures. In Uttar Pradesh, rape cases constitute 2 percent, whereas in Madhya Pradesh they are 9.8 percent. ... *(Interruptions)* The situation in Rajasthan is similar. ... *(Interruptions)* You may investigate the situation in Delhi. ... *(Interruptions)* If there are places with the lowest number of rape cases in India, it is Uttar Pradesh. Uttar Pradesh has a population of 210 million. Based on population, the number of rape cases there is very low. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, one cannot win by speaking untruths. ... *(Interruptions)* Loans are being provided to farmers. A major portion will reach the cultivators, I have cautioned you about this. ... *(Interruptions)* You have neglected agriculture greatly. ... *(Interruptions)* Shall I conclude my speech. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You have completed your speech.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Please allow me to speak for five more minutes. ... *(Interruptions)* The greatest neglect has been of the farmers. I am surprised. Here sits the Minister of Finance. Minister of Finance, will you tolerate the neglect of farmers? You belong to the place where farmers are the most aware and, after hearing my speech today, they will become even more aware. In this Budget, farmers have been completely neglected. Nothing has been given to the farmers. ... *(Interruptions)* If something has been given, then please state it. ... *(Interruptions)* We have provided farmers with many resources and facilities. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Mulayam Singh ji, please conclude your speech now.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, I would like to state that FDI poses a threat to our borders. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to point out that even today China has intruded into our territory. China is intruding into our borders on a daily basis. What could be more serious than this? We have three armed forces. All the three forces must be provided with the maximum possible facilities, but I am aware that they do not have full facilities. How will they be able to defend the country? This is my allegation. Here sits a General

who has also become a Minister. Let the General himself stand up and state whether, when he was a General, he was provided with full facilities.

13.00 hrs.

There are three wings of our armed forces - the Air Force, the Army and the Navy. At present, there are shortcomings in all three. They do not have the facilities they should be provided with. What could be more dangerous than this? This Government itself is creating dangers. It is endangering the borders. Poverty is increasing. Therefore, I would like to state that the Minister of Finance has not indicated any new taxes. If he has not, then is this a new practice that Parliament is to be sidelined and when the House is adjourned, taxes will be increased? And if the House does not run, taxes will again be increased. This is sheer trickery. It is deceit with the nation. You should not tolerate the neglect of Parliament. They have consistently done this. Even before the House functioned, they increased taxes. Thereafter they increased them further, bypassing Parliament. Do we not know these tricks? The people know. The country cannot run through such deceit.n We acknowledge that your willpower, as I have observed, appears strong. You have delivered a speech and you have also made some mention in the Budget. The willpower is indeed strong. But to move forward the vehicle of economic development, all parties and we too should have been brought together. This could have been better. To this extent, all of us can extend cooperation. Call all

parties together. The situation of the country is serious. How should we advance our country before the world? In this, we all will cooperate. Invite leaders of all parties. Also speak with others, with farmers, with other organisations as well. You speak of cleaning the river Ganga. Madam Speaker, this fact should be known that in the year 1957, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had proclaimed that rivers must be cleaned. A movement had commenced. We were students then, in lower classes, but we used to raise slogans: "Food and clothing must be cheap, medicine and education must be free." We demonstrated it in reality. ... *(Interruptions)* In Uttar Pradesh, medicines are free, education is free and farmers loans worth Rs.1650 crore have been waived. ... *(Interruptions)* Irrigation too has been made free. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude, Mulayam Singh ji.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: It has been declared that no farmer's land shall be auctioned. This is applicable only within Uttar Pradesh.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude, Mulayam Singh ji.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: Madam Speaker, please allow me two minutes. In fact, I deserve more time. I would like to say that this is not right. For the purpose of creating Smart Cities, an allocation

of over Rs. 7,000 crore has been made only to benefit the capitalists. What you are doing, by spending Rs. 7,000 crore, is to serve the interests of the big industrialists and capitalists of the country. This is my allegation. Let there be a separate debate on this. In that debate, we will establish that you are giving Rs. 7,000 crore to the big industrialists and capitalists, and that this money is not going to the poor. As far as cleaning of the rivers is concerned, let it be noted that in the year 1957, it was the Socialist Party which first launched an agitation for this purpose. Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia had declared in 1957 that the rivers must be cleaned. You may read it. If the rivers are to be cleaned, then you must talk to all the cities located on the banks of the Ganga, consult with the local bodies, and consult with us. Only if everyone works together in this endeavour can you succeed, otherwise, you cannot. The cities along the banks of the rivers, the local bodies, the municipal councils, the metropolitan representatives, the elected persons, they must all be consulted. If all join in the work of cleaning the rivers, then this initiative will be meaningful. I may say that you have made a good announcement, but there is no mention as to how you will implement it. Mere speeches will not suffice. You must seek cooperation from us and from all others. Everyone will cooperate in cleaning the rivers, for all need water to drink, and

serious diseases are spreading. Before Parliament convenes, you increase taxes. When it is adjourned, you increase taxes again. If you continue to neglect Parliament in this manner, we shall not tolerate it for long. To the extent of our party's strength, we will take to the streets and expose what you are doing. I say to you also that at least now you must engage in struggle. You have enjoyed the comforts of long years in Government. Now, when the opportunity arises, you must come onto the streets. Mere speeches will not suffice. We are not ones who only give speeches; we are those who come onto the streets. This Budget is not one that will bring good days, this Budget is one that will bring bad days. I still have much more to say, but since you are asking me to conclude, I shall end my speech here.

[*]**SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (DINDORI):** In the very first General Budget of the Modi Government, complete preparations have been made to change the picture and the destiny of the Nation. Keeping in view the objective of improving the economic outlook of the country, every effort has been made to strengthen the foundation of the core sectors. At the same time, a framework has been presented to improve the life of the common man and to provide him with modern facilities. The Budget lays emphasis on development ranging from infrastructure and manufacturing to the agricultural sector. This Budget is an important step towards bringing in 'achhe din' (Good days). In the General Budget, due attention has also been given to honouring the martyrs, addressing the concerns of ex-servicemen, and ensuring external as well as internal security.

By giving priority to the agricultural sector, the General Budget will help in the development of farmers and rural areas. The provision made this time for agricultural research centres and horticultural universities is a decisive step towards bringing about transformation in agriculture. In my constituency, Dindori, the largest production in the country of grapes, pomegranates, onions and vegetables takes place. Therefore, in Dindori, there is a need for an agricultural

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

research centre and a college under the horticultural university. My constituency, being the largest producer of grapes, pomegranates, onions and vegetables in India, also requires budgetary provision for cold storages and food processing facilities.

In the Budget, an announcement has been made for the establishment of 12 new medical colleges under the health and family welfare schemes. Since my constituency, Dindori, is predominantly tribal, there is a pressing need for a tribal medical college here. There is also a need for a tribal engineering college to provide higher technical education. The establishment of these two tribal institutions will lead to the advancement of tribal students of Maharashtra.

In the field of new directions in education, the establishment of an IIM (Indian Institute of Management) in my constituency Dindori, in Maharashtra, will create a new history in this tribal area.

For assured irrigation under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana’ and the interlinking of rivers project, construction of dams on the west-flowing rivers and the cross rivers in my constituency will resolve the irrigation and drinking water problem of the entire North Maharashtra region. Therefore, expeditious action should be taken for the cross-river project.

In the forthcoming ‘Simhastha Kumbh Mela’ to be held in my district Nashik, around 3 lakh saints and approximately 1 crore pilgrims are expected to assemble. For this purpose, a demand of Rs. 2,378 crore has been made under the [English] One Time Allocation of Central Assistance (OTACA). [Translation] Therefore, special attention must be given to this in the Budget. Owing to the arrival of crores of pilgrims, there is a possibility of pollution in the river Godavari. Hence, on the lines of the Ganga Conservation Mission, there is a need to establish an authority for the cleaning of the river Godavari.

In this Budget, special attention has been accorded to culture and tourism. In my Nashik district, the land of Nashik is sanctified by the footsteps of Lord Shri Ramchandra, and Trimbakeshwar, one of the twelve Jyotirlingas, is located here. The fort of Goddess Saptashrungi at Vani, Tehsil Dindori, also holds immense spiritual significance. These sites need to be included in the National Pilgrimage and Spiritual Augmentation Campaign and must also find place in the tourism circuit.

Just like Varanasi, in my constituency Dindori, in Yeola Tehsil, handloom weaving of Paithani sarees is carried out. The Paithani saree industry and its weavers are afflicted with economic hardships and

look forward to substantial assistance from the Centre. With the vision of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’, our Government shall usher in a great transformation in the country.

With these words, I extend my support to the General Budget.

[English]

***SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI)**: The Union Budget 2014-15 reflects the seriousness with which the new Government of India has set about the task of addressing the challenge of revival of growth and improving the macro-economic situation of the country. It is a very responsible document which has placed fiscal prudence at the fore-front and at the same time addresses the heightened expectations from the new Government. It is a forward looking exercise in positivity. The Budget has commenced in right earnest the process of tackling the problems and issues head on. Many of the announcements made in the President's Address have also been given concrete shape in the Budget.

A clear fiscal road map to contain the fiscal deficit has been provided. The setting up of the Expenditure Management Commission is a welcome development and I do hope that the Commission will address the issue of expenditure management in the appropriate socio-economic context of the country and keeping the welfare objectives in view. I expect there will be opportunities to voice our concerns regarding ensuring the food and fuel security of the poor and weaker sections before the Commission. I welcome the assurance of the Minister of Finance that he will be "more than fair" to the States in

* Speech was laid on the Table.

addressing their concerns regarding the implementation of GST, relating to both fiscal autonomy and compensation of revenue loss issues. An accommodative and constructive approach from the Union Government could pave the way for enacting the necessary legislation on GST.

The proposals relating to permitting FDI need to be approached with caution. In particular, the proposal to permit manufacturing entities set up with FDI to sell their products through retail, including e-commerce platforms, should not extend to permitting FDI in retail.

We welcome the programme to establish 100 Smart Cities. While thanking the Government of India for including the development of Ponneri as a Smart City, Tamil Nadu, with the highest urbanization rate amongst large States, should naturally be the location for a larger number of the planned Smart Cities. We look forward to the details of the programme and expect to avail our due share of the Rs. 7060 crores provision in the Budget for smart cities and the pooled funding provision of Rs. 50,000 crores for urban renewal.

The National Industrial Corridors mentioned in the Budget speech including the Chennai-Bengaluru Industrial Corridor and the Vizag-Chennai Industrial Corridor, while linking Chennai and thereby helping neighboring States to take advantage of its natural strengths, do not

benefit many backward regions and districts within Tamil Nadu. Hence, I request that the Government of India must consider the further extension of these corridors within Tamil Nadu as well. The Madurai-Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor proposed to be implemented by Tamil Nadu can be considered as part of the East Coast Corridor by extending the Vizag-Chennai corridor further south.

I welcome the enhancement of allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. I hope eligibility norms will also be appropriately modified as I had already requested to ensure that a State like Tamil Nadu which has already invested in rural connectivity is not deprived of its allocations to improve rural infrastructure. Given the constraints, the Minister of Finance has provided modest taxation relief on personal income tax by raising the exemption limit to Rs. 2,50,000 which will benefit the working class. The increase in Section 80 C limit to Rs. 1,50,000 is a welcome measure to enhance financial savings.

In view of urban population, Tiruchirapalli with the population of 8.69 lakhs and with floating population of 2 lakhs, comes in fourth big city in Tamil Nadu and 52nd largest urban area in the country. Further in the year 2010-2011, next to Chennai from Trichy nearly 20 lakh people performed Air journey to Sri Lanka, 17 lakh people to Malaysia, 87322 people to Singapore, 17,948 people to UAE for various

purposes. International passenger traffic of cities in the country, Trichy customs airport comes in 11th position whereas at all India level Coimbatore comes in 17th position.

Even though this city is developing at all levels, still it is not included in Jawaharlal Nehru Urban Renewal Mission. Therefore I request the Government to take necessary steps for making this city to be brought under the first category of JNNURM and announce infrastructural schemes for this city.

Since my constituency has a tropical climate and high temperature, the potential capacity of solar generative power is 5000 megawatt. So setting up of solar projects will earn effective results which in turn give a lead in solar power generation. It has a vast area for setting up solar panels and therefore, I urge the Government to come forward to allocate adequate funds for solar power generation here.

Srirangam in Parliamentary Constituency, Tiruchirapalli is one of the major pilgrim center. Pilgrims from all over the country are visiting the famous “Ranganathan Temple” all over the year. It is the Assembly constituency of our Hon’ble beloved Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi. I request the Government to take steps for inclusion of the city under the 100 smart cities scheme.

***SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE):** I lay this speech on the Table of this august House for paucity of Debate-Time. Lest we forget, ours is a sovereign socialist secular democratic republic promising to secure to all its citizens, justice-social, economic and political; liberty of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship; and equality of status and opportunity. We cannot afford to veer from this path.

Our Party Leader, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA, a great thinker par excellence and a great administrator endowed in abundance with perspicuity and acumen, has already hailed this Budget as progressive; and that, in itself is a great compliment, to the Minister of Finance. However, our Party Leader has pointed out certain desires. I respectfully offer these suggestions for the consideration of the Minister of Finance which may be treated as additional demands.

The Life Insurance Corporation of India is one of the fewest and greatest success stories of modern India. To allow FDI in the Life Insurance sector would unnecessarily hamper its growth and take away the sheen from the glowing saga. On the other hand, FDI in the defense sector is a welcome step in the right direction. All our major defense procurements have so far been from foreign countries that have only left an aftertaste of bitter accusation of corruption. Hence, the FDI in

* Speech was laid on the Table.

setting up new ordnance factories cannot bring any harm to the country. It could, on the other hand, be even a foreign exchange saver, if not, an earner.

The fund allocation for modernization of the police force is too little to be of any practical use. Time and time again the Supreme Court has urged [in the Prakash Singh case, etc.] that police have to conduct scientific investigation in crime detection for which purpose the criminal investigation department should be manned by specialists who need special training. Modernization of the police force also includes humanization of the police.

The root cause of Naxalism is that the cry of want from the people went unheeded for long. Normal people have turned to the life of an outlaw because the state neglected to provide the basic necessaries to lead a decent life. Without addressing and fulfilling the basic wants of the people in these areas, sending Special Forces to fight Naxals would not serve the purpose. I suggest that in Tamil Nadu, the people living in Naxal-affected areas be provided with all essentials free of cost. The cost of the freebies would be much less than the cost of sending CRPF personnel. By providing the people with the basic necessaries, we make them realize that the arms are irrelevant. This would cure the States of Naxalism forever.

The expectations of the honest people of this Country that the Government would retrieve the black money hoarded in the Swiss Banks stand belied by the fact that the Government has come with empty hands. Sincere efforts in this direction are necessary.

The roads of Vellore City are choking with traffic. The rate of traffic accidents on these roads are very high. There is a dire need to speed up all pending infrastructure projects in Vellore.

There is a great scope for improving educational, spiritual and medical tourism in Vellore Constituency; and there is a need to invest in this sector.

Vellore is an educational hub. With a plentitude of higher educational institutions flourishing here, an IT Park with Central assistance or by FDI may be founded here.

The stretch of NH 46 running through Vallalar and Sathuvachari is most accident-prone. Hundreds of people lose their lives and sustain serious injuries year in and year out. This stretch should provide adequate underpasses, particularly at the Vallalar and Sathuvachari junctions. If not, the entire stretch may be converted into an elevated toll-way.

Gudiyattam Town is so particularly situated that it is off the National Highway 46 by at least 10 kms. The roads are congested and there is a requirement for a by-pass road having connectivity with the Highways.

Gudiyattam Town is noted for Handloom Lungis and Handmade matches which are actually foreign-exchange earners. To encourage these occupations, there is a need to organize Export Exhibitions periodically inviting the foreign buyers from Sri Lanka, Malaysia and South East Asian Countries.

Ambur, Vaniyambadi and Pernambut towns have a large concentration of tanneries. These tanneries tan leather and make them into fine consumer products which earn for us the much needed foreign exchange. However, of late, the ecological and environmental issues raised on account of the polluting tannery units have vastly reduced productivity and labor employment. In this context, the Centre should provide the tanners with the innovative technical knowhow to eliminate environmental pollution. It is also considered necessary that a college of international standards should be established to impart training in leather technology in one of these towns.

Under the Rural Drinking water Scheme, the villages worst affected by water pollution along the Palar Basin may be provided with drinking water facilities.

Under the Central Scheme of Interlinking of Rivers, Palar-Pennai Rivers and Palar-Nethravathi river projects may be taken up to rejuvenate the Palar river.

I will be greatly obliged if the Hon. Minister of Finance could fulfill these Demands in his Budget for the years 2014-15.

***SHRI V. ELUMALAI (ARANI)**: I wholeheartedly thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu and Leader of the AIADMK AMMA for the great privilege she has showered on me to put my views in the General Discussion on the first budget of the 16th Lok Sabha. I also thank the people of my Arani Constituency for the confidence they have reposed on the Party Leader and the Party through which I could stand and speak in this temple of democracy.

My great mentor and Leader AMMA has said that this Budget is a very responsible document with fiscal prudence at the heart of it and is 'forward-looking which will lead to economic revival.

Several proposals including the setting up of an Expenditure Management Commission, more importance to women and children have to be welcomed.

The proposal to permit manufacturing entities set up with FDI to sell their products through retail, including e-commerce platforms, should not extend to permitting FDI in retail.

My Leader Amma's suggestions for modifying the MGNREG Scheme to make workers more productive by focusing on creation of

* Speech was laid on the Table.

assets and linking them to agricultural operations have been accepted and I thank the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for the same.

The plan to set up a textile mega cluster in the State is a welcome measure. Along with that I request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to set up a Silk Park in the Arani town in my constituency which is long pending.

As Arani is popularly called as the city of silk sarees, next to Kanchipuram, it has more than 60,000 population, out of which 35,000 people are into the wearing profession.

The very first National Flag of our country hoisted in Red Fort on Independence Day was the Silk Flag which was weaved in "ARANI". This historical contribution by my Arani Silk Weavers to our motherland needs the limelight on us. We are stepping into our 67th year of Independence. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister of State of Commerce and Industry to take up this on an urgent basis.

Our Puratchi Thalailvi Amma has implemented a lot of social welfare schemes for our Tamil Nadu i.e. free rice, and 4 gram gold to poor couples. Please allot the funds.

I also request that the budgetary plan for river links be expeditiously executed as it will resolve many of the inter-state water

disputes. I was born to agricultural parents and I know the sufferings of the farmers. Our country is facing a peculiar situation. On the one hand lakhs of agriculturists suffer for want of water for their agricultural land due to drought and on the other hand, several lakhs of agriculturists suffer due to floods. Linking rivers expeditiously will definitely alter the situation and help all the agriculturists in the country to produce throughout the year.

Kerosene is a poor man's fuel for cooking. As stated by the Chief Minister, AMMA, on 11th July, in continuation to her last meeting with the Prime Minister the State has received unfair and cruel reductions in allocation of kerosene. While Tamil Nadu’s requirement as per entitlement of ration card holders in the state is 65,140 Kl the present monthly allocation of kerosene for the state stands at 29,056 Kl, which only covers 45 percent of its requirement. This unfair and cruel reduction to the extent of more than 55 per cent against the actual requirement is severely penalizing the poor and deprived people, particularly in rural areas. The ‘Capricious cuts’ imposed by the previous Government and its continuance would also have an environmental impact since the poor have to rely on firewood. I also request the Prime Minister’s urgent and decisive intervention to undo

the injustice done to the State and to allot the State's due share of monthly requirement of over 65,000 Kl.

Last but not the least Gingee Town and the surrounding areas were ruled by one King from North-Desing Raja and built a Fort and palaces on the top of the mountain. He ruled the entire place for a certain period. This place is a symbol of secularism. This place now maintained by the Archeological Department is on the National Highway between Puducherry to Krishnagiri.

On the said National Highway, there are two mountains on which two palaces have been built called-Rani palace and Raja Palace. He had one Lieutenant called Mohammed Khan. He had immense faith in him and Mohammed Khan was his Commander. When the invasion of Arcot Nawab took place, Mohammed Khan gave his life for his friend Desing Raja in the battle. This place is a symbol for secularism where Hindus, Muslims, Jains and other communities are living peacefully.

To declare this place as a tourism center, a request has been made several times and if it is developed as a tourism center, it will be like another Mahabalipuram. Therefore, I request the Hon'ble Minister for Tourism, to visit the place and after the visit definitely Gingee Town will be declared as a tourist center which could attract more tourists.

With these few words, I conclude my speech.

[*]**SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE (RAVER):** I extend my sincere thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting an all-inclusive Budget keeping in mind women and other sections of society.

Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi and his mandate of 'Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas' (Collective Effort, Inclusive Development), the first Budget of this Government has set forth measures which, keeping in view a stable growth rate of 7.8 per cent in the coming 3-4 years, necessitate strict administrative measures for achievement. The Hon. Minister of Finance has stated that a stable and restructured taxation system should be investor-friendly and growth-oriented.

A large section of this country's population is still living below the poverty line. For their full protection, the subsidy system should be made more targeted. Employment exchanges should be implemented as career centres to provide avenues of employment for the youth. A new policy on urea for the benefit of farmers should be promoted. The expansion of the Settlement Commission with respect to income tax to expedite settlement of income tax matters is a welcome provision. To strengthen the banks, public shareholding in

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

bank recapitalisation should be encouraged. The project of developing 100 smart cities is indeed commendable. Provision of substantial allocation under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana to ensure irrigation for the farmers is praiseworthy.

The Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission has been included in the Budget for providing urban-type infrastructure and allied services in rural areas, thereby promoting economic activities and skill development in such areas.

To strengthen sub-transmission and distribution systems in rural areas, initiatives will be taken so as to enable uninterrupted 24x7 power supply through feeder separation under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, for which substantial allocation has been made in the Budget. The proposal to revitalise the Senior Citizen Pension Insurance Scheme for one year for citizens of 60 years and above is encouraging.

Provision has been made in the Government's Employees Provident Scheme for a minimum pension of Rs. 1,000 per month for all members and for facilities such as a uniform account number. Further, for women safety, a pilot project titled "Safety of Women on Public Road Transport" has been proposed, and for the welfare of women and children, the establishment of Crisis Management Centres

in Government and private hospitals in all districts has been envisaged. The proposal of the “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao” scheme, with substantial allocation, to overcome societal apathy towards the girl child, is indeed commendable.

In order to bring women into the mainstream, emphasis has been laid on awareness campaigns that generate emotional appeal, as well as a proposal to introduce a separate chapter in school curricula towards mainstreaming women. Further, substantial provision has been proposed under the NRDWP for the supply of safe drinking water.

For health for all, the initiative to start free medicines and free diagnostic services on a priority basis, treatment of tuberculosis patients, and the establishment of two centres in AIIMS for quality diagnosis, together with the proposal to set up AIIMS-like institutions in four more States and to expand twelve Government medical colleges, is commendable. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, substantial allocation has been provided, with initial emphasis on providing toilets and drinking water in girls’ schools, supply of new training equipment, and the launch of the Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya New Teacher Training Programme with initial funding, in

order to inspire studies and teachers alike. The establishment of 5 new IITs and 5 new IIMs for higher education is also a praiseworthy step.

The deterioration of land and soil health is a matter of grave concern in agriculture. By introducing the Soil Health Card for every farmer and the establishment of 100 mobile soil testing laboratories, the Government has taken a historic decision that will provide great relief to farmers. Provision has also been made to face the challenge of climate change through the National Adaptation Fund.

Since landless farmers cannot provide land ownership as guarantee, during the current financial year it has been proposed to extend financial support of Rs. 5 lakh to joint farming groups under the Landless Farmer Scheme. Further, a fund is to be established primarily for the stabilisation of agricultural produce of farmers, States are to be encouraged to develop markets in urban areas for farmers, and farmers are to be enabled to sell their produce directly.

By making such provisions for beneficial schemes in all these sectors, the Hon. Minister of Finance has presented a relief-oriented budget for all sections of society, for which I express my deep gratitude to him.

In conclusion, I would humbly submit that the following demands relating to my Raver Parliamentary Constituency may kindly be

included in the Budget in public interest. Under the Smart City Mission, the medium-sized towns of Bhusawal and Muktainagar may be incorporated. In order to improve affordable health care and health facilities, Ideal Rural Health Research Centres may be established in the rural areas of my constituency. My constituency of Raver supplies bananas in large quantities to the entire country. In order to further promote this sector, the provision of a Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory is essential. I therefore request that provision for a Mobile Soil Testing Laboratory may kindly be made in my Parliamentary Constituency of Raver.

[*]**SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON):** Under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, Hon. Arun Jaitley ji has presented a Budget which shows the direction to the nation. By presenting such a Budget within merely 50 days, our Government has given a new hope to the common man of India. This Budget has taken into account all those matters which are directly related to the life of the common man. The Government, through its very first Budget, has indicated clear policy measures for determining the destiny and direction of the country. Under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and his mandate of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, the developmental policies of the Government shall benefit the people. This Budget marks the beginning of taking the nation towards a growth trajectory of 7 to 8 per cent in the coming 2-3 years. Our Government shall work on several important policies, such as formulation of a new Urea Policy, emphasis on the implementation of GST, and provision of Rs. 100 crore for converting employment exchanges into career centres. On many such policies of national interest our Government shall work. For establishing India's recognition at the global level, a sum of Rs. 7060 crore has been allocated for launching the project of development of one hundred

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

Smart Cities. This shall be of immense help in curbing migration from villages to cities. Further, our Hon. Prime Minister has taken into consideration the plight of farmers, who are regarded as the backbone of our country, and has given great relief to them by announcing the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Along with this, the linking of MGNREGA with agriculture has been a significant step, for since the inception of MGNREGA, there has been a shortage of labourers in rural areas, thereby causing difficulties for the farmers. Now, as MGNREGA can also be utilised for agricultural activities, this shall certainly lead to an increase in agricultural production. I would further submit before the Government that, due to drought in Maharashtra, thousands of farmers have lost their homes, fields, cattle, and everything they possessed. The relief package announced by the Government in view of this grave situation has still not reached the genuine farmers. On this subject, we have raised our voice several times in Parliament, yet the Government has paid no heed. I urge upon my Government to take cognisance of this matter and ensure that the affected farmers receive the benefit of the relief package. Moreover, even at present, many parts of the country are not receiving the monsoon. The Government must clarify what steps it is going to take in this regard. It is essential that Hon. Members of Parliament from

each State be called for a discussion on this issue so that a concrete decision may be taken. In this way, the requirements of the respective States may be ascertained in advance, because if the monsoon continues in this manner, the nation shall face grave difficulties. In view of this, immediate steps need to be taken. Along with this, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards a major problem faced by the farmers of the country. The Government is also well aware of this fact that nearly 40 per cent of the nation's agricultural produce in the form of foodgrains, fruits and vegetables is wasted during the monsoon solely due to the absence of proper paved roads from villages to the fields. In several reports, the Government itself has acknowledged the urgent need for remedial measures on this issue. However, till date, no concrete steps have been taken in this regard. In view of the seriousness of this issue, we had submitted a proposal to the Government for the construction of [English] Field approach roads [Translation] connecting farms to villages in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. The Maharashtra Government, in turn, has taken action by forwarding this proposal to the Union Government for approval. We have been pursuing this matter with the previous Government as well, but no consideration has been given so far. I urge the Government to take cognizance of the gravity of this matter, as

action on this proposal will benefit not only Maharashtra but the entire country. It is requested that this proposal be approved as a special project. Alongside this, it is also necessary to connect villages with each other. Often, one village ends and another begins with a stream or a drain between them, which must be crossed to reach the next village. It is essential to construct bridges over these streams. Further, due to lack of funding or non-approval, several projects such as Paulsare Dam, Wadhur Project, Girna and Manyar River Linking Projects, and Varkhed Londe Dam and Titur Project have not progressed, depriving the farmers of any benefit. I request the Government to consider all these matters and take immediate steps to commence work. Special funds should be allocated for KT weirs on the Bori, Anjani, Tapi, and Girna rivers in the Jalgaon region so that farmers may benefit and actively contribute to the development of the country, while the irrigation facilities available to farmers are expanded.

Our Government has also focused on empowering women, making them self-reliant, and ensuring their safety. For enhancing security of women in major cities across the country, a provision of Rs. 150 crore has been made. Additionally, under the “Beti Bachao Beti Padhao” initiative, Rs. 100 crore has been allocated this year for

establishing ‘Empowerment Management Centers’ in Government and private hospitals across all districts of the National Capital Region, aimed at improving women welfare services, raising awareness, and providing assistance.

The Government has announced the launch of a programme called Digital India to connect the entire country. This initiative will link every part of the nation through the Internet, greatly assisting the common people in their personal development. It will also ensure that all Government decisions and information about various schemes reach the citizens directly. In addition, the Government has given significant attention to the education sector. On this subject, I would like to stress that in order to raise the standard of education in rural areas, competent teachers should be appointed and provided with proper training, focusing on how to elevate the students in villages to the required level. I would also urge that every primary and secondary school in the country be provided with boundary walls. As announced in the budget, Skill Development Centres will be established across the country. I request the Government to set up a Skill Development Centre in my constituency, Jalgaon, considering the extensive production of bananas and cotton in the region. This centre will provide the local population with knowledge on how to add value to

their own produce, thereby creating excellent opportunities for development. I also request the Hon. Minister of Finance to consider the agriculture production process projects proposed by my Government. Under this scheme, a cluster should be established in my constituency, Jalgaon. This will ensure that farmers receive fair prices for their produce, provide large-scale employment opportunities for the youth, and promote the growth of small industries.

Hon. Minister of Finance, I would further like to request that under the previous Government, the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan included a plan to open model schools at every taluka level (on a CBSE PPP model). Numerous proposals from educational institutions and corporate companies have been submitted under this scheme. I urge that these proposals be examined and approved immediately.

[English]

***SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA)**: The entire Nation was looking forward to the presentation of this Budget as it has evoked great expectation in the minds of the people across the country. However, the Budget in effect is deeply disappointing as it does not take India on the path of rapid economic development and growth. It has been proclaimed that the General Budget will usher in an era of drastic economic reforms and innovative economic measures. It was also declared that it will be a total departure from the interim Budget presented by the previous Minister of Finance.

It was on the main plank of price rise and issue of corruption that this ruling Party fought and won the last election. At the outset my question to the Hon'ble Minister of Finance is as to what are the innovative, bold steps the Government would take in containing inflation and price rise. The Government has also promised that drastic measures would be taken to unearth black-marketing and hoarding. As one who shares the sentiments of the common man, I would request the Hon'ble Minister to enlighten us on this point.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Black money stashed abroad was one issue on which the present ruling party has been harping for years together. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance kept a golden silence on these issues when he moved from the opposition to the Treasury Bench. So much has been said about the Black Money which has been invested in foreign banks by filthy rich people. Why the hesitation to bring out this black money stashed in foreign banks.

It is a fact that the Government's intention is to weaken our Public Sector Undertakings by going in for large-scale disinvestment. Government is going in for PPP in all projects. This will ultimately take our country to rapid privatization. 49% FDI in defense sector as also in insurance sector will be fraught with dire consequences. We should bear in mind that the security of our country is at stake where defense production is concerned.

I remember the position taken by this ruling Party when the UPA Government attempted to bring in FDI in the retail sector. Whether the Minister of Finance has forgotten the hue and cry created by his party inside and outside the Parliament. Why this volte face? Why this double standard?

The intention of the Government to abolish subsidies will not augur well for the common man as he will be the worst hit.

MGNREGA, a flagship programme of the UPA Government, has brought about revolution in the villages by providing employment opportunities. It was a great step in the right direction as it was intended to eliminate poverty and unemployment from the villages.

You may recall that it was the UPA Government which has written off the bad loans of the poor farmers. The conditions of the Indian farmers are still worse and they are in debt trap. Their genuine problems are to be addressed in its totality

Coming to the state of Kerala, I would mention that five new IITs have been announced by this Government of which one is in Kerala. This is not a new decision as the previous Government had decided to start IITs in each of the States including Kerala.

The UPA Government had taken the decision to set up AIIMS like institutions all over the country including in Kerala. It is distressing to note that the Government has not provided funds for this long pending demand of the state.

Kerala has demanded an amount of Rs. 878 cr for Kochi Metro Rail Project. For this, only 463 Cr has been allocated, which is grossly insufficient.

FACT is facing an acute financial crisis and only Rs.42.66 Cr has been set apart against the need of Rs.990 Cr.

The Minister of Finance has assured that Rs.50 Cr will be set apart for Blue Revolution in inland fishing. This is a paltry sum which is not sufficient to meet the requirement. The Minister of Finance has totally forgotten the coastal fishermen who really brought about the Blue Revolution as a result of which our country earns huge foreign exchange.

I conclude by stating that rapid privatization and disinvestment of PSUs in a bigger way as also 49% FDI in Defence and Insurance sectors is the hallmark of this Budget. I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to take ample care and caution while deciding upon FDI in defense, insurance as also disinvestment of PSUs. The NDA Government had the dubious distinction of disinvesting even the profit making PSUs and they had a Minister to look after the Ministry of Disinvestment during the earlier NDA Government.

I once again oppose this Budget.

*__SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE)__: I stand to oppose this Bill for the following facts.

There is no mention as to how the income would be adequately enhanced to contain the deficit. While UPA is not totally against FDI, yet to have control, the FDI should be restricted. The proposals also clearly indicate that the NDA cannot ignore the schemes envisaged by the UPA. The budget has also not addressed reforms in the labor sector and job creation. Even the macro-economic indicator was conceived by the UPA. The sops announced for the middle class are also not adequate. The budget has not indicated any increase in growth, contain inflation and also create more jobs since half of the country is youth, apart from productive reforms. There are no suggestions to overcome the budget deficiency.

Justifiably to the reactions of the Budget, just immediately after the presentation, it is unfortunate to mention that the Sensex closed 72 points below due to doubts on the deficit target of 4.1% of GDP. This is an indication for the so-called market driven budget.

Most of the budget is concerned with market values at brokering houses which is not a good sign on the welfare of the economy. There is also a concern on the increase of clean energy cess from Rs. 50 to

Rs. 100. On the other hand, the Budget also saw reducing allocations and only renaming schemes.

Even while criticizing the UPA, the NDA has accepted the goodness in schemes like MGNREGA and NFSA, the flagship schemes under the UPA. The FM ensured an increase of Rs 1000 Cr for MGNREGA and Rs. 59,000 Cr respectively, which is a quantum jump. The good words on PMGSY are yet another indication on the concepts of UPA. This clearly establishes the social commitment of the UPA and essentially to continue this is accepted by the NDA. And here, I would like to add that under the PMGSY each MP should be authorized to recommend at least ten (10) road projects under his constituency. Similarly, the present form of Tendering finds no takers and hence the state fixed PWD rates should be allowed.

In addition, it is also suggested that the MPLAD is a highly accepted development scheme. As is known, every Parliamentary Constituency has about 7 assembly constituencies. In Kerala, each MLA is authorized for Rs. 6 Cr in a year under the MPLAD whereas an MP has only Rs. 5 Cr. Considering the anomaly, the MPLAD should be increased to Rs. 25 Cr. per year to meet the developments in a Parliamentary Constituency

The Hon'ble Minister has announced the erecting of Statue of Unity in honor of Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel ji at a cost of Rs. 200 Cr. While it is our endeavor to honor our leaders, the Government should consider erecting a statue of Gandhi ji, the Father of the Nation at Delhi. Similarly, Sankaracharya, who is considered to be the most revered philosopher and theologian from India, had consolidated the doctrine of Advaita Vedanta. He is known for the unification of two seemingly disparate philosophical doctrines, Atman and Brahman. He should also be similarly honored and a statue should be erected at Kaladi, Kerala, his birth place.

The increase of FDI in the defence sector is a cause of concern for the nation at large. Considering the strategic situation, the FDI in defense establishments should remain at 26% only.

The development of 100 modern cities is an excellent concept. Kerala needs more developments in its tier 2 and 3 cities like Kozhikode.

The life span of Indians has increased and so have various diseases. Cancer alone killed 5,56,400 people across the country in 2010, most of them in the age group of 30-69. There is also an increase in the number of dialysis patients. Similarly, old age also has increased palliative care patients. The country should shoulder the

responsibility to look after this category of people. It is suggested that an authority like NACO should be set up to look after cancer, diabetes and dialysis. In fact, dialysis centres should be set up at each district's headquarters which provide some relief to the patients with affordable health care, which is otherwise a costly treatment in the private sector. Similarly, an independent body should be constituted for addressing the old age and Palliative care sector.

The Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) are community health workers and are part of the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) which began in 2005. It is expected that there would be an ASHA in every village and up to January 2013, the workers numbered 8,63,506. They help extend basic healthcare at village level. Though they are termed as volunteers, it is high time we have increased their allowances from Rs 700 pm. The Government should consider increasing this to Rs 3000 pm. It is also understood that there is a huge backlog on payment to them and initiatives should be made to pay this immediately.

The Anganwadi workers are paid Rs. 5000 (Centre share Rs 3000 and State share Rs. 2000) and Anganwadi Helper (Centre Share Rs. 2000 and State share Rs 1500). There is no specific retirement age which should be considered. They should be provided ESI facilities

and a minimum pension of Rs 1000/- and gratuity in proportion to their salary/contribution.

The announcement of opening an IIT in Kerala is again a welcome measure, a project conceived during the UPA 2 regime.

The Government over the years has acknowledged the need to provide safe housing to the poor. This Government has also indicated in para 69 to continue with the prevailing system. The present allocation of funds needs to be increased to Rs. 3 lakhs per dwelling as with the existing amount, it is difficult to construct a safe dwelling.

Fishing in India contributes to over 1 percent of India's annual gross domestic product The country has over 2 million full-time fishermen, 1.5 million part-time fishermen, and 3 million occasional fishermen. Strangely, no mention has been made for this fraternity. Many issues like safety, modernization, dislocation during monsoon, social commitments, etc. are required to be addressed for this sector. It is also suggested that a Commission under a retired Supreme Court Judge may be constituted to study the problems faced by the fishermen community.

At para 107, the Minister has announced setting up of Trade Facilitation Centre at Varanasi and textile clusters at 7 centres. Kannur in Kerala has one of the biggest handloom industries and this scheme

should be extended to Kannur in Kerala also. In fact, more than 3 lakh handloom workers are engaged in the handloom units in Kannur and is also a known export centre for handloom. Therefore, Kannur should be included as a textile cluster and facilities to be extended to other proposed centres should be provided to Kannur, Kerala also.

The Vizhinjam Port was originally conceived about 25 years ago. The total project expenditure is presently pegged at Rs. 6595 crores over three phases and is proposed to follow the landlord port model with a view to catering to passengers, containers and other clean cargo. The port will be one of the largest ports in the World if developed. The Minister has indicated 16 new projects. The Vizhinjam project should be included as one among the 16 proposed which would be a pride of place for the country.

Under the National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY), Guruvayur, a 5000 year old township having the famous Guruvayur temple which is the fourth biggest temple in terms of devotees per day and needs to be included keeping the importance of this temple. Similarly, Sabarimala, which has over 2 Crore devotees during the season, should be included under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual

Augmentation Drive (PRASAD). Both these centres are as important a pilgrimage centre as indicated in para 149 of the budget speech.

At para 147, an emphasis is made for tourism. Kerala (Popularly known as God's own country) is no doubt one of premier tourism destinations in the country both for domestic and international tourists. There are many locations in the Malabar region which need to be exploited properly. Therefore, the development of the Wayanad-Kakkayam, Munnar-Vembanad-Alleppey-Cochin and Kumarakom-Vembanad-Alleppey-Cochin circuits should be included for better tourism promotion and proper exploitation.

To promote tourism in my constituency, I propose that a Ropeway may be erected between Thamarassery and Vythiri which has one of the most beautiful scenic presences while travelling by Ropeway.

Kerala has 44 rivers and 41 of them flow westward into the Arabian Sea. Kerala is losing a surmountable quantity of water into the Arabian Sea especially during the monsoon season and at times, especially during summer, there is huge shortage of potable water. The Linking of rivers announced in para 153 is a welcome measure for proper usage of water and providing water to the parched areas. I would suggest that efforts to explore the rivers within the state should be carried out and included in the scheme announced in the budget.

The Hon. Minister has announced the Ganga conservation programme at para 154 of his speech this should be extended to other places also. In fact, Pampa River which flows over 244 kms in the State is on the foothills of Sabarimala, the abode of Lord Ayappan. This river is only next to Holy Ganga. The place is frequented by over 2 Crore devotees during the Sabarimala season. Therefore, a similar plan should be conceived for conservation and development of River Pampa.

Kerala produces some of the best sports personalities in the country, be it athletics, football, volleyball, swimming, etc. However, all these are achieved on personal efforts of the individuals and on one on one basis. While setting up the Sports University in Manipur, an off campus should simultaneously be opened in Kerala also.

The Government has rightly indicated in para 173 for promoting and developing Organic farming. This could reduce usage of chemicals and fertilizers and also address health concerns to a great extent including diseases like cancer. I would suggest that to have a serious vision for the organic sector, a separate department should be conceived. This scheme should not be confined only to the North-East. Kerala is also a good breeding ground for organic farming and therefore a portion of the announced budget should be diverted to

Kerala. In addition, incentives, subsidies and research provisions will advance organic farming.

While concluding, I wish to request the Hon’ble Minister that these issues may please be considered and included in the reply speech.

*__SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA):__ The General Budget presented by the current Government for this financial year is a revitalising measure that will breathe new life into the nation's ailing economy. This budget will give a fresh direction to the country's development and provide multiple opportunities for the advancement of the poor and marginalised sections of society. It is a budget that will succeed in fulfilling the aspirations of every segment of the population. By demonstrating the path to resolve the complex challenges of balancing economic reforms with social concerns, Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley has showcased his administrative capabilities.

This General Budget has something for everyone, farmers and industries alike. At the same time, it provides relief to the public suffering from inflation by raising the income tax exemption limit without altering tax rates. Today, many citizens still lack proper housing, and urban housing prices are soaring. To address this issue, the budget aims to accelerate infrastructure development and, through the Smart City project, initiate the realisation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Hon. Minister of Finance has taken a crucial step to create an environment conducive to essential investments to accelerate growth. Measures have been introduced to resolve tax disputes and complexities that hinder investment in industry. Incentives have been provided to boost domestic production and protect domestic industries from cheap imports. Strengthening domestic industry will not only increase employment but also ensure the optimal utilisation of small-scale resources across the country.

In this railway budget, measures have been taken to encourage domestic savings, including increasing investment limits under Section 80C, raising the income tax deduction for housing loan interest, and enhancing investment limits in the Public Provident Fund (PPF). The railway budget has been inclusive, giving attention to nearly all sections of society. Special focus has been placed on fulfilling the needs of hilly regions from Northeast India to Jammu & Kashmir, thereby demonstrating the unity of the nation.

An Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission under the name Namami Gange has been initiated for the cleanliness of river Ganga, and a provision of Rs. 100 crore has also been made for the river interlinking scheme. This can substantially resolve the problems of floods and droughts in the country.

Health and education have been accorded high priority in the country. To provide the citizens with better and modern medical facilities, an announcement has been made to open four new AIIMS. Not only this, but the Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Teacher Training Programme has also been launched to improve primary education. By announcing the establishment of five new IITs and five new IIMs, the Hon. Minister of Finance has ensured that the benefits of higher education reach all.

Vegetables and fruits worth Rs. 300 crore get spoiled every year in the country. Therefore, food processing industries should be promoted. In my Parliamentary Constituency Banaskantha, tomatoes, potatoes and castor are produced in large quantities, but due to lack of storage and processing facilities, a considerable portion of the produce goes waste. I would, therefore, request the Government to establish industries based on potatoes, tomatoes and castor in my Parliamentary Constituency which will greatly benefit the farmers there.

This Government has inherited a fragile state of the country's economy, and the situation was such that people were afraid of investing in industries and trade. In this General Budget, the resolve has been taken to enhance investment by initiating several measures.

There were many defects in the taxation system of the country. The Government, through this Budget, has attempted to remove these defects and made several announcements to streamline the structure of the economy, which will eliminate corruption prevalent in the taxation system. The Hon. Minister of Finance was given only one month's time to prepare this Budget. Had there been sufficient time, this Budget would have been even better in many other aspects.

In the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance, the elderly will be greatly benefitted. The income tax exemption limit has been raised to Rs. 3 lakh for those aged 60 years, benefitting 26 lakh pensioners of the organised sector and paving the way for 50 lakh employees to receive pension. The present Crop Insurance Scheme is not in the interest of farmers. A good policy should be formulated for the benefit of farmers. Steps should also be taken to promote the diamond industry in my Parliamentary Constituency Banaskantha. There is an airport in my Parliamentary Constituency which has all facilities, hence air services to other cities should be started from there. In my Parliamentary Constituency, BSNL is unable to provide proper services due to lack of telecommunication material. BSNL should be provided with the necessary equipment in Banaskantha. I

support the General Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance.

HON. SPEAKER: Today, many Hon. Members are to speak, therefore, with the permission of the House, there will be no lunch break today.

Dr. Udit Raj.

[English]

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): Thank you.

I rise to express my observations on the Budget. I have gone through the Budget a couple of times. I found that this Budget is not of any particular section or community only but I would say that this Budget is of the nation.

I must congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance that he had deep insight and understanding about society. So, this Budget addresses the problem of water, electricity, housing, and social justice, ranging from poor to rich.

13.07 hrs (Dr. M. Thambidurai *in the Chair*)

Hon. Member Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav was asking what is there in the Budget for the farmers. I would say, if you go and read

the previous Budget and also this Budget, you would find that this Budget has focused enough on farmers.

One more remarkable achievement of the Hon. Minister of Finance I have found in the Budget is that earlier the fiscal deficit was 4.7 per cent, now he has kept it at 4.1 percent. Fiscal consolidation is a must. He has tried in a short span of time to control the fiscal deficit. Looking at the Budget, I am sure he would be in a position to control the fiscal deficit.

I would suggest some measures to the Hon. Minister of Finance on how to control the fiscal deficit. I would suggest that the tax base has to be expanded; not only tax but non-tax revenue also has to be enhanced and borrowings minimized. So far, there has been a large amount of borrowing and the Government has been paying a huge amount of interest. That is also causing a fiscal deficit.

Your Budget is encouraging for the foreign investors and domestic business persons. They are now seeing that the fiscal deficit is coming down. Of course, what you have envisaged is to keep or achieve a low fiscal deficit in the years to come. In the coming years, he will bring it down to 3.6 percent and then to three percent – in 2017, I have observed the mood of the business and the share market; they are very much enthused by this step. However, he has got something

inherited. [Translation] You have inherited a lot of things in the form of inheritance. [English] Even then, he has tried his level best to reduce it. [Translation] An income tax refund of Rs. 50,000 crore, which was due before March, was not issued. In this manner, a liability of Rs. 50,000 crore has come upon us, which our Government is facing. Regarding the Goods and Services Tax, a meeting was held in 2010 wherein a promise was made to compensate the States. That amounts to nearly Rs. 32,000 crore. This money too was left unsettled by the previous Government. Thus, in total, it comes to Rs. 82,000 crore of liability which our Government has to bear and compensate.

As regards the increase in railway fares, everybody is aware that this had already been proposed earlier. This morning while reading the Times of India - [English] The first thing that struck my mind is “Mallya’s Kingfisher Airlines is king of defaulters”. [Translation] Kingfisher Airlines alone has an NPA of Rs. 4022 crore payable to the Government. In the same way, Winsor Diamonds owes Rs. 3243 crore, Electrotherm India Rs. 2653 crore, Corporate Power Rs. 2487 crore, Sterling Biotech Rs. 2031 crore, and Revenue Pressures Rs. 1754 crore, all of which stand as NPAs. These too are part of the legacy we have inherited. Loans worth thousands of crores were taken and later these entities declared themselves bankrupt. [English] They

declared themselves bankrupt and siphoned off money in the name of their off-springs and progenies; they are having great lives not only in this country, but also outside. [Translation] The previous Government never took the matter of NPAs seriously, and as a consequence, today NPAs amount to nearly Rs. 5 to 6 lakh crore. If this money is recovered, then there should be no concern about enhancing subsidies. I would also urge that subsidies for farmers must not be reduced.

Besides this, today I also saw the report stating that [English] "Income Tax Department unearthed Rs. 1 lakh crore undisclosed income in one year." [Translation] Rs. 1 lakh crore of tax-evaded income has been detected through search and seizure in a single year. I believe that managing the budget deficit is not a difficult task. [English] I am very hopeful that the very able and of course, wise Minister of Finance is going to do it.

[Translation]

I would also like to submit that the size of expenditure should not be curtailed. Yes, expenditure certainly needs to be managed, but it should not be reduced. Emphasis should be laid upon revenue collection. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

Sir, I just started my speech. This is the first time that I am making my speech. Please allow me. I was a tax-man. I was Assistant Commissioner; I was Deputy Commissioner and I was Additional Commissioner. I deserve time. I know a little about the finances. Please allow me. This is for the first time that I am speaking.

The Budget also addresses the growth. It says that we will avail growth at the rate of 7-8 per cent in the future. We will have growth in every sector. Enough provisions have been made in this Budget so that there is growth in several sectors like agriculture, skill development, etc. Saving is also going to be increased because there is increase in ceiling under 80C and home loan. The Hon. Minister of Finance has allocated Rs. 37,000 crore for infrastructure towards growth, providing funds for the construction of roads, [English] this is going to promote growth.

[Translation]

Our esteemed Hon. Prime Minister has laid great emphasis on governance, and therefore we are moving towards all-round growth. For the allocation of Rs. 500 crore for water in Delhi, [English] I am grateful to you and thank you on behalf of all the Members of Parliament from Delhi.

[Translation]

The major problem faced by banks, which you have sorted out and [English] which was not addressed after Independence, [Translation] was in respect of SLR and CRR. By relaxing the pre-condition relating thereto, there will now be long-term investment in infrastructure, and banks will be able to maintain their capital without mismatch.

[English]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am going very fast because of time constraint otherwise, I would have elaborated all these points.

[Translation]

With regard to agriculture, Rs. 1000 crore has been provided under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. Just now, Hon. Mulayam Singh ji was asking what has been done for the farmers. For the first time, Rs. 1000 crore has been earmarked under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. If a National Market is established, then farmers will be able to sell their produce anywhere in the country. Therefore, the exploitation which farmers used to face earlier, [English] now they will no longer suffer.

I would like to thank you for having spared Rs.2000 crores for NABARD towards Producers' Organisation Development Fund to build 2000 Producers' Organisations in India. [Translation] The Rs.

2000 crore provided for farmers, once their organisations are formed, will bring about a major transformation in the lives of farmers. [English] I am very sure about it.

[Translation]

The Rs. 5000 crore allocated for warehousing will give great relief to farmers from the losses they suffer due to perishable items, [English] he is going to get a big relief. I thank you for this also.

Another important point is about the tax revenue. I am not going into the details of the plan and non-plan Budget but I would like to say that we need to enhance the revenue. That is not being done here. The Minister of Finance has taken a number of measures. A high level Committee consisting of CBDT and CBEC will be constituted to clarify any doubt about the taxation and litigation. That will help a lot of businessmen. They can consult them and avoid getting into litigation.

You have said that the Settlement Commission will be enlarged. I do agree with you. That is a practical step. One request that I would like to make to you is that the Settlement Commission should be made accountable..... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wind up. You have taken 15 minutes.

DR. UDIT RAJ: I know a case where the assessing officer fixed the tax liability of about Rs.1000 crores but the Settlement Commission settled it for less than Rs.25 crores. So, there should be some accountability fixed on the Settlement Commission.

The dispute relating to income tax amounting to Rs. 4 lakh which is pending in litigation, much has been done by you in this regard. I would also like to state that there is a huge hue and cry in this country that there are too many taxes. I am very grateful to you. Kindly allow me to read. In Australia, the individual tax rate is 50 percent.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wind up.

DR. UDIT RAJ: In France, it is 45 percent; in Japan, it is 50 percent.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have taken 15 minutes.

DR. UDIT RAJ: In the Netherlands, it is 52 percent; in Sweden, it is 57 percent. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

*__SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):__ While supporting the General Budget, I would like to urge that the Government should provide training to the farmers, women and unemployed youth of villages under the Skill Development Scheme, and a market should be created at the block level for the purchase of the goods produced by them based on the raw materials available in their village or nearby areas. Further, it should be made mandatory for the goods thus produced to be purchased through that market or in the markets (malls) of multinational or national companies in cities, with at least 25 percent of the goods procured from the products manufactured by the rural people.

* Speech was laid on the Table

[English]

*__SHRI P.C. GADDIGOUDAR (BAGALKOT)__: I thank the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for presenting a very model Budget for the future prospering nation.

Very systematic approach towards the tax mechanism is appreciable. With a view to make expenditure judiciously, as the saying goes, a rupee saved is rupee earned i.e. setting up of Expenditure Management Commission to look into the expenditure reforms is also commendable.

Giving thrust towards the introduction of G.S.T. all over the country for development is appreciable. FDI in insurance and defense from 26 to 49% is a sign of development.

Various schemes considering plans and budgetary allocations to various aspects for people is also commendable.

I feel that it would have been better that under the below schemes the amount be increased to 1000 crores.

1. Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao – caring for the girl child to bring gender equality.
2. Deen Dayal Upadhyay Gram Jyoti Yojana – Under lighting for all

3. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rural Mission – Under infrastructure and associate service to rural people.

I am very happy to note that India is an agriculture-based country and much importance is given to rejuvenate agriculture under various schemes and in association with NABARD.

Loan scheme to farmers in time without any security up to the tune of Rs.5 lakhs in association with NABARD is appreciable.

A Sports University has been declared for Manipur. I feel the necessity of having a sports university at Karnataka also as it is having much potential and has much infrastructure and favorable conditions, etc and contributed much.

Northern Karnataka is having full potential for having solar power projects and I urge the Government to provide the same in my constituency. In Northern Karnataka, 12 districts are fully backward and it is urged to include 12 districts in the Backward Region Development Grant Fund Scheme.

As regards my Constituency i.e. Bagalkot in Karnataka State, I have specific demands.

Bagalkot district is having more than 1 lakh weavers entirely depending on weaving and some places especially Ilkal, Guleadgudd,

Kammatigi, Rabakavi, Banahatti, Rampur, etc are producing famous sarees and other handloom products. The Hon. Minister of Finance proposed to set up six mega clusters to develop and promote handloom products. The Union Government may take steps to set up one textile mega cluster in Bagalkot district.

Very important to note that Bagalkot district is known for historical places like Pattadakal, Aihole, Badami, and so many holy places are also situated like Kudalasangam, Banashankari, and Shivayoga Mandir. I have made so many efforts for the development of tourism, but did not get any support either from the Union Government or from the State Government. Recently, we had a meeting under the Chairmanship of our district Minister, Shri S.R. Patil along with our district Legislator in the presence of our Additional Chief Secretary. Therefore, I urge the Union Government to make a provision to formulate Chalukya Development Authority and provide funds for developing roads and other amenities.

Due to change in the climate and hail storm rain in my constituency huge loss has been incurred to farmers leading to problematic life. I urge the Government to provide compensation at the earliest.

The Urban Co-operative Banks are the lifeline of the developmental process. I urge the Government to remove tax on this sector to develop co-operative movement in the interest of all.

*__PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM):__ I think the Minister of Finance has missed the great opportunity to break from the past and chart a new course. In 1991 Dr. Manmohan Singh had broken new ground by dismantling the license raj, referring sick PSUs to the BIFR and by opening up the doors for foreign investment. His budget is still called a landmark budget. Mr. Jaitely has failed to abolish retrospective taxation and fix a time frame for introducing the direct taxes code regime and introducing goods and services tax (GST). Rather he has chosen to take the FDI route by allowing 49% FDI in Insurance and Defense which we totally oppose. Mr. Jaitely is in a Government where his party had absolute majority in the Lok Sabha. Last Year, the country had a record agricultural projection and there was a total food stock of 62 Million Tonnes with the Government. International financial crisis was easing, the current account deficit had come down to 1.7% of GDP, still there was no breakthrough thought of in the economy. Even inflation had come down, but management of prices had been bad in the last two months with onion prices going to the roofs.

The budget sends confusing signals. On the one hand, there is talk of a digital India setting up of five more IITs and five more IIMs in the country, though with minimum outlay. On the other hand, it also

has the RSS agenda. Rs.500 crores for re-settling Kashmiri migrants, Rs.2000 crores for Namame Ganga and Rs.100 crores for Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana. It is said that only Rs.100 crores is allotted for modernization of Madrassas, Rs.50 crores for safety of women and Rs. 200 crores is allotted for a statue of Sardar Patel, the Prime Minister's pet scheme. Also, a mere Rs.100 crore each is allotted 28 schemes of the Minister of Finance's choosing. They need not have been mentioned in a budget which envisages a total expenditure of Rs.18 lakh crores nearly.

As far as West Bengal is concerned, the budget is bad news. The present West Bengal Government had inherited an outstanding debt of Rs.2.03 lakh crores from the previous Government, for which it has to pay a principal and interest of rupees 28,000 crores in the current year. For the last three years the West Bengal Government has been pleading for a moratorium on the payment of interest. The UPA-II Government had turned a deaf ear to the demand, so has the present NDA Government. As a result of this, West Bengal will have little money for development. Jute is the biggest industry in West Bengal and Eastern India, employing two lakh workers. And there are four million jute farmers. Industry is in crisis since the last UPA Government diluted the jute packaging mandatory order. There is no

mention of the word jute in the whole budget speech. The last Government had promised to set up a deep sea port in Sagar Islands in West Bengal. The FM's budget speech does not mention anything about the proposal though Tuticorin Port is mentioned. There is also no plan announced for revival of the sick tea gardens in West Bengal.

Some features of the budget though are welcome, the expenditure management commission is a good step. Rs.500 crore price stabilization fund, the rupee 1000 crore Pradhan Mantri Gram Sinchyee Yojana are good steps, so is the proposal to issue farmers soil health card. The sops for large solar energy projects and the wind power sector will help the development of the renewable energy sector.

The increase in personal income tax exemption limit by Rs.50,000 will save a maximum of rupees 5150 for the taxpayers. But this is a minor relief. Tax exemption which was rupees 5.73 lakh crores has been increased by rupees 7,000 crores. The increase in service tax on companies advertising their products online will hurt e-commerce business.

Overall, this budget with a very long budget speech, presents no vision and no unified thought. It is short on specific lines how manufacturing growth will be ensured. How the unemployed and

educated unemployed will get jobs and how their “acche din” will come, on how the inflation will be brought in line? It is good that the Government has not discontinued the MGNREGA or Food Security Act, though it hardly mentioned them. The allotment of Rs.37,880 crores for national highways is welcome, but the jettisoning of the JNNURM will stall the development of metro cities. The Government has followed the UPA-II line of increasing petrol and diesel prices which we oppose.

I am aware that much of the hype on budget is meaningless. 42% of the budget will go in subsidies, defense and interest payments, another 36% in transfer to the states. The central plan is only a small percentage of total expenditure. Still the Minister of Finance should have set out a clear road map for reducing inflation, spurring growth and ensuring employment. It has failed to do so. He towed the UPA line and only added names of Shyama Prasadji and Deendayal Ji to meet political needs. A UN report says that one third of the world's extreme poor are in India. This budget promises nothing for them. Nor does it mention ways of bringing back black money from abroad into the country.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You were allotted five minutes but you have taken 15 minutes. Whatever more you want to say, you give it to the Minister in writing.

Now Prof. Bose speaks.

PROF. SUGATA BOSE (JADAVPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise to offer a critique, a constructive one, of the Union Budget presented to us exactly a week ago. We know that it is the Hon. Minister of Finance's first Budget and he has been at some pains to explain that he had only 45 days to prepare it. So, we ought not to be too harsh in our assessment of his financial proposals as Shri Mulayam Singh ji has been. An author had once sent his first manuscript to the legendary Dr. Johnson for his comments. Upon reading it, Dr. Johnson had remarked that it contained some good things and some new things. But the good things in it were not new and the new things were not good. I am afraid we must pass a similar verdict on the Minister of Finance's maiden Budget.

Far from being "the most comprehensive action plan" to achieve his goal of macroeconomic stabilization, the Budget identifies a destination to be reached in three or four years without providing any clear roadmap on how to get there. Reduction of the fiscal deficit to 3 percent of GDP by 2016-17 is a laudable, if ambitious, target. The

Budget sets a direction all right, but is hopelessly vague about how we might navigate towards that goal. This Government, which is ideologically committed not to raise taxes, is silent about what it might do to widen the tax base - something that the preceding speaker also alluded to from the Treasury Benches - other than to stealthily deploy information technology. It is evident there will be spending cuts but that intention is cloaked in the decision to set up an Expenditure Management Commission. I hope the Hon. Minister will spell out in his reply to this debate the status of this Commission and whether its recommendations would be binding on his Government.

If the principles of federalism and democracy appeal to him, the Minister of Finance would do well to curb his impatience and not shut down the debate on the Goods and Services Tax. In principle, we are in favour of the introduction of a GST as we believe it will be good for small and medium scale enterprises across our vast and diverse land. However, this should not be done at the cost of the States' revenues. The concerns of States must be fully addressed and iron-clad constitutional guarantees provided by the Centre before taking the momentous step of introducing a GST. We suffered a lot by reducing CST a couple of years ago based on a false promise by the Centre.

Genuine cooperative federalism demands not just a fair basis of sharing tax revenues but a proper sharing of the powers of taxation by the States and the Centre. I understand that this Government admires Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya after whom the Minister of Finance has named one of his new schemes. So let me remind the Treasury Benches what that far-sighted patriot and Member of the Central Legislative Assembly had said on this matter. He told the Decentralisation Commission of 1908:

> "The unitary form of Government which prevails at present should be converted into a federal system. The Provincial Governments should cease to be mere delegates of the Supreme Government, but should be made semi-independent Governments."

These are Malaviyaji's words, not mine. In his Lahore Congress Presidential Address of 1909, Malaviyaji had declared:

> "What is needed is that the Government of India should require a reasonable amount of contribution to be made and should leave the rest of the revenues to be spent for Provincial purposes."

Mr. Chairman, Sir, infrastructure, health and education must be the three pillars on which India should build its edifice of development

over the next decade. I applaud the Government's clear-eyed vision so far as investment in infrastructure is concerned. Allocation for roads and power stations, airports and sea ports are impressive and probably the best that could be done in the present fiscal situation. Government outlays will not be enough and we will have to achieve macroeconomic stability in order to attract global funds to meet our infrastructure needs.

I am dismayed, however, by the Government's myopia in not seeing that a healthy and educated populace is imperative for sustained economic growth and development. The Minister of Finance has said in a newspaper interview that you, Chairman, Sir, referred to yesterday that he will not scrap any social sector programme. But that is not enough. The country is facing a public health crisis and yet a 4.2 nominal increase in the allocation for the health department masks a 4.4 decrease in real terms if one adjusts for the 8.6 per cent inflation we have had over the last financial year.

The biggest disappointment of the Budget lies in the miserliness shown toward education, especially primary and secondary school education. The manifesto of the Ruling Party had proclaimed that spending on education would be raised from 3 per cent to 6 percent of GDP. That is the norm in much of Asia and ought to be a matter of

national consensus in India. Where is the Minister of Finance's road map towards achieving that objective of raising it from 3 per cent to 6 percent of GDP? The Budget has managed to put the country into reverse gear on the education front with a decrease in real allocation of 3.2 per cent in this sector, so vital for the future of our young generation. Pandit Malaviya would not have been pleased with this sorry state of affairs even if you have provided Rs. 500 crore for new teachers' training in his name.

On the face of it, higher education fares a bit better than school education in the Government's scale of priorities with the announcement of another Rs. 500 crore for new IITs and IIMs and one Humanities Centre in the name of Jai Prakash Narain. So, we can expect nearly Rs. 50 crore to be spent on brick and mortar in eleven new locations this year. But has adequate attention been given to the requirement of human resources, including faculty for these new educational institutions? Is this the best strategy to achieve both broad access and excellence in the field of higher education? Why not invest similar amounts in ten of the most promising colleges and universities, both Central and State, that may have gone into some decline in recent years but can be turned around through visionary leadership and judicious strategic investment? This is precisely what China has done

to have at least half a dozen of their best universities break into the league of the world's top one hundred.

I would like to put in an earnest plea to the Hon. Minister of Finance not to misuse the name of the university because university is something universal. By all means set up a Sports Academy in Manipur, but call it what it is. There are going to be Railway polytechnic and training colleges. That is fine. Also, you can have Horticultural institutes, but to call them universities is to make a mockery of the idea of a university. I teach at Harvard and so I am very conscious about the purity of the term university. I am sad, of course, that one of the Horticultural Universities that the Hon. Minister of Finance has proposed, I would name them institutes, not being set up in Bengal. If I could invite Shri Arun Jaitley to my constituency, I am sure, he would be convinced that the most delicious fruits and vegetables and beautiful flowers too come from places called Baruipur, Sonarpur and Bhangar, any of which could serve as a wonderful location for an innovative Horticultural Institute.

I understand that Rs. 100 crore would be a sensible amount to allocate for a single institution of this kind. However, flagship nationwide schemes featuring in the Government's agenda announced with much fanfare need to be backed by significant resources and call

for much larger outlays. It is a shame that the Minister of Finance said in his Budget speech that the apathy towards the girl child is still quite rampant in many parts of the country. It is a bigger shame and a sign of greater apathy that he has set aside a paltry Rs. 100 crore for the *Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana*. Ms. Mamata Banerjee's *Kanyasree* scheme has State Budgetary support to the tune of Rs. 1000 crore. The provision of Rs. 100 crore for the modernisation of the Madrasas is a mere pittance. I call upon the Minister of Finance, in his reply, to increase each of these allocations ten-fold straightaway to show a modicum of respect to women and minorities. There is yet another Rs. 100 crore set aside for Ghat development and beautification of the riverfront in seven cities from Kedarnath to Patna. I can only say that the Ganga does not stop flowing at Patna. So, we need debt relief and we need an enhancement of royalties on coal in Bengal and we want justice to be done to the Eastern Region of the country.

In conclusion, Sir, a final word about a budgetary item of symbolic value. I refer to the allocation of Rs. 200 crore to cast the iron man of India in an iron mold. I wonder what Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel would have made of it. I have a sneaking suspicion that the hero of the Bardoli *satyagraha* would have preferred to donate that amount towards rural development that has suffered a budgetary cut of 3.2 per

cent in real terms. And his even greater elder brother Vithalbhai Patel who held the flag of Indian freedom aloft in Europe with Subhas Chandra Bose in the early 1930s, would probably have excoriated the Government for wasteful expenditure in the same way as he held the British accountable when he spoke eloquently in these precincts as a member and then President of the Central Legislative Assembly. To honor the Patel brothers and other noble figures of that generation including Swami Vivekananda, we need to follow their ideals of honesty and integrity, service and sacrifice and not just worship them in iron or stone. We of course would love to have a beautiful statue of Vivekananda but we know what is huge is not great. We want reasonable expenses.

My final words are, in this time of rampant food inflation, we must be grateful to our Minister of Finance for presenting a prosaic budget. But we Bengalis are incorrigible. One of our poets had bid farewell to poetry as in the kingdom of hunger the world had turned prosaic and even the full moon looked like a flaming roti. But he said it in poetry: “Kabita tomay dilam ajike chhuti, Khudhar rajye prithibi gadyamoy, purnima chand jeno jhalsano ruti.” I appeal to you that our people are poor. Whatever your Expenditure Management Commission may say, do not cut the food subsidy. Target the fertilizer subsidy. Many of my

colleagues have gone to the Central Hall for lunch at subsidized rates. One-third of our country is poor. One-third of the world's poor live in India. So, your first task, Hon. Minister of Finance, I would submit through you, Mr. Chairman, to ensure that the poor and obscure in our country have two square meals a day.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman Sir.

[Translation]

***SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN):** The Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley began his Budget speech by stating that "the people of India have decisively voted for a change." If the Hon. Minister of Finance indeed believes this, then in my opinion the people of India will be very disappointed with this Budget, because there is nothing new in the name of policy changes. At the same time, Modi ji had spoken extensively in his election speeches about transparency and accountability, but not even once have these words been used in the Budget.

On account of inflation, the priority of the Modi Government appears to be more towards reducing fiscal deficit rather than easing the burden on the common citizen, thereby extending greater relief to big industries. Jaitley ji has expressed his intention to keep the fiscal deficit at 4.1 percent. However, he has not revealed any concrete methodology as to how he will achieve this. Similar promises had been made by the previous Government as well, but the actual situation is well known to all.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

There are two ways of reducing the fiscal deficit, one is to enhance revenue which comes from growth, and the other is to reduce expenditure. Nowhere has there been an expression of intent to curtail the concessions being extended to corporate houses or to put a check on Governmental extravagance. At present, the concessions being given to corporate houses amount to more than Rs. 5.5 lakh crore. The poor and rural population have only been left with assurances under the names of old schemes, while there are no guidelines in the Budget regarding poverty eradication or unemployment.

For many schemes, such meagre amounts have been allocated that the seriousness of the Government comes under question. While Rs. 200 crore have been provided for the construction of the Statue of Unity, only Rs. 100 crore have been allocated for the 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' Scheme. For the modernisation of Madarsas, only Rs. 100 crore have been kept. In my opinion, this amount is extremely inadequate. For 100 Smart Cities, only Rs. 7060 crore have been allocated. According to experts, such an amount would merely suffice for laying sewerage in a single city.

By showing big dreams, they have indeed managed to come to power, but the BJP still seems unable to abandon this policy. Even a cursory glance at the Budget reveals a plethora of announcements

which merely create a feel-good effect but are highly impractical. For instance, the declaration that "our Government is committed to strive to provide housing for all by 2022" and the assurance of additional tax incentives on housing loans for the youth to purchase houses but the problem remains as to how a person with an annual income of Rs. 5 lakh will be able to buy a house in a metropolitan city. In Mumbai alone, 55 percent of the people live in slums. How will houses be provided to them? The people have elected you for five years, then why do you not state clearly how many houses you will be able to provide within these five years?

It would have been better if the Government had announced a housing scheme for the construction of houses measuring 300-500 square feet and provided incentives to private builders. In some European countries, retail schemes have been introduced under which houses are allotted to the poor on the basis of very nominal monthly instalments. To achieve the goal of "Health for All", provision of free medicine services and free diagnostic services is essential. Is the Government bringing in any National Health Scheme? If not, how will the Government provide healthcare services to all? There is no clarity in this regard. At present, there is a shortage of nearly 3 lakh doctors.

By opening 4-5 AIIMS and a dozen medical colleges, this problem will not be resolved.

To provide sanitation to every household by 2019, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan has been announced. But what is this scheme and how will it be implemented? When will the Hon. Minister of Finance's dream of a toilet in every household be realised? All eyes will be on this. From a Government which constantly speaks of new approaches, it was expected that some new radical reforms would be announced in this Budget. But where will the funds come from to implement these schemes, and what will be the roadmap? The Hon. Minister of Finance has remained silent on this. About 200-250 schemes are already in operation, and this Government has announced nearly as many schemes afresh. Thus, the total number of schemes has crossed 400, while no mention has been made of new measures for augmenting revenue. How and in what manner these will be carried out is a matter to be seen. The Government had assured the people on the matter of black money, but there is no mention of it in the Budget. The economy of black money is even larger than that of our white money economy. If this parallel system could be controlled and the black money stashed abroad could be brought back, then the fiscal deficit could be reduced to zero.

In the Budget, a great emphasis has been laid upon FDI, but it is necessary to properly understand both its advantages and disadvantages. In defence, FDI up to 49 percent has been proposed, but much more clarity is required in this matter, and all its aspects should be discussed in detail in Parliament. As regards DCT, that is, Direct Cash Transfer into the accounts of beneficiaries, nothing has been stated. This raises questions about the intention of the Government.

There were great expectations from the Modi Government in the fields of education and health, but disappointment has been the outcome here as well. In education, only about 3 percent of the total GDP is being spent, whereas it needs to be increased to at least 6 percent. In the field of health also, merely 1.2 percent of the total GDP is being spent, which by no means can be considered reasonable. The income tax exemption limit has been raised from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh and under Section 80C from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh, but this will not provide any real relief to the common people, for the reason that the number of income tax payers in the country is not very large. Nearly 60 percent of the country's population comprising the poor and farmers have nothing to do with this. The Government had shown many dreams to the youth and women during the election campaign.

The previous Government too had set a target of providing employment to one crore people every year, but barely 15 lakh people could be employed annually. Speaking of women workforce participation, in 1984 nearly 34 percent of women were employed, whereas today this ratio has come down to 27 percent. No consideration has been given to these aspects in the Budget. For the youth, a Skill India campaign has been announced, but nobody knows to what extent it will actually be implemented. In the matter of how Government education can be brought at par with private schools, no guidelines have been given in the Budget. For establishing a world-class AIIMS hospital, at least Rs. 2000-2500 crore are required, but the Government has allocated only Rs. 500 crore.

Bullet trains, smart cities and so on are fine, but what about that man who stands at the very end of the queue, for whom Rs. 33 and Rs. 27 are considered sufficient to survive, and whose latest figure is said to be 36 crore, though in reality the number would be double. There is nothing in the Budget for that man, and he has been left to his own fate.

I hope that the Hon. Minister of Finance will pay attention to the matters raised by me and will try to resolve them.

***SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (NARASARAOPET):** I support the Union Budget 2014-15 presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley.

After a long time the country has got Shri Narendra Modi as the Prime Minister of India with absolute majority. Earlier, we were having coalition Governments which were not able to do justice to the country. Modiji is a dynamic and very capable leader. I am sure, under his able leadership India will become a super-power.

After bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, people of Andhra Pradesh have elected my leader Shri Nara Chandrababu Naidu and given him the mandate to rule the State. They have chosen him because of his vision on the development of the State, earlier. He has the track record of developing the State, particularly Hyderabad, as an IT hub. It is well known that he is an efficient administrator and a capable leader. After bifurcation, people have given the mandate to Shri Chandrababu Naidu for fulfilling their aspirations. Under his able leadership, I am sure, the new Andhra Pradesh State will reach greater heights. Under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Modi ji, our Chief

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Minister Shri Chandrababu Naidu ji is also going ahead to develop the state on the lines of Modi ji.

After bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, our State is suffering from acute power shortage, unemployment, water problem and lack of infrastructure. I want to inform the House that the BJP has also carved out three States smoothly. But when Andhra Pradesh was bifurcated, there was a lot of agitation and confusion created by UPA Govt. and has done injustice to the people of Andhra Pradesh. With the result the Congress Party paid heavy price in the general elections in Andhra Pradesh and was not even able to secure a single seat of MP or MLA.

This is a growth-oriented budget and lays stress on infrastructure, urban development, rural development, ports among others. The allotment of Rs.7,060 crores for Smart Cities along with giving some concessions to taxpayers is a good decision for the growth of the country.

I also thank the Minister of Finance for providing Rs.100 crore for modernization of madrasas which is higher than what the previous UPA Government has provided for.

During the ten years of the UPA Government the economy was in a shambles. The value of the rupee has fallen down. The Government’s debt has increased by three times. The prices of

essential commodities have skyrocketed making it difficult for the common man to sustain.

I thank the Minister of Finance for sanctioning funds for Krishnapatnam Industrial Star City. I also thank the Minister of Finance for providing the industrial corridor between Visakhapatnam and Chennai and also providing funds for Kakinada Port development. I thank the Minister of Finance for sanctioning a National Excise and Customs Academy at Hindupur, and a hardware industry at Kakinada. But the fund allocation for these projects should be stepped up for implementing them. I thank the Minister of Finance for giving a small tax sop by raising slabs.

There is a fiscal deficit. Some people say it is big. But a good portion of it is due to interest costs and subsidies. Gradually we need to reduce subsidies. The Minister of Finance has promised to take steps by more focusing on food and fuel subsidies. I welcome it.

I also welcome the promises given by the Minister of Finance that he will fix food inflation by reforming the FCI and the Public Distribution System. This will help people to manage their family budget.

Regarding MGNREGA, the funds are getting misutilized. The Government's decision is to give work to the people who are going

out of their home towns in search of work. Instead the fund can be utilized to link the villages with proper roads, which will result in more productive asset creation and linked to agriculture.

The FM has also promised single-window-customs clearance, which should ease regulatory pains for importers. I also welcome the initiative of the FM for a better tax assessment, including advance rulings and defined committees for settlement.

I welcome the initiative of the FM to spend Rs.500 crore for giving training to the elementary school teachers. To set up five IITs and five IIMs the allocation is Rs.500 crore. I thank the FM for sanctioning one IIY and one AIIMS type institution for my State. I request the FM to consider setting up an IIM also in accordance with the promise made in the A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014.

I welcome easing the tax litigation process. It is good, and creating single window clearances for stuff is good. There is also a single Government portal planned by 31st December, where you will be able to get all the clearances you need to run a business, and pay fees online.

The FM wants to disinvest Rs.43,000 crore in the year and then another Rs.15,000 crore, this will help in bringing down the fiscal deficit.

On account of bifurcation, the State has lost all its major economic assets, inherited huge liability and left with no resources even to service the debt. Therefore, I request the Minister of Finance to declare Andhra Pradesh as a special category State for much needed relief to the economy for 15 years.

As per Section 94 (1) of A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014, the Union Government shall take appropriate fiscal measures including offer of tax incentives to promote industrialization and economic growth in the State. I request the Minister of Finance to issue orders for providing tax incentives and concessions for industrial investments for a period of 15 years to enable the State to forge ahead on the path of development.

I also request the Minister of Finance to announce sanctioning of an amount of Rs.5,000 crores during the current year's Budget under Special Development Package.

I also request the Minister of Finance to convert the loan amount of Rs.10,090 crores as grant.

On these issues, our Hon. Chief Minister has written letters to the Union Government for considering these issues positively. I also request the Government to do justice to Andhra State by approving my proposals.

Our Hon. Chief Minister has promised to waive loans of farmers. I request the Minister of Finance to intervene in the matter and provide liberal funds to our State to fulfill the dreams of our farmers of Andhra Pradesh.

With these words, I support the General Budget, 2014.

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN (NORTH CENTRAL MUMBAI): Hon. Chairperson, I rise to support the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance and to offer a few suggestions. I would like to begin by saying that this is the first time that I am giving suggestions in this House. I am very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. I would only say that in looking at this Budget, one lesson becomes evident, and that is the guiding principle with which we proceed, less Government and more governance. We wish to reach out to more people by working effectively. When we speak of less Government and more governance, it reminds me of the irony in the first speech delivered from the Opposition side, where it was said that during the UPA Government, the GDP had increased from one level to another. But they did not mention that when the NDA Government was in office in 2003-04, the GDP growth rate was 8.4 percent, and when the UPA Government reached the year 2013, the growth rate had declined to 4.8 percent. Today, we are beginning from the reverse end. This is the tradition with which the NDA comes before you, and in the same spirit the Hon. Minister of Finance has presented the Budget. For several years now, we have been observing the Budgets in the Lok Sabha and have been hearing about the fiscal deficit in every discussion. When this Budget was presented, instead of the term

fiscal deficit, the new terminology of fiscal discipline was introduced. I would say that until there is fiscal discipline in our Budget, expenditure will continue to rise, income will continue to decline, and the kind of governance we aspire to provide to the people will not be visible. We have seen that for the last ten years, there was the UPA Government, and the UPA Government had said that they did not possess a magic wand. We too believe that nobody has a magic wand, nor do we. But what we can certainly say is that the Hon. Minister of Finance has brought forward a whip. The economy derailed during the past ten years of the UPA Government has now been sought to be straightened with this whip, and through fiscal discipline, the Hon. Minister of Finance has demonstrated in this Budget the determination to bring the economy of our country back on track like a railway train moving ahead. I would only say that, in the manner in which we have been carrying forward traditions over the past years, and in the manner in which we have presented this Budget within these forty days, I support this Budget. There are many salient points in it, many matters, which I, as a young Member of Parliament, would like to support while also offering a few suggestions. First of all, a very important matter of manufacturing has been raised and considerable support has been provided for it. Manufacturing, that is, productivity. When we

wish to take our country forward, some have said it is like an ocean, some have said it is like an island, be it an island or an ocean, in the same way, it has to be advanced. It was also said that through the efforts of the UPA Government, the country was made into a third force. But if one looks at it from the economic perspective, it is not so. When we truly want to see our country as the third economic force, unless there is productivity and manufacturing in our country, unless we provide greater impetus to small and medium enterprises, we will not be able to move forward. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for enhancing the cap from Rs. 11 crore to Rs. 25 crore, thereby extending support to small and medium entrepreneurs. This provides a 15 percent depreciation benefit, which will encourage many young people with good ideas in this country to engage in small and medium businesses, which indeed are the backbone of our nation. I say that the Hon. Minister of Finance has provided a kind of support to small and big businesses and those in the retail industry by allowing 15 percent depreciation benefit on the cap raised to Rs. 25 crore. For unless our manufacturing units, our productivity, and our construction sector are strengthened, employment opportunities will not be generated and our economy will not be empowered. When we look at the new Asian and African countries that are advancing, we find that

it is their manufacturing units which have played the most significant role in strengthening and empowering them. Therefore, I extend my heartfelt thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance for strengthening the manufacturing units.

The second important point is that all of us who belong to the middle class wish to find relief, in some way or the other, from direct and indirect taxes. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance that, considering the tradition with which we have been moving forward, and realising that the economy was somewhat off the track, he thought it fit, within the very first forty days, to provide some relief to those who regularly pay taxes. This is a very good provision, a very good measure. Within just forty days, the Finance Ministry has prepared and presented a very good Budget. It is said that [English] where the home is, the heart is. [Translation] Unless your heart is happy, unless there is prosperity in your home, the country cannot move forward. I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for enhancing the tax exemption by Rs. 50,000 and thereby strengthening every middle-class person. ... *(Interruptions)* By enhancing the exemption by Rs. 50,000 in every sphere and thus providing strength, I express my deep gratitude to him.

Besides this, another important matter which has been continuing for several years relates to GST, which was a vision and dream of the former Prime Minister from the NDA Government, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. Today, the Hon. Minister of Finance has demonstrated the difference between words and deeds, which during the last ten years of the UPA had always remained apart, but now that difference is visibly narrowing. What he has stated, he has acted upon. He has said that a rule-based and time-bound GST will be introduced by the end of one year. He has held discussions with every State, with the Finance Ministry and with representatives of the States, and has rule-bound and time-bound declared that the Rs. 32,000 crore of tax which we ought to receive in the form of GST during the last four years, he himself intends to bring in. In this manner, he is making efforts to bring taxation under one umbrella in the form of GST, and he has even specified the time-frame for it.

Another important aspect relates to the banking sector. The Hon. Minister of Finance has raised a very significant point that banking so far has reached only 58 percent of the people in the country. Today, we desire that those who have capital and investment should be accorded due respect. In order to respect the capital and investment of the people, the Hon. Minister of Finance has endeavoured that

banking services should reach 90 percent of the population. From 58 percent, the strength to reach 90 percent of the people has been demonstrated through this Budget. We can move forward because, though matters relating to manufacturing units and various other sectors were raised, unless our basic infrastructure is sound, no strong edifice can be built. Today, the Hon. Minister of Finance has laid the greatest emphasis on infrastructural growth and focussed attention on our foundation. I recall that when we visit African and Asian countries, with whom our competition is going to be, the maximum federal investment there is in infrastructural growth. There was an old saying, and my father too always taught me that when the Great Depression occurred in America, the then President framed three to four rules, one of which was to invest more money in infrastructure, in roads, in road construction, and in manufacturing, so that once the roads were built, the nation would automatically advance towards its destination. Our destination is already set, but for the construction of roads the Hon. Minister of Finance has provided Rs. 37,000 crore, so that we may reach our goal more swiftly. For this, I express my deep gratitude. It is the dream of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi that by the year 2022, every Indian should have a roof over his head, that we should have a pucca house. For the past 60 years we have been

struggling for roti, kapda aur makaan. But today, to fulfil the aspiration for a home, the Hon. Prime Minister has very ably presented his dream. In presenting his Budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance has supported us through housing loans. The most important matter is that whether it be through the PPP model or through FDI, every Indian should have a house. Therefore, the Hon. Minister of Finance has given strong support to the cherished dream of affordable housing for all, and for this I would like to thank him.

The most important matter is that the Hon. Prime Minister had said that the Opposition and all of us should work together, and that he wishes to work in cooperation with the States and local bodies. Along with this, when we consider the North-Eastern States, we find that for the last ten years they have not received the strength they deserved. It was the dream of former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who even created a Ministry for the North-Eastern Region, that their welfare should be ensured and that they should progress along with us. In this very Budget, much has been done for the North-Eastern States, for their rights and for their honour. Be it a Sports University, agriculture, or education for the children there, the Hon. Minister of Finance has accorded the North-Eastern States both their

rights and their respect. This is a very significant matter. I would like to thank him for it.

When in the year 1980 the Bharatiya Janata Party was founded and its largest convention was held in Mumbai, the then President and our former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had said that the darkness would fade, the sun would rise and the lotus would bloom. The lotus has indeed bloomed, but for the darkness to fade, it is the lotus itself which has to render assistance. All over the country, there is the problem of electricity. I would only like to say that once somebody asked me: “What is it that you would want in life, since you are a Member of Parliament; what would be your foremost dream?” I simply replied that unless 24-hour electricity is made available throughout the country, we will not be able to move forward. Until we move ahead from darkness, we will not be able to see the future clearly. I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance that, with regard to the power sector and in respect of efforts to dispel darkness, a tax holiday of ten years has been given to all those working in the power sector. This is indeed a good measure. Only when power generation increases will there be light, and darkness will vanish from every village and every street, and as Atal ji said, the sun will shine.

I am myself a woman and also young. This combination of youth and womanhood is more fruitful for me. When I go amongst the people, they ask me about issues relating to women as well as to youth. I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for having taken a good step in respect of women safety and education. Today, we are in the 21st century, yet female foeticide is still taking place in the areas around us, whether in poor households or in the houses of the affluent. But female foeticide is still prevalent. In terms of respecting women, somewhere or the other we have failed to reflect adequately, and somewhere in the culture of our country a gap has appeared. Until my daughter, nurtured in my womb, studies and grows, the country will not move forward, for we are equal partners in 50 percent of the population of this country. ... *(Interruptions)* By allowing me more time to speak in this way, you are doing me a favour, for which I extend my deep thanks.

Hon. Chairperson, this Budget marks a beginning for women. When it comes to the matter of women safety, whether on highways or elsewhere, the Hon. Minister of Finance has given them considerable strength through his measures. From the issue of female foeticide, as I have already said, in the 21st century, until the daughter nurtured in the womb grows and advances, our culture teaches us that

when a woman is educated, her household is educated; when her household is educated, the society is educated and progresses; and when society is educated, the nation advances. Until we empower women and provide them with education and security, this country will not be able to move progress.

I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao initiative. From protecting the daughter in the womb to enabling her to progress in life, the Hon. Minister of Finance has taken a very commendable decision and made a provision of Rs. 100 crore in the Budget for this purpose.

There is another new aspect, when we speak of Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, later when the daughter advances through education, she becomes a homemaker, contributes to small industries, forms self-help groups, whether in a group of 11 or 21, and all of us come together. For such self-help groups, in villages as well, assistance is provided at an interest rate of four percent. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for providing assistance to self-help groups at an interest rate of seven percent. At the same time, 150 districts have been added afresh, and in these 150 districts, self-help groups are being assisted at an interest rate of four percent. ... *(Interruptions)*

Shri Sudip Bandyopadhyay is a very senior Member. He is not present here at the moment. When he was seated here, he made a very good point that just as support has been extended for the Statue of Unity, similar support should also be given for Swami Vivekananda, for his monument. I would like to tell him and convey to all Hon. Members that Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, who worked for unity in diversity, who brought the country together and united it, has also been accorded support for his memorial, his ideas and the strength of future generations. Therefore, I would also like to endorse his suggestion that just as we have strongly supported the Statue of Unity, we must also extend similar strength for the construction of a statue of Swami Vivekananda.

Hon. Chairperson, I would only say this much that this Budget is focused on two issues. With the inclusion of the poor, the backward, the minorities, the majority, the farmers who are the backbone of this nation, the women who are the strength of this country, and the youth who are the future of our nation, this Budget has been crafted. With the guiding principle of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’, this Budget has been advanced.

Hon. Chairperson, I would only say one thing, the Parliamentary Constituency from which I have been elected, kindly allow me just 30

seconds. The Parliamentary Constituency from which I have been elected is the Mumbai city. It is the economic capital of this nation and an international city of repute. While Rs. 500 crore has been allocated to the NCR of Delhi and Rs. 7,000 crore has been provided for the development of 100 new Smart Cities, I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister of Finance that the Mumbai city alone contributes Rs. 2.5 lakh crore in taxes, that is, nearly 25 percent of the total Rs. 8.5 lakh crore tax revenue, comprising direct tax, indirect tax and corporate tax, collected by the Government. Mumbai contributes even more strength because of its “never-say-die” attitude. The city I come from has faced bomb blasts, monsoon floods, and severe inundation, yet the people of Mumbai always step forward to assist in the development of the city and the nation. Provisions must be made for Mumbai’s infrastructure, its sweet rivers, and housing matters, including areas connected to the CRZ. When one observes cities such as Hong Kong, Singapore, and New York, it becomes clear that to empower such an economic capital, Mumbai’s infrastructure and housing must be properly supported. I place this expectation before you.

At last, I would like to say that I have many friends present here and during the debate in the Lok Sabha the day before yesterday, it

was stated that this is a very half-hearted Budget, only halfway forward. To them I would say: I too felt apprehension when I saw the gap, but we continued to move forward keeping our path in sight, and naturally, the destination was attained through the courage I possessed. This courage has been bestowed upon us by the people of our country, and with this courage, I approve and support the very fine Budget presented by our Hon. Minister of Finance, and I earnestly place my suggestions before you.

[English]

***SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM):** I wholeheartedly thank Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchithalaivi Amma for making me a member of Parliament representing Arakkonam constituency. Hon'ble Puratchithalaivi Amma has welcomed the general budget. This is a prudent budget taking into consideration the economic reality and the need to control inflation. Having desperately failed with the selfish and aimless rule of the previous UPA Government we expect more growth and steady progress of the nation in all fields under the present NDA Government.

I have some demands for your consideration and appropriate action.

Under the able guidance of Puratchithalaivi Amma, Tamil Nadu is progressing well towards glory. We need the moral and financial support of the Union Government for further progress.

When the Tsunami and Thane Cyclone devastated Tamil Nadu, the people were affected. The whole State was in a shock after loss of many lives and property. Puratchithalaivi Amma demanded Rs.5000 crore for relief and rehabilitation works. Previous UPA Government

* Speech was laid on the Table.

was not concerned but showed indiscrimination in allocation of necessary aid to the State of Tamil Nadu. Purachithalaivi Amma toured throughout Tamil Nadu to mitigate the sorrows of the affected people. It is only because of Amma's efforts, people of Tamil Nadu recovered from the huge losses of Tsunami and Thane cyclone.

With the availability of limited resources, Puratchithalaivi Amma has been kind enough to implement several social security and welfare schemes meant for the poor and downtrodden. Tamil Nadu Government got only Rs.600 crore as against the actual need of Rs.4490 crore. Puratchithalaivi Amma is committed to implement several schemes including old age pension scheme, 4 grams of gold to poor girls for their marriage purpose, free issue of textbooks, notebooks, bicycles, laptops, uniform dresses to children, etc.

I urge the Union Government to allocate adequate funds to Tamil Nadu for uninterrupted implementation of such social welfare programmes.

Kerosene is the fuel used for cooking by poor people. Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchithalaivi Amma in a memorandum submitted to the Hon'ble Prime Minister on 3rd June 2014 has stated that the monthly allocation of kerosene to the State of Tamil Nadu should be restored at 65,140 kilo liters as against the

present reduced allocation of 29,060 kilo liters per month. As desired by Amma, I sincerely request the NDA Government to allocate the required kerosene of 65,140 kilo liters per month to Tamil Nadu.

Tamil Nadu has been progressing well in all sectors including industrial development. Ponneri has been announced as Smart City in the current Budget. Necessary funds would be allocated for its infrastructure development. I urge that Arakkonam- a city known for integration of people – and Katpadi should be included in the list of Smart Cities and necessary funds should be released.

I request that Tiruttani should be prominently included in the tourist map of India as a pilgrim center frequently visited by lakhs of pilgrims. I urge for the release of necessary funds for infrastructure development in Tiruttani.

There are a number of leather tanning industries in Ranipet, Ambur and Vaniyambadi and these tanneries along with their effluents, pose an environmental threat to the surrounding areas besides polluting ground water. The Union Government should also allocate necessary funds for protecting the environment of this area besides keeping a check on these tanneries.

I further stress the need for setting up a four way railway line along Arakkonam-Tiruttani-Tirupati route which is overcrowded with a heavy traffic of tourist and regular passengers.

I request you to set up industrial corridors in backward areas like Arakkonam and Ranipet in order to develop these areas and to provide employment to several thousands of unemployed youth of my constituency.

On behalf of the AIADMK party, I welcome the current Budget and hope that it will ensure economic growth of our nation.

I once again thank the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchithalaivi Amma for allowing me to express views on the discussion on the General Budget.

[Translation]

***SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR):** I would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, and the Minister of Finance, Hon. Jaitley ji. The Government has presented the General Budget in the Lok Sabha.

The Government has been formed for only six weeks, and the circumstances facing the country are challenging. On one hand, the UPA Government left the country's economy in a shattered state. On the other hand, our agriculture-dependent nation is confronted with a weak monsoon, and yet on a third front, the internal crisis in Iraq has compounded the country's difficulties. Altogether, the nation faces extremely adverse circumstances. Despite all these challenges, under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji, Arun Jaitley ji has presented an extremely reassuring and developmental Budget before the country, with firm determination and a resolve to build a twenty-first century India.

There was apprehension among the people that, under such adverse circumstances, no Government could present a Budget in tune with public sentiment. However, today we are pleased to state that this

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Budget, while providing something for all sections of society, has also paved the way for reforms.

Balancing economic reforms with social responsibilities amidst the sky-high expectations of the people of this country was a challenge. However, the NDA Government has not only tackled this challenge but has also provided relief to the people burdened by inflation. Without altering tax rates, the Government has increased the exemption limit in income tax, giving a clear signal that providing relief to the populace troubled by rising prices is the Government's foremost priority.

This country is agriculture-dependent, yet farmers have remained neglected since independence. Even today, over 70 percent of farmers are reliant on rainfall for irrigation. Keeping this in mind, the Government has announced the launch of the Prime Minister's Agricultural Irrigation Scheme, which will undoubtedly serve as a lifeline for the country's farmers.

Furthermore, to ensure that farmers understand modern agricultural techniques and receive timely information on both advanced and traditional practices, the Budget has announced the Farmer TV initiative. To assist farmers burdened by unprofitable

farming, the Government has arranged loans amounting to Rs. 8 lakh crore for the agricultural sector.

Whenever the BJP or the NDA Government has come to power in this country, the framework for the development of farmers and rural areas has been established. How can the nation forget that the "Pradhan Mantri Grameen Sadak Yojana", which forms the backbone of rural development, was the gift of the venerable Atal Ji's Government? Now, under Hon. Modi's Government, Rs. 14,369 crore has been provided for this scheme, demonstrating its commitment to rural development.

For infrastructure in rural areas, schemes such as the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rural Mission, Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, Neeranchal Yojana, and Rural Entrepreneurship Scheme are being launched by Modi ji's Government. These initiatives will prove to be milestones in the future development of rural India.

The aim of this Government is a developed and prosperous India. Accordingly, the Government has resolved to construct one hundred smart cities in the country and has provided Rs. 7,060 crore for this purpose. Not only this, but over the next 10 years, the Government is also committed to developing infrastructure in five hundred urban settlements through the PPP model.

Mobilising resources for the development of urban settlements is also a significant challenge. To address this, the Government has increased the Municipal Debt Liability Fund from Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore.

In this Budget, the Government, adopting a broad and comprehensive perspective, has addressed concerns across all sectors. Important decisions have been taken from primary education to higher and vocational education. To provide greater opportunities to the country's talented youth, the Government has announced the establishment of five new institutions akin to the IITs and IIMs.

Today, the greatest need is to focus on internal and juvenile reforms in the country. A substantial portion of defence equipment essential for national security is imported from other countries. Due to a lack of resolve and technology, our defence institutions have not been fully utilised. To become self-reliant in this sector, and to produce the most advanced defence equipment domestically rather than relying on imports, the Government has increased the FDI limit from 26 percent to 49 percent. This decision will enable our armed forces to be self-reliant and capable of facing all challenges.

The country faces severe challenges today. To tackle these challenges, we must first be strong on the economic front. Over the

past ten years, under the leadership of the UPA Government, a consistently low growth rate of four to five percent and rising fiscal deficits obstructed the country's development. In this context, this Budget is a document of reformed economic policy that will give new momentum to the Indian economy.

A nation that remains sensitive to its culture and traditions is able to bind its people together in the thread of national unity. We have a unique culture and a proud tradition. The mother Ganga, who is its principal custodian, has, due to a lack of resolve, become polluted. In the 67 years since independence, little attention was paid to the fact that the pollution of the mother Ganga signifies the pollution of our culture. However, our Government, demonstrating its commitment to our culture, has made it clear that we shall restore the purity of the mother Ganga's flow and has provided a one-time allocation of Rs. 2,037 crore for this purpose.

In conclusion, I would like to once again congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Modi, and Shri Jaitley, who, through this Budget, have given a clear signal that the NDA Government has no political agenda in this Budget. The Government's priority is the building of a future India for the country's youth, farmers, workers, and people at large. The people of the country have confidence that under the

leadership of Hon. Modi, the nation will write a new chapter of development.

[English]

***SHRI P.K. BIJU (ALATHUR):** I express my views and concerns on the budget 2014 presented by Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley.

The new Government's much hyped budget 2014, without any doubt, brings smile on the face of the corporate and a grave disappointment for the common man. If you look at the several proposals on education, health care, rural India, the farm sector or the underprivileged, or the broad tax proposals or those related to infrastructure creation and the capital market…. the intentions are very clear. It has gone down well with the corporate sector which was unabashedly rooting for a Narendra Modi Government in the run-up to the elections. It is a curious blend of private-public approach, the new mantra thus emerging out to be 'Public –Private Partnership' (PPP), that's commitment is only to the corporate.

The sector where the budget would get its share of beating is in the agricultural sector where it appears that the minister did little more than cosmetics and tokenism. There was no concrete explanation as to how the rising prices would be tackled in the coming times and

* Speech was laid on the Table.

there is no enough explanation for storage capacities and effective supply of the food commodities. A token of Rs.500 crore is allocated as a price stabilization fund which appears feeble given the constrained situation of agriculture. Though there are some long-term measures like setting up agri-infrastructure fund at a cost of Rs.100 crore and two more agri-research institutes in Jharkhand and Assam, which should benefit the sector in long run, there was hardly any relief for a foreseen problem that farmers and consumers might face in the recent future.

Fiscal consolidation is sought to be effected through contraction of public expenditures and not by increasing revenues through taxing the rich. The budget proposes drastic cuts in central plan outlay in agriculture and allied sectors, rural development and social services and women and child development. There is no increase in allocation in MGNREGA, Indira Awas Yojna rather in real terms it has declined. The total plan allocation also declined in real terms roughly by 4%. Moreover, the share of SCs and STs in total plan expenditure is falling short by Rs.47,000 crores and Rs.14,000 crores according to Planning Commission guidelines based on proportion of population. At the same time, real estate investment trusts (REITs) and Infrastructure Investment Trust (IIT); both being cash pooling vehicles, have been

encouraged by the Government by providing pass through status to resolve the financial disability in the infrastructure sector.

Jaitley here played a smart card by not directly attacking the subsidies and unnecessary expenditure which he and his party all along have been attacking but delegated the task of looking into these expenditures to the Expenditure Management Commission, one of few fancy committees which the budget proposes, to look into expenditure reforms.

The budget also proposes a decline in subsidies to petroleum by Rs.22,054 crores which would impose more burdens on the people and further increase the inflationary pressure. Moreover the budget has no concrete proposal to check the double digit food inflation especially when there is a possibility of mounting pressure on food prices given the projections of bad monsoon.

The budget also fails to propose measures to increase employment growth through revamping manufacturing growth. Investments are low and there is no attempt to raise domestic demand; rather the budget essentially relies on incentives to private investment through investment linked deductions that grossly failed to raise investment in the earlier years. Moreover the Government announced to raise the cap of foreign investment in insurance, defense and real estate that the

earlier Government could not implement because of stiff opposition. The preferences of the Government is summed up in allocating 200 crore for the Unity Status and more Rs.100 crore for ‘Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao’, a scheme announced for saving and welfare of girl child.

Regional discrimination is another important aspect that has to be taken into wider consideration and discussion. For example, Kerala has been neglected on many fronts. The state's long-standing demands for an AIMS, Vizhinjam Port, Inland water tourism, sports development, etc. have been turned down by the budget.

While concluding I would like to state that what the budget is lacking is the ‘doctrine of implementation’ and future road map. There are a lot of ‘what is to be done’ and less of ‘how it is to be done’.

***SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):** Hon. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget (2014-15).

Sir, I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting a Budget that will bring the derailed economy of India back on track. The earlier Budgets presented by the erstwhile UPA Government were hamstrung by the fact that they spent 85% of the Budget on non-planned expenditure. Due to the high cost of production, producers and consumers---both suffered. Centrally sponsored schemes were dependent on the will of the State Governments. Many times, the money remained unspent and unutilized. The cost of production kept on increasing.

Sir, as per the CAG report, the gas companies were earning a profit of Rs.50,000 crores. Due to incessant price-rise, the common man suffered. In the name of royalty, foreign capitalists were enriched. It gave a boost to poverty. However, this budget has reduced the non-planned expenditure. This is a step in the right direction. It will rejuvenate the economy of the country. Expenditure has been reduced and further steps have been taken to increase the income.

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* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi

Agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. Steps have been initiated in the budget to revitalize the moribund economy sector. At the time of independence, agriculture contributed 52% of the GDP. Now, it has been reduced to mere 12% of the GDP. This trend must change. Agriculture has to be made remunerative.

Sir, I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for allotting 1000 crore rupees for the Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme. However, this is a meager amount and needs to be increased. Sir, Punjab has over-used its ground-water for irrigation and faces a crisis now. Therefore, under the Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme, Punjab must get a lion's share of the funds.

Sir, floods have also posed a severe problem for Punjab. The incessant rain on the mountains and foothills results in the flooding of rivers in Punjab. 4,000 million cubic meters of rain-water wreaks havoc in Punjab. So, the Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme will be very helpful for Punjab. I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for making provision in the budget for this scheme.

Sir, states that are plagued by natural calamities like floods etc. need to be bailed out. Special financial packages should be granted to such states for the construction of check-dams etc. Crop insurance scheme should be implemented properly. MSP of the crops must be

fixed keeping the interest of farmers in view. All states should be consulted for this purpose.

Sir, I also thank the Minister of Finance as he has tried to bring down the rate of interest in the agriculture sector from 7% to 3%. However, the farmers in Punjab are neck-deep in debt. There is a whopping loan amount of Rs.60,000 crores on the farmers of Punjab. The previous Government waived off Rs.70,000 crores of loan amount of the farmers. However, Punjab needed Rs.35,000 cores at that time to revitalize its agriculture sector. But, only a paltry sum of Rs.150 crores was given to Punjab. So, I urge upon the Hon. Minister of Finance to do away with this anomaly. The entire loan-amount of the farmers of Punjab must be waived off. To make the profession of agriculture remunerative, more schemes should be launched.

Sir, standing crops are often destroyed by wild animals. The farmers have to suffer the consequences. Barbed-wire fencing work needs to be done at such places and the center must bear its cost. In the hilly areas, lift-irrigation systems should be encouraged. Resources should be provided by the Union Government.

Sir, the need of the hour is to include irrigation in the basic necessities like electricity, education, health etc. Irrigation should be a part of the basic infrastructure.

Sir, the food-processing industry needs a major uplift. Food-processing should be an integral part of agro-industry. The difference of 2% from 9% to 7% will help this sector.

Sir, Rs.5000 crores have been earmarked for the construction of warehouses. It will also give a boost to diversification of agriculture. The food-processing sector should get loans at 7% interest and for the agriculture sector, it should be 3%.

Sir, the erstwhile UPA Government had meted out a step-motherly treatment to Punjab. Injustice was done to Punjab. Punjab is a border state. However, the neighbouring states like Himachal Pradesh etc. were given incentives and packages were granted to them to bail out their industries. On the other hand, the already moribund industries of Punjab were left in the lurch. Industries in Punjab were already in shambles. As a result, there was a flight of industries from Punjab to neighboring states. So, I urge upon the Hon. Minister of Finance to grant a special 'Border area' package and incentives to industries in Punjab.

Sir, the Hon. Minister of Finance wants to help our steel industry. He has announced some schemes to rejuvenate this sector. I thank him for this gesture. However, our scrap industry must be given the

'deemed rebate' that was earlier provided to it but was stopped later on.

Sir, I reiterate that the loan of Rs.60,000 crores on the farmers of Punjab must be waived off. Punjab has faced very traumatic times during the age of militancy. Our economy was doomed due to this upheaval. Interest on the loan amount of the farmers of Punjab is increasing annually. First of all, this interest on loan amount should be done away with.

Sir, the economy of Punjab needs revitalization and rejuvenation I hope, Hon. Minister of Finance will take steps in this direction. The cut imposed by him on custom duty and excise duty will help our products. It will lead to generation of employment and will give a much-needed fillip to our economy. The country will march ahead on the way to progress and development.

Sir, the people of India have reposed their faith in the NDA Government. This budget will definitely live up to their expectations. We will take everybody along and work for the upliftment of all sections of the society.

Chairman Sir, in the end, I will draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance towards my constituency Sri Anandpur Sahib. The budget talks about a 'Pilgrimage circuit'. Sri Anandpur Sahib is

a famous pilgrimage center. Guru Tegh Bahadur Sahib attained martyrdom for the sake of this country. The holy places of Naina Devi and Chintpurni are also present in this area. Temples of Baba Balaknath and Guru Ravidass ji are also located in this area. So, Sri Anandpur Sahib should be developed as a 'Pilgrimage Circuit'. Budgetary support for a 22 Kms. rail stretch should be provided. Road network in my constituency should be augmented and funds should be earmarked for this purpose. Sri Anandpur Sahib should also be developed as a tourist hub.

*__DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGLEY):__ Shri Narendra Modi-led BJP-NDA Government came to power by showing the dream of "Achhe Din" (that is Good Times) to the restless middle-class and youth of India. The maiden Budget of the Government therefore has to be seen in that light.

Since the problems were already known, "Acche Din" definitely meant lower inflation, higher growth & better fiscal management. On all these 3 fronts, Budget 2014 failed miserably. The Government's own Economic Survey, released on the 9th July, is a testimony to that. The Survey admits candidly that GDP-growth for the year 2014-15 will be pegged at 5.4 to 5.9 per cent. Headline inflation could be 7.5 to 8 per cent by March 2015, which is higher than the current level of 5 to 6 per cent. The Minister of Finance's assurance of containing the fiscal deficit to 4.1% of GDP is also not believable because this is based on very heightened expectations on tax collection and disinvestments of public sector shares. Minister of Finance, Arun Jaitley himself is aware of that and admits it in his Budget speech.

So what did we achieve through this Modi-Jaitley Budget of 2014? What we could not achieve is pretty clear – we cannot achieve higher growth; we cannot lower inflation; we cannot achieve better fiscal management. But we did achieve certain new things. And that's

* Speech was laid on the Table.

political. There has been a complete rightward shift in the political economy of India.

It is reflected in the unprecedented role accorded to the private sector over the public sector. There have been sufficient indications of cutting down subsidies & substantial disinvestments of PSUs.

Much higher FDI is allowed in Insurance and Defence sectors.

A 10-year tax holiday is announced for the corporate sector which produces Power.

Even the budget proposals for agriculture were aimed at pushing the Indian Farmers towards market-linked farming. This is a significant shift.

Above all, there is sufficient indication of toning down the 'entitlement regime' established by the previous 'left of the center' Governments. The MGNREGA allocation of Rs. 34,000 crores of this budget is a marginal rise of Rs. 1,000 crores over the last budget. Last year's Rs. 33,000 crores allocation was much less than the requirement, leading to severe delays in wage payments to beneficiaries. An improved MGNREGA needed much higher budgetary allocation if it was to be a genuine guarantee of employment to the poor.

This ideological shift towards more market orientation will fail to achieve the goal of employment creation and inflation reduction – so necessary for the Indian poor, both urban and rural. This is a budget for the corporate and upper middle class, and not for the poor and the lower strata. This perhaps is the beginning of a new rightist India.

In conclusion, I would like to express my serious concern regarding the fund distribution exercise by our federal Government.

I appreciate the announcement of setting up of a new AIIMS in West Bengal. I hope it would go a long way in bringing about a state of art medical facility in West Bengal.

West Bengal is a debt stressed State. I hope the Hon'ble Minister would certainly appreciate the agony of bearing huge debt burden by certain States like West Bengal. We have no other way to request the Government of India for an Interest Repayment moratorium in the form of Annual Grant for a period of 3 consecutive years. I do hope the Minister of Finance would give due consideration to this request.

I would like to request the Hon'ble Minister to protect handloom weavers of West Bengal and make them economically empowered and develop weaving clusters in West Bengal. I also like to request the Hon'ble Minister to help the jute industry of West Bengal.

*__SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL):__ The NDA has won the recently held Lok Sabha elections and has formed the Government. I want to extend my congratulations to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and the NDA Government.

The NDA has to come to power riding on the hopes and ambitions of over a billion people. There are a lot of expectations of the common man.

The hon'ble Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley Ji presented the Union Budget last week. The budget has disappointed the people of our country and has fallen short of expectations. The budget is anti Aam Aadmi as the budget does not reflect the aspirations of the common man. It is a budget for corporate and friends of NDA. The fact that there is no substantial increase in the allocations for rural and social sectors indicates this budget was a Thank You to the deep pockets who helped the NDA to power.

The BJP used their marketing skills to mislead the people of the country with regards to relief from price rise and inflation if Modi Ji came to power. Within a month of coming to power the BJP Government hiked railway fares, price of petrol and diesel and failed

* Speech was laid on the Table.

to control inflation. The same people who claimed to have a silver bullet are now firing duds and are shielding behind the lame excuse of blaming the previous Government.

As far as inflation is concerned the budget appears vague on targeting inflation and short on solid measures. While in opposition the BJP had created a storm, saying that the UPA Government was incompetent for failing to tackle the issue of price rise. After coming to power they are doing nothing to tackle the price rise.

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance in his budget has stuck with the UPA Government's revenue and deficit estimates. He has accepted the earlier target of the fiscal deficit presented by the UPA Government. There is nothing extraordinary in this budget as it is only echoing UPA's target.

The budget has no big ideas for the welfare of common people. This Budget lacks vision and is devoid of any strategy for growth of the nation or welfare of its people.

Most of the budget's figures and policies accepted the basic validity of the figures and targets of the budget of the UPA Government. Other than changing names of some schemes there is nothing new or inspiring. When the UPA – II Government presented its interim budget in February 2014 the very same BJP attacked the

UPA Government and the then Minister of Finance by saying the figures were fabricated and inflated. Today the very same BJP used the same figures in its very first budget. What made the new Government accept the previous Governments figures and targets? How have these figures suddenly changed from fabricated to truth for the BJP's new Government? Hon'ble Minister of Finance should explain to the country and to the House the facts behind these figures and targets. He should explain exactly why economic growth has come down under the UPA, and what tough decisions would be needed to rectify it.

People of our country expected a major vision for five years, major reforms and some relief. The budget has failed to give relief to people from price rise and inflation. The budget speech was long in duration of almost two and a half hours but short on substance.

On the other hand, the UPA I and UPA II achievements are significant. The only failure, if any, was its inability to communicate its achievements in lay-man's terms.

Under the leadership of Shri. Manmohan Singh Ji, Madam Sonia Gandhi Ji and our leader Sri Rahul Gandhi Ji the UPA I and II regimes came out with many reforms.

For Governance and Transparency the UPA Government enacted the

- **Right to information Act,**
- **Second Administrative Reforms commission and**
- **E-Governance.**

Among the anti-corruption measures, the Government was able to bring the:

- **Lokpal Bill**
- **Whistle Blowers Protection Bill**
- **Grievance Redressal Bill, and**
- **Amendment to Prevention of Corruption Act.**

The union budget 2014-15 is nothing but serving the "private sector". During the UPA Government's tenure it gave top priority to social and rural sector schemes: the MGNREGA and BHARAT NIRMAN.

It shows the Congress is always in favor of upliftment of the social and rural sectors. UPA schemes were spread deeply in rural India.

The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) is the largest welfare scheme of its kind in the world which was started in 2006.

Our country's Tall Leader Shri Advani Ji during his address to the UNITED NATIONS on October 12th 2012 praised the MGNREGA and said that the scheme had helped empower rural people and revive economic growth.

The Wages given under the scheme per day have almost doubled from Rs.65 to Rs.128 since the launch of the scheme. In 2012-13, the scheme provided employment to over 4.98 crore households, generating more than 213 crore person-days of employment. There are rumors that amendments are to be brought to MGNREGA in the future. Tampering with this scheme will incur the wrath of the farmers.

During the UPA regime there has been a ten-fold increase in the expenditure on minorities since 2004-14. In the Union Budget presented by the NDA there is hardly anything mentioned for the Minorities. The budget is highly disappointing for the minorities.

During the UPA regime there has been a three-fold increase in food subsidy. The landmark Food Security Act championed by Madam Gandhi ensures no one in the country will go hungry. In my

state, Karnataka, BPL families are entitled to 35 kg of food-grains per month at Rupees 1 per kg. This act was revolutionary.

Under UPA For Farmer welfare – Minimum support prices (MSP) for wheat and paddy has been doubled since 2004, while MSP for other grains have increased three fold.

More than 650 lakh farmers were financed by the banking system during 2012-13.

In addition the new Land Acquisition Act enacted by the UPA Government will provide livelihood, rehabilitation, and financial benefits for land losers. Farmers are protected from land grabbers and are given fair compensation.

There are reports that the Land Acquisition Act will be amended in the near future. You are amending the Act only to help the Private Sector. Diluting the act will be at your own peril and will be Anti-Farmer.

During the UPA regime Poverty reduction was two percent per annum. What is the NDA's plan to reduce poverty further? There is hardly any mention of reducing poverty in the budget.

During the UPA Regime the Infrastructure development was given high priority – More than 5,44,464 km have been cleared. 3,99,000 km. of roads are completed under PMGSY.

Allocation for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has increased by 88 percent in the 12 th Five Year Plan. 54,478 km of National Highways were sanctioned and out of that 21787 km roads are completed.

As far as Industrial corridors between Bangalore- Mumbai and Bangalore-Chennai – Chitradurga are concerned, they were sanctioned and preliminary works were started during our UPA Government. In your budget you are projecting them like you are starting this project newly. You are only misguiding people.

With regard to Skill development our UPA Government made a provision of Rs.2251.89 crores. Number of persons benefited were 19,54,300. This is not a small achievement. Now the newly elected NDA Government is claiming they are taking up skill development for the first time. I would like to remind you that under the National Skill Development Corporations 129 training schools and 29 sector skill councils are functioning in the country.

Urban Development was one of the thrust areas in the UPA Government. Our Government had launched Jawaharlal Nehru

National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM). Nation-wide program has brought a Sea-Change in Urban Infrastructure benefiting over 85% of Urban Population in 61 Cities with a population of over 1 million as well as Numerous Smaller Towns. The UPA Govt has Invested over Rs.46000 crores in improving Urban Infrastructure.

Now the present Budget talks about building 100 new SMART CITIES across the nation with a mere allocation of Rs. 7060. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance must explain how these funds will be used as the funds are not even enough for an initial survey alone for creating 100 SMART CITIES.

I would like to draw the attention of the NDA Government that the UPA Government introduced the **Urban Infrastructure Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT)** which is one of the components of JNNURM. This Mission is the single largest initiative of the UPA Government for planned development of cities and towns. The SMART CITIES concept was a SMART gimmick to gain votes. The NDA has misguided the people on the intent of the SMART CITIES. The UPA has already spent crores on development of cities and towns.

At this juncture I would like to point out that Bangalore is known as IT capital, Knowledge capital, Silicon city, Garden City and

various other names. Former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajapayee JI mentioned that If any foreign dignitary visits India, he or she FIRST visits Bangalore. Even U S President Barrack Obama has acknowledged Bangalore because it is a Knowledge city. Bangalore has put India on the World Map.

This was possible because of the then Congress Government under Shri S M Krishna JI who made significant contributions to the development of the IT/BT sectors.

Today people from all over the world are in awe of India only because of our Knowledge, this is our biggest asset.

UPA Government spent crores of rupees for the development of Bangalore. But in this budget the NDA Government has not given any importance to Bangalore.

Most of the revenue generated from the IT hub, the Electronic City in Anekal Taluk falls under my Bangalore Rural Lok Sabha constituency. Hundreds of IT companies provided employment opportunities to lakhs of people not only from Bangalore but different parts of the country and from various parts of the world.

Unfortunately the infrastructure development has not kept up with the pace of growth of Electronic City. Transportation, drinking water,

sanitation and other basic amenities have not been upgraded. Neglecting Bangalore and Electronic City's infrastructure development will hurt the Indian economy. The budget did not provide anything for Bangalore and Electronic City in particular.

Therefore I urge upon the Hon'ble Minister of Finance that keeping the importance of Bangalore and its contribution to the Indian economy to take immediate steps to allocate adequate funds to provide rapid infrastructure development to Electronic City and Bangalore.

As far as health tourism is concerned Bangalore is the most attractive destination for this purpose. People from all over the Asian countries prefer to go to Bangalore for medical treatment. The NDA budget did not announce an AIIMS like institution for Bangalore. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Siddaramaiah Ji has written to the Govt that 200 acres of land has been identified for AIIMS like institution near Bangalore and communicated the same to the union Government. Yet an AIIMS is not sanctioned to Karnataka. The budget was very disappointing for Karnataka that neither an AIIMS or IIT was announced for the state.

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance should take steps for early agreement with state Governments on Goods & Services Tax (GST). In the budget speech Hon'ble Minister has not given any guarantee to

the states against any revenue loss as it is a major stumbling block for the state Governments to implement the GST. The Hon'ble Minister should look into all the issues of the States before introducing the GST in the country.

As far as FDI is concerned the BJP had opposed the same when the UPA Government proposed a 49% limit in the insurance sector. But the BJP is now claiming credit for increasing the FDI participation in the Insurance sector.

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance announced an increase in the FDI equity limit in the defense from 26% to 49%. Again the BJP has changed its position. Why does the BJP have double standards? The minister should explain the reasons for this change of mindset as the people are confused as to the stance of the BJP Government.

Apart from FDI and PPP, which the BJP had opposed when they were in the opposition, there seems to be absolutely no innovativeness in the NDA Budget. Even the Tax Rebate given to individuals is very minimal. The same Hon'ble Finance Ministry when he was in the opposition had gone on record when the UPA presented its budget that the Individual Tax limit should be raised to 5 lakhs. Why was the Minister unable to announce his own demands?

I want to conclude by saying the budget was an utter disappointment for the people of this country.

Before I end, I want to quote our famous poet Sarvagna.

It translates in English as:

One who gives without advertising is superior.

One who gives and talks about it is medium.

Only a knave talks much and gives nothing.

This is in essence the NDA budget.

*__DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR):__ Decisive vote for change represents the desire of the people to grow, free themselves from the curse of poverty and use the opportunity provided by the society. Country is in no mood to suffer unemployment, inadequate basic amenities, lack of infrastructure and apathetic governance. Challenging situation due to Sub five per cent growth and double digit inflation. First budget of this NDA Government has laid down a broad policy indicator of the direction in which we wish to take this country. Steps announced are only the beginning of the journey towards a sustained growth of 7-8 per cent or above within the next 3-4 years along with macroeconomic stabilization. Growing aspirations of people will be reflected in the development strategy of the Government led by the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and its mandate of "Sab ka Saath Sab ka Vikas".

Decline in fiscal deficit from 5.7% in 2011-12 to 4.5% in 2013-14 is mainly achieved by reduction in expenditure rather than by way of realization of higher revenue. Improvement in current account deficit from 4.7% in 2012-13 to year end level of 1.7% is mainly achieved through restriction on non-essential imports and slow-down in overall aggregate demand. There is a need to keep watch on CAD.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

The 4.1 percent fiscal deficit is a daunting task in the backdrop of two years of low GDP growth, static industrial growth, moderate increase in indirect taxes, subsidy burden and not so encouraging tax buoyancy.

Inflation has remained at elevated levels with gradual moderation in WPI recently. The problem of black money must be fully addressed. Bold steps are required to enhance economic activities and spur growth in the economy.

Government is to promote FDI selectively in sectors. The composite cap of foreign investment is to be raised to 49 per cent with full Indian management and control through the FIPB route. The composite cap in the insurance sector is to be increased up to 49 per cent from 26 per cent with full Indian management and control through the FIPB route. The manufacturing units are to be allowed to sell its products through retail including E-commerce platforms.

A sum of Rs.7060 crore is provided in the current fiscal for the project of developing "one hundred Smart Cities.

Rs.1000 crore have been provided for "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna" for assured irrigation.

Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission for integrated project is based on infrastructure in the rural areas. Rs.500 crore have been provided for "Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana" for feeder separation to augment power supply to the rural areas. Rs.14,389 crore have been provided for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna(PMGSY). More productive, asset creating and with linkages to agriculture and allied activities wage employment would be provided under MGNREGA.

An amount of Rs.50,548 crore is proposed under the SC Plan and Rs.32,387 crore under TSP . For the welfare of the tribals, "Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojna" is launched with an initial allocation of Rs.100 crore.

Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana (VPBY) is revived for a limited period from 15 August, 2014 to 14 August, 2015 for the benefit of citizens aged 60 years and above. A committee will examine and recommend how unclaimed amounts with PPF, Post Office, saving schemes etc. can be used to protect and further financial interests of the senior citizens.

Outlay of Rs.50 crores is then for pilot testing a scheme on "Safety for Women on Public Road Transport". Sum of Rs.150 crores are allocated for a scheme to increase the safety of women in large cities.

"Crisis Management Centres" will be set up in all the districts of NCT of Delhi this year in Government and private hospitals. A sum of ' 100 crore is provided for "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana", a focused scheme to generate awareness and help in improving the efficiency of delivery of welfare services meant for women. School curriculum is to have a separate chapter on gender mainstreaming.

20,000 habitations affected with arsenic, fluoride, heavy/ toxic elements, pesticides/fertilizers are to be provided safe drinking water through community water purification plants in next 3 years "Swachh Bharat Abhiyan" is to cover every household with sanitation facilities by the year 2019.

Free Drug Service and Free Diagnosis Service will achieve " Health For All" . Two National Institutes of Ageing will be set up at AIIMS, New Delhi and Madras Medical College, Chennai. A national level research and referral Institute for higher dental studies to be set up. AIIMS like institutions in Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Vidarbha in Maharashtra and Poorvanchal in UP are proposed. A provision of Rs.500 crores made for this purpose. 12 new Government medical colleges are to be set up. States' Drug Regulatory and Food Regulatory Systems are to be strengthened by creating new drug testing laboratories and strengthening the 31 existing State

laboratories. 15 Model Rural Health Research Centres are to be set up for research on local health issues concerning rural population.

Government would strive will provide toilets and drinking water in all the girls' schools in the first phase. An amount of Rs.28635 crore is being funded for Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan(SSA) and Rs.4966 crore for Rashtriya Madhyamic Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA). Rs.500 crore are provided for "Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya New Teachers Training Programme" to infuse new training tools and motivate teachers.

Jai Prakash Narayan National Centre for Excellence in Humanities is to be set up in MP. Rs.500 crore have been provided for setting up 5 more IITs in Jammu, Chhattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala; 5 IIMs in the States of HP, Punjab, Bihar, Odisha and Rajasthan. Simplification of norms will facilitate education loans for higher studies.

Vision of the Government is that 500 urban habitations will be provided support for renewal of infrastructure and services in next 10 years through PPPs. Present corpus of Pooled Municipal Debt Obligation Facility to be enlarged to Rs.50,000 Crore from Rs.5000 crore. Rs.100 crore have been provided for Metro Projects in Lucknow and Ahmedabad.

An amount of Rs.100 crores is set aside for " Agri-tech Infrastructure Fund". A scheme to provide every farmer a soil health card in a Mission mode will be launched. Rs.100 crore has been provided for this purpose and additional Rs.56 crores to set up 10 Mobile Soil Testing Laboratories across the country.

To provide institutional finance to landless farmers, it is proposed to provide finance to Rs.5 lakh joint farming groups of "**Bhoomi Heen Kisan**" through NABARD. A target of Rs.8 lakh crore has been set for agriculture credit during 2014-15. The Corpus of Rural Infrastructure Development Fund (RIDF) will be raised by an additional Rs.5000 crores from the target given in the Interim Budget to 25000 crores. Allocation of Rs.5,000 crore is provided for the WareHouse Infrastructure Fund. "Long Term Rural Credit Fund" is to be set up for the purpose of providing refinance support to Cooperative Banks and Regional Rural Banks with an initial corpus of Rs.5,000 crore.

Restructuring FCI, reducing transportation and distribution losses and efficacy of PDS is to be taken up on priority. Government is committed to provide wheat and rice at reasonable prices to the weaker sections of the society. Government when required, will undertake open market sales to keep prices under control.

The Road Sector needs a huge amount of investment along with debottlenecking from a maze of clearances. An investment of an amount of Rs.37,880 crores in NHAI and State Roads is proposed which includes Rs.3000 crores for the North East. Target of NH construction of 8500 km will be achieved in the current financial year. Work on select expressways in parallel to the development of the Industrial Corridors will be initiated. For project preparation, NHAI shall set aside a sum of Rs.500 crore.

Kissan Vikas Patra (KVP) is to be reintroduced. A special small savings instrument to cater to the requirements of educating and marriage of the Girl Child is to be introduced. A National Savings Certificate with insurance cover will provide additional benefits for the small saver. In the PPF Scheme, annual ceiling will be enhanced to Rs.1.5 lakh p.a. from Rs.1 lakh at present.

Personal Income-tax exemption limit has been raised by Rs.50,000/- that is, from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.2.5 lakh in the case of individual taxpayers, below the age of 60 years. Exemption limit has been raised from Rs.2.5 lakh to Rs.3 lakh in the case of senior citizens. Investment limit under section 80C of the Income-tax Act has been raised from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.1.5 lakh.

Now, I would like to raise the following points regarding My Parliamentary Constituency Nandurbar (Maharashtra).

The work of 4 laning of NH-6 is not started yet, people are waiting for it to commence. Ankleshwar Burhanpur Highway which is currently State Highway has a lot of Traffic which is responsible for the number of accidents taking place each day. To avoid this problem the State Highway should be upgraded into National Highway.

The work of Railway Over Bridge has not been completed till because of technical problems so it should be solved at the earliest. Current work should commence which is very important. The fund may kindly be dispersed at the earliest.

Narmada- Tapi diversion scheme has been principally approved by Central Govt. and the DPR has been already approved by the State Govt. This project is totally in the tribal Area. 100 % tribal population will be benefited, hence funds should be provided for this project for the work to commence.

In Nandurbar district, the number of malnourished children is very high. To improve the health care in this area, I request the Govt. to start a Medical college & Hospital at Nandurbar. Also, Sickle cell anemia & thalassemia is more prevalent in this district in comparison

to any other district, so I request the Govt. to start a Sickle Cell Research Centre in Nandurbar.

Each Primary Health Centre is operating for 20,000 people in the rural areas but in my constituency the people live at very far places and they have to travel a lot to reach the primary health centers. So guidelines may kindly be issued for opening of each Primary Health Centre for every 10,000 people in the extreme tribal and rural districts. So the norm should be relaxed for the tribal area to start more PHC centers & Rural Hospitals.

In my Constituency, the cultivation of Banana,Rice,Sugarcane and cotton is going on in a large scale, so one more Krishi Vigyan Kendra, may kindly be started in Nandurbar. More funds may kindly be issued under MGNREGA scheme and keep a check on irregularities and misuse of funds earlier should be enquired.

Opening of branches of Nationalized Banks in the interior area of Akkalkuwa & Dhadgaon in my constituency is required as a large number of tribes live in my constituency.

14.00 hrs.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Ratification of Nagoya Protocol during India's Presidency of the Conference of Parties (COP) to the convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): I beg to lay the statement on the Table.

Biological diversity, or biodiversity, encompasses the variety of all life on earth. Biodiversity forms the web of life of which we are an integral part and upon which we so fully depend. Humanity derives its supplies of, food, medicines, energy and many industrial products from biological resources.

India is a recognized megadiverse country, rich in biodiversity

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 135/16/14.

and associated traditional knowledge. With only 2.4% of land area, it accounts for 7-8% of recorded species, while supporting 18% of humans and 18% of cattle population. India is also rich in associated traditional knowledge, which is both coded as in the ancient texts of Indian systems of medicines such as Ayurveda, Unani and Sidha, and also non-coded, as it exists in oral undocumented traditions. The genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge can be used to develop a wide range of products and services for human benefit, such as medicines, agricultural practices, cosmetics etc.

India is a Party to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) which is one of the agreements adopted during the Rio Earth Summit held in 1992. One of the three objectives of the CBD relates to access and benefit sharing (ABS), which refers to the way in which genetic resources may be accessed, and benefits resulting from their use shared by the users with the countries that provide them. The CBD prescribes that access to genetic resources is subject to national legislation. Accordingly, India after extensive consultative process had enacted the Biological Diversity Act in 2002 for giving effect to the provisions of the CBD. India was one of the first few countries to have enacted such a legislation. However, in the near absence of user country measures, once the resource leaves the country providing the

resources, there is no way to ensure compliance of ABS provisions in the country where it is used. Towards this, a protocol on access and benefit sharing has been negotiated under the aegis of CBD, and adopted by the tenth Conference of Parties (CoP-10) held in Nagoya, Japan in October 2010. India has participated actively and contributed meaningfully in the ABS negotiations. The objective of the Nagoya Protocol on ABS is fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the use of genetic resources.

The Protocol significantly advances the objective of the Convention on the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from the utilization of. genetic resources by providing greater legal certainty and transparency for both providers and users of genetic resources including researchers and industry. By promoting the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge, and by strengthening the opportunities for fair and equitable sharing of benefits from their use, the Protocol will create incentives to conserve biodiversity, sustainably use its components, and further enhance the contribution of biodiversity to sustainable development and human well-being. The entry into force of the Nagoya Protocol is therefore of strategic importance.

India had signed the Protocol on 11th May 2011, and ratified it on

9th October, 2012. The Nagoya Protocol would be implemented at the national level through the Biological Diversity Act.

India, having hosted CoP-11 to the CBD in Hyderabad in October 2012, is currently the President of CoP till CoP-12 to be held in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea in October 2014.

The Nagoya Protocol received the required 50th instrument of ratification on 14th July 2014, and will thus enter into force on the 90th day, i.e., 12th October 2014. The first Meeting of Parties of the Protocol will be held from 13-17 October, 2014 concurrently with CoP-12 in Pyeongchang.

Facilitating early entry into force of this landmark international treaty has been a priority of India as CoP President. Towards this, India has made significant efforts in the last 21 months through political and diplomatic channels. After assuming the charge of Minister, I have taken personal interest in the matter, and addressed the CBD meeting in Montreal via video on 16lh June 2014. I had also made a statement at the UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi on 26th June 2014, urging countries to ratify the Protocol soon. I also met my counterparts of concerned countries for early ratification, on the sidelines of the Nairobi meeting.

Ratification of the Nagoya Protocol by 51 Parties to the CBD is

also a major step towards achieving the first of the global Aichi Biodiversity Targets (Target 16 that by 2015, the Nagoya Protocol is in force and operational), and that too more than a year before its target date, which is quite remarkable. The pivotal role played by India in achieving this remarkable feat once again showcases India's leadership in biodiversity in the global arena.

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14.04 hrs.

GENERAL BUDGET(2014-15) – GENERAL DISCUSSION DEMANDS FOR EXCESS GRANTS (GENERAL) – (2011-12)Contd.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Chairperson, though our intelligent Hon. Minister is not present here, in his absence, I would like to say something about the country.

Before speaking on the Budget, I would like to refer to the report published yesterday by Hon. Minister Shrimati Najma Heptulla regarding the state of the nation. After 67 years of Independence, if according to Government statistics, more than 72 percent of the common people are in such a condition, then one can well imagine the magnitude of the crisis when we actually visit the villages. Thereafter, what relevance this Budget holds is beyond my understanding. On one side, at the BRICS summit, for three consecutive days, questions are being raised concerning Russia, China and the issue of banking, while on the other hand, the report of Shrimati Najma Heptulla depicts the grave condition of this country. In a country where 93 percent of the

population is still groaning and weeping, where the poor are still deprived of essential needs, and where amidst such Budgets the nation remains caught between advantages and disadvantages, it makes me wonder what indeed we are doing while sitting in this august House.

Secondly, and most importantly, I sometimes think personally that the jugglery we see through newspapers today is not new but has been continuing since the era of sages and seers. From the so-called learned men and kings, neither Krishna, nor Ram, nor Jesus, nor Nanak, nor Prophet Mohammad, nor Buddha, nor Mahavir were spared. When in this world, neither Ram nor Rahim could be spared from the jugglery of so-called scholars and economists, how will the common people of this country be spared? This is a matter of grave concern. Sometimes I feel, so long as these industrialists, capitalists and so-called learned IAS and IPS officers remain, they will neither let us live, nor let us die. This is the condition of the country that it neither allows its people to live, nor to die.

Now I come to this point, please do not worry. Between good and bad, I would like to tell you this. The people have given you a mandate to make them smile, not to make them sit here and weep over what legacy they have received. You knew even earlier that if there was nothing in the legacy, you should have asked the people for a period

of 15 years, saying that after 15 years I will build the world for you, instead, you tried to wield a magic wand.

I would like to make another point. You resort to using derogatory words. The Government headed by Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji had a tenure of six years, and he had also served earlier as a Minister in a coalition Government. In the 67 years of this nation's history, those who steered the country included Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri. You must not forget the role of Bangladesh and Pakistan, and the global respect that India commanded during the tenure of Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao as Prime Minister, when Dr. Manmohan Singh, as Minister of Finance, earned international recognition for India's economy. We should not forget that period. The contributions of the Shri Narasimha Rao's Government should not be ignored. Similarly, during the Janata Party coalition and later when Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji led the Government, it is not correct merely to dismiss the past by repeatedly saying "30 years, 30 years" and during those 30 years, you too were a part. The most important matter is that when the situation of the country in 1990-91 was precarious, even the present Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley, as reported in newspapers, went to meet Dr. Manmohan Singh and sought his counsel on how to strengthen the nation's economy.

He himself accepted that he went to seek guidance. Not only that, even our present Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, upon assuming office, first went to Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji to seek his advice as a Guru. And yet, you use disparaging words against the very person who, over 67 years, contributed immensely to the nation whether in matters of economic growth, education, or other spheres of development. I am not here to criticise the Government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji. On the contrary, I acknowledge that he was a leader with vision, and I pay my deepest respect to him. I hold him in very high personal esteem. At the same time, I must underline that during the ten years of Dr. Manmohan Singh's leadership, beginning with the reforms under Shri P.V. Narasimha Rao, India achieved remarkable economic progress. Former President of the United States, Barack Obama, in his letter, paid glowing tribute to Dr. Manmohan Singh's statesmanship. After such recognition, nothing further remains to be said against Dr. Manmohan Singh Ji or the UPA Government. Therefore, I would like to ask you, where does the country stand today?

Hon. Chairperson, I would now like to speak about the farmers. At the time of Independence, when 70 percent of the population were farmers, the budgetary provision for them was 60 percent. Today, the

budgetary provision for farmers has been reduced to merely 13 percent. Is the Hon. Minister of Finance aware of this fact? This is what I would like to know. Further, it has recently been reported that 70 percent of the farmers in India still depend on agriculture. However, their children, the younger generation of farmers, no longer wish to continue with agriculture. The Hon. Minister of Finance has not made any such provision in the Budget to encourage these young farmers, to provide them with incentives so that they may come forward to pursue farming. No provision has been made in this Budget for the farmers.

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to raise certain questions regarding the condition of our country. After 67 years of Independence, on the one hand, five-star schools have been opened, while on the other, 92 percent of our children are compelled to study in places where cattle are tied and kept. On the one hand, teachers lacking in quality are responsible for the education of 92 percent of the children of this country, on the other, children brought up in the five-star culture whether they are the sons of Shri Pappu Yadav or of the President, receive an entirely different standard of education. When the Budget of India is prepared, if we only speak of education and hospitals, one need only visit hospitals in Bihar or in any small village of the country,

what facilities are available there? Where do we stand in respect of malnutrition in India? From 1995 till date, 2 crore 96 lakh 438 farmers have committed suicide. Every year, 5 crore newborn infants die within 24 hours of their birth. In the past 5 years alone, 25 lakh people have been afflicted with cancer in India. Why do you not pay attention to these matters? What is the condition of the country today? Will you not speak of the progress of schools, of the farmers, of the hospitals in the villages? What provision have you made for the teachers in schools? If you go to the villages, you will find school teachers engaged in preparing the mid-day meal and in constructing school buildings; the children do not study. Have you made any provision in the Budget to ensure that school teachers receive at least Rs. 50,000 as salary so that they may devote themselves solely to teaching, without being burdened with other responsibilities? Has any such arrangement been made?

Secondly, I would like to point out the disparity in our education system. On the one hand, children from affluent and influential families receive privileged education, while on the other, 92 percent of the children of this country study under far inferior conditions. Will education in India ever be truly equal? The syllabus may be the same,

but the quality of teaching remains vastly different. Hon. Chairperson, I would also like to speak about the condition of hospitals.

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to say a few words about Bihar. Prof. Romila Thapar has written that the history of ancient Bihar is the history of ancient India. From 1948 to 1992, the Union Government had introduced the Freight Equalisation Policy. Even when Jharkhand was a part of Bihar, the condition of Bihar remained extremely poor. We continued to face losses amounting to thousands of crores. I would like to state that without the progress of Bihar, the progress of the country cannot even be imagined. These are the words of Prof. Thapar. From the time of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government till today, the demand for a special package for Bihar has been raised. The demand for granting Bihar the status of a Special State has also been raised. The Hon. Prime Minister, while visiting Bihar, himself stated that the moment he occupies the office of the Prime Minister, Bihar will be granted the status of a Special State.

I would like to speak about Bihar that in the history of the world there were three great universities, of which two were in India - Vikramshila University and Nalanda University. The Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University is Shri Amartya Sen. The UPA Government, by allocating a substantial budget, made an attempt to revive Nalanda

University and bring it back on the world map. In this Budget, not a single rupee has been allocated for Nalanda University. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to conclude my submission in 5 minutes. The land of Buddha, Rajgir, Gaya and Vaishali, which is regarded as the land of the world's first Republic has not been given any allocation in the Budget. There is nothing for Nalanda, nothing for Rajgir, nothing for Vaishali. If these matters are kept in view, why is Bihar not being given a special package or the status of a Special State? The condition of Bihar is extremely poor. As regards the debts of farmers of Bihar, whether taken under any scheme, has any policy been framed to provide relief from these debts? With respect to electricity and coal, the subsidies given in Bihar. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wind up.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Hon. Chairperson, I seek your permission to conclude my submission within two minutes. I would like to ask whether in this Budget any effort has been made to provide relief in the subsidies being given. ... *(Interruptions)* Three regions of Bihar are affected by floods. We are surrounded by the rivers Kosi, Kamla, Mahananda, Gandak and the Ganga. The areas of Mithilanchal and Kosi remain flood-affected for six months in a year and are also struck by cyclones. Yet, no provision has been made to protect Bihar from floods. There is no allocation for the Kosi High Dam or for any new power project. Where do you wish to take Bihar? What do you intend to give to Bihar? No scheme has been framed for the river Kosi, nor has any new National Highway been sanctioned for the State.

Hon. Chairperson, the Madhubani painting, which is acclaimed as the largest traditional art form of the world, has not been provided any support. No provision has been made to promote the silk industry of Bhagalpur.

Hon. Chairperson, the most important point is, what provisions have been made for Baba Vishwanath, Singheshwar, which is regarded as one of the most revered places; for Baba Dharma Raj

pilgrimage site; for Singheshwar, the land of Ram and Sita; and for Vaishali?

Bihar produces the highest quantity of maize in the world. Yet, nothing has been done to establish maize-based industries. Nothing has been provided for the dairy industry. You speak of promoting industries ... *(Interruptions)* but no scheme has been introduced for agriculture-based industries. The gravest concern is that there is no industry based on agriculture. 70 percent of the people of India depend on agriculture. You speak of small-scale industries related to agriculture, but you do not encourage young farmers to take to farming. Today there is no agriculture-based industry. Maize is Bihar's largest produce.

Our region is connected with 14 rivers. There are 14 types of fish in Bihar. ... *(Interruptions)* If the fisheries sector is promoted, Bihar will progress, I assure you of this. I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister of Finance that the areas of Saharsa, Supaul, Madhubani, Madhepura, Purnia, and Bhagalpur are predominantly based on fisheries. Therefore, the fisheries industry should be promoted. You have done nothing for Bihar's sugar mills. Many sugar mills in Bihar are non-operational. I would urge arrangements to be made for establishing new sugar mills. ... *(Interruptions)* What have you done

for the jute mills? What have you done for the largest jute mill in Katihar, and for the paper mill? I would desire that arrangements be made to promote jute. The fisheries industry should be promoted. ... *(Interruptions)* A scheme should be introduced for Bihar's sugar mills that benefits the State. Bihar's farmers should be enabled to prosper. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to state that their number is 282. Now they must bring about a revolution. They also desire the progress of Hindustan. For the past 67 years, the common people of Hindustan have been caught in a bind. I would like to convey just three points to them, one being for the youth. You provide loans to farmers, you provide everything. A scheme should be introduced for the unemployed youth of this country so that they can move forward with vitality. The farmers of Hindustan are not represented in their Budget. The minorities of Hindustan were the guiding principle in the Sachar Committee. They are not represented in their Budget. ... *(Interruptions)* Today, the most pressing question among the Muslims of Hindustan is: what will happen to our lives? ... *(Interruptions)* It should be assured that everyone will be taken along. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

***SHRI ABHIJIT MUKHERJEE (JANGIPUR):** As pointed out earlier by our leaders, at various for a including the Parliament, most of the schemes are continuation of the schemes that were started earlier by Congress-led UPA Government, which I welcome as a positive side of the Budget. However, it was the expectation of the people of India since the NDA Government has come with a huge majority that this Budget would be a befitting budget which meets their expectations. This, unfortunately, is totally lacking in this Budget. We feel the Budget will not energize our economy as was expected.

May I remind the Government that prices of the most elementary staple food of all Indians from Kashmir to Kanyakumari, has risen by double digits in the last one month. We were accused of letting onion prices rise, I wonder how the treasury benches will defend themselves before the people on this issue.

As I mentioned earlier, with a decisive mandate in the elections, it was expected that there would have been a direction towards fast paced reforms in the Budget.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Bank recapitalization through sale of shares and raising of FDI caps in defense as well as insurance is frankly not much different from what the earlier Government was moving towards or had done. Even in defense manufacturing, raising the FDI cap from 26% to 49% without management and control is hardly a measure which may persuade foreign firms to bring in investments and transfer technology.

There is no incentive in R&D in the defense manufacturing industry. Until and unless there is transfer of technology or absorption of technology by our technologists, engineers, technicians, it will not lead to our self-reliance or permit us to manufacture our own defense equipment.

We have a vast number of capable engineers, technologists and technicians within the country and if given a chance they have always risen to the occasion and done marvels in their respective areas. Other countries and companies outside India have been taking benefit of their expertise by giving them proper scope of work, responsibility, etc. Alas we have failed to do so.

I appreciate the measures proposed in the Budget for upgradation of skill and trade in development of resources and goods which is a welcome measure but at the same time, I would like to point out that

there are artisans who are hereditarily doing the same kind of jobs and they are mostly from rural and marginalized sections of the society including Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, OBCs, etc. They could have also been provided this facility. Government may think about it.

Regarding Food Security, I would like to point out that our cultivators in most states including my state – West Bengal – do not get the Minimum Support Price (MSP) as declared due to lack of facilities to sell their produce at MSP rate. They are generally enticed by the middlemen who buy at much cheaper rates from the growers/cultivators and sell to either FCI or other procuring agencies at MSP because of which the benefit of MSP is not being transferred to the targeted people. Therefore, I propose that FCI should procure directly from the producers/agriculturists/cultivators either from the village mandi (if possible) or at least from each Panchayat in their respective Blocks of the District. I know it is a herculean task but the Hon'ble Minister has talked about restructuring of FCI and also reducing transportation and distribution costs, etc. to strengthen the Public Distribution System (PDS).

Regarding inland navigation, a Project on River Ganges called "Jalmarg Vikas" is proposed to be developed between the holy city of Allahabad and the Port at Haldia at the mouth of Bay of Bengal. I

welcome this project but I would like to point out in this regard that a small project to use the Jalmarg Vikas navigational channel on Ganges to transport boiler-quality coal from Haldia Kolkata Port to NTPC Farakka has recently created huge land erosion on both the banks of the Ganges in my Parliamentary Constituency, Jangipur in Murshidabad District of West Bengal. My humble submission to the Government is that both the banks along with this Jalmarg through Ganges be protected before this Jalmarg is put into commercial use. This may be made applicable throughout the Jalmarg between the holy city of Allahabad and Haldia.

The Budget is silent on land erosion caused by shifting of River Padma and River Ganges in my Parliamentary Constituency, Jangipur. Although Farakka Barrage Authority has been sanctioned expenditure for its regular operations, it is my demand that the concerned Ministry may please take up this matter with the State Government as water is a State subject, to prepare a Detailed Project Report with respect to stopping of land erosion on both the banks of River Ganges and River Padma particularly in Jangipur.

The fiscal consolidation drive may have constrained the Government to undertake bold reforms. The budget is not ambitious and only proposes minute directional changes. It sticks to the fiscal

deficit target of 4.1 percent of GDP. Without a growth push, meeting the fiscal deficit target would be difficult. The Government should have pushed capital expenditures substantially to boost demand and productive capacity. But the fiscal deficit in the first two months of this financial year is already 45 per cent of the full year's fiscal deficit target. This leaves little room for undertaking fiscal stimulus to growth. With WPI inflation coming down to less than 6 percent and real GDP growth (i.e. growth rate adjusted for inflation) expected to be around 5-5.5 per cent, it will be difficult to achieve the 13.4 percent nominal growth target.

Unless growth is stimulated, there is little chance for tax buoyancy to improve. Unless the tax-GDP ratio increases, it will be difficult to meet the fiscal deficit target. It will restrict the scope for increasing expenditure, therefore dampening growth prospects. Bolder steps were required to break through this vicious cycle. If subsidies were pruned in a more determined manner, it would have created space for uplifting capital expenditure. And, facilitated by PSU share sale and FDI (that would stimulate investment to boost both capacity and demand), it would have been possible to accelerate growth. But the Minister of Finance has chosen to remain in slow gear this year, when what mattered most was a decisive push for growth.

The direct tax proposals throw dust in one's eyes. On the one hand, the personal income tax exemption limit has been increased by Rs.50,000 from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.2.5 lakh, which provides a net saving to the individual tax-payer of Rs.5,000. On the other hand, to encourage domestic investment in long term savings, the investment limit under section 80C of the Income Tax Act is proposed to be increased from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.1.5 lakh. Thus, net disposable income with the individual investors will be reduced by Rs.45,000 to take advantage of this facility. The Government should adopt an expansionary policy to kick start consumer demand to boost the manufacturing sector, and improve the growth outlook, rather than merely encourage savings. It should have encouraged people to spend more. But with net income at the disposal of the individual taxpayers likely to come down, this is an opportunity the Government will miss.

The power sector is very crucial for the economy on many counts. 24 hours continuous electricity supply is still a dream for millions of Indians. Industries require uninterrupted power supply for their operations. Unless urgent reforms are brought in, this sector will continue to be afflicted by the problems that it faces today. Weak financial conditions of the state electricity Board/companies have prevented them from revamping the old infrastructure that it has.

Power theft, unrealistic electricity rates, and non-uniformity and unpredictability of regulatory framework across states have hampered private investment. Except for the proposed extension of the 10 year tax holiday to undertakings which begin generation, distribution and transmission of power by 31 March 2017, concrete reform measures were not heard of in this budget. Of course, Rs.200 crore for power reforms to make Delhi a world class city has been announced. Though it is a right approach, such support to other state Governments to undertake power reforms in mega cities located in them, is sorely lacking.

The Union Budget has proposed Rs.50 crore to be spent by the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways on pilot testing of a scheme on “Safety for Women and Public Road Transport”. It has proposed a further Rs.150 crore to be spent by the Ministry of Home Affairs on a scheme to increase the safety of women in large cities. These are welcome steps and I compliment the Government for the same. Having said that, in recent times, many unfortunate incidents of violent crimes against women and girls have taken place in rural areas of several states. There should have been some initiative to support state Governments in their efforts to stop such crimes.

Several promising initiatives in the higher education sector have been announced. Rs.500 crore has been provided to set up Jai Prakash Narayan National Centre for Excellence in Humanities in Madhya Pradesh; five more IITs in Jammu, Chattisgarh, Goa, Andhra Pradesh and Kerala; and five IIMs in Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Bihar, Odisha and Maharashtra. Rs 200 crore has been provided for Agriculture Universities in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan and Horticulture Universities in Telangana and Haryana. Rs.100 crore each has been provided for a Sports University in Manipur and a National Centre for Himalayan Studies in Uttarakhand. In an aspirational India, having the largest population of youth in the world, these are definitely called for. But we must remember that the higher educational institutions that we have created in the Eleventh Plan period – 21 new central universities, 8 new IITs, 7 IIMs and 10 new National Institutes of Technology – are yet to operate at full capacity as infrastructure necessary to impart world-class education in them is yet to be fully provided for. The Budget announcements should have taken care of this aspect as well.

Modernization of Madrasas is very important from the point of view of mainstreaming the Muslim youth of our country so that they feel and are capable of contributing to national development. Rs.100

crore has been provided for Madrasa modernization. But given that there are thousands of Madrasas in the country, this amount should not appear to be too meager that will have to be thin-spread. This will lose the effectiveness of the programme.

Rs.100 crore for metro projects in Lucknow and Ahmedabad has been announced. Given that there are 46 Indian cities with a million plus population as per 2011 census, it is surprising that no other city found such an incentive for developing metro.

Rs.500 crore has been earmarked to establish a Price Stabilization Fund to check price volatility in agriculture produce. Indeed, food inflation is a major challenge for any Government. The Wholesale Price Index (WPI) inflation in food articles averaged 12.2 per cent annually in the five years ending 2013-14, which was significantly higher than non-food inflation. Food inflation results from wastages of food articles in the supply chain, which is on account of distribution channel inefficiencies. It is well known that the provisions of the State Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC) Acts have prevented creation of competitive conditions in the distribution of commodities and creation of a national market for agricultural commodities. Multiple layers of intermediation in food articles distribution have pushed up retail prices. Therefore, the focus must be

on distribution channels and on reducing food wastage in the supply chain. Significant investment in marketing infrastructure like warehouses, cold storages and modern packaging would help build robust distribution channels. Except for the proposal to reduce excise duty on specified food processing and packaging machinery from 10 per cent to 6 per cent, no other concrete measures were forthcoming from the budget announcements.

In view of the above shortcomings in this Budget, I am unable to support this Budget.

*__SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHIN KANNADA)__: "Karmanye Vadhikaraste Maphaleshu Kadachana" is the slogan with which the new Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji has started functioning. I am of the opinion that our Hon'ble Prime Minister would certainly give a new direction and a new hope for the economy and the people of India.

This has been very well proved in presenting a visionary budget for the year 2014-15 by Hon'ble Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji. So I support it and congratulate both the Hon'ble Prime Minister and Minister of Finance for their effort to give a pro-farmer, pro-common man and development oriented budget for the country.

People of our country reposed their faith in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's promise of less Government and more governance and gave us a secular victory that ended the era of bad governance by the UPA Government. Now it is our duty to take care of the 125 crore people of India.

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance made an effort to make everyone happy by giving one thing or the other to all the state and also all the sections of the society. The budget has made provision to allow 49%

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Foreign direct investment (FDI) in defence and insurance sectors, making provision for all the core sectors including construction of roads, dams, airports, improving tourism and women security, development of pilgrimage centers, Swatchh Bharat Abhiyan, Interlinking of rivers, development of industrial corridors, Revival of Manufacturing sector, etc.

This is the country of farmers. More than 10% of the people are farmers. The living condition of agriculturists has to improve. Keeping this in mind, our NDA Government re-introduced Kissan Vikas Patra (KVP) which is a very popular instrument among small savers, introducing Kissan TV, Soil Health Cards.

In order to improve the irrigation facility the Government has made a provision of Rs. 1000 crore to introduce a new scheme "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana". This is really a welcome step in the field of agriculture.

The Budget has announced to build 100 new cities across the nation and Rs. 7060 crores is allocated for 100 smart cities. This is really a boon for the development of India in days to come.

As far as social security and welfare of employees serving in the organized sectors are concerned the Government has mentioned in the budget minimum pension of Rs, 1,000 per month for beneficiaries of

the unorganized sector. This move would definitely help crores of people who are struggling to earn their livelihood.

With regard to Persons with Disabilities, the Government has made a provision to enable them to enjoy equal opportunities and to lead an empowered life with dignity by a scheme for Assistance to Disabled Persons for purchase/fitting of Aids and Appliances (ADIP). Apart from this, the budget has also proposed to provide assistance to the State Governments to establish fifteen new Braille Presses and modernize ten existing Braille Presses in the current financial year. Government will also print currency notes with Braille like signs to assist the visibly challenged persons. In this way, the budget has many big ideas for the welfare of common people.

The budget has earmarked Rs. 14.389 crores for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana which was introduced under the stewardship of Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee during the first NDA Government to improve road connectivity in rural areas.

It is an indication that the new NDA Government under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi would make every effort to bring down the gap between rural and urban India.

As far as the health sector is concerned, the budget has mentioned two key initiatives i.e. the Free Drug Service and Free Diagnosis Service to ensure “Health for All”objectives. This is the need of the hour as most of our poor and weaker section people are facing difficulties in purchasing medicines as its cost is very high.

The budget has taken care of the common people of our country in every aspect so that he or she should not suffer from unemployment, inadequate basic amenities, or lack of infrastructure. In this way, this is a pro-common people budget.

As far as Karnataka state is concerned the budget has announced “Development of a textile mega cluster in Mysore”, “a master plan for a smart city in Tumkur along the proposed Chennai-Bangalore industrial corridor”, “Improve the biotech cluster in Bangalore to taken to international quality”, Setting up of one of the six new debt-recovery tribunals in Bangalore. These are some of the announcements made in the union budget. Apart from these, the budget has mentioned that the revision of rate of royalty on minerals would be considered as per the request made by the many State Governments including Karnataka. This move would help the state Government to ensure greater revenue to State Governments including Karnataka”.

I would like to draw the kind attention of the union Government and request to take some urgent measures to solve the following problems and help people of my state to lead a better life.

Water facility is one of the major concerns of farmers. Now at present drought situation is prevailing in many parts of the country particularly in the State of Karnataka. The Government of India should send a team to these affected areas to find out the actual damage. Relief materials must be rushed to these areas to help the people living in those areas. Regarding the distribution of Cauvery water also, the center should see that no justice is done to the State of Karnataka from where Cauvery originates.

After water, it is electricity which is bothering the State of Karnataka. “No option, only God can save us from power woes”, day the Power Minister of Karnataka. In fact he is banking on divine power to ensure the state does not plunge into darkness. But this is not enough, I bank upon the Govt. of India to come to the rescue of Karnataka’s power crisis. Farmers are not getting sufficient current supply. How can they increase their production? Software companies in cities like Bangalore are affected due to frequent power cuts. The daily power shortage is 1000 MW, currently Karnataka's average daily demand is 8500 MW but the availability including purchases

from private companies, is 7500 MW. Therefore, I urge upon the Centre to take immediate steps to allocate more power from the Central Grid.

I have raised some very important issues of Karnataka. I hope ACHHE DIN AYENGE, I am sure Centre would come to the help of my State Karnataka to solve its urgent problems which I have enunciated above. I am grateful to the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the Govt. of India who are always ready to help the State. I wholeheartedly support the general budget.

[*]**SADHVI NIRANJAN JYOTI (FATEHPUR):** I thank you for giving me the opportunity to share my views on the Budget 2014-15. I support this Budget. The people's vote shows their wish for development, to overcome poverty, and to use the opportunities provided by society. The country can no longer tolerate unemployment, poor basic facilities, weak infrastructure, and ineffective governance.

This is the first Budget of the N.D.A. Government that demonstrates clear policy signals regarding the determination of the country's state and direction. In 2013 and 2014, the estimated growth rate of the world economy saw a recovery of 36 percent.

Keeping in mind the development of villages, under the National Rural Drinking Water Programme, Rs. 3,600 (three thousand six hundred) crore have been allocated to provide safe drinking water to 20 thousand towns. For this, I convey my sincere thanks to the Hon. Minister. Therefore, I am fully hopeful that all towns in my Parliamentary Constituency of Fatehpur will also receive safe drinking water.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

Similarly, under the Neeranchal Scheme for watershed development, Rs. 2,142 (two thousand one hundred forty-two) crore have been allocated. This will accelerate water conservation and development in the country. For rural electrification, Rs. 500 crore have been allocated, which is a welcome step. Its benefits will certainly reach the villages in Fatehpur District (U.P.) that have so far been deprived of electricity. The financial assistance of up to three percent for farmers will continue until 2015, which I welcome.

Rs. 5,000 crore have been allocated for the Rural Credit Finance Fund for a short term. The esteemed residents of villages will fully benefit from this. Emphasising the expansion of the Internet in the country, Rs. 500 crore have been allocated for broadband connectivity to villages and Rs. 100 crore for improving governance in rural areas. All Ministries and Departments will be connected to the e-platform by the end of this year, which is certainly a welcome step. To address hoarding by traders in the agricultural sector, farmers markets will be established in towns and cities. The Hon. Minister has announced fundamental changes in the Food Corporation of India. For the year 2014-15, the target is to mobilise Rs. 8 crore in agricultural credit. Additionally, Rs. 100 crore have been allocated to establish Farmers

TV channels to provide agricultural information. This will greatly benefit the farmers.

Rs. 5,000 crore have been allocated for the expansion of grain storage. I am fully confident that grain storage will now be possible even in remote areas. With Rs. 200 crore, two thousand Producer Organisations will be established across the country, which will certainly benefit my Parliamentary Constituency as well. Most importantly, Rs. 500 crore have been set aside to create a Crop Price Stabilisation Fund, which is a welcome initiative. Emphasising the housing sector, the Hon. Minister of Finance has allocated Rs. 4,000 crore to provide affordable houses and fulfil the Bharatiya Janata Party's promise of housing for all by 2022. This too will benefit the esteemed residents of Fatehpur (U.P.).

To promote entrepreneurship among the youth, Rs. 10,000 crore have been allocated for the Start-Up Companies Fund. To encourage rural youth, a Start-Up Village Entrepreneurship Programme has been launched with an allocation of Rs. 100 crore. Rs. 100 crore have also been set aside for the Young Leaders Programme, and the National Institute for Ageing has been established in Delhi and Chennai for the welfare of senior citizens. A new scheme has been introduced for persons suffering from disabilities. For the Prime Minister's Gram

Sadak Yojana, Rs. 14,389 crore have been allocated, which I warmly welcome. My Parliamentary Constituency of Fatehpur, as well as Banda, Mahoba, Hamirpur, Kanpur Dehat, Jhansi, Lalitpur, and Jalaun districts, will fully benefit from this. Roads must be constructed in accordance with the prescribed standards.

For the safety of women in public road transport, Rs. 500 crore have been allocated for a pilot scheme, and Rs. 150 crore for schemes aimed at improving women safety in major cities. The Beti Bachao scheme initiative has been launched to increase awareness, enhance the efficiency of welfare services for women, and provide necessary support. Under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and his mandate of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas," the Government's development policies reflect the aspirations of the people. For the development of one hundred smart cities in the country, Rs. 7,060 crore will be made available from the Consolidated Fund, which will certainly benefit the people. I hope that Fatehpur will also be included in this initiative.

For assured irrigation, Rs. 100 crore have been allocated under the Prime Minister's Agriculture Irrigation Scheme.

For integrated project-based infrastructure in rural areas, the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Sarvan Mission has been launched. An

allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been made for the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao scheme. To achieve the goal of health for all, free medicine services and free diagnostic services are being provided. In the first phase, all girls' schools will be provided with toilet and drinking water facilities. For this purpose, Rs. 28,635 crore have been allocated under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rs. 4,966 crore under the National Secondary Education Mission, which is most welcome. For the first time in the country, institutional finance will be made available to landless workers. Under this proposal, 5 lakh joint agricultural groups of landless farmers will be provided finance through NABARD. The excise duty on shoes and sandals with a retail price of more than Rs. 500 per pair but less than Rs. 100 per pair has been reduced from 12 percent to 6 percent. This is a welcome step taken in the interest of the general public. It will benefit families across all income groups, both poor and rich. An allocation of Rs. 100 crore has been made for the establishment of war memorials, and Rs. 50 crore for the National Police Memorial, which I welcome. In my Parliamentary Constituency of Fatehpur, in the town of Khajuha at the Bawani Imli site, 52 people were hanged, a memorial should be constructed in their memory.

An allocation of Rs. 100 crore has also been provided in this Budget for Sanskrit schools and universities to promote the Sanskrit language. The residents of the honoured constituency have requested that the Banda Highway/National Highway from Bahraich be upgraded to four lanes, passing through Rae Bareli, Bachhrawa, Fatehpur, and Bahua, up to Chitrakoot. I therefore request the Hon. Minister to make provisions for this four-laning. Drinking water should be provided through a single-source drinking water system.

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS (ERNAKULAM): Sir, we are discussing the maiden Budget of Narender Modi's Government. Before that we had a discussion on the President's Address and we had a discussion on the Railway Budget. One of the points, which have been stressed from the Treasury Benches, is that the Modi Government has inherited an ailing economy.

Sir, I have a news item dated 18th May, 2014. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: I have been elected as an Independent, not from any party. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Pappu Yadav, please take your seat. I want to know from the Hon. Members one thing.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He is your Member. Please control him.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Pappu Yadav, I do not want that.

This is not how you are behaving. I am warning even the Treasury Benches. This is not the place for it.

I am the Presiding Officer and you are talking like that. Is this Parliament? I am very sorry for what you are doing. You go to Central Hall and discuss all these things. This is not the place to do it.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: The news item which came on 18.5.14 says 'Record grain output of 264 million tonnes will help the new Government.' Is it a burden? Is it a weak economy?

Sir, let us look back 67 years when we got Independence. At that time, for 40 crores of people, we had to import rice from Burma, wheat from the USA and clothes from England. Even a paper pin was not being manufactured in this country. From that stage, India has grown to such an extent that today we are one of the largest agriculture-products producing countries. Not only that, the planning which was started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister of this country, has helped the country in such a way that when I presented the Food Security Bill in this House, some of the Members asked me whether we had enough food grains for the sustained implementation of the Bill. That was a Bill which was unanimously passed. You may also remember that for about eight hours in this House and eight hours in the other House, the discussion went on. At that time, I said that we

had got enough food grains till 2039-40 not only to implement the Food Security Bill but also for export. In 2039-40, our projected production would be around 280 million tonnes. It is a great achievement. From a country where it was from ship to mouth, we have come to a stage where it is from farmers to the kitchen.

It is true that there has been a price rise. The better mechanism to control price rise used to be an effective Public Distribution System. India is one of the few countries where we have a Public Distribution System functioning. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: If you are sitting and talking like that, I will take action. This is not the place to do it. Please do not go on talking when another Hon. Member is speaking. You may go to the Lobby and discuss. There is no problem.

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: Sir, we are one of the few countries where there is an effective PDS, even though there are loopholes. One question that is always raised is that food grains are getting rotten. In the last 10 years, the UPA – I and UPA – II Governments have taken very effective measures in bringing down damages from 2.5 per cent in 2004 to 0.01 per cent. This is the achievement of Food Corporation of India (FCI). In 2004, our capacity of storage was to the tune of 45

million tonnes from which we have now developed it to the extent of 75 million tonnes. Is it a burden on this Government?

Recently, I saw a comment of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Modi, after he visualized the launching of the satellite from Sriharikota. He said: “This is a moment where India can be proud.” But we are proud because it was in 1969 that Panditji initiated the process of starting ISRO in Thiruvananthapuram. It was in 1975 that Shrimati Indira Gandhi launched the satellite Aryabhatta into the sky. At that time, Shrimati Indira Gandhi was criticized for taking such steps to make India become a member in the community of space-satellite nations. Now, we have launched Chandrayaan, and we have launched foreign satellites with the help of the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicles (PSLV). Is it a burden? Is it not an achievement?

In the President’s Address as well as when the Hon. Prime Minister talked on the President’s Address, they had put thrust on the fact that e-Government brings empowerment, equity and efficiency. I came to this House in 1984. I had not seen computers then, and I did not see mobile telephones. There were only land phones, and in that too one had to quote the number. It was Shri Rajiv Gandhi who dreamed of an India where our telecommunication systems develop

to this stage. Is it not an achievement? Is it not something that this Government has inherited?

If we look at Indian road infrastructure, at present, we have got a road infrastructure of 50 lakh kms. I was born in a small fishermen village. In my school and college days, I had to walk about 10-15 kms. Now, all over the country, there is a network of roads. Therefore, do not be under the impression that in the last 67 years of India's history, Congress has only given leadership for 60 years. We have contributed much for the development of this nation.

Similarly, in the health sector, the National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has given a lot of contribution in the development of health in this country.

My point is that you cannot forget the fact that during the last 67 years, the Congress has given leadership for sixty years. We accept the verdict of the people. There also the credit goes to the Congress Party because democracy has been sustained. Nowhere in the world, 67 percent of people have taken part in exercising their franchise, and that is the reason why this Government has come to power. Governments will come and go. The present Government has got a brute majority, I accept. However, as a Party, we have also got people

in every nook and corner of the country. I am not going to take much time at home.

Even though this Government is in power for a very short period of 45 or 50 days, there are certain signals which are alarming.

We have got the Cabinet system of Government. In the Cabinet system of Government, the Prime Minister is number one, but others are all equal. Usually, in our system, there is somebody who is considered to be 'number two' in the hierarchy. Our Prime Minister has gone to Nepal and Brazil. Why is there no mention of this 'number two'? All are equals, but why is there no mention of a 'number two'? My only question is whether this Government is functioning as a team or is providing collective leadership. There is only one man, Narendra Modi; everything boils down to one man.

I saw a Government letter prohibiting or warning the Cabinet Colleagues – I have also been in the Government both here and in Kerala – that they should not appoint those people as Private Secretaries who have worked in the previous Government. Sir, you know about this; you yourself have been in the Government. Those people have worked as Private Secretaries or Additional Private Secretaries. I am not questioning the Government. The important point is that we are concerned about the unity of the Cabinet. It is a

collective responsibility. We expect a kind of transparency and dignity from this Government.

How many of the Governors were smoked out after this Government came to power? There may be natural leaders whom this Government may like to appoint as Governors and there is no objection to that. But how many of the Governors who are now in power have been smoked out, like Shri M.K. Narayanan? Is it good for the democracy of this country?

Look at how the Prime Minister behaves with the Media. Whenever the Prime Ministers go out, they take along with them media persons, who belong to not only the Government agencies but also other agencies. What I am hinting at is that there is something wrong with the Government. The Government and the media do not trust each other.

This is a Government which has been in power for the last 45 days. Do not accuse us by saying that you have inherited a weak economy; you have inherited a vibrant economy. After passing the Food Security Bill, I went to Rome to participate in the FAO Conference. All the nations congratulated India for the bold step that we have taken. The Food Security Act is a landmark legislation because it empowers the people with the Right to Food. We have

made the world's biggest legislation giving this Right. I acknowledge the support that I got from Shrimati Sushma Swaraj and Shri Advani Ji at that time. We had a discussion and it took us about four years to get it passed. This is important legislation. However, unfortunately, in the Budget, there is no mention of the implementation of the Food Security Act. The Hon. Minister of Finance only said that the Government was committed to reforms in the food sector. Restructuring FCI, reducing transportation and distribution losses and efficacy of PDS should be taken into priority. In which direction they are moving so far as the implementation of the Food Security Bill is concerned. When the Food Security Bill was formulated, we had discussed with all the State Governments including the BJP ruled State Governments. There should be some clarity in this regard.

Similarly, I hope you will remember that NREGA which gives Right to Work is a flagship programme. In a democratic country, the verdict of the people is final. We are accepting that. But Governments will come and Governments will go. There is no doubt about it. So, let us work together. In the President's Address, the Hon. Prime Minister has been quoted saying "let us work together". We are prepared to work together but they have to take us into confidence. This is a democratic Government. We are in the Opposition. Our

number may be 44. You may be more than 237 but we are also the voice of the people.

With these words, I conclude.

*__SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN (MADURAI)__: First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks and gratitude to the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for giving me an opportunity to serve the people. And I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity to express my views on the General Budget 2014-15.

Our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has introduced one of the best schemes of the country, called Food Security Scheme through AMMA UNAVAGAM, which helps people to get food at much cheaper rates. Even though the prices of essential commodities in the country are sky-rocketing, the price of the food items in the Amma Unavagam is still the same. The people of Tamil Nadu are very happy with this scheme and lots and lots of people are benefiting through this scheme. I urge upon the Union Government to introduce such a popular scheme throughout the country, taking this Scheme of Tamil Nadu as a role-model.

The current economic condition of the country requires tough measures to survive further. People are in no mood to suffer with unemployment, poverty, inadequate basic amenities, lack of infrastructure, etc. It is a challenging situation. It is due to sub five

* Speech was laid on the Table.

percent growth and double digit inflation. It could be revived only through growth in manufacturing and infrastructure sectors. Setting up an Expenditure Management Commission to look into expenditure reforms may be helpful. It should come into action to bring results.

Rs. 100 Crore is earmarked to transform Employment Exchanges into Career Centres. It is to be ensured that such Career Centers exist in all the parts of the country including Madurai in Tamil Nadu. The increased allocation of Rs. 8000 Crore to National Housing Bank to support Rural Housing should serve the rural people of Tamil Nadu also.

Both agriculture and infrastructure sectors are to be given full attention. Both are complementary to each other for overall economic growth of the country. A sum of Rs. 1000 Crore earmarked for assured irrigation. Benefits of this assured irrigation should reach every rural village in the country.

Unemployment is the main reason for migration. Rural people tend to migrate to big cities to seek employment. Due to this, agricultural sector is affected. Hence cities suffer from overpopulation. A sum of Rs. 7060 Crore has been allocated in the current financial year for the project of developing 100 smart cities. The temple city Madurai in Tamil Nadu well deserves one city to be

developed as Smart City. It is the nerve point for the people of southern parts of Tamil Nadu. Madurai deserves to have infrastructures like Metro Train, Helicopter Tourism, increased rail services with modern coaches etc. Construction of the Outer Ring Road around Madurai City needs immediate attention. It is long pending and should be completed in time. This will be helpful for smooth traffic in Madurai City. It will benefit the economic growth of Madurai city.

Madurai City in Tamil Nadu is one of the most traditional places not only in Tamil Nadu but all over the country. This is a mixed city of rural and urban areas. But, in the last 2 to 3 years, this city has not received any rainfall, which causes a great drought in the city. The people, especially poor farmers and laborers are facing great difficulties in running their day-to-day life. The Union Government should provide necessary budgetary allocations to Tamil Nadu State Government so that the State Government could extend financial and other assistance to Madurai City in meeting this drought-like situation.

Our Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu takes keen interest in the security of the people of Tamil Nadu, especially the women and children. Our Hon'ble Chief Minister approached the Union

Government for provision of about Crores of Rupees for modernization of Police in the State. The Union Government should ensure this with increased Central share for modernizing the police in Tamil Nadu.

Health care sector requires increased budgetary allocation and support. AIIMS like institutes should be set up in Tamil Nadu also. The proposed Model Rural Health Research Centre should be established in Tamil Nadu also.

I urge upon the Union Government to consider the above proposals to include in the current Budget itself for the benefit of the people of Tamil Nadu.

14.41 hrs.

(Prof. K.V. Thomas *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Hon. Chairperson Sir, the people of this country, with great expectation and faith, have chosen and sent our party to form the Government. With the same trust, our Hon. Minister of Finance has presented his first Budget. He has presented a Budget which, while reducing the fiscal deficit, provides new momentum to the economic development of the nation, and also takes into account the subjects of social welfare. We have not engaged in the mere distribution of Government funds in cash. The previous Government, in the manner in which it expended public money, did not keep in view the heads in which such expenditure ought to have been incurred. Consequently, our country today is passing through economic distress.

The previous Government implemented many schemes. They stated that through the Fellowship Scheme they wished to care for the poor of the country. They claimed that by bringing in the Food Security Bill, every poor person in the nation would be ensured a meal. They also spoke of introducing the Cash Transfer Scheme and Aadhaar Card. However, I wish to state that the intention of the

previous Government was not proper. That Government brought in the Food Security Bill right before the elections. Owing to irregularities in that Food Security Law, it could not be put to effective use. When no survey was conducted in the country to determine which poor person was to receive food grains, and when the State Governments too did not undertake surveys to ascertain how many poor there were, then how could this succeed? But the previous Government, in haste, brought this Bill, due to which those poor who ought to have benefitted did not in fact receive the benefit, and the wealth of the nation was also not properly utilised.

Hon. Chairperson, in the same manner, the previous Government had introduced the Cash Transfer Scheme under which subsidies were to be deposited directly into the accounts of the people. However, even today, more than 57 percent of the banks in our country are unable to carry out such transactions. Yet, the previous Government formulated a plan to transfer subsidies directly into individual accounts. When the banking system is not adequate and the infrastructure is lacking, how can the Cash Transfer Scheme be implemented effectively? It is for this reason that the fiscal deficit in our country continued to increase. Our Hon. Minister of Finance has made a commitment that by 2016-17 the fiscal deficit will be brought

down to three percent. No Minister of Finance could have made such a statement with this level of commitment, but this is his vision. Our Hon. Prime Minister, who earlier served as the Chief Minister of a State and made Gujarat a model State, demonstrated how industrial development can be achieved in the country, how agricultural production can be enhanced, and how through the service sector foreign capital and income can be increased. All these visions were established by him during his tenure as Chief Minister and are now being carried forward as the Prime Minister.

Hon. Chairperson, if we do not increase production and revenue, and begin to spend resources merely on subsidies without enhancing revenue, infrastructure or schemes, then we shall not be doing justice to our nation. Therefore, in this Budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister have presented a vision to enhance agricultural yield and domestic production so that India may stand in the forefront among the nations of the world. We must generate revenue through services. Tourism, medical tourism and educational tourism are three sectors in which we are determined to achieve self-reliance. In different parts of the country there are conditions of hailstorms and drought. The Government has therefore resolved to safeguard the farmer, for the land cannot be expanded. From the same

land, we must secure maximum production. For this purpose, the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has been introduced. Unless we modernise our irrigation system, farming will remain costly for the farmer due to dependence on electricity and diesel. Hence, under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, a plan has been prepared to ensure that water reaches the maximum number of fields.

The previous Government, in the name of forest and environment, halted the construction of dams and irrigation projects across the country, as a result of which irrigated areas could not expand. We have now initiated new steps in the field of industry. To increase domestic production, we have encouraged small, medium and cottage industries. It pains us to see that our neighbour China, which attained independence later than us, today dominates the world in domestic production. We have drawn up a plan to frame tax policies for domestic products, to simplify customs duties and to reduce central excise. By creating SEZs, we aim to enhance domestic production so that the best and cheapest goods are produced in India. For this, we have brought new intent and new policy.

Hon. Chairperson, along with the industrial sector, we also have a vast mining industry. Therefore, we have proposed to amend the MMDR Act, 1957. By utilising the wealth beneath our soil, be it coal,

steel or other minerals, we can extract resources from the mines, develop local industries, and through their production, establish our presence in the world market. This is the vision we have put forward.

Hon. Chairperson, in the field of tourism, India can emerge as a leading nation. The previous Government took certain steps to bring tourism within the ambit of taxation. We have made efforts and have declared that we shall develop new areas of tourism and also exempt them from service tax. Through these three sectors, we intend to increase the revenue of the nation.

Hon. Chairperson, today we are far behind in the matter of infrastructure. Even after 67 years, our country is still yearning for basic facilities. In the villages, there are no proper roads, electricity or water. Even today we are unable to provide pure drinking water to our people, nor can we bring light into their homes. This Budget is not about cash subsidies or cash payments. It is about linking people with employment through infrastructure, and thereby providing them with permanent jobs so that they may stand on their own feet. The MGNREGA, which many Members have spoken about, is at present marred by corruption. It needs to be reviewed. The labourers must be provided with work, and at the same time we must create durable assets, so that the crores of rupees spent under MGNREGA may be

utilised to develop infrastructure and rebuild the entire country. I come from a State with immense potential. I would like to tell the Hon. Minister of Finance that we have a vast desert area, forming part of the largest landmass in India. It is necessary to consider how we may utilise this area of 2,47,000 kilometres. In this region, where we are advancing in the field of solar energy, SEZs should also be established to promote new industrial development. Our former Chief Minister of Gujarat and present Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji gave a new dimension to the region of Kutch. A programme should be drawn up to interlink the rivers of Rajasthan. If rivers are interlinked zone-wise, then farmers will get cheaper irrigation for their fields. There one region suffers from drought and another from floods, interlinking of rivers will provide the necessary relief. We must first prepare a programme to interlink three or four rivers in each zone. Rajasthan holds great potential for this, and by interlinking the rivers, the entire State can be irrigated.

I come from Kota, where one lakh students study. There is a need to develop education and tourism, and by promoting educational tourism we can ensure that students from across the world come to study on Indian soil. Before and after Independence, our students used to go to England for higher studies. Our educational tourism must be

developed to such an extent that when students from all over the world seek education, they should choose India. Similarly, there must be proper arrangements for medical treatment. Even today, India offers the cheapest and finest healthcare, and therefore, we must also develop medical tourism. Hon. Chairperson, I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance to draw up a plan for utilising the desert lands of Rajasthan for establishing new SEZs, for providing new resources to promote educational tourism in the region, for electrifying and connecting the small hamlets of Rajasthan, and for preparing a scheme to interlink rivers.

Hon. Chairperson, I would only like to say that this is a Budget with a vision. It is a Budget of resolve. It is a Budget that will accelerate the pace of the nation’s economic development, give new dimensions to progress, and place India at the forefront of growth rates across the world. Therefore, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance.

[English]

***SHRI PRASANNA KUMAR PATASANI (BHUBANESHWAR)**: Let me draw the attention of the Government truthfully conveying that I have been witnessing the modern temple of democracy as a senior Member and would like to express my views on the Budget. This time, the same budget is repeated as in the last 15th Lok Sabha. After laying the budget on the floor and tabled for discussion, nothing is new there and I am astonished if this Budget can control the price rise. Until and unless the price rise is controlled, what is the use of placing it and fooling us. Can this Budget give good governance if you see the rural areas – what happens to poor people, the poor are poorer and the rich are richer. Is it the motto of the current budget?

Decisive vote for change represents the desire of the people to grow, free themselves from the cause of poverty and use the opportunity provided by the society. Country is in no mood to suffer unemployment, inadequate basic amenities, lack of infrastructure, and apathetic governance. Challenging situations arise due to 5% growth and double digit inflation which continues to slow down emerging

* Speech was laid on the Table.

economic threats to sustain the global recovery and recovery growth shown with the growth rate of the world economy ever projected.

The first budget of this NDA Government lays down a broad policy indicator of the direction in which we wish to take this country. Steps announced are only the meaning of the journey towards a sustained growth. Growing aspirations of people will be reflected in the development strategy of the Government. There is a need to revive growth in manufacturing and infrastructure sectors, tax to GDP rate must be improved and non-tax revenues increased. Before the election, Hon. Prime Minister announced that Aacha Din Aayega – a good day is approaching to see the vibrant India. But the proclamation and announcement is highly neglected by the Government. As the election is over, the ratio of vegetables to common commodities has increased and what is the remedy for it? Announcing free taxation and duties in purchasing television, and different types of commodities is not useful at all to the poor, adivasis, girijan, anusuchit jati, etc. Will this free taxation help the poor people of the country? I do not understand why this Modi Sarkar has failed to control the price rise from the very beginning of his ruling. I am also surprised by the bonafide citizens and representatives. How long may it continue? The budget which is tabled for discussion would be no use if price rise is

not at all controlled. Is it the black money which drives out good money from the market? I like to draw the kind attention of the House to the fiscal deficit achieved by reduction in expenditure rather than by way of realization of higher revenues. Inflation has remained at elevated levels which should be gradually moderated. The problem of black money is to be controlled. What about your promise pertaining to the money of the politicians deposited in the Swiss bank and in other foreign countries also? I am the first politician of the country who raised it in the august floor of Odisha Assembly. Kindly examine the proceeding as I have been reminding. Until and unless black money of any politician, any bureaucrats, any businessman is not seized out, you can not control the price rise. This may create disaster in the economic condition of the country.

Then I can draw the attention of the Government pertaining to administrative initiatives. The sovereign right of the Government to undertake retrospective legislation should be exercised. A straight and predictable taxation regime will be investor friendly. As per growth, resident taxpayers enable to obtain advance ruling in respect of their income tax liability. Income Tax settlement commission scope need to be enlarged and the subsidiary zone may be made more targeted for full protection to the marginalized. High level committee to interact

with trade and industry on regular basis to ascertain areas acquiring clarity on tax laws is required to be set up. Setting up of expenditure management to look into expenditure reforms is welcome. Employment Exchanges transforming into carrier centers has a provision of about Rs.100 crores. Why the Government is ignoring the women voters? The Women Bill is long pending by ignoring women you are ignoring the country. Your House is sweet for the women which is skillfully managing it. If the price rise is not controlled how the women can provide foods. The women protection is not there even in the last House we constituted fast track court – is it working properly. The rape is faster than the court. Every day in the newspaper report of women are murdering, raped, molested. How many robbers are jailed and thrown to prison to save the women. There should be immediately a law and liquors shops of the country should be abolished. The naked women pictures i.e. shown in the newspaper should be banned. Influence of mobiles in schools and colleges needs to be banned immediately to save the students community. You have declared one central university in our State. We need another central university immediately to promote education. According to UGC norms, Odisha needs 30 universities, but we have only 16. Do not entertain outsiders to encroach the education of the

state for business. The local universities concerned in the State need to be promoted by those who have been issued NOC by the State Government. Here I can give a bright example in favor of the Asian School of Business Management with a long standing contribution to promote management education which comes under my constituency, Bhubaneswar. It was inaugurated by the former Vice President of the country where Hon. Our Chief Minister and Governor were present. ASBM's contribution to promote management education is recorded in the state of Odisha and other colleges like Krupajal, CV Raman Institute, Geeta and other proposed university of management are awaiting for completion of affiliation and it is very much essential that recognition should have been concurred immediately ignoring the outsiders those are encroaching often for business.

I would like to draw the attention of the Minister to intervene for immediate declaration of the first management university of the country i.e. Asian School of Business Management. In the sector of the scheme of assistance to disabled persons for universal inclusive design, we should promote universities in the health sector and in the sector of women we need very much Women universities. Therefore, I request the Central Govt. to support the present state Government that the Hon. Chief Minister Shri Naveen Pattanaik is well managing

to establish immediately, one central university and one management university to ASBM and one women university immediately to create awareness to promote the womanhood and to create awareness to promote education amidst women as a whole. If a woman is educated the state is educated. For language, I can appeal, our Chief Minister has already mentioned in the manifesto to start the Oriya Language University. May I draw the attention of the House and I can appeal to the Hon. Minister to mitigate my request to allot more funds to the education field of my state Odisha.

There is a need to clean the river water-River Mahanadi and Kathajodi Ganga and Yamuna of our State. Kindly take up the work as declared and mentioned in the Budget to clean Ganga and Yamuna and at the same time the water of Mahanadi and other rivers of our State should be cleaned. It is recorded in the floor of the Odisha Assembly. If flood comes through Mahanadi, it may go with rivers connected to Rushikulia. If more water comes in Rushikulya in South Odisha it may come to the Mahanadi easily, the flood will be avoided and both the rivers are useful for navigation and to promote the economic condition of the State and the same proposal of mine is ever repeated at the time of Vajpayee Government which has not worked

out. May this Government pay special attention to avoid natural calamity. I solicit immediate allocation of money in the next Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important matter. Since the Hon. Minister of Finance is not present in the House at the moment, I would first like to extend my congratulations to him. Shri Jaitley is worthy Minister, an eminent lawyer, and he has genuine empathy for the poor. It would have been better had he been present here. Shri Modi has said that this is a Government of the poor and for the poor. He too has concern for the poor. I know personally that when poor people approach Shri Jaitley with cases, he often fights for them without charging any fees. For this, I would like to felicitate him. I firmly believe that this Finance Bill, prepared under his stewardship within 45 days, reflects his vision and his commitment, and that he will strive to fulfil the promises made for the welfare of the poor and for the progress of the nation. However, since the time is limited, I would like to draw his attention to the fact that today 98 percent of the people of India are reeling under the burden of inflation. This needs to be addressed. I would request the Hon. Minister present here to kindly note that just 15 days ago the railway fares were increased by 14 percent. On this issue, I would like to say to the Hon. Minister of Finance: “Tumhi ho mata, pita tumhi

ho, tumhi ho bandhu, sakha tumhi ho" (You are the mother, you are the father, you are the brother, you are the friend). The one who brings income to the household is regarded as the head of the family. You are the Minister of Finance, the Almighty has placed the reins of this nation in your hands. On this matter, the Railway Minister did not listen to us. Never mind, but you can listen. You have ears to hear and a heart to understand. I know you personally, and I have full hope that in the Railway Budget, since it directly impacts prices and burdens every individual, you will take note of this. Along with this, I would also like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance that while we welcome the substantial allocation made for the Ganga, at the same time, since I come from the North-East, from Assam, our region too deserves due attention.

For us, the Brahmaputra has turned into a calamity. In the past 25 to 30 years, the Brahmaputra river has destroyed 1 crore 27 thousand hectares of land. 30 lakh people have been rendered homeless and have no place to go. Those who once possessed thousands of bighas of land have today been reduced to destitution. Just as the Ganga is being given priority, the Brahmaputra too must receive similar attention. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance. Since I represent the minorities and also represent Assam, I wish to

acknowledge that for the poor and for Assam, he has allocated Rs. 3,734 crore. Compared to the previous Minister, the allocation has indeed been increased, but much greater enhancement is still required.

This is an All-India Budget. Yet, there is no mention of how much of it will go to the Aligarh Muslim University. After Aligarh, what provision has been made for Gaya in Bihar, or for Bengal? These are great universities. Since the Hon. Prime Minister has a deep interest in the education of Muslims and wishes to see them educated, I had placed a demand for a branch of Aligarh Muslim University in Assam. I hope this too will be considered and that an allocation will be made in the Budget for the same. I also expect that due attention will be given in the Budget to the control of the Brahmaputra river.

15.00 hrs.

I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance towards madarasa education. The Government wishes to modernise madarasa education and has allocated Rs. 100 crore for this purpose. If this amount is distributed among all the madarasas in the country, each institution will receive barely five lakh rupees. How then will the modernisation of madarasas be possible? There are three types of madarasas - Government funding, non- funding, and those that receive partial support from both. According to the Sachar Committee Report,

96 percent of Muslim children are either not attending schools or are dropping out, while only four percent are studying in madarasas. I appreciate and welcome the concern you have shown for madarasas, but greater concern is needed for the 96 percent of children who are not attending schools at all, or who do not go beyond matriculation. Only three to four percent are reaching higher education. Unless such a vast community is carried along, the nation cannot truly progress. Therefore, attention must be paid to these 96 percent children.

Hon. Chairperson, you have spoken about Smart Cities, and I would like to congratulate you for that. Smart Cities are indeed necessary, and the progress of the nation depends upon them. I would demand that Guwahati be included in the list of Smart Cities. My Parliamentary Constituency covers Dhubri, Gorpeta and Karimganj. Since the Hon. Members from these areas are also present here, it would not be good on my part if I did not speak about them.

Hon. Chairperson, I demand that floods and erosion be declared as a national calamity and that Assam be saved from this devastation. Just as you have made provision for the Ganga, similar attention must be given to the control of the river Brahmaputra. You are from Mumbai, and I know your family. Yours is a family with a generous heart.

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to mention the amount required to commence the construction of the Dhubri–Phulbari Bridge, which is the largest bridge project in my area. For the past five years, I have been raising this demand. I hope that in this Budget, some allocation will be made so that at least the foundation stone is laid and the people's expectations are fulfilled. The sealing of the border is the biggest issue in our region, particularly with regard to Bangladeshi infiltration. As a Muslim, I would like to say that we are citizens of this country, but we are stigmatised with the allegation that we are Bangladeshis. I met the Hon. Home Minister yesterday in detail and he was very satisfied. Our party demands that the pretence of fencing should end. For the past 60-65 years this drama has continued, and loot and exploitation have taken place. The border must be sealed.

Hon. Chairperson, reference has been made to the establishment of IIMs and IITs in the North-East, particularly in Lower Assam. I strongly demand this, because minority children are lagging far behind in education, and such institutions will greatly help in bringing them forward. In the same way, I have placed a demand for a special campus of Aligarh.

For the development of our region, Rupsi Airport is extremely important. The Ministry has already cleared it, only the funds need to

be allotted, after which the work will commence. I would also like to raise the matter of reopening the airport and the seaport. I hope some funds will be allocated for this purpose. As regards the establishment of a medical college, I have already initiated work for a medical college in Dhubri. With some allocation from your side, it can be started. You will receive blessings, and the poor will be benefited.

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly commend this Budget.

SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV [MADHUBANI]: Hon. Chairperson, I come from the Parliamentary Constituency of Madhubani in Bihar, a region surrounded by a network of rivers and plagued by floods every year. Our local language is Maithili. Standing in this august House today, I, on behalf of crores of people of Mithilanchal, express my heartfelt gratitude to Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji, who honoured us by including the Maithili language in the Eighth Schedule. During his tenure, four-lane roads were constructed in Mithilanchal, an express highway from Dwarka to Kohima was built, and a bridge over the Kosi was constructed. All the small rail lines were converted into broad gauge. Out of the 1100 kilometres of national highways sanctioned, 700 kilometres were given exclusively for Mithilanchal. For all this, I extend my heartfelt thanks and salutations to him.

Hon. Chairperson, even after so many years of Independence, Mithilanchal has remained backward. I myself was a swayamsevak of the Sangh and also took part in the socialist movement, struggling under the leadership of Dr. Lohia and Karpoori Thakur against the Congress. In 1960, I became the Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat. When I became an MLA in 1967, until I entered this House in 1977, for five years out of those 17 years, I was made to languish in

Congress prisons. I still remember those days when we were locked up as dangerous prisoners in cells seven feet wide and 11 feet long, given only a pitcher of water and a pot. What was our crime? It was only that we raised our voices for the villages, for the farmers, for the poor, for the backward, for the downtrodden, the neglected, the oppressed, and the deprived. That was why we were imprisoned during Congress rule. Even today, the fire of anger still burns within us. Much remains to be achieved, our Guru, Dr. Lohia, had, in 1967, along with Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, given the slogan for a movement of non-Congressism. At that time, the slogan was given – "Congress hatao, Desh bachao" (Remove Congress, Save the Nation). That dream remained incomplete. But when Shri Narendra Modi Ji spoke, he invoked the names of Gandhi, Lohia, and Deendayal. On behalf of the Lohiaites and on behalf of the poor, the workers, the farmers, and the oppressed of this country, I warmly greet him for taking the names of these three great political mentors and for resolving to build India on their ideals.

Hon. Chairperson, I would once again like to submit that today our Prime Minister is abroad. He has gone to Brazil to attend the BRICS Meeting. The new India that he had envisioned, I stand in this august House and, from here, extend my heartfelt felicitations and

gratitude to our Prime Minister who, at the BRICS Summit, has unfurled the banner of India's glory before the world. This gives us the confidence that under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji, India is going to emerge as a great power in the world.

The Bank will be established in Shanghai, but its first CEO will be an Indian. This honour has been bestowed upon Indians and for this honour every Indian must feel a deep sense of pride. I would like to submit, and I would like the Congress Members to take note, that Hon. Jyotiraditya ji is an emerging leader of the Congress. His respected father was also a Member along with me. At that time, he too used to listen to me. On that day, he commenced the debate on behalf of the Congress and was presenting statistics. Hon. Chairperson, in listening to statistics, 74 years of my life have passed. What has the country gained out of it? Add 13 to 3, add 15 to 13, add 18 to 15, subtract 27 from 18, add 22 to 27, by listening to such calculations, what benefit has ever accrued to the backward sections, the struggling farmers and the labourers of this country? In our youthful days, while imprisoned, we used to sing. Even today we sing the same song, and even today when the farmers, labourers, the backward and the Dalits toil in the fields for the nation's building, we would still say - "Dhoop-taap mein mehnat karte, bacche tadap-tadap

kar marte, phir bhi pet nahin hai bharta, jeevan katata ro-ro kar, hum chalo basayein naya nagar.” (We work hard in the blazing sun, while children suffer and die in pain; yet hunger is never satisfied, life goes on in sorrow. Let us go and build a new town.) We were the poor, the destitute, the weak, who dreamt of building a new nation. We dreamt of creating a new India and of making India free from Congress. I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude to the farmers, labourers, the poor, the backward, the Dalits, the destitute, the weak, the ridiculed and the neglected people of India who have realised this dream in these elections, and under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi the resolve of creating a Congress-free India will advance and will be fulfilled. We too sat on that side for five years. Today, as they are speaking from this side, earlier we too sat there. My division number was 462. At that time, the Leader of the Opposition from our Party was Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. Under her able leadership, we discharged the conduct of the Opposition. The Opposition in this august House had created a new history. Today, under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji, we are on the Treasury Benches. Therefore, I would like to submit that even then I used to tell the Congress Members. They speak of socialism, they will speak of equality, they will speak of many such matters.

"Uharahi ant na hoi nibahun,

kaamnemi jivi Raavan Rahu"

Ravaṇa, too, became an ascetic and abducted Maa Sita. Kalnemi, likewise, disguised himself as a holy man to obstruct Hanuman ji's path but he was caught. Their veils were lifted. Your veils, too, have already been lifted. Only a little remains. When it is entirely revealed, where you shall be, only God knows, only the Almighty shall know. I do not know. Yet I do know that for whom I have fought all these days, I wish to witness that day when in the House there shall be nothing bearing the name of Congress, no party shall sit, and no member shall represent it. This is the India we dream of. We are determined to fulfil that resolve. That day is about to come, and it shall be realised by the people of this nation, led by its youth. When we fought against you, we invoked –

"Aao shramik, krishak, mazdooron,

inquilab ka naara do.

Shikshak, gurujan, buddhijeeviyon,

anubhav bhara sahaara do.

Tab dekhein Congressi satta,

kitni barbar aur bauraai hai.

Tilak lagane tumhein jawaanon,

kranti dwaar par aayi hai."

We have lived through those times. In this very House, on 16 March 1965, Dr. Lohia had said, something I had also narrated the same. When you were in power, Dr. Lohia addressed you then. But did you pay any heed to what he said? Many of our colleagues speak of socialism, they sing songs about Lohia. Yet they have failed to comprehend his philosophy. In this House, he spoke about India's vision, its direction, its resolve, and the path it should follow. He provided guidance, which I wish to read today and share with our members so that they may understand. Socialism, like any other principle, exists in bulk and in fragments, in the tangible and the intangible, as both theory and programme. If one descends a single step from socialism, that step is called equality. Descend one more step from equality, and that step is economic equality, social equality, political equality, religious equality. Descend yet another step, and thereafter comes parity, complete parity, attainable parity. Descend one more step, and the limits of maximum and minimum are defined. This is the philosophy of India. Had India been built on this foundation, poverty would not exist today, destitution would not

persist, and illiteracy would not prevail. Villages would not be hells. Do not compare our villages with those of neighbouring states like Haryana or Punjab.

Hon. Chairperson, anyone who has had to live in my village would understand the pain of standing in water for three months. In our homes, men and even women go to relieve themselves in water up to their knees. This is the India we have seen. We have lived the life of that very hell. And who has forced the farmers and labourers of India's villages into that hellish existence? It is you. You have confined them to a life worse than hell, like insects. You have reduced them to a state even lower than animals.

Today, in their lives, there is a new resolve, the possibility of a new day, a hope has been kindled in their hearts. Shri Narendra Modi has shown them a vision - come with me, and we will build a new nation, create a new resolve, and in this new nation, we will bring you prosperity, provide food, clothing, and shelter, and restore your dignity. All of this is present in this Budget. What is not present in this Budget? I support this Budget as a representative of the poor and the farmers of India. I do not support it because I am a member of the ruling party. I support it because, in my life, for the cause I have been fighting, its light is visible in this Budget, a new ray has appeared,

showing that the construction of a new India is underway. What is not present in this Budget? Hon. Jaitley ji has arrived, I salute his competence, scholarship, and capability. Yet I would pray to him: previously, there was a shortfall of 27 paise per rupee, earlier 33 paise per rupee, and this time, it is 24 paise less. I would like to ask, will India ever be liberated by this shortfall? Liberation will come only if India resolves to achieve it.

The Kisan Vikas Patra should have a proper provision. I offer that every citizen of this country who draws a salary or allowance from the Government treasury shall contribute one-fourth of their salary or allowance to the Kisan Vikas Patra, and the money shall remain invested for 20 years. After twenty years, the amount shall be returned. By doing this, sufficient funds will be generated to make India's villages a paradise. We are capable of achieving this.

Hon. Chairperson, I request that I may state one more point and conclude my remarks within two minutes. Many of our colleagues come here and deliver long speeches, but when the topic of India's cultural nationalism and vigorous Hindutva arises, they feel great discomfort. These are not the philosophies of the RSS, nor of any leader of the BJP. In this very Parliament, Dr. Lohia, while critiquing the history of India, said, "Coordination exists in two forms: one is

coordination in a spirit of subservience, the other is coordination in a spirit of mastery. From the history of the past thousand years, India has not learned coordination in the spirit of mastery. It has been coordination in the spirit of subservience. In this regard, I do not blame only foreign powers, all historians who follow their influence are completely exposed to this poison. Today, there are two schools of history in India: Dr. Tarachand and Dr. Majumdar, both belong to this stream of coordination, to the stream of specialisation. India itself is forgotten, and the attention shifts to its various parts." Coordination in the spirit of subservience. We rise and say that we have achieved cultural coordination, we have coordinated with all religions. Dr. Lohia stated that if in India we have coordinated with other religions, it has been coordination as a servant, not as a master, we have not coordinated in the spirit of mastery. In India, the stream of coordination must be conducted in the spirit of mastery, only then will India's self-respect be awakened, and India's aspirations fulfilled. Therefore, I would urge that attention be paid to this as well.

In conclusion, I would request to the Hon. Minister of Finance that I belong to the backward communities. So, if I do not demand on their behalf, then who else will? If I do not ask for my own community, no one else will. If I hesitate to ask, then nothing will be achieved.

Therefore, I say that in the Central Secretariat of India, there is not a single Secretary from the backward or Dalit communities. Why is this so? Why has it not changed in all these years? They boast of having done a great deal. Yet today, in the Central Secretariat of the Government of India, there is not a single Secretary from the backward or Dalit communities. Even today, when bank directors are appointed, out of the 14-15 directors, not a single one is from the backward or Dalit communities. Likewise, in the appointments of advocates, backward and Dalit communities are not given representation. As I conclude, I would respectfully appeal on behalf of the millions of Dalits and backward communities of India to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Narendra Modi has arrived and promises a new India. His coming has kindled hope among the backward classes across the country that for the first time, the son of the poor, the weak, and the most backward will become the Prime Minister of India, will ascend the highest office, and work for their welfare.

My humble request to you is that in India’s jobs, universities, secretariats, commissions, every board, and all undertakings, there should be representation from the backward and Dalit communities.

There should be Directors and Chairpersons from these communities so that they receive due respect. I hope that all this will be fulfilled.

[English]

*__SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR)__: I am thankful to you for giving me an opportunity for putting my views on the proposals of budget 2014 presented by Hon'ble Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitleyji. The Budget reflected in full measure that the NDA Government led by Shri Narendra Modiji was able to come to the grips on the myriad of the issues confronting the economy within six weeks of assuming power. Inflation, low economic growth and Current Account/Fiscal Deficit are the three main issues to be tackled immediately by the new Government to revive the economy to its full potential. In this context, I congratulate Shri Arun Jaitleyji for focusing on these issues in his Budget. This budget can be briefly summed up as an agenda of '100 small steps' instead of a few big bang measures. Most notably, I welcome the following announcements in budget with my comments thereon. Enhancing Road infrastructure through allocation of Rs. 37860 crores for NHAI and State Roads by building 8500 kms of roads. Allocation of Rs. 7080 crores for 100 small cities. Five towns with a population of around 5 lakhs in Telangana State may please be covered under this initiative. Allocation of Rs. 50,548 crores under the SC Plan and Rs.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

32,387 crores under Tribal Sub Plan. This reflected that NDA cares about the marginalized population of the country contrary to the popular perception. Allocation of Rs. 14,389 crores provided for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojna (PMGSY). Linking wage employment MGNREGA through works that are more productive, asset creating and substantially linked to agriculture and allied activities. This revamping of MGNREGA is most important to agrarian states like Telangana where we are proposing to bring 1 lakh acres under irrigation in each Assembly Constituency. The allocations for the year 2014-15 to 8000 crores for National Housing Bank (NHB) with a view to expand and continue to support rural Housing in the country. This would be beneficial to our Telangana State where our Party promised to provide Rs. 3 lakh House with single bedroom, kitchen and a hall to the people below poverty line.

Income Tax relief to salaried class and senior citizens to the extent of Rs. 1,00,000. However, we wish that the Government should have kept its promise of giving income tax relief up to Rs. 5 lakh income as promised in their manifesto. Lots of stimulus and innovative treatment was given to the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME) Sector with creation of Rs. 10,000 crores. I agree with the view in the Budget Speech that most of the MSMEs were

owned and run by SCs, STs and OBCs. I also appreciate the constitution of a Committee of the Finance Ministry, SMSE Ministry and RBI for giving concrete suggestions to finance this critical sector as it benefits weaker sections of the population. I request the Minister of Finance to ensure that the Committee completes its work within the specific timeframe.

The proposals to take up Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu and Ladakh in J&K with allocation of Rs. 500 crores are also to be appreciated. In this context, I would like to submit to the Hon'ble Minister of Finance that Mahabubnagar District has already been identified as a special zone for solar power but the District, being the most backward district in Telangana, may also be considered for this Ultra Mega Solar Power Project. I also welcome the opening of more IITs, IIMs, AIIMS and more Medical Colleges in some states to boost higher education. I request the Minister of Finance to sanction one IIM, one Medical College and AIIMS to Telangana state as the higher education has been neglected in Telangana State during the combined Andhra Pradesh State.

Last, but not the least, I appreciate the many initiatives announced in the Budget speech with regard to the Agriculture Sector. As this sector is critical to 60% of the population living in rural areas.

Many initiatives like 100 mobile soil testing labs, Kisan TV, setting up of the National Market through reforming APMC Acts also need to be welcomed for strengthening the Agriculture Sector. I would humbly request the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to submit a quarterly Progress Report to Parliament on all these important initiatives in the Agriculture Sector in the Budget. Only effective follow up action and constant review of these initiatives would only ensure strengthening of the Agriculture Sector so that a sustaining growth of 4% can be achieved.

As I said earlier that this Budget is about 100 small steps instead of a few big bang announcements. I, on behalf of my TRS Party, congratulate Hon’ble Minister of Finance for this achievement and I also urge upon to review the progress achieved on all the initiatives incorporated in Budget and also apprise the Parliament of the progress at quarterly intervals.

[*]**ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI):** I represent Idukki Parliamentary Constituency in Kerala, which is an undeveloped and neglected area dominated by agrarian population including Tribes, scheduled caste and other backward classes. On going through the budget proposals, at the first instance, I would say, as far as we are concerned, the perception, approach and the attitude of the budget is totally disappointing.

The farming communities in Idukki district have been facing survival issues due to the agrarian issues arising out of low productivity, high production cost, sharp decrease in the price of agricultural products like rubber, cardamom, pepper, coco etc. The policies of the central govt., which have been following as part of globalization and economic liberalization, had contributed much to the agonies of the people. The Idukki Parliamentary Constituency is not an exception but a cross section of the poor agrarians in the Country, who have been suffering a lot and struggling hard to survive. In this ruthless era of globalization and economic liberalization, it is convenient for a Government which is concentrating and advocating the growth on the basis of industrial development and GDP rates to

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

avoid rather ignoring the interest of the marginalized and poor agrarian community.

In the context of infrastructural development, undeveloped villages and rural areas are being ignored in spite of the implementation of Schemes like PMGSY etc. The guidelines and criteria for implementing the centralized schemes like PMGSY for developing infrastructure like road connectivity are not at all suitable for including projects in the hill tracks and remote areas like my constituency. Due to the lack of feasibility on the basis of existing criteria, the benefits of the developmental schemes meant for the undeveloped rural areas are not being reached to the deserving. This may add fuel to the feelings of the remote agrarian community that they are being discriminated against and neglected by the Government. This feeling of discrimination may lead to social discontent, which in turn resulted in anarchy. Therefore, it is the time to rework the criteria and guidelines of the centrally sponsored schemes making the same suitable for the remote hilly areas too. Due to the high rates of suicide of farmers arising out of agrarian distress in Idukki district, the Govt. of India has announced a special package to Idukki to mitigating the said distress in Idukki. But unfortunately, due to the apathy on the part of Govt. organs, the project has not been

implemented in full. Less than 20% of the total funds provided under the said scheme has been utilized. But the time of the package expired in December last year. It is understood that Govt. has not extended the time limit for the said package. I request the Govt. to extend the period of the Idukki package for a further period of 5 years in view of the fact that the prevailing situation of the agrarian community is much worse than the situation at the time when the said package was announced in the year 2009.

Yet another issue is the environmental conservation initiatives of the govt. without the involvement and participation of the people living in Western Ghats detrimental to their livelihood options. The govt. has started its initiatives to inscript 39 sites in the Western Ghats on the list of World Heritage Natural sites of UNESCO by submitting an application to the World Heritage Committee during 2009. It is understood that the initiatives were originally made at the instance of some non-Governmental organization campaigning and lobbying for the purpose with the support of foreign funding agencies. The world heritage committee has postponed the consideration of the proposal many times pointing out the in-advocacy of a regulatory regime in the Western Ghats on the basis of scientifically gathered data. The proposal was finally postponed as a last chance on June 29th of 2009.

Thereafter the WGEEP was announced by the Ministry of Environment and Forests, then in-charge in a conclave of NGOs lobbying for the purpose on 4th March 2010. The Minister who announced the formation of WGEEP has close association with one of the NGO's who received funds from foreign funding agencies for conserving Western Ghats, as its advisory board member. The mandate of WGEEP was to conduct a detailed study and submit a report of the ecologically sensitive area through a comprehensive consultation process involving the people living in the area, local self govt. institutions and all stakeholders, but unfortunately the panel didn't venture for the same.

Most interestingly, IUCN, an International Agency acting as a mediator between the world heritage committee and the govt. had issued a letter later on 06.01.2013 with specific mentions regarding the status of the existing Dams, plantations and pesticide use therein, how to ensure the contiguity of the proposed 39 sites in the Western Ghats. Thereafter the WGEEP had submitted its report on 31.08.2013 addressing all the concerns raised by the IUCN and World Heritage Committee. Therefore, I would say that the WGEEP report popularly known as Madhav Gadgil report is a tutered/tailor made one for the

purpose of satisfying the WHC for getting the 39 sites inscripted on the World Heritage Natural sites.

Most of the recommendations of the WGEEP are detrimental to the interest of the people living in the Western Ghats. On the basis of wide spread agitations, the govt. appointed High Level Working Group (HLWG) headed by Dr. K. Kasturirangan for conducting further study and making feasible recommendations. But unfortunately, while disagreeing with the findings of the WGEEP, HLWG, classified 4156 villages as ecological sensitive areas, among which 123 villages in Kerala, out of which 48 are in my constituency. This classification is against the criteria adopted by HLWG at least in the case of 123 villages in Kerala. Our 48 villages are thickly populated areas and some of them are Urban areas. As a matter of fact we are ever willing to cooperate with the govt. in their endeavor to conserve Western Ghats provided, we should be taken in confidence and initiative should be with the involvement, participation and informed concern of the people without affecting our livelihood options.

Hence, I request the Government that there should be a fresh initiative to conserve the Western Ghats with the involvement and

participation of the people by taking them in confidence without affecting our livelihood options.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (HASSAN): Mr. Chairman Sir, I would like to express my sincere thanks for allowing me to participate in the discussion on the General Budget proposals for 2014-15.

Sir, I will only try to draw the attention of the respected President of India who has addressed the Joint Session of Parliament. He says:

> "My Government is dedicated to the poor; poverty has no religion, hunger has no creed and despair has no geography. The greatest challenge before us is to end the curse of poverty."

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

Sir, I do not want to elaborate on the President's Address. He has raised many issues like the Public Distribution System. The major issues which he has mentioned are inflation, unemployment, jobs for the youth, poverty and other things. At the same time, he has also said that the Government is committed to the Land Use policy which will facilitate scientific identification of non-cultivable land and its strategic development.

Sir, the Hon. Minister of Finance, while presenting his Budget, - with my little experience, I have tried to understand it - has tried to give a message through the taxation structure that this is the first Budget of the NDA Government. It shows their magnanimity to call it as an NDA Government when the BJP itself has got a clear mandate with 280 seats for the first time since the BJP was formed after the split of Janata Party.

I do not want to elaborate much on the political atmosphere which is prevailing in the country.

For the first time, the people have given their mandate for a stable Government under the leadership of the present Prime Minister and we should accept it. Coalition Governments are not going to deliver the expected results. With this background, the stable Government, under the leadership of the present Prime Minister for whom the mandate has been given by the people of the country, should be accepted.

As it stands today, all political parties have a number of issues to raise but the point is, I can understand that the time to speak is going to be allotted on the basis of the numerical strength of each political party. This House has to discuss so many important matters. So, I may humbly request that the Business Advisory Committee, while allotting

time for important discussions like discussion on General Budget, should not just go by the numerical strength, particularly when there are parties with just one Member or two Members or three Members or four Members. Even the Congress, which is a national party, which has ruled this country for more than sixty years, may not have the numbers required for recognition as a party. But that is not the issue. Numerical strength is not the issue. The issue is the contribution that they have made while they were in Office. That applies for the NDA also. The kind of contribution that the NDA Government under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has made towards building the economy of this country should count.

When the Prime Minister replied to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, he specifically mentioned that he will not be vindictive. It shows his magnanimity. I was closely watching his speech that he delivered while replying to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

We all represent the interests of farmers. I am not going to jump and say that I only represent the farming community in this House. Of course, the farming community is an important one. One of the major problems that you want to solve is unemployment. The workforce in the agricultural sector has now come down to 58 per cent. Earlier, it

was nearly 70 per cent. How do we generate more employment and solve the employment problem in the present atmosphere? In my humble view, the employment situation in the IT sector has come to a saturation point. Once we tried to develop IT as one of the major thrust areas in order to create jobs. I may just go back to 1991 when the country was facing a major economic crisis. The economic situation was very bad. At that time Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the senior most leader, was sitting in the Opposition. There was only one Member in this House from the Samajwadi Party.

I would like to make myself clear. I am not going to make any exaggeration. The economic situation was so bad that the previous Prime Minister, who was one of the pioneers of economic reforms, to prevent this country from falling into the debt trap, was forced to pledge 150 tonnes of gold. Ultimately, he brought economic reforms allowing Foreign Direct Investment for the first time in this country. Again, we are now inviting the Foreign Direct Investment. I can understand the Government’s compulsions. That is why while I was speaking on the Railway Budget, I welcomed it. But care must be taken while allowing the Foreign Direct Investment. In several areas, a country's security is very much involved.

I am not going to cross the time limit. I will respect the ringing of the bell by the Hon. Chairman. I never disrespect the Chair. But please permit me to express my ideas. Even coalition Governments can also provide good governance. Has not Shri Vajpayee, in those six years, made any achievement? Has not the Congress made any achievement? Has not Shri Narasimha Rao, who was responsible to bail out this country from the economic crisis, from the debt trap during that period, made any achievement? So, we cannot forget all these things.

At that time, when the debate was going on in this House, in respect of each and every thing, Shri Morarji Desai was blamed; Shri V.P. Singh was blamed and, for a short duration, Shri Chandra Shekhar was there and he was also blamed. I am still remembering that. He was totally blamed as the one who was responsible to bring this country to the debt trap, to pledge 150 tonnes of gold. There were so many issues which had brought the economic situation to that condition. During that period, India was forced to accept the conditionalities of the IMF and the World Bank. The very same House debated that the Budget was prepared only by the direction of the World Bank and the IMF. This was the charge made by the Opposition during that period. I was closely watching the proceedings. I am sorry for that.

In 1991, the first phase of the economic reforms were brought forward. It is over now. We are going back to the second phase allowing FDI in so many areas. How is the agricultural sector suffering today? [English] Are we able to overcome the problems prevailing in this country after implementing the economic reforms? Was it possible for either the Congress-led Government or the BJP-led coalition Government? Let us honestly introspect ourselves on all these things. It is not a question of criticizing somebody. We can criticize anybody but there must be some restraint in criticizing each other. That is what the Hon. Prime Minister maintained while replying to the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. He has shown such a magnanimity that impressed us. I was closely watching him. Today, there is a changed political atmosphere.

Sir, poverty is not related to any particular community or caste or creed. Poverty is so rampant across the board. The Food Security Bill was piloted by the Congress-led coalition Government which was one of the major steps taken by the then Prime Minister. So also, the Land Acquisition Bill was brought forward. After hundreds of years of suffering by the farmers, the Land Acquisition Act was amended. Like that, I can give so many instances by which we have made achievements. Today is a good beginning.

In this connection, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance. After the new Government has been formed, everybody is expecting that this Government may take the advice of the corporate houses; this Budget may not help the poor or the working class people. These were some of the issues raised by the electronic media, print media or by some of the economists who are expressing their views. They are very much keen on watching how the first Budget by the present Minister of Finance is going to unfold. I am happy to say that it is not a pro-corporate Budget. I must accept this with all sincerity. I am not an economist. Let me honestly speak as an ordinary farmer. It is not a pro-rich Budget. So, I can go on quoting several instances.

The time at my disposal is at the mercy of the House. The United Front Government headed by me was hardly there for ten and a half months. The Hon. Minister of Finance could see how we had taken several decisions. In regard to all the North Eastern States, who was responsible to initiate the package of Rs.6,100 crore? I had visited all the seven sister States for seven days continuously. I have announced Rs.6,100 crore not merely for the sake of announcement. We brought it in our Supplementary Demands in September, 1996. After demitting office, Shri I.K. Gujral went to the North Eastern States. He had made

further improvement. Then, Vajpayee *ji* went there, who had not only continued all our programmes but also increased the allocation to over Rs.10,000 crore. Are we not responsible for solving the Ganga water dispute?

Today, let my friends not mistake me. Drinking water is one of the major problems in Karnataka. I don't want to disobey the Chair. Please permit me to at least touch some of the points.

We have many inter-State rivers. The Irrigation Commission had given a Report. Nearly 28 taluks always face drought. Even if a borewell is installed with 1,500 meters depth, we cannot get water. I don't know how we are going to solve the problem. I am not going to refer to the dispute or the Tribunal. Kolar, Chikkaballapur, Tumkur, Hassan, Mandya, Mysore, Bangalore City, Chikmangalur, Coorg are suffering due to shortage of drinking water. The Government can send any team to find out the status of drinking water in these areas. I am not going to worry about it.

I know in 1986-87, Madam Gandhi evolved a policy of drinking water and declared it as the first priority. That was formulated by the late Indira Gandhi as Prime Minister. Today, if you think of drinking water as the most essential issue, then, whether you draw water from any reservoir or not, there must be a permanent source of drinking

water in all these areas. Otherwise, the two crore population is going to suffer. That is why, there is a need for allotment of more time – maybe, one week more. We have raised this issue many times. We cannot blame only the ruling party. We know how the Opposition behaved in the last five years. I am a witness to it. I have never spoken. We have wasted so much time. We have passed 17 Bills, without discussion, in 18 minutes. This is not the way to function. I am humbly requesting the Leader of the House and the leader of the Congress Party - whether he is recognised as LoP or not - when they are sitting in the Business Advisory Committee, to apply their mind. We have come here not merely to receive Rs.2,000 per day as TA/DA but we have come here to discuss important issues pertaining to various problems that are being faced in the States. Each State has its own problems. Have we not taken the decision on Metro, which has been pending for the last 12 years? Shri Sahib Singh Verma was the BJP Chief Minister here. We had not taken any decision on political considerations.

Sir, while implementing the Narmada Project, they had BJP Governments in Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan and only in Madhya Pradesh there was a Government headed by the Congress Party and they opposed it. But they took the decision without any

political consideration. These are very complicated issues where each State Government has got their own problems and the people of this country have given them the mandate to highlight some of these problems.

I humbly request the Leader of the House and all the political parties in the Opposition side to allocate time for some fruitful discussion on some of these issues. Otherwise, the Ruling Party has got 330 Members on their side including their alliance partners. The Government has initiated several important measures for the manufacturing sector, for the services sector etc. I could speak on how employment is going to be generated with these measures, but there is no time. If you permit me on some other occasion, I would try to highlight some of these points.

I would like to sincerely thank all the Hon. Members who are concerned about rural development and the development of agriculture in the country. We all come from rural areas. It is not the concern of me alone, but it is the concern of all of us sitting here in this august House. The Hon. Minister of Finance has placed his Budget within 45 days of this Government coming to power. He will have to make up his mind while coming out with further allocation to various sectors through Supplementary Demands. So, let us not

unnecessarily harp on these issues. I do agree that he requires some time to implement all his ideas.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Hon. Member's time is up.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, I do not want to disobey the Chair when the bell is being rung. Whenever I get an opportunity to speak on the Demands for Grants of different Ministries, I would speak in detail on some of these points. If time is given to me, I would speak at that time because I am not a member of the Business Advisory Committee. So, I do not want to waste even a minute unnecessarily. I am sitting here and watching the proceedings of the House because the General Discussion on the Budget is a very important discussion. I am keenly listening to the criticisms made by Members from each side of the House. I would like to say that it is not a healthy discussion. With folded hands I would like to request all the Hon. Members of this House maintain a high standard of debate here. Let us have a new beginning, a new era. It is a stable Government. The Ruling Party can run the Government without being at anybody's mercy for five years. They may run the Government, but they should allow even a lone Member to, at least, express his views on various issues.

Sir, in this country, every State has its own problems. Recently the Hon. Prime Minister inaugurated a new railway line. It was

declared as a national project during our Government's tenure. The Uri Hydel Power Project is a very important project. I can go on with all the details as to what we have done in a short period of 10 months. Everyday I used to work for 16 to 18 hours. I can compare the present Budget with the Budgets presented by Mr. Chidambaram during UPA I and UPA II and also I can compare with the Budget presented by Mr. Chidambaram under the Coalition Government and what were the areas to which we have accorded top priority.

There is a common minimum programme. I have no time at my disposal. The House may allow some time to discuss this on any occasion. You go through Chidambaram's first Budget in 1996-97. Just glance at it. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance who is noting down. ... (*Interruptions*) The Lohiaites have gone but Narendra Modi *sahib* has remembered Lohiaites. Many socialists have all merged. Do not discuss all these things.

My friend Rajesh Ranjan was discussing secularism. Where does he stand? He has gone. That is why, the new Prime Minister has said, poverty is not limited to one religion. That is what the Prime Minister has said. Do not unnecessarily again drag me to further discussion. I will just conclude, Sir. Take a magnanimous view about the

achievement in the past and move further. We will extend our full cooperation. There is no need for further discussion.

[*]**SHRI V. PANNEERSELVAM (SALEM):** I would like to express my sincere thanks to our Tamil Nadu permanent Chief Minister, Revolutionary leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma and my constituency people for electing me as a member of Parliament from Salem.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance presented his maiden General Budget on 10th July, 2014 for the year 2014-15. In this budget, the Minister of Finance has announced various new schemes for all over India.

One of the sectors where the Minister of Finance has been forward looking and has reflected the govt.'s priorities are in his budgeted expenditure on infrastructure. The allocation for highways has gone off by over 50% to Rs.37800 crore, while a Rs.11635 crore will be given for an outer harbor at Tuticorin Port. In addition to Rs.80000 crore by way of private investment in 16 ports Rs.5000 crore are for managing municipal debt for infrastructural needs.

In the budget, govt.'s priority is to provide infrastructure. The budget wish list is for more and better roads, and uninterrupted power, broadband lines to every village, industrial corridors, ports, new and better cities and a lot else.

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

It’s not just the expense on various projects. The projects are implemented that will be crucial. However, as the Minister of Finance has noted in his budget speech, “India has emerged as the largest PPP market in the world with over 900 projects in various stages of development.”

Rs.7000 crore allotted to create 100 new “Smart Cities”. Our Hon. Chief Minister also welcomes this project. The amount set aside for the under new smart cities is clearly inadequate. Instead of such “green field” cities where the required investment is much higher, the money would be better spent on “Green House” projects already emerging in Tamil Nadu, introduced by our Chief Minister, which is so helpful for the poor and the downtrodden people of our country. Also it will create a lot of small budgetary houses to the needy people of our country in the name of “Green House” within the allotted amount to “Smart Cities” called “Green Field”. Hence, I request the Hon’ble Minister of Finance to consider implementing projects and introducing some more Finance budget this year in our Tamil Nadu State. It will be more helpful for people in Tamil Nadu. Why don’t we be considerate?

*__SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY [PALI]:__ This Budget has been formulated keeping not only the present but also the future in mind. The Budgets prepared by the UPA were designed with focus solely on the present. For this reason, the roadmap prepared by the NDA Government for GDP growth suffered setbacks over the past ten years. During the NDA's tenure from 1998 to 2004, the GDP growth rate was 9.4 per cent, which fell to 5 per cent under UPA-2 and remained only 4.5 per cent by 2013.

In this Budget, we have set a target for GDP growth of 7 to 8 per cent. We must take lessons from neighbouring countries such as China, where the growth rate remains consistently between 9 and 10 per cent. As far as inflation is concerned, during the NDA Government, the inflation rate was 5 per cent, which averaged 9 per cent over the ten years of the UPA regime, reaching as high as 20 per cent in November-December 2013-2014. This is a very serious challenge, and we shall overcome it together.

Regarding the current account deficit, I would like to state that during the previous NDA Government, there was a surplus of 1.5 per cent, which turned into a deficit of 3.07 per cent under the UPA. If we consider exports, it should be noted that during the NDA period,

* Speech was laid on the Table.

exports had grown, but under the UPA, rising imports worsened the situation. As far as the balance of trade is concerned, the trade deficit during the NDA was 2 billion dollars, whereas under the UPA, it increased to 20 billion dollars. Under the UPA Government, the industrial sector, considered the backbone of the economy, faced a severe crisis. Despite a global slowdown, India has remained steadfast on the path of development, overcoming difficulties. After reading this Budget, it will be clear that this is yet another growth-oriented and continuity-driven Budget.

In the sectors of education, health, women welfare, upliftment of Scheduled Castes, and welfare of minorities, the Government has effected historic increases, thereby making its vision abundantly clear that by providing equal opportunities in every respect to the neglected sections, their participation in the nation's development shall be ensured. I wish to extend my felicitations to the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting this excellent Budget. For salaried employees, the limit of tax exemption on savings has been raised from Rs.1 lakh to Rs.1.5 lakh. The income tax exemption limit has been enhanced from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.2.5 lakh, and for senior citizens, this limit is Rs.3 lakh. The savings limit in the PPF has also been increased to Rs.1.5 lakh.

Education is the highest priority of the Government. Provision has been made to ensure facilities of toilets and drinking water in schools for girl students. Along with teachers training and the introduction of virtual classrooms, the establishment of five new IITs and five new IIMs for higher education has also been announced. A decision has also been taken to make educational loans more accessible. Compared to the previous year, the education budget has been increased by 12.3 percent and the health budget has been raised by 5.1 percent. To achieve the goal of 'Health for All', free medicines and treatment have been given priority. Across the country, 4 new AIIMS, 12 new medical colleges with dental facilities, and strengthened State-level drug testing centres are proposed to be established. Production and agricultural growth were ignored earlier, whereas during the NDA period special attention shall be given to these sectors. At the beginning of the previous NDA tenure, the Congress Government had left behind a growth rate of 4 percent, which, due to the policies of the NDA, rose to 20 percent by the year 2006. This legacy was handed over to the UPA Government. However, owing to the flawed industrial policies of the UPA, growth continued to decline from 2004 and by February 2009 it fell to 7.20 percent and by 2013 it reached as low as minus 0.6 percent.

70 percent of the country's population depends on agriculture, yet the UPA Government ignored these 70 percent people, as a result of which agriculture's contribution to GDP fell from 60 percent to merely 13 percent. During the period 1998-2000 under the NDA regime, this share was 26 percent, which declined to 13 percent by 2012-13. This makes it abundantly clear that agriculture was neglected by the UPA Government. But the NDA, by presenting this Budget, has once again accorded very high importance to agriculture. Our Government is well aware that a Budget should not merely be for the present, but for the future, and through growth in industrial and agricultural production, in the present environment, a GDP growth rate of 7 to 8 percent can be achieved.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has a very broad vision for the farmers. In this Budget, a decision has been taken to issue Vikas Patras to farmers in order to strengthen their economic condition. Earlier, defence equipment used to be purchased from abroad through 100 percent FDI, which adversely affected several sectors as well as the economic condition of the country. With the decision of the Government, it will no longer be necessary to procure defence equipment with money from abroad, and it will also help in

manufacturing such equipment within the country. Alongside this, we will also have control over the related decisions.

On the subject of GST as well, the Hon. Minister of Finance has an unparalleled vision. Because of this, tax evasion and harassment will be reduced, and at the same time GDP will also increase. I do not wish to shower further figures given in the Budget, since my esteemed colleagues have already discussed them at length. There is also a proposal to establish an ideal Rural Health Research Centre in the country for research on such services. Under the Total Sanitation Programme, a plan has been made to bring all households within the ambit of sanitation in the next five years. In this Budget, steps have been taken to make the lives of persons with disabilities easier and to bring them into the mainstream of development by facilitating the purchase of related equipment. In addition, a decision has been taken to establish 5 new Braille presses and to print currency notes in Braille script.

In this Budget, for the welfare of women, the “Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao” Scheme has been announced. Under this, efforts will be made to enhance awareness and effectiveness of facilities available for women. Emphasis has also been laid on the safety of women in public

transport. A decision has also been taken to establish special disaster management centres in all Government and private hospitals of Delhi.

Special provisions have been made in the Budget for housing loans. To provide low-cost housing facilities to people of the lower income group through affordable loans, a special mission has been launched by the National Housing Bank. Through Corporate Social Responsibility, development of slums will be made mandatory so as to ensure participation of the private sector. The Digital India Programme has been announced. Under this, Government services based on information technology, hardware and software production within the country, provision of broadband up to the rural level, and the introduction of the National Rural Internet Technology Mission and e-Kranti will bring transparency into all Government procedures. Under the Smart Cities Scheme, a plan has been made to build one hundred new smart cities, which will not only accommodate the population migrating towards urban areas but also generate new employment opportunities. Along with this, the industrial corridors of the country will be further developed. To attract investment into India, several schemes have been introduced in this Budget. The limit of foreign investment in the defence and insurance sectors has been raised to 49 percent. Direct foreign investment has been permitted in

affordable housing schemes. To complete official work at one window, a 24-hour e-biz portal has been established.

To strengthen connectivity in the country, investment has been announced in the sectors of shipping, airports, Inland Waterways and road construction. To fulfil the aspirations of people desirous of air travel, plans are being made to construct new airports in Tier-1 and Tier-2 cities. To energise the economy, special emphasis has been laid in the Budget on the energy sector. It has been announced to promote clean and more efficient thermal power, to strengthen the gas pipeline network and to reopen old and closed coal mines. To enhance power supply in rural areas, the Gram Jyoti Yojana has been launched. Stress has been laid on taking necessary steps for the speedy implementation of projects relating to new and renewable energy and green energy corridors. India is a country of youth and every young Indian needs gainful employment. In the Budget, under the National Multi-Skill Development Programme, a target has been set to promote entrepreneurship. A plan is also being prepared to bring necessary amendments to the Apprenticeship Act. In addition, the creation of a special fund of Rs.10,000 crore has been announced in this Budget to encourage private investment in small and medium enterprises.

This Budget has also brought new facilities for sportspersons. Along with the establishment of world-class sports academies, it has been announced to set up indoor and outdoor stadiums in Jammu and Kashmir and to establish a Sports University in Manipur. Provision has also been made through the Budget for imparting training to Indian sportspersons for the forthcoming Asian and Commonwealth Games. For the development of the North-Eastern Region, necessary steps have been taken, which primarily include the development of commercial and organic farming, better rail connectivity, and the proposal to launch a tv channel named “Arun-Prabha”.

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI [BASTI]: Hon. Chairperson, first of all, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak for the first time in this Lok Sabha. I would also like to thank my Party for having given me this opportunity.

Hon. Members, when we were contesting the Lok Sabha elections, we used to go to the villages and raise the slogan that we are the ones who will bring good days. We raised the slogan of Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat (One India, Great India). We raised the slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas (Together with All, Development for All). Having faith in this slogan, the people of the country, particularly the youth, women, the poor and the farmers, all supported the Bharatiya Janata Party. A Government with full majority of the Bharatiya Janata Party was formed. Before the presentation of the Budget, we went to our constituencies. The youth, the students and the farmers in the villages used to tell us to speak to the Hon. Minister of Finance and to the Hon. Prime Minister, reminding us that we had given the slogan that good days were to come. They said that they had already begun to feel the advent of good days. Even before the swearing-in of the Government, when fishermen were released by Pakistan at the international level and when various countries

extended a warm welcome to India, the common people felt that good days were arriving. Yet, there was some apprehension regarding the Budget that it might bring inflation or cause the prices of various commodities to rise. When we went to the villages, people would ask us to give suggestions on all these matters. The blessings of the Hon. Minister of Finance, particularly for the youth and for me personally, have always been there. I too thought of giving my suggestions in this regard. However, while we were contesting the elections, under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi ji, with Hon. Jaitley ji and all our senior leaders, a strategy was framed keeping in mind that in the last ten years the Congress Government had increased inflation, corruption and unemployment, and that being troubled by these, the people of the country supported the Bharatiya Janata Party. Therefore, I had full confidence that when Hon. Jaitley ji presented the Budget, it would certainly reflect the slogans we had given: Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas (Together with All, Development for All), Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat (One India, Great India) and Achhe Din Aane Wale Hain (Good Days are Coming). Indeed, I congratulate Hon. Jaitley ji and the Hon. Prime Minister for this. *Yesterday, Shri Scindia, in his speech, said that after delivering his speech, when he met people outside, he told them that Hon. Jaitley ji had brought such a Budget,*

that the Bharatiya Janata Party had presented such a Budget, that though they might criticise it from the platform, in reality there was nothing in it to criticise. ... (Interruptions) For this, I would like to thank Hon. Jaitley ji and the Hon. Prime Minister ji. ... (Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA [GUNA]: Hon. Chairperson, my name has been mentioned. I would like to ask the Hon. Member when I had made this statement. Kindly lay that on the Table. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI [BASTI]: I am not referring to a statement. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Hon. Chairperson, through you, I would like to say that he should tell this House when I had made the statement which has been attributed to me. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please allow him to speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI: When you were meeting Hon. Minister of Finance and some Members, the kind of satisfaction and happiness that I observed gave me a certain feeling. I was confident that when the Budget would be presented,

whether it concerned the farmers, the youth, the students, or women, Hon. Minister of Finance would certainly pay attention to all matters. He has indeed paid attention to all. My constituency, Basti, is located in Purvanchal, Uttar Pradesh. I was elected from there. When I visited that region, no political party offered any criticism, nor did any workers organisation, students organisation, or associations of labourers and employees express any disapproval. I can state that the vision we had dreamed of, and the slogan that Modi Ji had raised that of creating a Congress-free India, has been reflected in this Budget. A Congress-free India implies an India free from corruption, providing employment to the youth, addressing farmers issues, and ensuring the safety of women. Such a Budget has been presented by Hon. Minister of Finance. The promise and vision that the Prime Minister had articulated have undoubtedly been fulfilled by the Government of India led by the Bharatiya Janata Party. While we did have some apprehensions regarding whether the Budget would be influenced by electoral considerations, such as which areas the party had won or the votes of particular communities, I congratulate Hon. Minister of Finance for focusing attention on the entire nation. The Government has not considered where it has won or lost, which caste or community has supported it, or which religion’s votes it has secured. Concern has

been shown for the development of all, and for the welfare of every region.

Yesterday I went to AIIMS with a patient from my constituency. There I came to know that he has been given a date after two years. The Hon. Minister of Finance has announced the setting up of AIIMS, including for Purvanchal. People from our region come here, ... *(Interruptions)* they have to stay for one or two months, incur heavy expenditure and face great difficulties. Every year epidemics occur in Gorakhpur and many children lose their lives. AIIMS should be established in Gorakhpur. Along with this, an IIM has also been announced. Steps have been taken with a view to provide employment to the youth. A plan for setting up one hundred Smart Cities has also been announced.

I have a suggestion for the Hon. Minister of Finance. ... *(Interruptions)* Whenever announcements are made, attention, particularly of the officers, is drawn only towards those places where facilities already exist. Industries and big institutions are set up in large cities, and focus remains confined to them. Now that one hundred Smart Cities have been announced, I feel that if smaller towns are also included in this scheme, particularly the district from which I come, which is a divisional headquarters, then the adjoining two or

three districts which are very backward will benefit. It is situated on the highway and connected to the railway station. I would, therefore, submit to the Hon. Minister of Finance that if Basti is included among the Smart Cities, the backwardness of that region will be removed. There is large-scale migration from small districts to big cities like Delhi, Mumbai, Ahmedabad, Kolkata and others. People go there in search of employment. If small districts are developed, people will get employment locally itself.

There is a very serious problem in our district. Every year, severe floods occur in all the districts of Gonda, Shravasti, Basti, Siddharthnagar, Gorakhpur, Kushinagar and Sant Kabir Nagar. The Uttar Pradesh Government has not been able to make any permanent arrangement to address this, and several projects have already gone to the Centre. Therefore, I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance that a permanent embankment be constructed to deal with the problem of floods.

In our district there is Makhauda Dham, the place where King Dashrath performed the Putreshti Yajna for the birth of Lord Ram. From the point of view of tourism, it is very significant. Swami Narayan Chhapia is also there. The followers of the Swami Narayan Sampradaya are spread across the world, and all of them visit that

place. Swami Narayan Chhapia lies adjacent to our district, and the route to it passes through our district. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now you please conclude your speech.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI: I shall conclude my submission within a minute. If this region is developed from the point of view of tourism, since both Swami Narayan Chhapia and Makhauda Dham are located there, it will bring benefit. We also have a place of martyrdom in our district. During the "war of independence", in Chhawani, about one hundred and fifty people were hanged at one place. If this region is developed, it will certainly generate employment and at the same time lead to the overall development of Purvanchal. With the development of Purvanchal, the problem of migration of people to big cities in search of employment will also be resolved.

With these words, once again, I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister for presenting such an excellent and historic Budget.

[English]

*__SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE):__ I place on record my sincerest thanks to the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for presenting a forward looking Budget within given constraints the country is facing currently.

Let me clarify that I will not just criticize the Budget just because I am not from treasury benches.

The budget has addressed a gamut of issues, which possibly no other Budget has taken care of in the recent memory. Of course, the Budget has not been able to address the wish list of many of us, which is understandable for any prudent individual.

The worst part of the Budget is the enormous amount of regional imbalance. Whether it is for political consideration or otherwise, it can be well understood when the Budget proposal is introspective. Having said so, let me place before the House the decision to address "retrospective tax issue" is one of the most significant proposal, which will not only arrest the plight of capital from our country but also significantly improve the investment climate in our country, thereby

* Speech was laid on the Table.

having a multiplier effect on the economy to positively contribute to GDP, generating employment, boosting tax revenue, etc.

Provision of Rupees 10000 crores as a start-up capital is not only a significant step to promote entrepreneurship among our youth, but also drastically reduce brain drain from our country.

Thrust on manufacturing, redefining MSME etc. are other important steps in this direction.

Coming to Agriculture, the decision to irrigate most of the land of the country could be a very revolutionary step as it will have a very good effect on the fortune of our farmers by having the opportunity to produce three crops in a year. It can be said here with definite confidence that 'no country in the world has prospered' with continued food inflation, how can India achieve this with food inflation of 8 to 10% for about the last ten years.

While it is a fact that the wish list of many of us have not been fulfilled, there is hardly any debate on how to increase the revenue to the country's exchequer.

I am putting forth a few of that which if Hon'ble Minister of Finance consider fit, may kindly implement, which will not only address the issue of resource constraint in our country but also will

come in handy to fulfill many of aspirational statements, including equating East with Western part of India of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

The per capita income of Odisha is about Rs.25000 pa. If you look at the earning of 70 private entities/individuals owning Mining Leases and introspect their B/L & Income in Odisha, the average earning of per such entity is about Rs.300 crore and rest of the population are below Rs.25000. This is just because of the fact that our predecessors have formulated some policy at some point of time and a chosen few are benefitting immensely at the cost of Nation as a whole. Hence, this gives rise to the following issues. Should we not relook at the Mineral Resources Allocation Policies of Govt. of India and take a decision keeping Country's interest in mind. Should we not look at reviewing the existing Mining Leases which have been granted by previous Governments?

This action alone will bring in several lakhs of crores to the kitty of Government of India per annum year after year. If anybody does not agree with the above, I am ready to debate on this issue and convince all concerned. The question is whether the Government is willing to undertake this exercise or succumb to pressure of certain vested interest as it has happened all these years.

Today several thousands of crores are being spent in transporting food grains from farmers/mandis to Godowns like FCI, transporting back the food grains on many occasions to the same set of farmers. This constitutes an enormous amount of transport cost which could be avoidable on many occasions. Hence can the Government consider opening a localized storage House and ensure local distribution and in the process save several thousands of crores.

Before I conclude, I have a small submission for my constituency, Balasore which is one of the most literate districts in the country but having a very low level of per capita income due to non-availability of employment opportunity. I submit that Balasore and Mayurbhanj districts be declared as no industry district in Odisha and certain incentives like capital investment subsidy, tax holiday for 10 years, etc. be declared which will go a long way for economic upliftments of the people of Northern Odisha including tribals etc. who are currently suffering silently. I thank the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for the Budget 2014-15 and look forward to much better treatment for Odisha in the next Budget 2015-16.

SHRI TARIQ HAMEED KARRA (SRINAGAR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, this is my maiden speech in this august House, and I am privileged that I have been allowed to speak in the discussion on the General Budget today.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, everybody in this House knows fully that the people of Jammu and Kashmir, irrespective of their age, gender, status or the political affiliation, have been suffering the disastrous consequences of the turmoil over the last more than two days.

Sir, time has come for the leadership of the country and the State to fully retrieve the people of the State, with honor and dignity intact, from the political uncertainties they have been engulfed in for the past six decades.

Today, the people of the State have developed stakes in peace and they now want to reap the fruits of globalization and economic liberalization. People in all the regions of the State must get equal share and opportunity to carry forward their economic development by taking advantage of the region's natural resources and geographical location.

Sir, explicit and imaginative policies should be directed to enable the State's youth to become a productive, self-confident and committed force for its development. Not only the Government but

the whole nation including individuals, institutions and organizations have to be brought together in a spirit of creative enterprise to widen the economic and employment space for the State's youth.

Sir, unfortunately, most of the initiatives on Kashmir were never taken to the logical conclusion. Be it the Prime Minister's Working Groups on Kashmir, Prime Minister's Special Task Force on Kashmir, Interlocutors Report, all these initiatives, latest initiatives to talk of a few, were never followed up with tangible action on ground.

The dilly-dallying approach only brews serious doubts in the political and public domain over the veracity of these exercises.

There is a compelling need to make the process of political reconciliation and economic empowerment in J&K more comprehensive and meaningful and not making it just a symbolic exercise.

Sir, we understand the challenges faced by the Hon. Minister of Finance to overcome multifarious and multi-dimensional problems to be dealt by him. We also realize that every new Government in power always inherits a mix of good and not so good legacy of the outgoing Government.

Having said so, we, as a State, have also a bag of certain good initiatives taken by both the successive NDA and UPA Governments.

Sir, if NDA was gracious enough in sanctioning us the Prime Minister's Reconstruction Plan and North South Corridor, UPA was equally gracious to grant us a package for Restoration of Historic Dal Lake besides liberal funding in MGNREGA, NURM and NRHM.

16.00 hrs.

But, Sir, this time, in our State especially, there is a governance deficit, due to which these welfare schemes do not reach the people at the grass-root level. So, I would like to lay more stress on implementation and accountability.

Sir, though the Budget Speech in this House is full of hopes for the entire country yet the State of Jammu and Kashmir does not tend to get much inspired by it. So, in order to fill that gap, I have certain demands or requests for the Hon. Minister of Finance's favorable consideration.

Sir, while dealing with Jammu and Kashmir, everybody has to recognise the fact that Jammu and Kashmir has a distinction of having two Capital Cities. So, accordingly, this thing should be kept in mind in regard to whatever has to be given to the State.

Sir, the Budget promises to revive Special Economic Zones. We would request for one in the Kashmir Division. Similarly, IIT for Jammu is a welcome step. But we would request the Hon. Minister of Finance to give one for Kashmir Division as well.

We would also request for a Textile Park in Jammu and Kashmir. Keeping that we have enough looms, which manufacture our shawls there, a Textile Park in Jammu and Kashmir would be a welcome step. Apart from this, the Hon. Finance had announced 100 Smart Cities in different States. We would request him to consider Jammu and Kashmir for the Smart Cities as well.

Besides that one IIM was given by the previous Government. But somehow it was upgraded to a Central University. So, we lack that IIM for which I have made a fervent request.

Sir, the Hon. Minister of Finance has announced the setting up of All India Institutes of Medical Sciences. We would request him that both Jammu as well as Kashmir cities should be given All India Institutes of Medical Sciences as well.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Hon. Chairperson, those who deliver the maiden speech are not given a time limit. They should be given more time.[English] He is from Jammu

and Kashmir. [Translation] He should be given the opportunity to speak.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He has already been given more time than what is allotted to each Party.

[English]

SHRI TARIQ HAMEED KARRA: Sir, as you all know, Jammu and Kashmir is a tourism State. Our entire economy is based on tourism. The Hon. Minister has announced Tourism Circuits in different States of the country. So, I would request him that Jammu and Kashmir should also be included in that Tourism Circuit.

We have seen a lot of funding to North-Eastern States. I understand that North-Eastern States have different situations and they are disturbed areas. But as far as Jammu and Kashmir is concerned, it is no less disturbed. So, I would request that the funding in Jammu and Kashmir may be done on the pattern of funding to North-Eastern States.

Sir, as far as Rs. 50 crore of Pashmina Development is concerned, it is a welcome step. But I would request the Hon. Minister that it may be increased.

Similarly, the Hon. Minister of Finance has announced Rs. 990 crore for the Border Village Development Area. As you all know that the entire Jammu and Kashmir is a border State. So, villages of Jammu and Kashmir State should also be included in the Border Area Development Fund.

As far as airports are concerned… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

SHRI TARIQ HAMEED KARRA: Hon. Chairperson, the problems we face are so many that even if we speak for half an hour, it would still be insufficient. We have risen here to bring the problems of our State to the knowledge of the Hon. Minister of Finance. If even that is subjected to a time limit, how will our State progress?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We are constrained by time, and you have already been given five minutes more than the time allotted to your Party. Now you may please conclude, I am calling the next Member.

[English]

SHRI TARIQ HAMEED KARRA: Sir, as far as our State is concerned, again I would say that the economy is driven by tourism and so the two airports need upgradation. As far as Jammu is

concerned, it needs upgradation, and as far as Srinagar Airport is concerned, it needs further expansion. So, that should also be taken into consideration.

Sir, at the end I would like to bring to your knowledge certain important points related to fiscal management. The most important feature of this Budget is its underlying public expenditure policy. This Budget has moved from a distribution-driven public expenditure policy to an allocative-based public expenditure policy.

As such economic growth will not come through an increase in demand emanating from an improvement in the income distribution. Instead, it will come through improvements in allocative efficiency.

This also marks a decisive end to the public investment led growth model. It is now going to be driven by public expenditure which facilitates private investment.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now you please conclude, I am calling the next member to speak.

SHRI TARIQ HAMEED KARRA: Sir, this is a very important fiscal matter. ... (*Interruptions*) [English] Please give me two minutes.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You may give a letter to the Hon. Minister of Finance. There is no time now.

Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

[English]

SHRI TARIQ HAMEED KARRA: I would like to bring them to the knowledge of the Minister of Finance. Please give me two minutes.

This means the Budget is oriented towards creation of productive assets rather than entitlement based fiscal transfers.

While for the country, this is a good move, it may not be so in the case of J&K which has been made to rely more on fiscal transfers rather than public investment. Our share of overall public investment has never exceeded one per cent.

Sir, at the end I would like to say that first, from the "Fund of Funds" corpus of Rs.10,000 crore, I would request you to make available to J&K Rs.1000 crore... *(Interruptions)* so that it takes care of our economy also.

[Translation]

***SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI):** Hon. Chairperson, in order to realise the vision of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the steps taken by Shri Arun Jaitley through the Rail Budget will provide an opportunity to improve the deteriorating condition of the country. This Budget indicates long-term development. On one hand, it provides relief to industries, and on the other hand, it grants concessions in taxes to the common man. Along with economic reforms, special emphasis has been laid on infrastructure, particularly electricity, water and roads, as well as on agriculture. In the coming years, education and health, along with the safety and development of women, will also remain a priority.

To reduce the burden on large cities, Shri Jaitley has initiated, through this very Budget, the realisation of the Hon. Prime Minister's dream to develop medium-sized cities as Smart Cities. In this Budget, the Government has moved forward on the formula of providing urban-like facilities in rural areas.

For the agriculture sector, the launch of a scheme to install one lakh energy pump sets has been announced. For this purpose, the Hon.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Minister of Finance has allocated a Budget of Rs.400 crore. An additional Rs.100 crore has been earmarked for the development of one megawatt solar parks along the banks of canals. The Hon. Minister of Finance has also announced to further accelerate the Green Energy Corridor Project during this financial year.

There are crores of people in the country who do not have proper housing to live with their children. This Government has promised to provide housing to all by the year 2022. For this purpose, provision has been made under the Smart Cities Scheme and through concessions in home loans. This first General Budget of the Government is development-oriented, which will work towards improving the country's industrial, commercial, and basic infrastructure such as electricity and water. Presented by the new Government in less than 50 days, this Budget will open new avenues of development. It contains provisions for the upliftment of youth, women and various sections of society. In addition to promoting the manufacturing and infrastructure sectors, which will strengthen the economy, this Budget will also strengthen the financial markets. With the incentives to savings given in this Budget, many of the difficulties being faced in investment in financial markets will also be resolved.

If we look at the major announcements of the Budget, concessions have been given in respect of Goods and Services Tax and Direct Tax Code, along with the Expenditure Commission, as well as permitting mobilisation of resources for the basic needs of banks. In sum, this Budget has sought to give a clear indication that the country's economy will be strengthened and there will be no adverse impact on the growth rate. In the Budget, special emphasis has been laid on the development of the infrastructure sector. Provisions have been made for the development of roads, ports, airports, energy, Smart Cities, providing urban amenities in rural areas, the development of the housing and social sectors, and incentives for savings in the financial sector. The decision to permit Real Estate Investment Trusts and Infrastructure Investment Trusts is indicative of the broad vision of the Modi Government.

Proposals such as raising the income limit under Section 80CC of the Income Tax Act, increasing the ceiling on contribution to private provident fund, and enhancing the relief limit on income tax for interest paid on home loans, will encourage the common people towards savings and investment. In the past few years, instead of investing in financial markets, people were inclined towards purchasing gold, which slowed down the economic momentum of the

country. With the incentives provided in the Budget of the new Government, this tendency will be checked. The provisions made by Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley in the Budget for reforms in the financial sector will attract people towards investment in financial markets, which in turn will help in the expansion of production and trade.

If we look at the investment in financial markets during the last four years in comparison to GDP, there has been a decline of up to 12 percent. In such circumstances, an increase in financial savings through the Budget provisions will naturally lead to growth in GDP. The encouragement given in the Budget to the manufacturing and tourism sectors will promote employment, thereby checking the rising unemployment in the country. For a long time there had been a demand to increase the limit of foreign investment in the insurance and defence sectors. In the present circumstances, accepting this demand is a correct decision. Raising the income tax exemption limit and providing further concessions to senior citizens will not lead to any apprehension of an increase in the fiscal deficit. Reduction of customs and excise duties will benefit domestic industries. Besides, the proposals to resolve disputes relating to tax assessments will help settle long-pending financial litigations. In the Budget, the Modi

Government has undertaken the task of establishing a stable tax system, macro-economic stability, fiscal consolidation, disposal of licence and other applications for trade within a week, provision of 24-hour e-filing facilities, and reforms in labour and marketing of agricultural products, all of which will help in placing the country on the path of development.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has also expressed his intent towards sports. For the development of sports, schemes worth Rs.300 crore have been announced in two border States. These include the development of sports stadiums in Jammu and Kashmir and the establishment of a Sports University in Manipur.

Electricity as a basic service has today become a necessity for the people. From households to industries, the demand for electricity is increasing, and yet many parts of the country and several villages still remain without electricity. This Government has conveyed the resolve to provide electricity to every household, and provision will be made for separate lines for electricity distribution in villages. This will remove the discrimination that has existed in the supply of electricity between urban and rural areas. To enable power companies to enhance generation and strengthen the distribution sector, provision has been made to grant them tax exemption for ten years. Along with this, the

establishment of four ultra mega solar power projects has been announced. In addition, several provisions have been made for the use of solar energy, which will help in overcoming the shortage of electricity.

Finally, I would like to draw the attention of the House to my constituency, Ranchi, Jharkhand. Jharkhand is a backward State, surrounded by hills and forests. The rate of development in all regions is very low. I request the Union Government to ensure the construction of roads, whether in cities or villages. Electricity must be provided to every village, and power generation must be increased. To promote irrigation, greater provision of solar pumps should be made. Roads should be constructed under the Prime Minister's Road Scheme. The shortfall in the Food Security Scheme should be rectified, and thirty-two kilograms of food grains should be provided as before. Large-scale migration must be prevented by creating employment opportunities. The pending gratuity and pension of retired employees of HEC must be released without delay. The outstanding dues under the Swarn Rekha Project to the displaced persons of Chandil must be settled promptly. The displaced families of HEC Dhurwa, Ranchi should be restored their vacant land, as farmers had provided land for factories to generate employment,

which, however, has not materialised. Jharkhand has numerous waterfalls that can be developed and beautified, such as Hundru fall, Gautamdhara, and Hirni Fall. The State also possesses historic temples that can be developed and beautified, such as Rajrappa Temple, Jagannathpuri Temple, and Jonha falls. This would attract significant tourist inflow, transforming these into prominent tourist destinations, generating employment, and increasing revenue for the Government. Small and large rivers in the State can be linked to expand irrigation facilities. There are many mines, such as CCL, BCL, ICL, and various others, yet the local population remains unemployed. Education is in serious decline. Schools face a shortage of teachers; each school, whether primary or secondary, has only one or two teachers, preventing children from poor families in villages from receiving proper education. The shortfall in teaching staff must be addressed. To resolve all these issues, the Budget should provide additional funds to Jharkhand. Postal employees working in rural areas are treated as daily wage workers. Their salaries are even lower than those of labourers. They do not receive Provident Fund or other Government benefits as Union Government employees do, and they are deprived of any form of Government facility. I, therefore, demand

that they be provided salaries and all entitlements on the lines of Union Government employees.

I, therefore, support the General Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance and convey my thanks to him.

[*]**SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR):** Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this Budget, presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley, is the first Budget of the NDA Government that provides clear policy signals regarding the direction and condition of the country. The present Budget is being widely appreciated across the nation. It is a very balanced Budget, which is welfare-oriented and in the national interest. Bihar is receiving Mega Clusters, IIMs, and other beneficial projects. I welcome this Budget.

Until now, few have believed that "Achhe Din" (good days) will come, because previous Congress Governments were unable to deliver them. The preparations for good days since Independence will now bear positive results. Those who have ruled for 60 years should have patience. All schemes are indeed set to be fully implemented.

This Budget contains something for everyone. Special attention has been given in the General Budget to providing facilities for women and children. Emphasis has been laid on the Women and Child Development Fund. Provisions have been made in the Budget for the development of world-class cities, welfare of senior citizens, and for ensuring the uninterrupted flow of the Ganga. The limit for deduction

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

of interest on housing loans has been increased from Rs. 1.5 lakh to Rs. 2 lakh. To encourage small entrepreneurs, an investment allowance of 15 per cent is proposed on investments exceeding Rs. 25 crore in a year. The declining domestic production rate in the country is a matter of concern. It is unfortunate that over the past ten years, the domestic production rate has been continuously falling. Due to the failure of the UPA Government's economic policies, our Government faces significant challenges. It is expected that our Government will take appropriate measures to ensure a growth rate of over 10 per cent and maintain inflation below 5 per cent. As there has not been a proper arrangement for grain storage by farmers, produce kept outside often rots or is destroyed during the rains. Therefore, it is necessary to provide adequate facilities for proper storage of grains. Controlling inflation is the foremost requirement of the time. The difficulties faced by the poor need to be addressed on a war footing.

A provision of Rs. 1,000 crore for farmers, along with the Prime Minister's Agricultural Irrigation Scheme, will be highly beneficial for the welfare of farmers. The Prime Minister's Irrigation Scheme needs to be extended so as to reach the maximum number of farmers.

In Bihar, the demand for electricity is approximately 3,000 MW. To meet this requirement, a 400 MW plant in Muzaffarpur and a 700

MW plant planned for flood-affected areas remain non-operational due to coal linkage issues. To meet Bihar's electricity needs, the MoU signed with Arunachal Pradesh has not yielded any benefit for the State. Similarly, the Rajiv Gandhi Electrification Scheme has also not provided any particular advantage to Bihar.

Efforts are being made worldwide to encourage youth and sports. In this context, the youth of our country expect that their Government also take concrete steps in this direction. In this perspective, the increase in the Budget for the Ministry of Sports this year is a welcome step. Special attention has been given to the youth in this Budget. The proposal to establish a Sports University is a proper initiative to mainstream sports. The youth of the country, particularly athletes, must receive full encouragement so that they can demonstrate their talent not only within the country but also at the Olympic Games.

Hon. Uma Bharti has been entrusted with the responsibility of the rejuvenation of the Ganga. The declining number of dolphins in the Ganga is a matter of concern. It was hoped that declaring them as the national aquatic animal would ensure their protection and propagation. The 50 km water stretch of the Ganga from Sultanganj to Kahalgaon in Bihar has been declared a dolphin sanctuary. This is

the only dolphin sanctuary in the country, and as a representative of Bihar, I am always concerned about the development of this water body. I urge the Union Government to give greater attention to the conservation and propagation of dolphins.

I now draw your attention to the important issues of my constituency, Sheohar. The Madhubani Art Centre of national importance under my Parliamentary Constituency is gradually falling into decay due to lack of supervision and financial assistance. For years, no significant developmental work has been undertaken there, and the Centre continues to remain neglected. Our demand is that the Government kindly issue immediate appropriate instructions to preserve and develop this glorious aspect of Indian history.

The condition of the Chakia-Banarjhula to Sheohar road has deteriorated considerably, causing great difficulties to the people of the region. It has now been declared National Highway No. 104. There is an urgent need for the construction of the Chakia-Banarjhula to Sheohar road at the earliest, so that the people of the region may have better connectivity and mobility.

The Economic Survey presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley, and the subsequent Budget, are in complete alignment. An endeavour will be made to increase the GDP growth

rate to 5.5 per cent. Every possible effort will be made to bring the fiscal deficit to an appropriate level. This Budget will open the path for development. Provisions have been made for the upliftment of the youth, women, and various sections of society.

I have full confidence that the Government will curb the increasing corruption in the country and promote transparency. Through the efforts of the Union Government, greater security will be provided to citizens and women. Adequate measures will be taken to address Naxalism and terrorism. Under the leadership of Hon. Shri Narendra Modi, our country will reach new heights of development and prosperity.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, you may speak. Now his speech is not being recorded in the proceedings.

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOH): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you.

Sir, I rise here to support the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance. I shall confine my remarks solely to the unorganised sector workers and farmers, focusing exclusively on these two areas. You have maintained this tradition in the House with great responsibility. I have been working among the unorganised sector workers of the country for the past four years. I was a Member of this House during the tenure of the late Atal Ji's Government. It was at that time that I first realised the importance of social security when Atal Ji's Government enacted a law concerning the 44 crore unorganised workers of the country. For the construction workers, Atal Ji had his own perspective, buildings would be constructed, monuments would be built, roads would be laid but what about the poor worker? It was then that the cess collection began. I have also been listening to the speeches of my friends from the Congress, and I have examined this Budget as well. In the Budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley announced a pension of Rs. 1,000 per month under the EPM Scheme. I was astonished that not a single

Member of the House applauded this decision. This reflects the current state of the House. We are often criticized, many speak about workers and trade unions and yet level accusations against us. But I was surprised that, even after such a significant decision concerning the welfare of workers, the House did not acknowledge it. I would like to say to my friends in the Congress that when you speak of the Rs. 1,000 per month pension, you measure it only in monetary terms, but do you ever consider that for a contract worker in an organised sector institution, whose PF number is obtained with great difficulty, if no guarantee of social security is provided, what will become of this country? There is still work remaining. I would like to point out to the Congress Members that I was not present in the previous House, but I have read the Budget. I was searching to see whether there was any mention of unorganised sector workers. We continued to make assumptions, but no decision was taken. This is my observation for you. Regarding the unorganised sector workers, the list has not yet been finalized, earlier there were 37 names, now there are 62, but they have not yet been formally identified. Registration is administrative work of the Ministry of Labour. But what have you done? You claim that this is the UPA's Budget. I wish to clarify that this is not the UPA's Budget, but the Budget of our Government. I will quote the

provisions in this Budget, which were not present in the UPA Government's Budget. I shall first refer to the Prime Minister's Gramin Sadak Yojana. I would like to thank you for continuing this scheme. However, with due respect to Shri Scindia, I would like to ask why the villages with a population of 500, which were to be connected under the scheme in 2007 and 2008, were not linked even by 2014. Will you not take responsibility for this?

I shall now speak about the Swarnim Chaturbhuj Yojana, which was intended to connect the North to the South and the East to the West. During the tenure of Shri Khanduri, the scheme was progressing nine months ahead of schedule. Yet, even by 2014, it has not been completed, though it was originally due for completion in 2008. I believe that we must debate these matters in the House with honesty. I am making a fair assessment, and my party is doing so as well. Therefore, if I speak solely on behalf of my party, I do not think it would be honest or just to the nation.

Regarding matters connected with agriculture, I examined the previous Budget, which contained 93 points. At that time, I was not present in the House. In that Budget, attention was given only to providing training to the youth. However, in Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Jaitley's Budget, when this section appears, it specifies that

artisans such as founders, carpenters, cobblers, masons, weavers, and others should also receive training. Until employment providers are supported with technology and their skills are upgraded, I do not believe the next generation can advance.

I am the son of a middle-class farmer. Not a single penny comes into my household from outside. If farming is a loss-making venture, my son will not opt for agriculture. He would rather sell land and work in an office as a peon, because he is assured that he will receive a fixed salary on the first of every month. This will sustain his family, but he will not pursue farming. The country must be made aware of this reality. The House must take note of this concern. I believe we must consider how and when agriculture can become a profitable enterprise, and I see three to four points in this regard.

Debates on this issue rarely take place in the House. Whenever any legislation comes before the House, we have all observed how rapidly it is passed. If our Hon. Minister of Finance has announced the creation of an Agriculture Channel in the Budget, it deserves appreciation, because, albeit delayed, even after 60 years, people such as our Hon. Chairperson will appear on it, and the next generation will understand the importance of agriculture. Agriculture remains the sector providing the greatest employment in the country today.

Regarding the weavers, we must also consider their problems. Today, the world desires hand-made textiles, irrespective of their cost. Yet, there is no branding and no market pathway for them. Therefore, we must at least focus on the aspects that will allow these efforts to progress. I would like to say that people like us used to speak of radio. I had delivered a speech in this House that if there were only a radio instead of an Agriculture Channel, it would still be a significant step. However, as the Budget has now announced an Agriculture Channel, I would like to congratulate the Government for this initiative.

The climate is changing, everybody knows this, yet no arrangement had been made in this regard. We cannot change the climate, but we can certainly provide alternatives. By making provision for a National Adaptation Fund in this Budget, the Government has done an excellent job, which deserves appreciation, something which you could not accomplish.

The Pradhan Mantri Gram Yojana has been referred to in this Budget. I firmly believe that when Atal ji implemented this scheme, it was not a small endeavour, but indeed a revolution. This will be the second revolution in the country after the Green Revolution. You often speak of the Green Revolution, but one must also understand that it brought with it certain adverse consequences. This subject too

deserves discussion. Today, there is no time, but whenever the opportunity arises to speak on agriculture, I shall certainly put forth my views. This Budget also speaks of a ‘Protein Revolution’. We must ensure adequate food. A timely discussion must be held on how much harm the Green Revolution has actually caused to the country. When the time comes, this will have to be addressed.

As regards the landless farmers who do not own land, we speak of giving them land. Provision has been made for them to obtain loans from NABARD. Was such a provision made earlier? You too will have to find answers to these questions. So far as the deterioration of the health of agriculture is concerned, everyone is aware of it. Many of your own speakers have also mentioned what kind of fertiliser should be used, which pesticide should be applied, which elements are causing damage to the soil, and where seepage is rendering the land barren. I have myself been a member of the related Committee, and attention must be given to how that wasteland can be utilised. Today, many means such as solar energy are being adopted, but the intention to implement them must be there. Our perspective must be that the farmer himself does not know the true condition of his land’s health. But if such a provision is made, I believe that farming will take a step

forward towards becoming a profitable endeavour for the farmer. That is my considered view.

This Budget has spoken of Neeranchal and also of the Kisan Vikas Patra. Everyone speaks about banking, but I would like to state with full responsibility that whenever various schemes are launched, it is the educated people and traders who invest their money in them. In this Budget, the reference to the non-banking system is significant. Today, farmers do have money, they do have gold, but they do not know how to invest it. This truth must be accepted. I am the son of a farmer. We too had money, we too had gold, but we did not have the means of investment. Hon. Minister of Finance has opened that path, and for this I sincerely congratulate him. You must decide what exactly you want to achieve. What is the real problem of the villages? The problem is filth. To remove that filth, we have not run any mission. If we, as leaders, merely say that the Government will do everything, then forgive me, the entire work of the country cannot be done by the Government alone. What society has to do, society itself must be inspired to do. And such moral courage to say so will come only when you are truly upright in your own place.

I would like to urge regarding the matter of the Public Provident Fund for senior citizens. The unclaimed amounts lying therein are

now proposed to be utilised for the welfare of the very same elderly persons. For this step, I thank the Hon. Minister.

I represent Bundelkhand, and this is the first time I have been elected from there. During the Chandela and Parmar periods, water management systems were established. Bundelkhand has faced scanty rainfall for centuries, yet they arranged for water. Later, disputes among feudal rulers blocked those sources, and today the region suffers from drought and poverty. In my constituency, there is a place called Bhimkund. Teams from the Discovery Channel had visited it. At a depth of 300 metres there is a water source, yet people are sitting thirsty. We must accept that no proper planning has been done there. Yesterday, Hon. Scindia ji was speaking. I do not wish to indulge in undue criticism, but I would only say this that your leaders are like that professor of Physics who once took his children on a tour. When the river was in spate, he measured the depth of the water at three different places, worked out the average height, compared it with the height of his children, and finding them taller than the average, he let them into the river. But all the children drowned. Later, he lamented saying: “Hisaab-kitaab jyon ka tyon, phir bhi kunba dooba kyon” (All the calculations were correct, yet why did the entire family drown?).

Sir, work cannot be done merely on paper; we must go to the ground and take real concerns into account.

Hon. Chairperson, yesterday I had raised the issue of Jammu and Kashmir in this very House. Our friends were saying that it too should be looked into, because we provide funds. The laws connected with Central social security schemes are in a pitiable state there. Unless a way of reviewing them is found, they will continue to misuse Article 370 to safeguard their own interests. But let it not become a noose around the necks of the labourers that would be far worse.

Yesterday, I had also mentioned that in Jammu and Kashmir a tax of Rs. 30,000 per year is levied on a mule. Under the Motor Vehicles Act, no State in the country charges so much even on a car as is charged there on a mule. Such mockery of the people should not be done.

In conclusion, I support this Budget, which is in the interest of the poor, the farmers and the villages, and I express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Finance.

[*]**SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU):** Hon. Chairperson, the Union Budget presented by our Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley, is a very good Budget. After many years, such a Budget has been presented which has paid attention to every sector and every section of society.

This is the only Budget in which none of the sector has been neglected. The Hon. Minister of Finance has kept the villages and the poor in mind and has also given relief to the farmers. Several important schemes have been included such as Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao, linking of rivers, and the establishment of IITs and IIMs in the field of education.

For the first time, the Hon. Minister of Finance has given such importance to Jammu and Kashmir. I thank him for announcing an IIT for the students of Jammu, Rs. 200 crores for sports and stadiums for the people of Jammu, Rs. 50 crores to promote the Pashmina sector, and Rs. 500 crores for the rehabilitation of Kashmiri Pandits.

I would also like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance to certainly do something for those who have been fighting for their rights for the last 67 years. I refer to the West Pakistani refugees who

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

have not yet been granted permanent citizenship, and who are denied the right to vote in Assembly and Panchayat elections. Their children are not eligible for even fourth-class jobs. In addition, nearly 12 lakh refugees from Pakistan-occupied Jammu and Kashmir are still struggling for their rights. They had to leave behind their homes, land and property in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. The Government of Jammu and Kashmir had assured them that they would soon be rehabilitated. However, till today, they have not been given land and other rights as promised. Even today, they do not enjoy ownership rights over land.

Hon. Chairperson, I request that a Refugee Development Board be constituted for them and that they be granted relief under a one-time settlement. Along the border areas, many people have their houses and lands beyond the barbed wire fence. For the last ten years, they have neither been given compensation for their land, nor permitted to go to their houses, nor allowed to cultivate their fields. I urge that a special package be announced for them. Necessary steps should also be taken to promote tourism in Jammu. Along with this, a package should be announced to encourage small-scale industries in Jammu and Kashmir. The condition of roads in Jammu and Kashmir is also not good, and funds should be provided for their improvement.

In conclusion, I support the General Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance.

[English]

*__SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAUR):__ I would like to greet, congratulate and thank our Hon'ble Prime Minister and Hon'ble Minister of Finance for giving the populous, public welfare oriented, developing & visionary Budget to the Nation. Whatever our Hon'ble Prime Minister promised to the people has been reflected in this budget. All sects of the people and from children to senior citizens have been benefited by this budget. Due attention and importance was given to National Security. A policy of one rank one pension has been adopted by the Government to address the pension.

As we all know, more than 70% of the population of this country is engaged directly and indirectly in Agriculture. Our Minister of Finance has been very liberal while allocating the funds for the benefit of farmers and agriculturists. The farmers will get soil health cards in a mission mode. Government has made the provision of opening the Agricultural Research Institution of excellence two Central Agriculture Universities and two central Veterinary Universities will help in the research sector and give more input in the agriculture sector. Enough provision has been made for Agriculture credit.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Even after 67 years of Independence, we could not bring more than 50% of the total agricultural land under irrigation. Our Government is more worried about Rs.1000 crore provided for "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana" for assured irrigation.

Our Govt. is more concerned about Rural Development. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Urban Mission for integrated projects is based on infrastructure in the rural areas.

Rs.500 crore are provided for "Deen Dayal Gram Jyoti Yojna" for feeder separation to augment power supply to the rural areas. For strengthening PMGSY, the Minister of Finance has made the provision of Rs.14389 crore.

Allocation for National Housing Bank has been increased to Rs. 8000 crore to support Rural Housing. New programme 'Neeranchal' will give impetus to watershed development in the country with an initial outlay of Rs. 2142 crores.

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance has taken proper care of the schemes which are for S.C. & S.T. population. For the welfare of the tribals, "Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojna" has been launched with the initial allocation of Rs. 100 crore.

Lot of new provisions are made for drinking water and sanitation, women and child development programmes.

Personal Income Tax exemption limit has been raised by Rs. 50,000 that is from Rs.2 lakh to Rs.2.5 lakh in the case of individual taxpayers, below the age of 60 years. Exemption limit has been raised from Rs. 2.5 lakh to Rs. 3 lakh in the case of senior citizens. Investment limit under section 80G of the Income Tax Act has been raised from Rs.1 lakh to 1.5 lakh. The Minister of Finance has given a great relief to the crores of the people of the Nation. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance has announced a lot of good schemes for development for business and trade.

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance has made good provision for the rehabilitations of Kashmiri migrants and for sport and youth affairs.

Beti Bachao and Beti Padhao will prove great help for the overall development of the girls. The Hon'ble Minister of Finance has given due consideration to the programmes related to child and women development and also health sector. Similarly, power, energy and renewable energy were also given due importance.

This budget of 2014-15 will very well look after the interest of tourists, North-East States, Telangana & Andhra Pradesh, Science & Technology, education & Higher education.

We are thankful to the Minister of Finance for giving such a public welfare oriented and populous budget which will take care of everyone in the Nation. I welcome the budget.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA (SITAMARHI): Hon. Chairperson, I express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the discussion on the General Budget 2014-15. I am speaking on this Budget on behalf of my party, the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party.

At the very outset of his speech, the Hon. Minister of Finance mentioned that the people of India have voted for change. Keeping that in view, the Hon. Minister of Finance has prepared this Budget. For this, I commend him.

The Budget is generally regarded as a statement of income and expenditure. But in my view, the Budget secures the present and shapes the future. It provides solutions to present problems and realises the dreams of the future. That, indeed, is the true test of a Budget. The fiscal deficit has become a matter of crisis for the economy of the country. The previous Government was concerned with this issue, and the present Government too has taken it as the foremost challenge. The former Minister of Finance had adopted the path of reducing Government expenditure to bring down this fiscal deficit. In 2011-12, the fiscal deficit was 5.7 percent of GDP, which came down to 4.8 percent in 2012-13 and further reduced to 4.5

percent in 2013-14. For the current year, the target has been set at 4.1 percent. I do not consider it a major challenge to reduce the fiscal deficit in the current year. The former Minister of Finance adopted the method of expenditure cuts to bring down the deficit, which has also been accepted by the present Minister of Finance. However, the cuts made by the former Minister of Finance cannot be termed as justified. What was really needed was a reduction in non-plan expenditure, but instead, they tried to reduce the fiscal deficit by cutting plan expenditure. In the Budget of 2013-14, the plan expenditure was fixed at Rs. 5,55,322 crores, but it was reduced to Rs. 4,75,532 crores, which was an unfortunate step. I am pleased that in the Budget of 2014-15, the Hon. Minister of Finance has again provided Rs. 5,55,000 crores. My suggestion is that the Government should bring about a reduction in non-developmental expenditure, the largest component of which is interest payments. To achieve this, the burden of increasing debt on the country must be reduced. In 2012-13, the expenditure on interest was Rs. 3,13,170 crores, which became Rs. 3,80,066 crores in 2013-14, and in the current year 2014-15 it will be Rs. 4,27,011 crores. Only by reducing such unproductive expenditure can we accelerate the pace of development of the country. In today's changing environment, the Government must allocate income and

expenditure on the basis of priorities. As I have said earlier, our expenditure should be such that it addresses present problems and also realises the golden dreams of the future. The advancement of agriculture is essential for overall development. It is unfortunate that agriculture has been neglected till today. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Chairperson, I am about to conclude. Sir, if I do not seek time from you, then from whom should I seek it? If you do not grant me time, then who will? The result of such neglect is that agriculture's share in the GDP has come down to merely 12 percent. Farming has become an unprofitable occupation, forcing thousands of farmers to commit suicide. In our country, 80 percent of the farmers are small and marginal, producing only enough foodgrain for one year's consumption. The policy of merely raising the Minimum Support Price has not benefitted them. It is therefore essential to change this policy. Along with increasing the support price, concrete steps must be taken to reduce the cost of production. Only then will farming become profitable, farmers prosperous, and the nation prosperous as well. After the Eighth Five-Year Plan, under the policy of economic liberalisation, encouragement was given to privatisation, and it was observed that even sectors of a purely social and service nature were turned into profit-making industries.

I refer here to health and education. Both these sectors have grown as industries, and today they have become so expensive that not only the poor, even the middle class, has been pushed out of their reach.

Due to the high cost of medical treatment, nearly four crore people fall below the poverty line every year. I urge the Hon. Minister of Finance to bring reforms in this regard. Giving attention to both health and education, I would suggest that keeping a person healthy is the need of today, and sending a child to school is the need of tomorrow. At the national level, families in rural areas are forced to spend about 7 percent of their income on healthcare. Between 2000 and 2012, medical expenses have increased by 205 percent. Similarly, in the field of education, the increase has been nearly 390 percent. Therefore, I repeat, keeping people healthy is the need of today, and sending children to school is the need of tomorrow.

My request is that the Government should immediately put a check on the trend of industrialisation in these sectors, and increase public expenditure in both health and education, so that the common man may get relief from the high costs of private hospitals and private schools and colleges, and be given equal opportunities for development. This Budget has placed considerable emphasis on basic facilities such as roads, housing, sanitation and electricity. Therefore,

I commend the efforts of Hon. Narendra Modi and the Hon. Minister of Finance. On my own behalf, and on behalf of my party, the Rashtriya Lok Samata Party, I extend support to this Budget.

SHRI BRIJBHUSHAN SHARAN SINGH (KAISERGANJ): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget. This is the fifth Budget that I have had the opportunity to listen to in the House. I am not speaking in praise of anyone, but from huts to palaces, and from villages to cities, in my twenty-twenty five years of political life, if there has been the least criticism of any Budget, it is this Budget. Yet, our Hon. Members in the Opposition find it hard to believe how the Government will fulfil the promises made in the Budget, or how the pledges presented to the nation through the manifesto will be implemented. I would like to inform the Opposition that the poet Dinkar wrote a poem:

> "Hai kaun kaam aisa jag mein, tik sake aadmi ke mag mein,
> Tham thok thelta hai jab nar, parvat ke jaate paon ukhad
>
> aur maanav jab zor lagata hai, patthar paani ban jaata hai."

Nothing in the world is impossible. You have developed a habit of expressing doubt. You ought to have faith. Did you ever believe that you were going to leave? ... *(Interruption)*

When political discussions took place in our country, and those who predict the future of politics used to say that there was little likelihood of any single party coming to power in India, the people of this country, the poor of this country, I say from huts to palaces, placed

their faith in our Prime Minister and the Bharatiya Janata Party, entrusting you with that responsibility and sending the BJP to power. Therefore, there is no need for you to be unduly worried. Our country does not lack funds, the deficiency lies in management. I do not wish to take much time. Our friends said that We have handed down to you a great deal as a legacy, and it is those very figures that you are now presenting. I admit that some good has indeed been handed down as a legacy, and some bad as well. In my district, there was a poet, Shri Pawar Sahab, who, some 20-25 years ago, wrote a poem:

> "Dhara bech denge, gagan bech denge, kali bech denge,
> suman bech denge aur kalam ke pujari agar so gaye to vatan ke pujari vatan bech denge."

> (They will sell the earth, they will sell the sky, they will sell the buds, they will sell the flowers and if the custodians of the pen fall asleep, the custodians of the homeland will sell the homeland.)

What is it that you did not sell? You have handed down many things to us as a legacy. You indulged in so many scams that neither you remember them, nor we remember them, nor does the people of this country remember them. But I would like to state that the problem is not the shortage of money, rather it is the lack of management. Our Hon. Minister of Finance is connected with sports. I would like to refer to the Commonwealth Games. When in 2003 the IO placed the bid, our Budget was Rs. 1,200 crores. But you did not complete the work on time. You did not pay attention, and instead of Rs. 1,200 crores, we have spent upto Rs. 70,000 crores, it did not stop at the Commonwealth Games. If the entire account is added, it will exceed Rs. 1 lakh crores. I would like to give a small example from my district. There is a Saryu Canal Irrigation Project which was started in 1974. It was a scheme of Rs. 299 crores. By now it should have been completed, but even after spending Rs. 12,000 crores, the project has reached only 40 percent. Attention needs to be given to such schemes where the money of the Union Government has already been spent, yet they remain incomplete.

Hon. Chairperson, this Government has not even completed two months, and you have already started demanding an account. I always observe that discussions are held on inflation, on potatoes, onions,

oilseeds and pulses. Only on the prices of those items which the farmers produce are discussions held. But I have never heard with my own ears any discussion on the things produced in factories. I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance that after the Budget, there should be a discussion on these as well. Why is there no discussion on fees, books and medicines? Why is there no discussion on fertilisers? When I went to my constituency, I heard a child singing a song –

Ka hamra dinwa bahuri hai ki naahin,

ka hamra dinwa bahuri hai ki naahin,

baans ki jhopadiya mahliya se poochhe

ki ka hamra dinwa bahuri hai ki naahin,

din bhar khetwa mein halwa chalavein,

shaam ko pet bhar rotiyaan na pavein,

dahiyaan ki peeda dhananawa se poochhe,

petwa ki bhookh mahajanawa se poochhe,

tohari tijori kabo bhari hai ki naahin,

tohari tijori kabo bhari hai ki naahin.

Today there is a need for review. The manner in which people are living in the villages today has been reflected upon by you in your speech, and also by Shri Prahlad Patel ji in his speech. People used to say that no party would ever come to power on its own. They used to say that the Bharatiya Janata Party would never, in its lifetime, come to power on its own. But it is these very villagers, these very poor people living in huts, who reposed their faith in the Bharatiya Janata Party, and as a result today there is a Government with full majority. The impossible has been made possible.

Hon. Chairperson, Hon. Members from the Congress boast greatly about MGNREGA. I admit that the intention was right. But I would like to say to the Hon. Minister of Finance that not only MGNREGA, but all the Centrally-sponsored schemes being given to the States, will remain ineffective if proper arrangements for monitoring are not put in place. I urge you to develop a Monitoring Committee or some suitable mechanism. Unless special attention is given to Centrally-sponsored schemes and the system is improved, no scheme can ever succeed.

Sir, I would now like to speak about the Prime Minister's Rural Electrification Scheme. Big contracts were given to large companies. I am not casting any aspersions. In this Government, I myself lodged

complaints regarding the poor execution of works in two or three districts. I was not satisfied with the replies I received, because they were contrary to the facts. Where the work was extremely poor and BPL families were supposed to be given connections, the work was not done. When I lodged a complaint, the reply came in writing that the Hon. Member is in the habit of making complaints. I would like to say that the works carried out under the Prime Minister's Electrification Scheme were so poorly executed that they exist only on paper. Broken poles and defective poles were erected, which have remained merely as showpieces. I say this with full respect that nobody has any doubt about your sincerity. They may doubt you, but the people of this country do not. The people of this country know well that Hon. Modi ji does not possess a magic wand. But they have faith in him, and he shall work with that faith. If you wish to demand an account of two months from us, then we also wish to demand an account of 47 years from you.

Hon. Chairperson, in conclusion, I would like to say that the present state of the nation has been aptly expressed by someone in these lines - "Dard kaun lega yeh bataya jaaye, log sab chale gaye bazaar uthaya jaaye, Akele gunaah mera nahin hai sahab, adaalat mein roshni ko bhi bulaya jaaye." (Who will bear the pain, let it be decided;

all have departed, leaving the marketplace empty. Sir, the fault is not mine alone; even the light itself must be summoned before the court.) This is what the darkness said. You have ruled for fifty years. Therefore, I would like to tell the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance that the people of this country stand firmly with you. Whatever schemes you bring, you should implement them. Only ensure that the monitoring mechanism is strong. Otherwise, just as their schemes remained ineffective, we too may not face the same fate.

[English]

***ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR (SOUTH GOA):** I support the General Budget -2014 presented by the Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley Ji. The budget was presented with hardly 45 days in the office and is a landmark, growth oriented budget with focus on fiscal consolidation with the aim to put the economy back on track. The budget has prepared a road map for economic growth by addressing the concerns of all the sections of society.

The Minister of Finance needs accolades for considering the development of all the sectors viz. Youth, Women, Poor, Middle Class, Agriculturist, Manufacturers, Investors, Banking, Infrastructure, Education and Job Creation. In true sense, the budget is a step towards fulfilling the expectations of the people that they have from the present Government under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji.

Farming is a measured activity and a measured portion of the population is dependent on agriculture for their livelihood. I congratulate the Minister of Finance for his proposal to set up an 'Agri-tech Infrastructure Fund' for development of technology and

* Speech was laid on the Table.

modernization of agriculture. The soil health card to every farmer would go a long way in supporting the farmer in taking up the agricultural activity in a more professional way by balancing the use of fertilizers and the productivity from the soil.

This year, we are witness to the shortage of rainfall. The climatic changes are bound to happen but the same has its toll on the agricultural activity. Keeping this in mind, the proposal to establish the National Adaptation Fund for climate change is appreciated. I would also thank the Minister of Finance for linking MGNREGA to agriculture and allied activities. The initiation of the scheme such as 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana' and 'Kissan Vikas Patra' will help the farming community with assured irrigation and savings.

Present day world is knowledge based and information sharing. In order to make agriculturist more informative about the new farming techniques, agri-business, farming methods etc. the proposal to launch Kissan TV is appreciable and requires a special mention.

'Nari Samman' is inherent in Indian culture. Some recent incidents have put us in shame when we hear about the atrocities on women and/or apathy towards the girl child. In the background of this, the proposal to launch 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Yojana' is an appreciable welfare measure meant for women.

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance through the budget has shown the commitment of the Government for the welfare of Scheduled Caste and Schedule Tribes. He congratulated the Minister of Finance for allocating Rs.100 crore for launching 'Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana' for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes.

I also thank the Minister of Finance for the proposal to set up IIT and also a proposal to develop a world class convention center in Goa.

In football, Goa has produced players of International repute. The State Government has established the Goa Football Development Council. I would request the Minister of Finance to support the said Goa Football Development Council and other sports related initiatives by the State Government.

Around 20% of Goa's Gross State Domestic Product came from the mining sector. Upon the ban on mining by the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the economy of Goa has been severely affected and the State has lost an annual revenue of Rs.1500 crore. More than one lakh lost their livelihood due to closure of the mines. The Union Government had earned in the past 7 to 8 years a sum of Rs.30,000 to Rs.40,000 crore from the export tax and the income tax. To make the situation worse, the Government of Goa has urged the Union Government to sanction Rs.3000 crore as central assistance to rehabilitate the mining

affected people. I also urge upon the Minister of Finance to sanction Rs.3000 crore as financial assistance to Goa for rehabilitation of the mining affected people.

*__SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE (NASHIK):__ It is to bring to your notice that on the very first day I was the first MP to wish Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance respected Shri Arun Jaitley Saheb when he took charge as a Union Minister and requested him a very bright future ahead to serve our country and requested him to sanction maximum funds for the Kumbha Mela taking place in Nashik of Maharashtra state to get the work done within the time frame with good quality.

I request Hon. Minister for Finance to include the requested amount by DPCC and the district collector Nashik as Kumbh Mela 2015 will take place in the month of July, this Utsav (festival) is of the whole country and lakhs of pilgrims are coming for the same. You are well aware of Kumbh and it is of immense importance in our religion.

Also, I had requested the Hon'ble Minister for Culture, Shri Shripad Naik to make the Swatantryaveer Savarkar Memorial in Bhagur Distt., Nashik as National Memorial on the grounds of Sardar Patel's Memorial. As both the freedom fighters have equally contributed for the independence of our country. I will request the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Hon'ble Minister of Finance to allot the financial assistance to the said memorial.

With this spirit, I am sure that you will ask the Hon'ble Union Minister for Finance to make appropriate arrangements in the general budget to enable various agencies to complete their work within a time frame with good quality for the kumbh. Also it is requested to allot the funds in the budget for Swatantryaveer Savarkar Memorial in Bhagur.

[*]**SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD):** I would like to express my views on the General Budget for the year 2014-15.

This BJP Govt. came to power with a big majority. It is the people who had given their verdict in favor of them with a thought that this Govt. will control the price rise as committed during their campaign. But the first step taken by the Govt. itself is to raise prices. The prices of petrol have risen 1.69 - 1.70 paise and diesel 50 paise per liter. Subsequently the subsidy of kerosene has been reduced. The prices of milk, sugar and vegetables have gone high. There is a fare hike of the Railway which also stimulates the price rise. Passenger charge has gone 14.5% and parcel charges by 5%. These decisions have contributed to the abnormal price rise of almost all the essential commodities.

The general price rise has gone to 6.02%. The prices of food items have gone to 9.8%, vegetable 8.6%, milk and other items 20%. So prices of almost all the essential items have gone up. This is the reward and award of Modi Govt. The Govt. has decided to allow FDI in strategic sectors also. The FDI in defense was 26% earlier, now it is 49%. In the communication sector it is 49% and in Railways also they

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

have decided to introduce FDI. This is really the extension of the policy of early Govt.

This Govt. came to power at the cost of price rise and corruption as the earlier Govt. failed to control the price rise. But there is no substantial change with regard to the policy decisions of Modi Govt.

The reports are coming with regard to the serious situation in agriculture. There was a report of the Swaminathan Commission to give interest-free loans to farmers. But the Govt. is silent on this issue.

There is reference to modification of MGNREGA. But the actual action plan is not here. The name of the scheme itself specifies the name of Mahatma Gandhi. How can they replace the name of Father of the Nation with some other scholars?

In this budget also, Kerala is completely neglected. The three pillars of the economy of Kerala are; (i) Agriculture and Commerce (2) NRIs, and (3) traditional industries. Due to the import policy of the Govt., farmers in Kerala, especially rubber farmers are facing a serious crisis. The price of rubber for 1 kg. was 235 rupees last year and it also declined to 130 rupees this year. It is due to the import policy of rubber. There is a loss of 100 rupees per kg. The new Govt. is taking the same steps of the earlier Govt.

The economy of Kerala is dependent upon the traditional industries to a great extent-Coir, Cashew, Handloom, Beedi etc. No special package has been given to the State.

Crores and crores of rupees are given by the NRIs and the Govt. of India receives a better foreign exchange. But no rehabilitation scheme or welfare scheme is given to NRIs. We have a painful experience of Iraq.

I appreciate the IITs sanctioned to the States, but Kerala is not included in the list of AIIMS status States. Govt. has given financial assistance and opened excellent centers of handloom in various States. Kerala is the land of handloom and Kerala is neglected.

Govt. is following a regressive structure where ordinary people have to bear the burden. It is evident in the imposition of new taxes in the various sectors. The reduction of custom duty in electronic goods would reduce the prices of electronic goods. It would give some relief to this sector. We have been asking for special financial assistance for Endosulfan victims in the State of Kerala especially in Kasaragod. The Govt. of Kerala has requested for the financial assistance of Rs. 475 crores or the relief of Endosulfan victims to the earlier Government but no assistance was given.

In the last budget, the tax foregone was 5,66,000 crores. It is really a tax exemption to the rich people and big business also. Last year it was 5,26,000 crore. All these figures are higher than the budget deficit of this period. This Govt. also gives such exemptions to the rich people.

Food Security is the major concern of any Govt. PDS is the strong instrument to control the price rise. When food security measures are implemented nothing is said about this which is very crucial.

Govt. speaks about the Gujarat model. But in many States like Kerala, Tamil Nadu and some other States are enjoying better positions compared to Gujarat. The PDS system in Tamilnadu is a model. Literacy and other programmes are significant in Kerala. So what model the Govt. speak about? We need an Indian model.

The cooperative movement in Kerala is very strong. Some decisions taken by the Reserve Bank of India and also some decisions came through the amendment of Banking Amendment Act. There are difficulties for the functioning of the cooperative movement of the State. The Banking Amendment Act, the 80P, has given some exemptions to the agricultural cooperative societies of the Bank. Since they are dealing with the farmers of the rural area they are exempted from the implementation of the 80P. But the department insisted on

applying this clause 80P to the cooperative sector in Kerala and is restricted for the day today. Another problem that they face is from Income Tax Officers who rush to the cooperative banks and check their records. A person who deposits 5 lakh rupees, all the details has to be given to the Income Tax Department. But it is not applicable to a nationalized bank or the private banks. This would also adversely affect the functioning of the cooperative banks. So I request the Minister of Finance to take this issue into consideration.

This Govt. has come at the cost of collapse of UPA Govt. The main reasons were price rise and corruption. If the new Govt. takes the same path, the results and experiences of this Govt. would be the same. With these words, I strongly oppose this budget.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Budget. I warmly congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley, and the Union Government for presenting this year's Budget. As the youngest Member in the history of this House, great responsibility also lies upon our shoulders to speak about the youth. The Hon. Minister of Finance has shown seriousness with regard to education, employment and sports. If we talk about education, provision has been made for establishing five new IIMs and five new IITs. However, I would like to draw his attention to the fact that in our existing IITs and NITs, there is a shortage of nearly three hundred faculty staff, amounting to about 30 percent. On the one hand, we are talking about establishing new institutes, which the country certainly needs, but on the other hand, the older institutes also need improvement and upgradation.

In respect of education, it has been mentioned that teacher training programmes will be conducted and crores of rupees have been allocated for them. Our country is moving towards modernisation and progressing day by day. We see ourselves competing with developed countries. About 15 days ago, I had asked the Government whether it would introduce computer education in primary schools in the coming

years. The reply has now come, and the Government has clearly declined. Through the Hon. Minister of Finance, I would like to give hope to the nation that in the coming time, computer education will also be provided in the primary schools of this country, particularly in Government primary schools.

Hon. Chairperson, reference has been made to research. I thank the Government for announcing the establishment of a research institute in Faridabad and also a Horticulture University in Haryana. In Karnal, Haryana, there already exists a horticulture centre. I expect that the Government will either upgrade it into a university or develop the Horticulture Department of Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, as a university. This would not require much additional expenditure, as the existing facilities already created by the Government there only need to be strengthened. As regards research, the Government has provided Rs. 50 crores for livestock research. India today is the largest milk producer in the world. I hope that provision of not merely Rs. 50 crores but up to Rs. 200 crores should be made for the upgradation of dairy and other livestock such as sheep for wool. This would ensure that the researchers working here do not have to rely on foreign companies for investment or send patents abroad. The patents should remain within our country, so that

the wealth generated stays within India itself. As a youth, I must also raise the matter of sports. The Government has allocated Rs. 100 crores for the Asian Games. The Hon. Minister of Finance himself has been involved in sports federations, and I express my gratitude, because our sportspersons had long awaited such a measure. However, I submit that while Rs. 100 crores has been allocated for the Asian Games, an even greater responsibility lies ahead, when the entire world will be watching our players at the Olympics. For the 2016 Olympics, I believe that if our players begin their full preparation now, provision of at least Rs. 500 crores should be made for them. On the other hand, one deficiency is visible in the entire Budget. In our country, large sports infrastructure facilities have been created. But in the whole Budget, there is no provision for the upgradation of such infrastructure or for building stadiums in rural areas. I would appeal that when the Hon. Minister of Finance brings the Supplementary Demands, provision should be made for upgradation of the existing facilities, such as the large Giri Sports Complex in HAU, Hisar, which is in a dilapidated condition today. Similarly, other old sports institutes, which have produced many gold medallists for our country, should also be provided funds for their upgradation.

Coming to employment, the Hon. Minister of Finance has introduced several major schemes through the small scale and medium scale industries. For this, I thank him.

When I was one year old, in this very House, Chaudhary Devi Lal Ji had remarked that India still lives in its villages. Today, I reiterate the same point, the nation must once again recognise that India still resides in its villages. We make provision of Rs. 760 crores for establishing one hundred new cities, yet an Hon. Member of Parliament is allocated merely Rs. 5 crores annually for the development of his or her Lok Sabha constituency. Therefore, my appeal to the Government of India and the Hon. Minister of Finance is that, by some alternative mechanism, additional funds should be provided to Members of Parliament for the development of our rural areas, so that these regions may truly progress. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, please conclude your remarks. Other Members also wish to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Hon. Chairperson, I come from an agricultural family. I am the son of a farmer. I would like to express my gratitude that the Government has spoken about introducing a new urea policy. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The next speaker is Hon. Shri Rajyavardhan Rathore.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Sir, I will conclude in one minute.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude quickly.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: The issue of the urea policy has been mentioned. I thank the Government for that. But there are even bigger problems which our farmers face today with regard to alternative fertilisers and seeds. My humble appeal is that a time-bound mechanism be fixed so that, at the time of the crop season, farmers do not have to suffer due to shortage of fertilisers and seeds. I also wish to thank the Government for making available to the farmers the MGNREGA scheme which was earlier launched by the UPA Government. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Col. Shri Rajyavardhan Rathore Singh, now you may speak.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Sir, I am concluding. The Minister of Finance has said that this scheme will also be made

available to the farmers. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I will finish in one minute. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: How many times will you ask for one more minute? Please sit down now and let him speak. Rathore ji, you may speak.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Sir, at least allow me to conclude.

[*]SHRI BIRENDRA KUMAR CHOUDHARY (JHANJHARPUR): I beg to lay my speech on the Table of the House. I represent the Jhanjharpur Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar. I support this Budget, as it has taken into account the interests of farmers and the weaker sections of society. I would like to draw attention to certain problems of my constituency. Jhanjharpur falls in the basin of the Kosi and Kamla rivers. Every year, the people of this area face floods and droughts. To resolve this problem, it is essential to construct a dam on the Kosi and Kamla rivers. Such a dam would not only generate electricity but also provide irrigation facilities to farmers. Jhanjharpur is a very backward region and is sparsely connected by roads. Therefore, there is great need to build roads in this area. Particularly, National Highway 104, which runs from Sitamarhi district through Jayanagar, Ladania, and Laukaha-Laukahi, and connects with National Highway 57 at Narahia. National Highway 105, which runs from Darbhanga Zero Mile through Bhaya Rahika, and joins National Highway 10 at Jayanagar. Both of these roads are extremely important. I urge that, in the public interest, the construction of these two roads be expedited. At Rajnagar Raj Campus, the former Agriculture Minister had laid the foundation

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

stone of the Agriculture College. I request that the Government kindly announce the establishment of an Agriculture College at Rajnagar. The population of Madhubani district exceeds 50 lakh. A few years ago, Hon. Minister Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad laid the foundation stone of the Akashvani Centre at Ranti. I earnestly request that the Akashvani Centre also be established at Ranti.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE (JAIPUR RURAL): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak in this House. The Prime Minister has emphasised “Minimum Governance.” I would request that you do not impose a minimum time limit on me and kindly permit me some additional time to speak. This is my first speech in this House.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your point is valid, but we must conclude this debate within the allotted time.

COL. RAJYAVARDHAN RATHORE: Like a player salutes the field before the game, I salute our nation, Jaipur Rural, and this House.

Sir, the subject of discussion is the Budget. As time is limited, I shall come directly to the facts. The success of anything is often judged by who seeks to claim the credit. Since yesterday, a curious thing has happened in this House, even the Opposition has been claiming credit. The Opposition has been saying since yesterday that this Budget is prepared by them.

Sir, it is like, we took a four-wheeled vehicle, and when you also took a four-wheeled vehicle, we simply remarked, “See, you have copied us.” It is well known that strength does not lie in the tyres, but in the engine and our engine is equipped with a 56 inch dynamo, which runs on the energy and the strength of the youth of this nation.

Sir, this great nation cannot be subdued under the weight of circumstances. The Opposition's Prime Minister once said that money does not grow on trees. This nation cannot become a slave to circumstances. With firm resolve in challenging conditions, we shall shape the future of this country. The UPA had many opportunities, they cannot complain about the opportunities, only about circumstances. This is not a seven-month Budget. While some figures may reflect seven months, this Budget lays the foundation for India's destiny and future. In this Budget, there is something for every class of people for security, for the youth, for all. It is a Budget that inspires hope across the world and compels the world to look back at India with the same respect and expectation as it did many years ago.

For the armed forces, this Budget provides adequate allocations to strengthen both internal and external security. It also envisions the establishment of a National War Memorial, to honour the countless martyrs of our nation, who, regrettably, had not been commemorated with such a monument until now. It is indeed a matter of regret that this land of Mahatma Gandhi, known as a land of peace, has, however, become number one in an area where it ought not to have been number one. Today, India has become the largest importer of weapons in the world, importing nearly three times more than China and Pakistan. A

solution to this challenge has also been provided in this Budget. With the provision of 49 per cent FDI, the goal of self-reliance will be realised, while simultaneously generating employment for our youth. On the development plank, the Minister of Finance has allocated substantial resources for infrastructure development, for the energy sector, and for the creation of a dedicated fund for the employment of youth.

Sir, as regards sports, it is often said that sports unite hearts, but until now, we have not been able to use sports to unite our States in spirit. In this regard, the Minister of Finance has made a special allocation for Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East in the field of sports. This is indeed far-sighted, as through sports they shall become an integral part of our national team and bond with the rest of the nation. Furthermore, the provision of National Sports Academies has been made.

Hon. Chairperson, each State and each region has its own distinctive excellence. If the North-Eastern States excel in archery, boxing and football; Haryana excels in boxing and wrestling; Rajasthan in shooting, equestrian sports and athletics; Kerala in athletics and volleyball; Goa in football; and Bengal too in football. Taking into account these regional specialities, the establishment of

National Sports Academies in those areas shall not only elevate the standards of those sports but also enhance the level of the people engaged in them.

Sir, a very senior leader of the Opposition said that [English] 'Arun, welcome to the real world.' [Translation] You wanted to make India free from the Congress, yet you could not make even the Budget free from it. When I heard this, the thought of Mahatma Gandhi came to my mind. Whenever Gandhi ji received a letter, he would carefully remove the pin from it and keep it aside, saying that whatever is essential must be preserved. In the same way, from the policies of the past, we have retained what was necessary and right, and set aside the rest. This Budget has not been crafted with ease. It is often said that anyone can perform under favourable circumstances, but true greatness lies in performing under the most difficult conditions. The Minister of Finance has overcome both time and circumstance to present this Budget. [English] Not only that. I think, the Minister of Finance has been very mature and graceful in not being vindictive towards the Opposition. We have left behind the bitterness of the election campaign. This is India and in India, the Government changes, but the regime does not. The Constitution is supreme and this country belongs to all of us. This Budget belongs to all of us.

*__SHRI M.B. RAJESH (PALAKKAD)__: The Economic Survey presented just a day before the Budget 2014-15 has outlined major issues confronted by our economy. Some of those issues are inflation, slowdown in employment growth and declining manufacturing growth. However, this Budget has failed to address these major problems of the economy.

The emphasis of this Budget is on FDI, PPP and reduction of subsidies. The proposals to raise the current limit of 26% FDI in defense production and insurance sector to 49% is nothing but an attempt to appease foreign capital. The Government has relaxed FDI norms in real estate too.

The Minister of Finance claims that his Budget is just the beginning of a journey towards a sustained growth of 7-8% within the next 3-4 years. However, the Budget has done nothing to enhance domestic demand and control inflation to increase purchasing power of the masses. Without increasing the purchasing power of the masses growth cannot be revived, especially in the backdrop of slow recovery in the global economy. According to the Economic Survey 2013-14 the growth in private final consumption, which averaged 7.8 during

* Speech was laid on the Table

2003-4 to 2011-12 declined to 5% in 2012-13 and further to 4.8% in 2013-14. It is in this context that the advanced estimates for the last quarter of 2013-14 CSO which reflects a bleak picture of overall growth rate of 4.6% and negative growth in manufacturing becomes more important. Though there has been a steady decline in the ratio of investment to GDP since 2010-11 both in the Public and Private sectors. This Budget has failed to address the required increase in total plan expenditure in real terms. Total budgetary support for central plan and central assistance to States and UTs declined in real terms comparing Budget estimates. This is due to the Minister of Finance to keep the fiscal deficit in check. This reluctance to increase plan expenditure in the name of fiscal discipline will have adverse impact on growth revival plans.

As the country is facing the challenges of a weak monsoon this Government has in fact proposed a drastic cut in central plan outlay in agriculture and allied sectors, rural development, social services and women and child development. The Budget should have enhanced public investment in agriculture to revive the agricultural sector overcoming the threat caused by weak and delayed monsoon. When India is still in the medium human development category, and even when Sri Lanka has moved to the high human development

category there is no justification for not significantly stepping up investment in social sectors. It is all the more shocking that the share of SCs and STs in total plan expenditure is falling short by Rs. 47,000 crore and Rs. 14000 crores according to Planning Commission guidelines based on proportion of population. Another important thrust of this budget is to reduce the fiscal deficit by cutting subsidies. The budget proposes a drastic decline in subsidies to petroleum by Rs.22054 crore. This will cause further rise in the prices of essential commodities. The budget also envisages, though hidden, to eliminate diesel and LPG Subsidies in a phased manner. The Minister of Finance himself admitted that no immediate measures are proposed in the budget to control inflation. The budget is silent about banning speculative trade in commodities as a major step to check inflation. On the other the budget contains proposals such as reduction in fuel prices that will worsen inflation.

Accordingly to the Economic Survey during 2004-05 to 2011-12 employment growth was only 0.5%, compared to 2.8% during 1999-2000 to 2004-05. The budget makes no efforts to increase employment growth. The Budgetary approach is not to step up investment and raise domestic demand. But the attempt is to

incentivise the private sector through investment linked deductions. However, this has completely failed to raise investments in the past.

The targets of revenue generation fixed in the budgets are based on high expectations. However there is no significant increase in tax rates. Our experience in the last two years shows that revised estimates in revenues fell short of the budget estimate in case of a shortfall in revenues expenditures may be further squeezed.

The budget proposals on direct taxes lead to a revenue loss of Rs.22,200 crores while indirect tax proposals increase revenue by Rs.7525 crores. It is evident from this fact that the budget proposals while providing relief to richer sections impose more burden on common people.

The trend of huge tax concessions is continuing. It was 5.66 lakh crores in 2012-13 and it has further increased to Rs 5.72 lakh crores 2013-14. When the Government is talking much about subsidies and fiscal deficit the budget is totally silent about these huge concessions. There is no indication that these tax incentives will be done away with. Hence this budget has also taken the same neo-liberal route of the previous Government.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to make my observation on this Budget.

The first sentence of the Budget speech is as follows: "The people of India have decisively voted for a change."

In the President's Address as well as in the Budget speech, the slogan of Government has been narrated as 'minimum Government, maximum governance'. But time only will show what kind of changes you are going to make, what kind of reforms you are going to make and what type of governance you are going to introduce.

If you verify 30-40 days of our experience, with all humbleness, I wish to say that this Government has started to move in the wrong direction. The UPA Government stood for inclusive growth – growth of all sections of the society, marginalized sections and poor people. Poverty alleviation was on top of the agenda of the UPA Government. But as far as this Government is concerned, even in this Budget, it has forgotten the poor; its focus is only for 'haves' and not for 'have-nots'.

Coming to the health sector, para 53-57 is in respect of health and family welfare. The Government's approach is confined to only starting some institutions like IIM or some research institutions. That is well and good but I am sorry to state that you have forgotten to take

a holistic approach in the health sector of our country. How are we going to address the burning mal-nutrition issue in this country? How are we going to address the lack of health facilities in rural India? Unfortunately, the crux of all the problems has not been addressed in this Budget. In this context, I wish to make a very important suggestion. We all know that kidney disease is increasing in an alarming way in our country. A number of cases have been reported. Even in a small village you can see a dozen kidney patients. Even tests related to the functioning of the kidney are not available in the PHCs and community health centers. I urge upon the Government to formulate an exclusive National Health Programme to control kidney diseases. If you do that, that would be a noble thing which you can do for the health sector of this country.

Coming to the minorities, I represent the minority community and my organization is also mainly concentrating on minority matters. As far as this Budget is concerned, you have ignored the minorities as there are no new schemes or new projects for them. You have just given a peanuts kind of consideration. If you adopt this strategy, how are you going to bring a change in this country? Please do not think that you can write off the minorities of this country.

What is your priority? A big joint venture project, between the Gujarat Government and the Government of India, is coming up in Gujarat. You have given Rs.200 crore for Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel's statue. I am not questioning it. The Government of India and the Government of Gujarat can take that decision but while deciding the priority you must do justice. You must distribute the wealth of the nation in a judicious manner. This is my humble suggestion.

We can be proud of the fact that our country is the youngest county in the world. By 2020 India is said to become the youngest country in the world with 65 percent of the population in the working age group. But unfortunately in this Budget you have not shown a vision to use our manpower. China has conquered the world market in commerce, trade and manufacturing. India can go much ahead of China. Unfortunately, you have no vision about the proper planning of manpower requirements according to the world employment market. I would suggest that we must concentrate our efforts on that also.

The next point is with regard to education. Empowerment means what? Instrument of all empowerment is education and education alone. I think you have not taken the education sector seriously in this Budget. I would suggest you concentrate on all this. I may also request

you to not mix education with politics. You have recently been appointed the Chairman of ICHR. I do not want to say his name but all the historians, like Romila Thapar, Ramachandra Guha, Irfan Habib, say that he is not suitable to hold such a big post.

17.00 hrs.

His credibility and his qualification is only one that he is loyal to your Party. You can take a man of your loyalty. I am not questioning that but if you mix history and education with your political liking, it is not justifiable.

In the end, I would like to talk about your foreign policy. The day before yesterday, this House witnessed what? It witnessed a sorrowful scene. We were explaining about the Gaza incident. All the opposition party leaders were submitting about the pathetic condition prevailing in Gaza and its surrounding places. Unfortunately, you heard all those things but there was not even a single word of compassion from your side about brothers and sisters of Palestine who are being killed ruthlessly. You can have your political point of view, but India has a glorious tradition. You do not ruin this glorious tradition. This is my humble appeal to the Government.

With these few words, I conclude.

*__DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM):__ Our beloved Tamil Nadu Chief Minister AMMA welcomed the budget as " the Budget is a very responsible document that has placed fiscal prudence at the forefront and at the same time addressed the height and expectation from the new Government. To permit FDI has to be approached with caution".

My colleagues have already given many suggestions of the budget. I would like to table my views on some topics like agriculture, road infrastructure, fisherman, and internal security as these areas need immediate and effective initiatives. In our country, the majority of the people are engaged in agricultural activity. The Government has to take these steps to promote agricultural welfare which will increase agricultural production. Reduction in wastage of produce Credit support to farmers and Thrust to the Food Processing Sector.

Whereas the Government is taking many steps to establish a technological set up to be involved in the field of agriculture, there is a lack of sufficient quality of seed, soil, irrigation, failure of monsoon, unprecedented rain or drought. As for conversion of agricultural lands into commercial purposes there is an acute decline in agricultural production during this current decade.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

A scheme to provide every farmer a soil health card in a mission mode will be launched Rs. 100 crore has been provided for this purpose and additional Rs. 56 crore to set up 100 mobile soil testing laboratories across the country.

To meet the vagaries of climate change a 'National Adaptation Fund' with an initial sum of Rs. 100 crore will be set up. A sustainable growth of 4% in agriculture will be achieved.

Technology driven second green revolution with focus on higher productivity and including 'Protein Revolution' will be an area of major focus.

Sum of Rs. 50 crore has been provided for the development of indigenous cattle breeds and an equal amount for starting a blue revolution in inland fisheries.

Rs. 400 crores are provided for Solar Power – agricultural pump sets and water pumping stations.

Restructuring FCI – reducing transportation and distribution losses and efficiency of PDS to be taken up on priority. Govt. when required will undertake open market sales to keep prices under control.

To provide institutional finance to landless farmers. It is proposed to provide finance to 5 lakh Joint Farming groups of "Bhoomi Heen Kisan" through NABARD. A target of Rs.8 lakh crore has been set for agriculture during 2014-15. Allocation of Rs.5000 crore is provided for the wareHouse Infrastructure Fund.

For the benefit of farmers "Long Term Rural Credit Fund" to be set up for the purpose of providing refinance support to co-operative banks and Regional Rural Banks with an initial corpus of Rs.5000 crores and an amount of Rs. 50,000 crore allocated for short term Cooperative Rural Credit.

The Government has announced an investment of Rs.37,850 crores in NHAI and state roads are proposed which includes Rs.3000 crores for the North East. 8500 km will be achieved in the current year. Please allow the below said roads Immediately. NH-From TNJ to Nagappatnam; and NH-Vikrapandi to TNJ (Thangarma)

For internal security – a sum of Rs.150 crore has been ear-marked for the construction of Marine Police Station, Jetties and for the purchase of boats, etc.

Berth- of - Naval Ship Chennai at Karaikal Marg port till the construction of new jetty to protect the Tamil fisherman from Lankan

Naval Forces 100 days work may increase to 150 days and increase the daily wages from Rs. 150 per day.

MPLADS amount will be increased Rs. 10 crores from Rs. 5 crores Nationalize all the dams and rivers Link the perennial rivers to other rivers.

DR. KAMBHAMPATI HARI BABU (VISAKHAPATNAM): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Today, I stand to support the Budget presented by our Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitleyji. This Budget is a growth-driven Budget. This Budget gives a new hope to the people of this country. For the last 10 years, the country has been suffering from policy-paralysis. There were no decisions taken by the Government and no issues were being solved by the Government. The power situation has become worse because of the problems of the coal allocation. There is no power for the farmers, for the homes and for the industries. There were power holidays for three days in a week. So many industries were shut down and so many people lost their jobs. The country is in a disastrous situation with a lot of hope.

People decided to vote for the Bharatiya Janata Party under the leadership of Narendra Modiji with the fond hope that the country will progress under his leadership. The Budget presented by our Hon. Minister of Finance gave a lot of hope to the country in terms of infrastructure development, in terms of reviving the economy, in terms of containing fiscal deficit and in terms of reducing the current account deficit.

I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance to consider some more measures to give a fillip to our economy. The current account deficit mainly rises due to rise in imports rather than rise in exports. The import component should be reduced. In this context, the decision of the Government to blend ethanol into petroleum products can reduce the import of crude oil which would definitely help contain the current account deficit. Not only that, I would request the Government to consider giving tax concessions for the automobiles which will run on power and electricity rather than petrol and diesel. If you reduce that, then import of crude oil will be reduced and foreign exchange will be saved. Similarly, if you improve the power situation in the country, the industries and the other organizations which are compelled to use diesel generating sets to generate power will not do so and diesel will be saved. In turn, the country will be saved from imports of crude oil.

Therefore, if the power situation is improved in the country, then the problem of Current Account Deficit can be taken care of and similarly the import of crude oil can also be reduced if, instead of the automobiles running on diesel and petrol, they run on power and electricity. Therefore, I would like to request the Government to consider giving tax exemption to the automobile sector which

produces the e-vehicles which run on electricity rather than on petrol and diesel. These types of innovative measures will help the country to have a good economy. I hope, the Bharatiya Janata Party led NDA Government will definitely take new steps to revive the economy in the country and save the country from policy paralysis and take the country forward.

[Translation]

SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK (RAJMAHAL): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Through you, I would like to say that the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance is, in many ways, misleading and intended to create an illusion. The picture of the economy that has been portrayed suggests that the nation is being steered out of a complex and difficult situation. However, in doing so, both clarity of direction and sense of purpose are lacking.

17.07 hrs.

(Dr. M. Thambidurai *in the Chair*)

The rate of inflation remains high. Though the Wholesale Price Index for 2013-14 has been shown at a lower 5.98 percent, its impact is not visible in reduced prices. The Government continues to lament the need for strong measures, while simultaneously reducing subsidies on petroleum products, fertilisers, and food items. The burden of these cuts is falling disproportionately on women, who significantly contributed to the mandate that brought this Government to power, on young students who travel to other States for education, and on farmers.

While these sections of society bear the weight, the corporate sector has been extended subsidies worth Rs. 5.5 lakh crore. A new Urea Policy has been proposed. Through you, Sir, I urge the Government to ensure that the interests of farmers are duly safeguarded, and this matter must be discussed in detail. Your Party has always opposed the GST, yet, upon assuming power, the Government has moved rapidly towards its implementation.

Presently, more than Rs. 4 lakh crores are entangled in tax disputes and the Government speaks of tax administration reforms. There must be a time-bound plan to ensure its effective resolution. It appears that the Government views foreign capital and FDI as the panacea for every ailment and is relentlessly promoting it. But there must be a serious and open debate on where FDI is desirable and where it is not. Arbitrary decisions can prove disastrous. In sensitive sectors like defence and insurance, utmost caution is required. What we need is self-reliance and a careful consideration of alternative options.

To give momentum to the economy, public sector undertakings have been directed to arrange nearly Rs. 2.5 lakh crore this year. On the one hand, the Government is raising money by disinvesting their shares, and on the other, it is asking them to bear such a heavy burden.

The Government should make its intention clear as to whether there is any plan to wind up the public sector undertakings.

Our country is a nation of farmers. In this Budget, the farmers have been gravely neglected. The Government is talking of bringing amendments to the Land Acquisition Act. This Act had been enacted because of the opposition voiced by the farmers. If amendments are made now, it will crush the interests of the farmers. The country is facing a crisis of both drinking water and irrigation. Positive measures must be undertaken to resolve this issue.

There is no provision in this Budget specifically for the welfare of the tribals. I belong to Jharkhand, where tribals form a large part of the population, and I myself am a tribal. In this Budget, only Rs. 100 crore has been allocated, which is too meagre, not even a fraction of what is required. For the children of tribals, for the children of labourers, and for the children of those working in factories, proper arrangements for education and health must be made. Farmers must be enabled to sell their produce directly. They should have access to credit at concessional rates. There must also be a serious discussion on how their crops will effectively reach the markets.

With regard to the Ganga project, I would like to submit that in the Rajmahal constituency of Jharkhand lies the Sahibganj district,

through which the Ganga flows. Yet Jharkhand has not been included in the Ganga project. For the last ten years, there has been talk of constructing a bridge there, which would open a vast gateway of business opportunities for Bengal, Bihar, and Jharkhand. I would once again request that this matter should be given due attention.

I would like say a few words about a particular sport, one in which even Members from the Bharatiya Janata Party may be inclined to support me. In Jharkhand, football is played with great passion. While hockey has already produced many players from the State, football too must be promoted. If a football academy is established there, I can confidently say, indeed I can promise, that a national football team can emerge from Jharkhand.

With these words, I express my gratitude and conclude my speech.

[*]SHRI DILIP KUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMADNAGAR): The General Budget essentially signifies the allocation of funds for various schemes undertaken for the development of the nation, ensuring that every citizen has access to better opportunities in education, employment, housing and other such necessities. The objective is to provide all individuals with basic amenities that can enhance their quality of life. In addition, the Budget also proposes reforms in income tax laws and tax exemptions. What interests the common man most is the extent to which his tax burden will be reduced, so that his hard-earned income may remain with him. Keeping this aspiration in mind, the Hon. Minister of Finance has widened the scope of exemptions under various sections of the Income Tax Act in this Budget, enabling taxpayers to save more in these times of inflation.

Before analysing the Budget for the year 2014-15, it is necessary to understand the background in which it was presented. Prior to assuming office, the new Government had promised to bring “achhe din” (good days). This Budget constitutes a strong roadmap towards the fulfilment of that commitment. It gives primacy to fiscal prudence and economic growth.

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[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

This is a development-oriented Budget. Along with enhanced allocations for infrastructure and manufacturing, it also seeks to address financing bottlenecks in these sectors through measures such as the introduction of Real Estate Investment Trusts and relaxation in Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) and Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) for banks in relation to infrastructure financing. To encourage further investment in manufacturing, a provision has been made for an additional investment allowance of 15 per cent on new plant and machinery.

Through this Budget, the Government has also taken significant steps to promote savings. In recent years, there had been an excessive inclination towards investment in gold, which led to rising gold imports and a steep decline in the savings rate. The raising of the exemption limit under Section 80C of the Income Tax Act to Rs. 1.5 lakh will enable the salaried class, in particular, to save more on taxes. To encourage household savings, the annual investment ceiling in Public Provident Fund has been enhanced to Rs. 1.5 lakh, and the Kisan Vikas Patra has been reintroduced. These measures will provide relief to the economy on multiple fronts, help counter economic sluggishness, and instil among people the habit of saving, which will benefit them greatly in the long run.

In regions where banking services are not easily accessible, the Kisan Vikas Patra (KVP) had been very popular, as a large number of people still look for such options where their money could be doubled within a fixed period. In areas where banking, mutual funds, and share market investment facilities are not available, the attraction of having their money “doubled” is particularly strong.

The Budget has proposed to relaunch the National Savings Certificate (NSC) through post offices with insurance cover so that small savers may get added security. In addition, a special small savings scheme has been announced to meet the needs of girls education and marriage. Evidently, these new products will also be marketed through post offices to benefit rural people. With the increase in the PPF investment limit, the revival of the Kisan Vikas Patra, and the added features in NSC, the role of post offices will expand, offering better saving options to people in areas where banking services are yet to reach.

On the whole, taxpayers have received some relief in taxation, but it is important that such savings be invested wisely so that they contribute to achieving long-term financial goals.

In this Budget, the Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley, has proposed to raise the foreign investment cap in the life insurance

sector from 26 per cent to 49 per cent. The insurance companies had also been pressing this demand for a long time. Though the policyholders may not derive immediate benefit from it, in the years to come the measure will certainly have a positive impact on the insurance sector. With the Minister of Finance raising the FDI cap in insurance to 49 percent in the General Budget, the sector will now be able to attract substantial foreign direct investment.

Thus, the insurance companies will receive substantial capital investment, enabling them to extend better facilities to their customers, while also expanding their reach to the remotest areas.

There are clear indications that the tourism sector will witness renewed vibrancy. For the first time, several major announcements have been made in the General Budget for this sector. As a result, the number of tourists is expected to rise by 30 to 40 per cent, creating nearly five crore new employment opportunities. To facilitate foreign visitors, an e-visa service will be introduced at nine airports across the country within the next six months. According to the World Travel and Tourism Council's report, this sector had generated 3.5 crore jobs last year. The Government has announced the creation of five theme-based tourist circuits with an allocation of Rs. 500 crore, each equipped with world-class facilities to attract international tourists.

For the preservation and development of heritage cities, the National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Scheme will be launched with an outlay of Rs. 200 crore. Additionally, a provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made in the Budget for the conservation of sites of archaeological importance.

The Government will also frame a new policy on urea. The Hon. Minister of Finance has stated that a fresh policy will be brought forward, as concerns have been raised regarding the imbalance in the use of different kinds of fertilisers, which has been causing degradation of soil.

In this year's Budget, the Government has proposed an allocation of Rs. 7,060 crore to build 100 smart cities across the country. Under the Backward Regions Grant Fund (BRGF), backward towns have been selected, but I would suggest a change in the guidelines. Instead of only towns, one village should be selected from every Panchayat Samiti which usually covers 10-12 villages. In these chosen villages, schemes such as the Indira Awaas Yojana, check-dam construction, drinking water projects, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, electrification, and the Nirmal Gram Yojana should be implemented in a phased manner. Development targets should be fixed keeping the next 25 years in view. Villages that have not yet benefitted from

Central or State schemes should receive BRGF allocations so that the funds are put to proper use. This would boost rural productivity, reduce migration to cities, and encourage people to remain in villages. It would also ensure that at least half the villages in every district gain from the Government's Model Village initiative, while building public confidence in the Government. At present, a village of 2,000 people gets only Rs. 1 to 1.5 lakh under BRGF which works out to barely Rs. 1.60 per person. This is clearly inadequate, and so the intended purpose is not met. For example, my district of Ahmadnagar received nearly Rs. 150 crore under BRGF in the last five years, but there has been hardly any development. Presenting the 2014-15 General Budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley, stated that the Hon. Prime Minister's vision is to establish 100 smart cities, as satellite towns of big cities and by modernising mid-sized towns. The successful example of Hiware Bazar village, developed by Shri Popatrao Pawar, shows what is possible, and such a model should be spread to villages all over India.

The Budget also focuses on reviving the industrial sector to speed up economic growth, which will in turn have a positive effect on the stock market.

Under the Government's motto of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas," the Hon. Minister of Finance has paid attention to several sectors. The allocation of Rs. 100 crore to each of 28 schemes is a clear indication of inclusive development. The Government has also taken a number of steps in the right direction to strengthen Central tax administration.

This Budget, in my view, will be a milestone in transforming the Indian economy. As the Hon. Minister of Finance rightly said after presenting it, this is not the end of the journey but only the beginning. With these words, I extend my full support to this balanced Budget.

[English]

*__SHRI P.R. SENTHILNATHAN (SIVAGANGA):__ I pay rich encomiums to our leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for enabling me to be elected from Sivaganga Lok Sabha Constituency to represent the people in this temple of democracy.

I also thank the people of my constituency for electing me to this august House as the choice of our leader.

Let me bow before the Mother Goddess of Tamil and let me quote the universal didactic code of the Tamils, Thirukkural.

Muraiseidhu kappan Mannavan Makkatku

Irai endru vaikkappadum

A ruler who ensures equitable justice, rendering protection to all his citizens will be treated like a Deity is the meaning of that verse.

Our Hon. Amma has provided the people of Tamil Nadu with an administration that provides food at an affordable cost through Amma Unavagam, extending needed medicines through Amma Pharmacy, providing iodine-rich salt through Amma Salt, offering purified drinking water to drench the parched throats as Amma Mineral Water and offering educational opportunities to all the people as per their

* Speech was laid on the Table.

need and requirement. Hence, she is treated as a Deity by the people of Tamil Nadu. I would like to point out here that she has appreciated this year's Union Budget.

I would also like to point out that she has extended many of these welfare measures to the needy public by way of establishing production and manufacturing units in the public sector, thereby protecting people from the monopolistic profit-minded private capitalistic industrialists.

In this Budget, that has been welcomed by our Hon. Chief Minister Amma, we find salient features like Smart City, Construction of Outer Port at Tuticorin, apportioning of more than 37 crore for National Highways Authority of India and increased allocation for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the announcement regarding the creation of another AIIMS like medical institutes in all the States of India in the next five years.

Tax has been levied only on luxury items like cigarettes and paan masala which are harmful to health. It was indicated by our Hon. Amma also said that it will have a double benefit of earning revenue for the Government while shunning people away from such intoxicants that are harmful to individual health.

I heartily welcome, as welcomed by our leader, the announcement regarding a major study to be conducted to link all the major rivers of India to overcome the problem of wasteful flow of rivers into the seas.

Mega Solar Power Projects are to be taken up in a big way through the proposals spelt out in this Budget. I urge the Union Government to set up the pilot projects and initiate one in Tamil Nadu to help accomplish the desire of our Government to make Tamil Nadu a power-surplus State.

Our Hon. Prime Minister has stated that he is open to taking the suggestions and proposals from the Governments of various States in India and he is prepared to take popular schemes from the States as a model for implementation at a national level. Significantly, the Union Government has appreciated the rain water conservation programme that was implemented successfully in Tamil Nadu.

Good governance is in implementing schemes that may be to the liking of the citizens without burdening the people of their expenditure. A Government with a knack may have to create resources in various innovative ways. In Tamil Nadu, free rice, laptop for students, distribution of mixies and grinders, distribution of mulching cows and sheep and goats and providing of green houses for the poor have been ensured by the Government of Tamil Nadu as an

ambitious project at a cost of about Rs. 27000 crores. Our able Chief Minister, Hon. Amma has deftly handled the financial situation in Tamil Nadu to see that the funds are made available for her popular pet projects stated above.

In Tamil Nadu as a model to all the States of India, financial resources mobilization is being carried out in a humane and a scientific way. For instance, it used to be the private players taking in auction from the Public Sector units products that can be sold at cheaper rates. In order to make profits, they used to have their own prices fixed with a profit motive. Our leader has ensured that such things need not go to the private players but benefit the common people who cannot afford. That is why we have Amma Water, Amma Pharmacy etc. operated by the State Government itself so that the profit goes to the people while ensuring revenue to the coffers of the Government.

I urge upon the Union Government that the model revenue practice of the Government of Tamil Nadu may be adopted by the Union Government as stated by our open minded Prime Minister. In the years 2001 and 2011, when our leader, Hon. Amma took over the Government in Tamil Nadu, she was left with an empty treasury. But

on both occasions, she overcame the challenge with her efficient handling of financial management.

As a precursor to the linking of national rivers, our Chief Minister Amma has apportioned Rs. 100 crore to go in for linking certain rivers in Tamil Nadu to ensure enough water both for irrigation and drinking water purposes.

I wish the Union Government could go in for linking all the major perennial rivers of the country within their tenure for five years. I eagerly look forward to the achievement of this Government to link river Ganges with Cauvery.

In Tamil Nadu, we have 39202 irrigation tanks. Of these tanks, 13500 are found in my Constituency. The significance of these irrigation tanks is that they have been inter-linked over the years. This shows the water management acumen of the local rulers over the years. More or less, every village will conserve the rain water in the tanks for agricultural and drinking water usage. If one tank at a place gets filled, the excess water will naturally flow to the tank in the adjoining village. They have been managed that way. As a model for rain water conservation in a place like ours which is entirely dependent on monsoon rains, I would like to impress upon the Union Government that you may take up the overall renovation and

maintenance of these tanks in my Constituency as a model project under the National Agriculture Development Programme. I request you to extend special financial assistance under this project. Our Government of Tamil Nadu has set out on an ambitious second Green Revolution. Several measures are being adopted to increase agricultural production. A State like ours under the able leadership of Amma must be encouraged by the Centre by way of providing additional financial resources and required funds.

Between 1999 and 2004 when Hon. Shri Vajpayee ji was our Prime Minister, the most popular Pradhanmantri Gram Sadak Yojana was taken up in a big way throughout the country by providing concrete roads even in distant villages.

Not only that, the still remembered magnificent achievement of that Government was in linking the major towns and cities of the country with four lane roads under Golden Quadrilateral Highways projects.

There was another welcome scheme brought for the benefit of the people then. It was Swarna JalDhara Drinking water Project. Under this scheme, drinking water schemes for villages can be taken up if there is people's participation to the tune of about 10% of the funds required for those schemes.

Such schemes had wide appreciation and welcomed from the people and they are looking forward to such major remarkable schemes by the present Union Government for which allocation of required funds may be provided. This year's Budget which has a strong roadmap for the future has got announcements about several viable projects for which additional funds have been allocated. I feel the present Government is on the right track. At the same time I would like to request the Union Government to revisit the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The roads that were laid in rural villages between 1999 and 2004 have to be maintained. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to provide funds at least once in three years to maintain those roads so that people may continue to get the road-link facilities.

Drinking water problems are still persisting in several pockets. Hence the Union Government may again go in for schemes under drinking water mission styled like Swarna Jal Dhara.

In places that come under my constituency, quality graphite of high standard is available. Our Hon. Amma has provided funds to set up a public sector unit to go in for mining that mineral and to market it to ensure industrial growth in our region. I urge upon the Union Government to take part in that project so that the Centre's contribution may increase the mobilization of those resources for

better marketing at national level while augmenting job opportunities. Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take it up as a special programme to look into the needs of our graphite units there so that expansion possibilities can be explored.

When more IITs and Central Universities are to be established by the Centre, I request the Union Government to set up an IIT and a Central University in my Sivaganga Constituency which is a centrally located place for the southern Tamil Nadu.

When I come to mention the requirements of my Constituency, that can be met by the Centre, I am to point at the Trichy-Rameshwaram NH-210. The road connectivity between Karaikudi and Rameshwaram is yet to commence. I urge upon the Union Government to apportion adequate funds very much needed to complete the project which is pending for long. Similarly, Madurai-Rameshwaram National Highway Project may also be taken up with release of funds for the same.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited, the PSU under the Union Government has its auxiliary unit in Thirumayam that comes under my Sivaganga Constituency. The promise of the Government to provide job opportunities to locals is giving priority to the members of the family whose lands have been acquired. If needed, the unit may

be expanded as a full-fledged unit so that more job opportunities are created to fulfill the promise made by the Government. The region that covers my constituency has a rich historical, cultural and even anthropological background but still it remains a backward one for want of industrial activities. Our area has got more of barren dry lands and more of manpower both lying unutilized. Hence, I urge upon the Centre to go in for setting up new industrial units so that at least 10,000 new jobs are created for benefitting the people of Alangudi, Thirumayam, Thiruppathur, Manamadurai, Karaikudi and Devakottai.

While supporting the Budget, expressing my appreciation and making a strong plea for the requests I have made, let me Conclude.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I request the Hon. Members to be very brief. Each Member will get only five minutes to speak. Therefore, you may prepare your speech in such a way that you cover important and salient features as you like. It is because we have a long list of speakers and we have to complete it before 6 p.m. If at all it is necessary, we may extend the time of the House by one hour. We have to see that the whole debate gets completed today itself as the Hon. Minister will be replying tomorrow. Hence, I request all of you to cooperate with the Chair. You may speak for a maximum time of five minutes each as I have got a long list and I have to exhaust that list. I am once again requesting you to be very brief and mention only salient features of your speech.

Dr. Kirit Solanki, what I have told is applicable to you also. Please speak only for five minutes.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Hon. Chairperson, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this Budget, which I regard as a visionary Budget. In 2014, when the NDA assumed office, this is its first Budget. I have come to this House for the second time. I have earlier participated in Budget debates in this House, but what distinguishes this Budget, I believe, is that it is a visionary attempt to bring back on track an economy that had gone off the rails. I place on record my deep thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi and to the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley.

Hon. Members, over the past several years the political situation had created a loss of public confidence in the political system. India is a federal structure. By establishing a model of good governance in one State and setting that State on the path of development, a feeling of hope has been awakened among the 125 crore people of this country. At a time when the nation was anxious, a ray of faith appeared towards Shri Narendra Bhai Modi. I am deeply grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister for restoring an identity to the political system. When despair had set in among the people, he revitalised public sentiment. The first Budget presented by this Government

shows clearly that it seeks to put the nation's direction and condition back on the right track. I welcome it.

Hon. Members, When the NDA Government was in office under the leadership of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee as Prime Minister, he too had steered the economy in the right direction. He had placed the economy firmly back on track. Thereafter, the UPA Government came to power twice, and the economy once again went off the rails. This is our responsibility, for the people have reposed their faith in us, the people have placed their trust in the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA. I welcome this Budget which seeks to raise the GDP growth to 8 percent. Our Hon. Prime Minister has given the mantra of 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. Because of this mantra, the intent expressed was to carry along all sections of society, whether of any caste or creed, whether rich or poor. That very intent finds its reflection in this Budget, and it extends to all sections of the people.

Hon. Chairperson, I represent the Ahmedabad West Parliamentary Constituency, which is an urban constituency. In this Budget provision has been made for Metro Rail for my constituency. Provision has been made for Metro Rail in Ahmedabad and in Lucknow. For this I express my sincere gratitude to the Hon. Minister

of Finance and to the Hon. Prime Minister. In this Budget, a provision has been made to take the nation towards Metro rail.

Hon. Chairperson, I thank the Government for strengthening the existing Basic Municipal Debt Liability Fund by providing for its enhancement from Rs.5,000 crore to Rs.50,000 crore. I congratulate the Government on its resolve to establish around 500 new cities over the next 10 years. I also congratulate the Government on its resolve to create 100 new Smart Cities.

Hon. Members, when Narendra Bhai Modi delivered his address in the temple of democracy, he laid down a roadmap, stating that our first priority would be our commitment towards the poor, the Dalits and the tribals, and that we would remain duty-bound towards the OBCs. In so far as social justice is concerned, under the Scheduled Castes Plan our Government has allocated Rs. 50,548 crore. I warmly welcome this and I myself feel proud of it.

I urge the Government and the Hon. Minister of Finance that if this scheme is associated with the name of Babasaheb Ambedkar ji, it would be a most appropriate tribute to Babasaheb Ambedkar, who dedicated his life to social justice, to the oppressed, and to the poor. Our friends from the Congress were just saying that for tribals and for Scheduled Tribes no provision has been made in this Budget. I would

like to inform them that the Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana has been initiated. I am fully confident that our Government will always remain committed to the tribals and to their rights over forests. For the marginalised poor, for the Scheduled Castes, and for the complete protection of the Scheduled Tribes, I also welcome the resolve of our Government to make the subsidy mechanism more targeted.

I am a surgeon, a doctor by profession. In the sphere of health and family welfare, I thank the Government for the goal of health for all. I thank the Government for free service, medicines and diagnostics. I also thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for the resolve to establish AIIMS-like institutions in all States. I believe that in every State of the country, there should be a tertiary hospital like AIIMS with a teaching institute attached to it.

As far as malnutrition is concerned, Shri Narendra Bhai Modi had launched a campaign against malnutrition in Gujarat. He had converted it into a mass movement. I welcome that in this Budget it too has been accepted as a mission. ... *(Interruptions)* Regarding the resolve to establish 12 Government Colleges, I request that one Government College may also be sanctioned for Gujarat.

As far as senior citizens are concerned, provisions have also been made for them in this Budget. [English] Thalassemia is a preventable

disease, [Translation] and the Thalassemia model of Gujarat [English] is a preventive model. [Translation] I urge the Government to adopt the Thalassemia model of Gujarat. ... *(Interruptions)*

I come from Ahmedabad. The textile mills have been closed there. Once upon a time, [English] Ahmedabad was known as the Manchester of India. [Translation] Due to the closure of the mills, the artisans who became unemployed, to rehabilitate the... *(Interruptions)*

[*]**SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH):** I thank you for giving me the opportunity to present my views on the General Budget 2014-15 presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance. The Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance of the Government of India, under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, is in accordance with the needs of the nation. This Budget has taken into consideration every part of the country and every section of society.

The people of our country expressed their will in the General Elections to the Lok Sabha in 2014 by casting a decisive vote in favour of change. This reflected their desire to develop themselves, to free themselves from the curse of poverty, and to make use of the opportunities available. The citizens of this nation are prepared to move forward with employment, adequate basic amenities, sound infrastructure, and governance free of corruption and devoid of hollow ideologies. This is clearly evident from the outcome of the 2014 General Elections.

India aspires to progress without hesitation. High growth is essential, for we cannot ignore the fact that a large section of our population still lives below the poverty line. It is the poor who suffer the most. We must ensure that our poverty alleviation programmes are

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

well-targeted and free from corruption. The Government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been established with the vision of the development of India and the resolve of “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas”. Another pledge of this Government is “Minimum Government, Maximum Governance”, which now needs to be demonstrated before the people of the country. The Government must make efforts in this regard.

Hon. Minister of Finance has proposed numerous welfare schemes for the development of the citizens of the nation, such as the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, soil testing laboratories, National Adaptation Fund, development of indigenous breeds in animal husbandry, the revolution achieved in the fisheries sector, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Daksh Bharat, Smart Cities, Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, construction of the tallest statue of the symbol of unity Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, schemes for the welfare of SC/ST women, children and senior citizens, Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, MGNREGA, National Rural Livelihood Mission, rural development, watershed development, safe and pure drinking water, health and family welfare, education, eradication of malnutrition, and

housing for all. For the effective implementation of these schemes, it will be necessary for the Government to ensure transparency.

In conclusion, I would state that the development of the citizens of the nation will be possible only when we and our Government remain free from corruption and when all programmes run by the Government of India for nation building are implemented with complete transparency. For the development of the country, agricultural growth is of paramount importance, as nearly 72 percent of our people still reside in villages and their livelihood depends on agriculture. If they do not have money in their hands, no matter how much of an industrial revolution we may attempt, what will be the fate of industrial products in the absence of consumers? How will our factories operate at full pace? Food and security are essential for our very existence, hence special attention must be given to agriculture and defence.

This General Budget is good, people-centric, and in keeping with the aspirations of the citizens. Our nation will march ahead on the path of progress. I support this Budget and, with good wishes, extend my congratulations to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance for this noble work.

[English]

***SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA):** I express my views on the General Budget for the Financial Year 2014-15. My first view on this Budget is that it is the best compliment for the previous Government led by the UPA. The Budget 2014-15 has accepted most of the proposals of the UPA Government. It's a continuation of the Budget presented by the UPA Government except that the core has shifted from the poor to the corporate.

The determination to deal with spiraling prices does not appear to have been a priority for the Government. It is also surprising that the Minister of Finance did not announce any short-term measures to tackle food inflation. The first thing the Budget needs to do is to allocate more resources to developing the supply chain, especially cold storage, if it wants to seriously tackle food inflation. Second, it needs to gradually phase out the APMC or Agricultural Produce Market Committee laws and replace them with a framework that allows farmers to sell directly to buyers and consumers. This is going to be easier said than done given the political patronage small traders and agricultural middlemen enjoy in the States (besides being major contributors to party and campaign funds). FDI in retail is but a first

* Speech was laid on the Table.

step in this direction, and the Hon'ble Prime Minister must use his considerable political capital to push this through, even if it means going against his party's stated position on the issue.

It is not enough to say that private and foreign investment will step in to fill the gap in Government resources; the bulk of the investment in core infrastructure areas is almost always done with public money, in almost all countries. Devices like Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) serve up to a point, as was noted in the Budget speech.

India already has the largest number of such PPP projects in the world (900 of them), and they have been bedeviled by disputes as well as allegations of corruption. If you can fix the problems with the PPP model, by all means do so because private investment is necessary and indeed should be welcomed for a variety of reasons. But that is not a substitute for putting the Government's money where it should be put.

While the commitment to fiscal consolidation is cheer-worthy, the Budget's tax and spending assumptions remain questionable. Some of the Budget numbers are implausible. Tax revenues are projected to grow by nearly 20 per cent. That defies credulity given that nominal GDP growth is unlikely to exceed 13-14 percent (nine per cent for inflation plus five per cent for real GDP growth). It also defies

credulity because we know that already in the first quarter of this fiscal year, 45 per cent of the annual deficit number has been reached.

The Hon'ble Minister of Finance is either wrong in his assumption or too clever to hide certain facts from the budget. If the fiscal deficit numbers are to be achieved, it will stand or fall depending on whether the broader economy does well or badly. The Hon'ble Minister has assumed revenue buoyancy, with tax revenue growing 18%, in a year of drought. If you don’t get good growth, the revenue will not be there, and then the deficit will be bigger and the whole arithmetic will come into question. So the big question is whether the economy will do significantly better than in the last two years.

To look at the same point another way, the Budget proposes to raise the tax-GDP ratio from 10.2% to 10.6%. It has been 10.2% or less in the last five years. So this is asking for a substantial change, if not a mini-breakthrough. It could happen, but you will need strong revenue buoyancy of the kind we have not seen for some time – to be achieved over and above the tax reductions that have been announced.

The Hon'ble Minister has deferred the hard decisions to yet another committee on expenditure. His subsidies bill this year goes up – by seven per cent for fertilizers and 25 per cent for food. And on petroleum, he expects the subsidies to decline by 25 per cent.

But the Budget provides no answer to the basic question of how the petroleum subsidies will come down to that level. Remember, last year the real burden of petroleum subsidies was around Rs. 1.4 lakh crore. So, he has not moved much on reducing or even containing subsidies, unless he has some plans to free up diesel prices or increase cooking gas prices.

"An economy hampered by restrictive tax rates will never produce enough revenue to balance our budget, just as it will never produce enough jobs or enough profits".

The one message that is loud and clear from the budget and the Economic Survey is that 'good days are far away'. Inflation is running at 8.5 per cent, amongst the highest in the emerging markets; fiscal deficit is at seven per cent of GDP, the current account deficit is at two per cent of GDP and kept in check only by a growth collapse and controls on the imports of gold; a terrible monsoon is about to extract its toll in the form of lower growth, higher inflation and increased expenditures; oil prices could soar. Even though the Budget 2014-15 is long in terms of pages but little in terms of substance.

*__DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL):__ With due respect to the new Minister of Finance, I would like to say that the Union Budget for the year 2014-15 is old wine in a new bottle with a saffron label. This NDA II Government is simply a UPA III in economic policy.

The agricultural sector, which gives employment to around 60% of the population, needs more public funds. For quite a long time, land reforms have been a neglected subject. Agricultural yield is not increasing. Farmers suicide still continues. Land is being diverted for real estate purposes. Water resources deplete at an alarming rate. Migration to urban areas creates more pressure upon the scarce resources. Unemployment is an unanswered question. The organized sector shows a "job loss growth." In the unorganized sector, wages and other benefits do not grow. All these are leading the Indian Economy to a vicious circle. The new Budget doesn't show any signs of political will-power to break this vicious circle.

The corporate houses are eating the cake at the expense of poor and common people. Under the guise of 'incentives', they are enjoying the benefits of exemptions of customs duty, corporate income tax, excise duty..etc. But what is their contribution in bringing our economy to a higher growth? How many new jobs have they

* Speech was laid on the Table.

provided? While the "amount of revenue foregone" every year is increasing, the hue and cry is for cutting short of the subsidies. The increase in the fuel prices, rail fares, and the delay in implementing the GST all have led to double digit inflation. It is the prices of essential commodities which have skyrocketed. No Govt. can escape from the ire and anger of its people.

This BJP led Govt. got absolute majority in the lower House because of the anti-people policies followed by the previous INC led UPA II. Even after repeated warnings by the CPI(M) and the left parties in the Parliament and also the agitations conducted by national trade unions, the previous govt. reminded us of emperor Nero while Rome was burning. This Budget has torn away the hopes and aspirations of the common people on a new Govt. More than 1.50 million vacancies are yet to be filled up under GOI and its PSUs.

It is not quite surprising that this Govt. declared 49% FDI in the Defence Sector. Financial sector and retail marketing etc. will follow. There is no intention to cancel the predecessor's decision to deregulate the prices of petrol and diesel. The mandatory linking of the subsidies with 'Aadhar Card' and Bank accounts still remains a problem for a large section of the people. While addressing the neo-middle class, the Minister of Finance failed to address the poor,

working class, downtrodden and marginalized. Our Govt. still play hide and seek in the matter of fixing the criteria of poverty line; and at the same time subsidies are determined on the basis of the arbitrary poverty line. It is nothing else, but a fact, that about 40% of the present day population of India are BPL, whose number is much higher than the total population of this nation when it was born.

Without strengthening the public distribution system of essential commodities, the inflation cannot be contained. The Food Corporation of India should be strengthened. Warehousing facilities under State control should be expanded. Neither the arguments of a lawyer nor the hopes of a minister will put an end to the fires of starvation in the stomachs of the human beings. The BJP was silent in its election manifesto on many important economic issues. Likewise they are still silent on the curator measures for the urgent economic problems like agrarian crisis, stagnation in manufacturing sector, lack of employment growth, high rate of inflation, looting of natural resources by corporates, burgeoning black money, shameful rate of malnourishment of children and women. etc. In the human development index of the UNDP India has slipped down from 134th rank in 2012 to 136. Is the Minister of Finance going to throw our

social security measures to the mercy of the private sector? I may remind you that pension is a right and not a privilege.

I am afraid that I find no meritorious policy shift to appreciate this govt.'s budget. Providing Rs. 200 crores for a statue may be a euphoria for some of the treasury benches. But why have you forgotten the valiant fighters of freedom and the places and people of anti-colonialist struggle? It was in the year 1721 that the people arose first against The British East India Company and waged a revolt at Attingal by attacking the Anjengo Fort. I demand this place to be declared as a national heritage site and a sum of Rs./- 50 crores to be earmarked for its development.

This Budget is also silent on the Kottoor – Ambasamudram Inter-state (Kerala – Tamil Nadu) highway which will save crores of Rupees per month as fuel and lakhs of human hours as journey time saved.

We demand a tea garden tourism package which links the plantation areas. Inland water transport and tourism should be allotted more funds at the earliest.

Not even a single paisa has been allotted for Vizhinjam Port in Thiruvananthapuram. Likewise, for the development of National

Highways in Kerala, we need more funds. P.P.P. and privatization will not solve the problems.

May I remind the Minister of Finance that everybody from the top to bottom should get the opportunity to enjoy or at least to taste the fruits of growth. We cannot sacrifice the principles of social justice and equality. There is nothing over and above the Constitution. And hence I oppose the Budget and also the Demand for Grants.

*__SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH):__ Hon'ble Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley has tried to present a balanced and growth oriented budget and it is greatly hoped that the new Government will take every possible step to bring back Indian economy into the right track which was in doldrums in the last decade. We have faced serious challenges due to below five per cent growth and stubborn inflation. Industrial and agricultural productions slowed down besides sluggish growth in employment opportunities.

Today our country is facing a drought-like situation. Weather forecast shows that rainfall this year is expected to be below normal. Therefore, serious efforts and contingency plans should be drawn to face challenges in the event of any decline in agricultural production. The prices of vegetables, fruits, pulses, milk, edible oil and other essential food items are steadily rising hitting the common man. Immediate steps should be taken to crack down heavily on the hoarders and black marketers and to ensure availability of essential food items to the common man at affordable prices and its adequate availability to the States for distribution under PDS. Tamil Nadu remains at the forefront in the public distribution system and there are a large number of beneficiaries. But the allocation from the Central

* Speech was laid on the Table.

pool is not adequate and the State Government is facing a lot of difficulties to meet the requirements. I shall, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to increase the quota of items under PDS to Tamil Nadu.

Over the years, there has been a large-scale diversion of fertile agricultural land for non-agricultural purposes. This has ultimately decreased our production capacity and this trend should be stopped. Fertilizers and electricity should be made available to the farmers at affordable rates. Cheap credit should also be made available to them from banks and financial institutions. However, they are still at the mercy of money lenders. In the event of crop failure, number of farmers in the country are resorting to suicides and such incidents are not new and repeated every year. Their families should be saved from starvation. Conservation of water, new and innovative technologies should be taught to them. Large scale use of chemical fertilizers affects the fertility of the soil. Use of organic farming should be promoted and farmers should be encouraged in its usage and the long pending demand of dedicated 'Kisan TV Channel' should be started at the earliest.

With the implementation of MGNREGA Scheme, there has been a huge shortage of agricultural laborers and it affects our production

capacity. Government should take necessary steps so that agricultural operations should not be hampered in the event of the implementation of the MGNREGA scheme. However, as suggested by our leader, Dr. Amma, this should not be made mandatory in places where there is no possibility to link the scheme to agricultural operations.

Tamil Nadu is facing acute water crisis and at many places fluoride, arsenic or salinity levels are very high and as a result thereof people are facing a lot of difficulties for drinking water. To mitigate this problem, it is greatly hoped that the Government of India would support the State's initiative in setting up of desalination plants in coastal areas.

Coming to Education, allocation to school education is not sufficient. Many of the schools in the country lack the basic facilities of drinking water, toilets, good furniture, etc. and the school buildings are lying in a very bad condition. Necessary assistance should be extended to the States for this purpose and it should be ensured that the facility reaches the students.

In this regard, I would like to point out that the Kendriya Vidyalayas (KV) started by the Government to provide quality and affordable education to the wards of Government/PSU employees and other categories do not exist in various districts/MP

constituencies in the country. There is a long pending demand from the people of my North Chennai Lok Sabha Constituency which or part of Chennai Metropolitan City to have a KV. At present, this constituency does not have even a single KV. Considering the demography and importance of this region, I urge upon the Union Government to open at least two KVs in my North Chennai Lok Sabha Constituency. The new proposal to set up five more IITs and IIMs in the country will give a major boost to higher education.

Coming to Industry, our industrial production witnessed negative growth in some sectors in the last few years and it ultimately affects our growth and employment. Proper investment climate should be created for entrepreneurs. Government should be cautious in permitting FDI in various sectors. Here, I heartily thank the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for inclusion of Ponneri in Tamil Nadu as a Smart City out of the proposed hundred. Ponneri is nearer to Chennai city and it is my neighboring Constituency. It is an ideal location as a vast stretch of land is available for use. Our hon'ble Chief Minister, Dr. Amma has also welcomed this proposal and we are looking forward to early implementation of this proposal with adequate fund allocation including urban renewal projects.

Tamil Nadu is blessed with vast renewable energy sources like solar, wind, etc. The State Government is taking every possible step to conserve this energy and to some extent it fulfills our requirements. However, due to paucity of funds, it could not be tapped adequately. The proposal to implement the Ultra Mega Solar Power Plant in Tamilnadu is a welcome step. Likewise, the Centre should assist the State Government in tapping wind energy also.

As regards tourism, this sector is plaguing with the problem of insufficient accommodation, lack of adequate infrastructure, well connected roads, railways and airways, criminal elements, etc. Government should give serious thought to these elements. States should be assisted and funds are to be granted generously for setting up of tourist police stations, plying of mobile tourist police vans to the places of tourism importance. Tamil Nadu has a vast coastal line and it should be properly guarded. Without adequate central assistance, this cannot be materialized. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to grant adequate funds for setting up of marine police stations in the State.

As regards industrial corridors, linking Chennai with neighboring States will not benefit the inner districts and backward regions of the State. At this juncture, I emphasize our Hon'ble Chief Minister's

suggestion of further extension of the Industrial Corridors of Vizag – Chennai and Chennai – Bangalore within Tamil Nadu as well. Besides, Madurai – Thoothukudi Industrial Corridor proposed to be implemented by the State Government can be considered as part of the East Coast Corridor by extending the Vizag – Chennai corridor further south.

Regarding the Government's initiative to set up 15 new Braille Presses, modernization of the ten existing ones, currency notes with Braille-like signs and National Institute of Universal Design and a Centre for Sports have been welcomed by activists and all sections of the people. Tamil Nadu is the leading State in extending all kinds of assistance to the differently abled people and they genuinely deserve the same for their promotion in the field education, employment and social welfare schemes. To attain this object, I urge upon the Union Government to set up a new Braille Press in Tamilnadu also. The proposal to establish the National Institute of Ageing at the Madras Medical College is greatly welcomed.

Women safety in public transports in various States is a major cause of concern and a lot of untoward incidents were reported in the recent years from various parts of the country. Women generally feel insecure traveling alone in buses at night. In Tamil Nadu women are

ensured adequate safety. Large number of women constables were recruited by the State Government throughout the State to ensure security of women. As regards the girl child, two decades ago, Tamil Nadu had started the Cradle Baby Scheme and GirlChild Education Scheme and the schemes are being implemented successfully. Though Centre's fund allocation for the above projects is meager, it is hoped that fund allocation will be enhanced at a later stage particularly for Tamil Nadu which is performing well.

As regards Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, rural road connectivity in many States are lying in a very dilapidated condition and it cannot be overlooked. Tamil Nadu is giving a major push to rural roads and has already invested Centre's grants for this project. In this connection, I would like to submit that enhanced allocation should not be deprived to the State of Tamilnadu for its rural infrastructure.

As regards taxation proposals, the salaried class have heaved a sigh of relief. The proposal to hike personal income tax limit by Rs.50,000; increase in the investment limit under Section 80C exemption from 1 lakh to Rs.1.5 lakh; hike in deduction limit on interest on loan for self-occupied House from 1.5 lakh to 2 lakhs will help them greatly to lower their tax burden.

[Translation]

*__SHRIMATI PRIYANKA SINGH RAWAT (BARABANKI):__ Hon. Chairperson, I would like to congratulate Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji. The General Budget which has just been presented by the Government in this House, I extend my support to it.

It has been only a short period since this Government assumed office, and despite the challenging circumstances prevailing in the country, the Hon. Minister of Finance has presented a Budget that is both reassuring and progressive, reflecting the Government's determination to build a twenty-first century India.

There was some doubt among the people that, given these adverse conditions, it would not be possible for the Government to present a Budget aligned with public expectations. I am, however, pleased to note that this Budget not only provides for the needs of every section of society but also lays the groundwork for meaningful reforms.

The people of this country had placed great expectations upon the Government. To balance economic reforms with social responsibility was indeed a difficult challenge, yet the Government has not only

* Speech was laid on the Table.

risen to that challenge but has also honoured the expectations of the people. Without altering the rates of taxation, by raising the exemption limit under income tax, the Government has sent out a clear message that providing relief to the people burdened by inflation is its highest priority.

Our country is an agricultural nation, yet since independence the farmer has remained neglected. Even today, more than 65 percent of farmers depend solely on rainfall for irrigation. Keeping this in view, the Government has announced the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, which will indeed act as a Sanjeevani for the farmers of the nation.

The announcement of a dedicated Farmer TV Channel in this Budget by the Government is a highly commendable step. Today, television channels are available for nearly every sector, yet the farmers, the backbone of this nation had no such dedicated channel to enable them to adopt modern agricultural practices. Through this channel, farmers across the country will be able to understand modern farming techniques and receive timely information on both advanced and traditional agricultural methods. To assist farmers struggling with loss-making cultivation, the Government has also provided for loans

amounting to Rs. 8 lakh crore for the agricultural sector. This is a very welcomed and pro-farmer initiative.

The Government has demonstrated its commitment to rural development by allocating Rs. 14,369 crore for the “Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana,” a scheme initiated by the revered Atal Ji’s Government. This has instilled a sense of pride among the rural population.

For rural infrastructure, the Government has launched several important schemes, including the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rural Mission, the Deen dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, the Neeranchal Scheme, and the Rural Entrepreneurship Scheme. These initiatives, undertaken by the Hon. Modi Ji’s Government, are set to become milestones in the development of rural India in the years to come.

The Government aims to build a developed and prosperous India. Accordingly, Rs. 7,060 crore has been allocated for the creation of 100 Smart Cities across the country. Furthermore, over the next ten years, the Government is committed to developing infrastructure in 500 urban settlements through the PPP model.

Mobilising resources for the development of urban settlements is a crucial step. To this end, the Government has increased the

allocation for the Municipal Debt Liability Fund from Rs. 5,000 crore to Rs. 50,000 crore, which will serve as a milestone in the development of small towns.

This Budget has taken a comprehensive view, addressing concerns across all sectors. Significant decisions have been taken in primary, higher, and vocational education. The step to establish five new IITs and IIMs to provide greater opportunities to the talented and meritorious youth of the country is highly commendable.

My Parliamentary Constituency of Barabanki (comprising Haidergarh, Fatehpur, Jaitpur, and Ramnagar Assembly segments) will benefit from this Budget. Under the National Drinking Water Scheme, pure drinking water will be made available to towns in the Barabanki region. Additionally, the allocation of Rs. 500 crore for electrification will also benefit Barabanki district (U.P.).

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, roads in my constituency of Barabanki will be constructed in accordance with the prescribed standards. With regard to the housing allocation scheme for which provisions have been made in this Budget, I firmly believe that my constituency, Barabanki, too will derive its due benefit.

In my constituency of Barabanki, the Mahadev Lokeshwar Temple in the Ramnagar Assembly segment is an historic site. In view

of this, it should be declared as a tourist destination, as people from across the country and abroad visit here during Shivratri in the month of Sawan and during Spring season. I also urge that at least one trauma centre be established in my constituency of Barabanki. My entire constituency falls under a flood-prone region. A permanent dam should be constructed on the river Ghaghra to make the entire Barabanki region free from floods.

In conclusion, I once again extend my congratulations to Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji and Hon. Minister of Finance Jaitley ji, who through this Budget have given a clear indication that the NDA Government has no political agenda of its own in this Budget. Rather, it has instilled confidence in the youth, the farmers, the labourers, and the people of this nation that under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji, the country will script a new chapter of development.

[English]

*__SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:__ First of all, I thank the Hon'ble Speaker for giving me an opportunity to place my request in this prestigious House.

I humbly submit my profound thanks to the Tamil Nadu Chief MInister Hon'ble Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for being given me an opportunity to be a Parliamentarian in this Hon'ble House.

In my Pollachi Parliament Constituency nearly 92000 hectare area is under coconut cultivation. Of which this ranks one-fourth of coconut area in Tamilnadu.

Due to the failure of the South-West and North-East monsoon, water level is depleted much in wells as well as underground water level. Owing to insufficient water and high cost of maintenance, coconut farmers are in critical crisis and face great loss in producing Copra. Hence, the production of copra is dwindling in my Parliamentary area.

Even though 2,02,000 M.T. of Copra is being produced, the Agriculturists could not survive as the support price for Copra fixed by NAFED is only Rs. 52.50/Kg which is not remunerative and they are

* Speech was laid on the Table.

finding a solution to grow alternate crops which were maintained for more than 15 to 20 years, being the Coconut cultivation a long term crop. Now only 50% of agriculturists are maintaining Coconut cultivation with a great hardship.

In the year 2012-2013 TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER Hon'ble PURATCHI THALAIVI AMMA has given Rs. 1.755-crore as drought relief package for non-delta farmers. Of this package, six components were meant for about 17.9 lakh farmers, who had suffered over 50 percent crop loss. The farmers, for a variety of crops, would receive a total compensation of Rs. 835.21 crore.

Making an announcement in the Assembly, TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER Hon'ble PURATCHITHALAIVI AMMA said the package was based on the assessment made by a high-level committee headed by Minister of Finance after visiting 18 districts and interacting with representatives of farmers and district officials, apart from reports from the district Collectors.

A sum of Rs. 312.89 crore had been earmarked for giving compensation of Rs. 5,000 per acre to 6,25,481 farmers who raised paddy over 6,25,786 acres. As per the Central norms on disaster relief, even small and marginal paddy farmers, experiencing more than 50 percent crop loss, were entitled only to Rs. 2,429 per acre. Whereas our

TAMIL NADU CHIEF MINISTER Hon'ble PURATCHI THALAIVI AMMA has given for long term crops, including coconut growers numbering 50,908 farmers would be given Rs. 4,000 per acre. A relief of Rs. 43.35 crore had been made covering 1,08,383 acres in the last year.

Please also set up a coconut breeding center in Udumalpet constituency by allotting 82.66 acres of Government land for the benefit of Coconut growers to produce good quality seedlings with the help of National Coconut Board participation considering long term vision and mission of the Coconut cultivators of Tamilnadu.

In considering the above facts will the Present Government led by Shri Narendra Modi Ji, move any proposal to increase the support price of Copra to double the amount or even Rs. 100/- a kg, so as to give relief to the existing coconut growing agriculturists from their present financial crisis?

I have 100% confidence in Shri Nomo Ji that he will do the best for the Agriculturist welfare of Tamil Nadu to tide over the copra price crisis. And it would be very helpful to the coconut growers by allotting any financial assistance from the Agriculture Price Stabilization Fund presently announced in the Budget 2014-15.

I request the Hon'ble Minister for Agriculture, Shri Radha Mohan Singh Ji to allocate adequate compensation to the copra producers by incentives to their livelihood and save coconut growers from the present copra price crisis.

[Translation]

SHRI MOHD. ASRARUL HAQUE (KISHANGANJ): Hon. Sir, first of all, I would like to express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget. Whenever a Budget is about to be presented, people wait for it with great eagerness, expecting that perhaps this time their problems will be addressed and that some change will come into their lives, that they may get some relief from the scourge of rising prices. This time too, the people had similar expectations from the new Government. There was much noise and clamour that the NDA's so-called dream Budget would bring a gift of happiness for the common people. However, when the Hon. Minister of Finance opened the Budget, it became evident that no special provision had been made for the common man and the poor. Consequently, along with the public, I too have been left deeply disappointed with the contents of this Budget. In truth, there is nothing in this Budget on the basis of which it may be described as a balanced and positive Budget. At the time of elections, tall promises were made and the slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas was raised with much fervour. But after reading this Budget, all of that appears to be nothing more than a pretence. This Budget makes it clear that this Government is not for the poor and the underprivileged, but for the rich, the

affluent, and the industrialists. The largesse shown towards industrialists is plainly evident in this Budget. While it is indeed welcome that the Hon. Minister of Finance has allocated a sum for the welfare and development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, it is regrettable that no special package has been announced for the Muslim minority, whose condition is in fact worse than that of the SCs and STs. The Hon. Minister of Finance ought to have displayed equal magnanimity towards the minorities, particularly the Muslim minority. A comprehensive multi-dimensional scheme should have been announced to address their economic, social and educational backwardness, as was widely expected. However, after hearing and reading this Budget, the minorities have been left deeply disappointed. Mere modernisation of madarasas will not resolve their problems. The intentions of the Government behind this are not hidden from anyone. With regard to the largest minority in this country, the allocation made in this Budget is nothing more than a drop in the ocean. It cannot in any way address their problems. What is truly required is that ways and means be considered to advance them in every sphere of life, and that effective measures be taken to remove their educational backwardness, economic distress and unemployment. If you speak of development for all, then let it be understood that this dream cannot

be realised until the development of the largest minority of this country is ensured. Hon. Chairperson, Sir, the dream of a prosperous India shown in this General Budget has remained merely a dream. No effort is visible in this Budget to give it a practical shape or a meaningful direction. Before the Budget, there was much speculation, and people had high expectations from the new Government that the Hon. Minister of Finance would present formulas to increase growth, control inflation, and reduce the fiscal deficit. But the Hon. Minister of Finance has given nothing to the common man except disappointment. As for this General Budget, it can only be said that –

Bahut shor sunte the pehlu mein dil ka,

jo cheera to ek qatra-e-khoon na nikla.

(We had often heard of the heart's commotion,

but when it was opened, not a single drop of blood was found.)

Hon. Sir, my constituency of Kishanganj and the adjoining Seemanchal region remain backward to a worrying extent in the fields of education, economy, society, and healthcare. By the efforts of the previous UPA Government, the establishment of an AMU Centre at Kishanganj has materialised, through which the light of knowledge has begun to spread rapidly in the entire region. Now, the

responsibility of further developing this Centre rests with the present Government. However, due to the extremely poor condition of the environment in this region, there has been a sharp increase in life-threatening diseases such as heart ailments, kidney diseases, and cancer. Yet, there are hardly any medical facilities available. The unfortunate state of affairs is that not a single Government medical college exists in the entire region. Through you, Hon. Chairperson, I request the Government to establish a medical college at Kishanganj, along with a large hospital on the lines of AIIMS. Similarly, one of the major causes of poverty in my region is that it lies at the foothills of the Himalayas and is surrounded by turbulent, destructive rivers such as the Mahananda, Dauk, Mechi, Kankai, Kol, Parwan, and Bakra. Every year, thousands of acres of agricultural land and dozens of villages lose their very existence. By the efforts of the previous UPA Government, the Mahananda Sub-Basin Scheme for constructing dams on these rivers has already been sanctioned. I urge that this scheme be commenced without delay and completed at the earliest to save the entire region from recurring devastation. At the same time, I would also like to request that, in order to generate employment opportunities in this area, along with heavy industries, a network of small industries should also be established. At present,

lakhs of youths of this region are compelled to migrate to distant cities across the country to work as labourers for the livelihood of their families.

With these demands, I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance on presenting his first Budget and express the hope that, while replying, he will make positive announcements in this august House regarding our demands. I also thank the leadership of my Party ... *(Interruptions)* … for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[*]**SHRI D.S. RATHOD (SABARKANTHA):** You have kindly given me the opportunity to express my views on the General Budget for the year 2014-15**.** For this, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to you. Today, in this House, I would like to pay my respects and congratulations to the supreme leader of the hearts of millions of citizens, the transformative force in India's political landscape, and our illustrious Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Bhai Modi. The credit for my presence here today goes to the inspiring leadership of Shri Narendra Bhai Modi.

Under the guidance of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi and through the tireless efforts of the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley, this Budget has been prepared in a short period of one month. It is both historic and unprecedented. I also extend my congratulations to all officials of the Ministry of Finance for their efforts. Both national and international media have described this Budget as a roadmap for India's development.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has made commendable efforts in this Budget to provide relief to the common citizen across the country. He has taken several important steps to curb inflation immediately and, with a view to ensuring abundant production of fruits, vegetables,

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

and food grains in the future, special attention has been given to the agricultural sector. Providing farmers with loans at lower interest rates remains a priority for the Government. To this end, a target of Rs. 8 lakh crore has been set for agricultural loans during the year 2014-15. Additionally, to provide timely information to farmers on new agricultural technologies, water conservation, and organic farming, Rs. 100 crore has been allocated for the Kisan TV channel.

In our Gujarat, our Hon. Prime Minister, during his golden tenure as Chief Minister, had initiated a successful scheme to issue soil health cards for farmers. In this Budget, a commitment has been made to implement this scheme across the entire country. Under this initiative, 100 mobile soil testing laboratories will be established nationwide. All the measures being undertaken in the interest of the country's farmers are a testament to the compassion and vision of our Hon. Prime Minister, who dreams of a bright and prosperous India and possesses the determination to transform the condition of farmers under all circumstances. I once again congratulate him for his pro-farmer initiatives and extend heartfelt thanks on behalf of the livestock and agriculture-based livelihood communities of my Parliamentary Constituency, Sabarkantha, Gujarat.

This Budget is comprehensive, addressing electricity, water, national security, and the safety of women and children.

It also makes a monumental effort to preserve the sanctity and purity of Mother Ganga, with a provision of Rs. 2,037 crore for this noble cause, along with the decision to establish an NRI fund.

In conclusion, I once again express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance for this comprehensive Budget.

[English]

*__SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA(KURNOOL):__ I am a first time elected MP and I need the blessings and support of this august House to perform my duties as an MP, I urge upon my seniors to forgive and guide me, whenever I go wrong.

People have a lot of expectations from me though people were strongly opposed to bifurcation. The Center went ahead unilaterally to bifurcate. My party and my leader have opposed it at every possible forum. I am elected in the backdrop of bifurcation of the state. It is well known that undesirable bifurcation of the state has caused serious heartburn in AP and left the state in a vacuum and it is the responsibility of the center to work towards creating a level playing field for AP. People of the state are looking forward to the Center to lend them a helping hand to rebuild the state.

There are many promises made in AP Reorganization Act 2014 and some of them have been included in this budget like AIIMS, Agriculture University, IIT etc. But AP needs much more than that and we were expecting the Center to be large hearted towards AP. We have to build a new state capital and build many institutions of national importance. We

* Speech was laid on the Table.

were expecting special mention about AP capital and allocation of funds for state capital.

In this budget, we were expecting more national institutions like IIM, IISER, Tribal University, Petroleum University, which are already promised in the Act.

Demand for Special Category status for AP is still pending. There is no mention in the Budget as to how the deficit in the budget of AP is going to be met. It was promised by the then PM on the floor of the House that the Centre will assist the state in meeting the deficit. We need a special development package for backward areas in the state, which is again a promise in the Reorganization Act.

The House is well aware of the fact that Metro rail in urban areas are essential for providing a clean and efficient transport system in cities. Though Vizag and Guntur-Vijayawada-Tenali are promised in the Act, but the budget is silent on this.

I urge the Government to be sensitive towards the need of AP and include in the budget, all promises made in the Act and promises made by the then Prime Minister on the floor of the House.

I would like to congratulate the Government for taking the initiative for developing 100 smart cities. I am an MP from Kurnool, which was

the capital of AP before Hyderabad. I would request the Government to include Kurnool in the list of 100 smart cities.

I thank my party and my leader for giving me an opportunity to and represent the issues which are burning issues in my state.

[Translation]

***SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIA (AMRELI):** I wholeheartedly support the first Budget of the Government under Shri Narendra Bhai Modi's leadership, presented by Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley within just 45 days of assuming office, reflecting the Government's early achievements.

We are aware that for several decades, the UPA Government was in power, and the Budgets presented by the previous Government were largely based on vote-bank considerations. Due to such populist Budgets and flawed policies, the country's economic stability was disrupted, unemployment increased, and the nation's development suffered.

This Budget, while using limited resources judiciously, seeks to address the maximum number of challenges. In the field of education, the Government has approved the establishment of five new IITs and five new IIMs, which is highly commendable. In the health sector, provisions have been made to set up four new AIIMS, a step urgently needed to improve healthcare and enhance local medical facilities. The Budget also gives special attention to employment generation and

* Speech was laid on the Table.

announces the creation of 100 new Smart Cities, which will provide substantial job opportunities. This is a progressive step. Additionally, Rs. 38,000 crore has been allocated for the development of National Highways, under which long-pending projects will be completed.

I welcome the proposal for FDI participation in the defence, railway, and insurance sectors. Through this participation, the defence forces can be modernised, long-pending railway projects can be completed, and passengers can be provided with better facilities. Similarly, the entry of FDI into the insurance sector will accelerate its growth and create employment opportunities for millions.

Under the PMGSY scheme, the Government has set a target to complete the construction of every rural road, ensuring overall development of villages. Since agriculture in our country is largely dependent on the monsoon, there is a need to adopt the Gujarat model for irrigation and agricultural development. Following this model, the Government plans to reintroduce the Kisan Vikas Patra Scheme, implement the Prime Minister's Irrigation Scheme connecting rivers for better irrigation, and launch progressive initiatives such as the Swachh Bharat campaign on Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary, the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rural Mission, and the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Scheme to improve electricity

supply. Further priorities include the Indira Awas Yojana and Swarna Jayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana for the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, revival of senior citizen pension and insurance schemes, integration of agriculture into MGNREGA, initiatives for the dignity and self-respect of persons with disabilities, establishment of 12 new medical colleges, e-visa facilities at 9 airports, the 'Beti Padhao-Beti Bachao' campaign, mainstreaming women, rural housing, MGNREGA, water conservation, safe drinking water in villages, healthcare and family welfare, early childhood education, housing for all by 2011, combating malnutrition, new measures in agriculture, agricultural loans, food security improvements, and launching a dedicated Farmer TV channel. Special attention will also be given to the development of madarasas under Shri Narendra Bhai Modi's Government.

Cleaning and preserving the river Ganga is a matter of deep faith for our citizens. The Government has allocated Rs. 1,000 crore for this, which is a commendable initiative of the Hon. Prime Minister.

Therefore, I support this Budget, and in doing so, I would like to say that the current Budget is a progressive and development-oriented one, reflecting the Government's transparent intentions. This Budget will contribute to the all-round development of India.

[*]**SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** I support the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance. Although the previous Government left the treasury nearly empty, the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance supports the Hon. Prime Minister's vision of establishing India as a global leader in the coming years. I would like to suggest that foreign companies should not be permitted, at any cost, to open malls in small towns and semi-urban areas, so that the interests of retail traders are protected. Farmers should receive a fair price for their crops, and arrangements should be made for the procurement of pulses, oilseeds, and coarse grains at minimum support prices, similar to rice and wheat. Currently, no such system exists. The Bundelkhand region, which is spread across Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh, faces similar problems in both states. Therefore, a special Bundelkhand Development Council should be established, covering the districts from both states, with a dedicated budget allocation to ensure the development of this backward region.

There is a significant problem of unemployment in this region. Every day, people leave their homes and families to travel long distances in trains and buses in search of work. Therefore, there is an urgent need to establish large industries here to utilize the local

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

workforce. The reopening of the closed Banda spinning mill and the construction of the glass factory in Vargadh could partially address this shortage. Additionally, a major thermal power project should be established in Banda and Chitrakoot districts to resolve the electricity shortage. By interlinking the rivers in this region, water can be supplied to every field. Further lift irrigation projects from the Yamuna River can increase the percentage of irrigated land in Banda and Chitrakoot districts. Chitrakoot Dham, which has become the only major religious and tourist destination in Uttar Pradesh after the formation of Uttarakhand, should be developed and promoted on national and international tourism maps. There is a ready airstrip here from which regular flights should be commenced. This region is rich in mineral resources, which can form the basis for industries, helping it develop like other parts of the country. Tourist attractions such as the forts of Kalinjar and Madka, Ganesh Bagh, and Wambeshwar Hill, along with the places such as Rajapur, the birthplace of Goswami Tulsidas ji, the author of the national epic Ramayana along with Bharatkoop and Valmiki Ashram, are of great significance. Farmers here have suffered for years due to droughts, excessive rainfall, and hailstorms. Although both the state and previous Union Governments conducted surveys, provided assurances, and made announcements

regarding the waiver of past loans and interest for Bundelkhand farmers, these measures were never implemented. Through this platform, I request the Hon. Minister of Finance to include the waiver of previous loans and interest for the impoverished farmers of Bundelkhand in this Budget, to save them from being driven to suicide. Health services in this region are also in poor condition. To address this, an AIIMS and a cancer hospital should be established in Banda or Chitrakoot. This Budget aligns with the Hon. Prime Minister's vision of "Sabka Saath - Sabka Vikas."

In conclusion, I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting a Budget that takes into account the needs of every section of society.

SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE (MANDLA): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to draw the House's attention to some key features of the General Budget. The Hon. Minister of Finance has given special focus to rural areas. Many budgets have been presented in the past regarding rural development, but the particular emphasis in this Budget deserves special mention. The attention given to rural India throughout the country must be noted. I am pleased that the vision of India with adequate housing for all has been addressed in this Budget. From my experience, so far only an average of two to three houses were provided per year in Gram Panchayats, whereas the need today is far greater.

I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister for considering this sector in their first Budget. The provisions made in this Budget are appropriate, and special attention has been given to this sector.

Secondly, regarding rural housing, the vision of the Indira Awas Yojana, particularly the allocation of 60 percent, will benefit SC and ST communities. I would like to point out that discussions on this sector have often been political in nature, but rarely have these communities been given proper consideration. Today, I am pleased to note that around 60 percent of the benefits in this sector will reach

people below the poverty line, as well as members of our SC and ST communities. This is a key feature of this important Budget. Therefore, an effort has been made to address this sector today. Regarding other schemes, I have observed that it includes a Women and Child Development Programme. The Integrated Women and Child Development Programme, especially for infants, is a significant initiative. Many of our members have pointed out the importance of nutrition in this sector. A key feature of this Budget is the allocation of funds for a national mission dedicated to their protection, welfare, and women empowerment. This, too, holds significant importance. While we often speak of women empowerment, it is equally crucial that they receive protection against injustice. I am pleased to note that the provisions made in this budget address this concern. I would like to bring this to the attention of the House, and I especially commend the Hon. Prime Minister for prioritising this sector and the Hon. Minister of Finance for including these provisions. Similarly, attention has been given to the health sector. There are many areas, particularly in rural regions, which have so far been deprived of adequate health facilities. Especially in the state capitals, when it comes to AIIMS, there are several regions where, as Members of Parliament, we are frequently approached by the people, particularly

those living in rural areas about the lack of such facilities. Regarding the provision of financial assistance for healthcare, particularly for infectious diseases or similar illnesses, I can say that many such schemes are considered. However, before finalizing any such scheme, it is important to reflect carefully on it beforehand. It is a matter of satisfaction that the Government has considered strengthening our All-India level hospitals to take this sector forward. Similarly, special provisions have been made for our tribal sectors. In the tribal areas, there is an Umbrella Scheme particularly for the education of children, which is of great significance. For this scheme, a provision of Rs. 1,058 crore has been made. On the other hand, a provision of Rs. 100 crore has been made for the Vanbandhu Scheme. I have often observed in other parts of the country that this scheme had its origin in Gujarat. I believe that our Hon. Prime Minister, keeping in view the needs of such regions, has directed our Hon. Minister of Finance to implement this scheme across the entire nation. It has been envisaged as a special model, with the objective of its nationwide adoption. Therefore, we continue to work in this sector with commitment. Everyone should be happy about this. It is indeed a matter of pride that such schemes will directly benefit those who are truly poor, those working in underprivileged regions, and society at large whether in

terms of economic upliftment, employment generation, or advancement in the agriculture sector. It is significant that the Hon. Minister of Finance has made special provisions for these schemes in this Budget. Hon. Chairperson, I would like to submit that these schemes encompass multiple sectors, though they are mentioned by name alone. For instance, the Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana covers numerous sectors and people across various parts of the country. Particularly, this section of society can be made more economically empowered and can be advanced in the field of education. It is commendable that the Government has taken this into consideration. Once again I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister for giving special priority to this sector, through which the NDA Government has earned recognition in the country.

[English]

***SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD):** One reason is that, everyone's expectations from the new Minister of Finance after Narendra Modi ji led the NDA to a stunning victory were quite high. But there's something else. Voters have given the NDA an extraordinarily strong mandate and this was clearly an opportunity for it, via its wordly-wise Minister of Finance, to do a bit of grand-standing: announce one really big thing or two and, in return, reap the benefits of making it a memorable budget that spread much-needed cheer and good sentiment all round.

Another fillip needed for the economy was given on the infrastructure front with the development of national highways getting Rs.37,000 crore and that of village roads Rs. 14,000 crore. Of the money allocated for national highways, Jaitley ji has put aside Rs.3,000 crore for the north-eastern region of the country.

From 1980 to 2012 47,000 Kms National Highways were constructed out of this about 23000 Kms constructed during the short period of 5 to 6 years of NDA whereas UPA during 10 years

* Speech was laid on the Table.

constructed 16,000 Kms. This detail is given by UPA Govt itself in an affidavit submitted to the Supreme Court.

According to estimates, poor condition of national highways is responsible for wastage of diesel worth as much as Rs. 70,000 crore every year in trucking. Checking this wastage will help reduce oil import bills. Poor road conditions also increases the turnout time of trucks by up to 30 per cent apart from reducing the lifespan of vehicles.

Bottlenecks in the supply of coal to thermal power stations have been the major cause behind poor performance of the power sector. To attract new players to the power sectors, the Minister of Finance has announced a 10-year tax holiday for them.

To give a boost to the real estate and infrastructure sector, Jaitley ji has introduced Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITS) and Infrastructure Investment Trusts. His master's dream project of setting up 100 smart cities has got Rs.7,000 crore.

On the front of financial consolidation, the Minister of Finance aims to restrict the fiscal deficit to 4.1 per cent in the current year and to around 3 per cent by the financial year 2017. Lower deficit will go a long way in reining in inflation, but it is a formidable task.

Jaitley ji has raised the allocation for defense forces by about 12 per cent to Rs.229,000 crore, and earmarked Rs.5,000 crore for the modernization of the sector. Raising the limit on foreign investment in the defense sector from 26 per cent to 49 percent will save foreign exchange and check the current account deficit in the long run which means a stable rupee.

Another positive of the 2014-15 Budget is a move towards a common Goods and Services Tax. The Government also proposes not to destabilize the tax regime with retrospective demands as far as possible.

The proposed integrated national market for agricultural produce, will allow farmers to sell their produce directly to the consumer removing the middlemen. This will not only curb inflation, but will also check spoilage of the perishable items.

Rs.1000 crore has been provided for "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojna" for assured irrigation.

The Indian economy is passing through an extremely difficult phase and hence putting the economy back on track is paramount. The NDA Govt under Vajpayee ji when it left office in 2004 the GDP growth was 8.1%. Now the UPA left office with less than 5 % GDP growth.

The original cost of 738 big projects being monitored by the MOSPI was Rs.9.05 lakh crore. The anticipated cost of these projects has now risen to Rs.10.79 lakh crore due to inflation.

Current Account Deficit: 2004: (+) $7.36 billion (surplus). 2013: (-) $80 billion. During 1998 it was -2, Which NDA brought to +2.3 in 2004, whereas Congress Led UPA brought back to -5 at present.

Trade deficit: 2004: (-) $13.16 billion. 2013: (-) $180 billion.

The Fiscal Deficit: During 1998-99 it was -6.29, which NDA brought to -3.88 in 2004-05, whereas Congress Led UPA brought back to -5.75 in 2012-13

Inflation: 1998-2004: 5% and

2004-2013: 9% (Both figures are averaged out over their respective tenures)

The Food Inflation

	Total Month	Average Food Inflation has stayed above 10%	% of total tenure for which Food Inflation was above 10%
UPA in Office	108	63	58%

NDA in office	72	12 Only	17% only

The Food Prices

Item	Prices during NDA (May 2004)	Prices during UPA (May 2013)	% Increase
Potato	2	20	900%
Wheat	9	28	211%
Milk	14	45	221%
Vegetable Oil	40	78	95%
Diesel	22.50	56.10	149%

External Debt: March 2004: $111.6 billion, March 2013: $390 billion.

The UPA suffers badly in this comparison, a result of lack of confidence in India's economy and currency following retrospective

tax legislation and other regressive policies, especially during UPA-2.

During NDA tenure in 1999-2004, 60.7 Million Jobs were created, whereas in UPA 1 tenure only 2.7 Million Jobs were created. Clearly, the UPA's big failure has been jobless growth

HDI: 2004: India was ranked 123rd globally on the human development index (HDI) in 2004, with a score of 0.453. 2013: India has slipped 13 places to 136th globally on the HDI in 2013 with a score of 0.554.

NDA's policy	UPA's policy
Low inflation – Low interest rates but High Growth Rate – High Employment Minimum Government Maximum Governance	High Inflation – High Interest Rates but Low Growth Rate – Low Employment Maximum Government Minimum Governance

So this is the gloomy legacy left by the previous Govt on the economy of the country to the new Govt, entrusting a Herculean task of first correcting wrongs and then bringing the movement of progress on the right track.

On the whole, the 2014-15 Budget is an exercise whose results will take time to show.

Demands for the Dharwad Constituency: IIT in Karnataka, Establishment of AIIMS in Dharwad: Government has announced to set up 4 New AIIMS in the recent General Budget. Along with that, the Government has plans to set up AIIMS across the country. In Karnataka, Hubli-Dharwad city is the second largest city only after Bangalore, the state capital. This twin city is already a hub of education, industries and commerce with three renowned Universities, 3 medical Colleges and 4 Engineering colleges. It's a long pending demand by the state & Northern Karnataka to construct a Hospital with all super specialty facilities in it like AIIMS.

Cold Storage in APMC yard, Hubli to stop the wastage of agricultural products, especially chili. Inclusion of Hubli Dharwad in 100 Smart City plan. As the Prime Minister Narendra modi has announced in his speech during the rally in Hubli to start an agro processing industry/unit to encourage the chili producer to export Chilli powder and its products.

In Navalgund, Kundgol, Kalghatgi and Hubli rural Taluka are worst affected with severe water scarcity as these taluka are totally

dependent on underground/borewell water. So the request is to provide surface drinking to these areas.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Chairperson, you had said that I would be given five minutes to speak, but I request you to kindly extend it by one more minute so that I may conclude my remarks. I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Hon. Chairperson, the moment the results of the Lok Sabha elections were declared, the nation began awaiting the General Budget of the Modi Government. As the time of the swearing-in drew closer, people's expectations kept rising. But when the Budget was presented, those expectations began to decline. Matters worsened to the extent that, even before the presentation of the Railway Budget, passenger fares were increased. Not only this, the fare hike was also imposed upon travellers in sleeper and general class coaches. This has only added to the crushing burden of inflation. It used to be said that whenever the Congress Party formed the Government at the Centre, it brought inflation with it. But when the NDA Government came to power, it too brought along inflation.

Hon. Chairperson, it is deeply regrettable that I come from Bihar, yet there is no mention of special status or special package for Bihar in this Budget. From the jugglery of figures, it seems that the BJP Government has turned against Bihar. During the elections, promises

were made to the people that inflation would be controlled, and such dreams were shown to secure votes. But today, those in power at the Centre do not appear to remember those promises. The people will get no relief from inflation instead, its impact will only intensify. This Budget has nothing new to offer. It was presented, and that was all. There is no sign whatsoever of the “achhe din” (good days) that were promised. The Budget only takes into account the interests of the rich states. There is no perspective on inclusive development or the advancement of backward states. Backward states like Bihar have been neglected in this Budget. No effort has been made to bridge the gap between poor and rich states. It was expected that the Budget would provide special status to Bihar, but there is no mention of it. During the elections, promises were made to Bihar for a special package and to promote backward states, yet none of these promises have been implemented. According to the Economic Survey of the Centre, Bihar recorded the highest per capita income and growth rate between 2005-06 and 2011-12, and the rate of poverty reduction was also the highest. Based on this, backward states should have been supported for further progress, which has not happened. Voters were misled during the elections to secure votes.

Sir, Bihar is an agriculture-based state. To promote agriculture, the then Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar, had prepared a comprehensive roadmap for the Rainbow Revolution. However, the Budget provides no provisions to support this initiative. Eastern states have immense agricultural potential, yet there has been no mention of converting the former Agricultural University in Bihar into a Central University. Similarly, there is no clarity on how the Second Green Revolution will be strengthened in the eastern region. In the tourism sector, the Buddhist Circuit has been curtailed. The Hon. Minister of Finance has overlooked key locations such as Vaishali and Rajgir. No mention has been made of strengthening the Nalanda International University, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The then Chief Minister had even allocated 450 acres of land for the university, yet the Union Government has provided no budgetary support. Similarly, a unit of Aligarh Muslim University is proposed in Kishanganj, and while land has been made available, there is no budgetary provision for it. I demand that these allocations be included in the Budget. Regarding tax relief, when the proponents of “tax terror” came to power, only a meagre exemption of Rs. 50,000 was provided under Income Tax, without any clear articulation of the broader economic policy. This Budget is not for poors. In villages, 60 percent of farmers do not pay

taxes, and no provisions have been made for them. During the elections, big promises were made for the youth, and a vision of empowering women was presented. If we look at unemployment, the previous Government had set a target of providing employment to one crore people annually, but only 15 lakh people were employed. Regarding female labour participation, in 1984 approximately 34 percent of women had employment, whereas today the figure has declined to 27 percent. This issue has not been addressed in the Budget.

The Government has announced the Skill India Mission for youth employment. However, there is no clear policy on how it will be implemented or what the scope will be. I demand that special opportunities be created to provide employment to the youth.

This Government had also promised to prepare a list of those who have deposited black money in foreign banks. It was said that such black money would be brought back into the country, but nothing of the sort has happened. Let alone the list, the Budget makes no reference to black money at all. Therefore, instead of generating hope and enthusiasm, the Budget only brings disappointment.

With these remarks, I conclude my speech.

[English]

*__SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA):__ Earlier on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address, I requested the Government to grant Special Status to Andhra Pradesh and also requested that the period may be extended to 15 years. After bifurcation, my state has forfeited all its major economic assets and inherited huge liability and left with no resources even to service the debt. On February 20th, 2014 on the floor of the Rajya Sabha former Prime Minister, Dr. Manmohan Singh ji promised to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh State for the purpose of Central Assistance to put the State's finance on a firm footing. On behalf of Telugu Desam Party, I demand that GOI immediately grant special status to Andhra Pradesh State and extend it to 15 years.

Earlier replying to the debate on the AP Reorganisation Bill, the Hon. Prime Minister assured that a special package would be given to the backward districts of Rayalaseema and North coastal regions of Andhra Pradesh. The nine coastal districts of AP and four districts in Rayalaseema are extremely vulnerable to natural calamities. So, I request the Government to sanction an amount of Rs.5,000 crores to

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Andhra Pradesh during the current year's Budget under Special Development Package.

My State is a new born baby. As per the Section 94 (I) of A P Reorganization Act 2014, the Union Government shall take appropriate fiscal measures including offer of tax incentives to promote industrialization and economic growth in the state. I request the Government to issue orders for providing tax incentives and concessions for industrial investments for a period of 15 years to enable my state to forge ahead on the path of development.

I also request the Government to convert the loans advanced by Government of India over the years, amounting to a total of Rs.10,090 Crores into a Grant by GOI and restructure the outstanding EAP dues as 90% Central Grant and limit the State's liability to 10%.

In my earlier speech I also requested GOI to complete all the long pending irrigation projects in Andhra Pradesh and Telangana such as Thotapalli, Jhanjhavathi, Handri-Niva, Galeru-Nagiri, etc., but Government not allocated any fund in this year's budget for the completion of these projects. I demand that the Government must allocate funds to Andhra Pradesh State to complete these projects on priority basis.

I am a little bit disappointed because, in this budget GOI did not extend any financial assistance to the Govt. of Andhra Pradesh for building a new capital. Andhra Pradesh is the only State which has been divided by denying it the capital. We have no capital. I strongly demand that an initial provision of Rs.5,000 crores in the current budget be allocated for development of infrastructure for the new capital city in the successor state of Andhra Pradesh. Andhra Pradesh State would require at least Rs.4 to 5 lakh crores over a ten year period to build a city that would equal to Hyderabad in terms of infrastructure and service. I also request the Government to provide Rs.19,700 crores for execution of the outer ring road, around the Vijayawada-Guntur-Tenali Urban Agglomeration.

I congratulate the Government for its announcement to develop "one hundred smart cities", as satellite towns of larger cities and by modernizing the existing mid-sized cities. I request the Government to include Visakhapatnam, Vijayawada and Tirupati under Mega City category and Srikakulam, Vijayanagaram, Kakinada, Rajahmundry, Eluru, Gundur, Ongole, Nellore, Chittoor, Anantapur, Kurnool and Kadapa in smart city category and modernize these existing cities.

I also thank the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for my Kakinada, its adjoining area and the port will be developed as the key drivers of

economic growth in the region with a special focus on hardware manufacturing.

And I also request the Minister of Finance, kindly enhance the MPLADS to 7 crores per year Parliamentary Constituency.

[Translation]

***SHRI JASVANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR (DAHOD):** In the 2014-15 General Budget, Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley has provided for all the initiatives envisioned by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi, and the Budget makes mention of all the announcements that Hon. Modi has consistently highlighted. This includes measures for cleaning the river Ganga, the plan to develop 100 Smart Cities, and skill development initiatives for the youth. In addition, the Budget provides for the establishment of new IITs and IIMs, the construction of 8,500 kilometres of national highways, and the expansion of foreign direct investment to 49 percent in the defence and insurance sectors. This Budget also offers relief to senior citizens, farmers, women, and salaried employees, earning widespread appreciation across various sectors.

Through this Budget, Hon. Jaitley has stated the goal of reducing the fiscal deficit to 4.1 percent, which will help steer the country's ailing economy in the right direction. The Budget also commits to increasing savings and investment, aiming to raise the country's growth rate from 7 percent to 8 percent. For the first time, a significant allocation of Rs. 2036 crore has been made for the Namami Gange

* Speech was laid on the table.

Mission to clean the Ganga, which is commendable. The state of agriculture and industry in the country has become quite distressing. People often view starting industrial or agricultural ventures as a risky proposition. To restore confidence, the Government has provided for both long-term and short-term loans in this Budget. I urge the Government to closely monitor these loans so that the projects for which they are taken are successfully completed. This will accelerate the country's development and generate employment opportunities.

India is a country of villages. Until the villages develop, the nation cannot truly progress. Therefore, it is essential to provide employment and modern technical training to people in rural areas. Tribal communities make up nearly 16 percent of the country's population. So far, only a few communities have received opportunities for development, while the rest continue to face backwardness. In areas where tribal populations reside, there is neither adequate educational infrastructure nor proper irrigation facilities. If we establish livestock and dairy industries in tribal regions, it will not only boost the country's overall development but also promote the social and economic advancement of the tribal communities.

Our country experiences multiple seasons. It has mountains, rivers, seas on three sides, and vast forest resources. However, no

special efforts have been made to utilise these resources effectively, which has resulted in the country's economic growth rate being the lowest in the past 10 years. At present, this growth rate is only 4.7 percent, which is very low. The Government has proposed attracting Rs. 2.5 lakh crore in FDI to fully harness the country's resources. The Budget has increased the limits of foreign investment in defence, housing, and insurance sectors, and has also promoted foreign investment in manufacturing.

India's textile industry was once renowned worldwide, with Indian fabrics always in demand across the globe. Even a single thread could pass through a ring with ease. The Government has allocated Rs. 500 crore for textile mega clusters in six locations Bareilly, Lucknow, Surat, Kutch, Bhagalpur, and Mysore. Additionally, Rs. 20 crore has been provided for handloom units in Delhi and Rs. 50 crore for Pashmina production centers in Kashmir. An allocation of Rs. 2,300 crore has been made for the technological modernization of the textile industry.

The country has significant potential to increase agricultural production. Food production, which was 20.8 crore tonnes in 2006-07, has now risen to 26.3 crore tonnes. The Government has allocated around Rs. 1,500 crore for irrigation, research, and agricultural

education, which will further boost production. The Budget also promises Rs. 8 lakh crore in loans to farmers, which will improve their condition. While prices of commodities have increased, the Government has taken measures to control inflation. I request the Government to take strict measures to control inflation and to enact new laws against hoarders.

Hon. Prime Minister is committed to the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This year, under the Scheduled Tribe Plan, Rs. 50,548 crore has been proposed, and under TSP, Rs. 32,387 crore has been allocated. With an initial allocation of Rs. 100 crore, the Vanbandhu Welfare Scheme is being launched for the benefit of the tribal communities. Therefore, I express my sincere gratitude to Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

The mission for the construction of the grand statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel has been initiated. Sardar Patel is regarded as a symbol of unity. I express my deep gratitude for the allocation of Rs. 200 crore to support the initiative of the Government of Gujarat for the establishment of the Statue of Unity.

A commitment has been made to provide an allocation of Rs. 14,389 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The Rural Housing Scheme has benefitted a large section of the rural population

by enabling access to loans through the Rural Housing Fund. For the year 2014-15, a proposal has been placed to enhance the allocation for the National Housing Bank by Rs. 8,000 crore. To bridge the critical gaps in basic infrastructural facilities in backward areas and to strengthen the capacity of Panchayats/Gram Sabhas, the BRGF is being implemented in 272 backward districts across 27 States.

The country's exports are on the rise and have now reached 313 billion dollars. A total of 566 Special Economic Zones have been registered, yet only 185 of them are operational. I urge the Government to ascertain why these export zones are not functioning and to take steps to activate them, so as to further augment the nation's exports. At the same time, the country is facing a very high level of unemployment, which also includes educated youth and engineers. If the Government makes arrangements at its level to provide employment opportunities abroad for such unemployed persons, we will not only be able to provide them with gainful employment but also earn substantial foreign exchange. I would like to point out that those proficient in computers and software, who are employed abroad, have brought great recognition to India. Such a model should also be applied to other sectors of education.

At present, the growth rate of India's Gross Domestic Product is 5 percent, as compared to 7.7 percent in China and 1.9 percent in the United States. With this growth-oriented Budget, our nation shall stand in the third position in the next fifteen years. During the past 6 years, the savings rate has fallen by 5 percent and investment has declined to 35 percent within a year. Both savings and investment are essential for the development of the country. The Government has undertaken a thorough study of the declining savings and investment rates. It has identified all the shortcomings that were weakening the nation and has devised measures to address them, which will improve the condition of the country.

I extend my support to the General Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance.

SHRI CHANDULAL SAHU (MAHASAMUND): Hon. Chairperson, I rise to speak in support of the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance. I extend my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Finance as well as to the Hon. Prime Minister. The Budget presented is a lifeline for the economy. India has, since time immemorial, been a leader in the fields of spirituality, art, culture, philosophy and science of knowledge. But unfortunately, this sector had not received any special attention. Today, we find ourselves in a situation where, if we wish to use any technology, we are compelled to import the equipment from abroad. It is, therefore, praiseworthy that the Hon. Minister of Finance has proposed to establish five IITs and five IIMs in the country.

This Budget has paid special attention to the farmers. For this, I would like to thank both the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister. The Budget has initiated the Pradhan Mantri Irrigation Scheme. Along with this, there is also a provision to link important rivers, with the consent of the concerned States, which is undoubtedly in the interest of farmers. Today, 71 percent of the population of the country is engaged in agriculture. However, due to inadequate irrigation facilities, farmers in many places are forced to commit suicide. An old saying about farmers is that a farmer is born

in debt, lives in debt, and dies in debt. To get rid of this vicious cycle, it is necessary to accord special focus to irrigation. At present, irrigation facilities are confined to only 30 to 35 per cent of the land. Efforts must be made to increase this coverage to 70 to 75 per cent. If this is achieved, the economy of the country will improve.

Today, the level of groundwater is falling. In such a situation, the proposal to link rivers is truly commendable. In several parts of the country there is a possibility of floods, while in many others the fear of drought looms large. It is anticipated that crops may fail. Therefore, adequate arrangements are required to address this concern as well.

Now, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance towards the important demands of my constituency. In my Parliamentary Constituency, Mahasamund, there is a tribal development block, Chhura, where an important dam project has remained pending for almost 25 years. The construction of the Piparchhedi Dam remains incomplete due to non-issuance of the NOC, and I urge that it be sanctioned. Alongside this, Raipur is our State capital and a National Highway connects it with the remote Bastar region. I request that the stretch from Raipur to Dhamtari be approved for four-laning. Further, approval may kindly be given for a bypass road in Dhamtari town. Likewise, Mahasamund town has

become densely populated, and the construction of a bypass road has been under way for many years. The State Government has already passed a proposal and forwarded it in this regard. Hence, I request that bypass roads in Mahasamund as well as in Bagbahra be sanctioned. Alongside this, the road from Ratnapur to Pendra–Amarkantak is also stalled due to non-issuance of the NOC. Similarly, electricity lines and irrigation dam works are also held up. The previous Government had paid no attention to this. Therefore, through you, I request the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Home Minister, who is present here, to kindly ensure approval of all such files pending for NOC so that construction of dams and other development works may commence and the people may be benefitted.

A provision of Rs.100 crore has been made for the Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao campaign. Certainly, many of our sisters remain deprived of education and their development is hindered. To ensure that incidents like the Nirbhaya case are not repeated, a special provision of Rs.150 crore has been made, which I welcome.

The development of villages is very essential. While arrangements have been made to establish 100 smart cities, equal focus must also be given to the development of villages because rural people are migrating towards cities. Therefore, villages must also be

provided with facilities similar to those in urban areas. In addition, every village has at least 10-15 ponds, which must be deepened by at least 10 feet under the Harit Sarovar Yojana. Tree plantation should also be undertaken around these ponds so that their beautification can be ensured. These are my important suggestions which, if duly considered, will greatly benefit the people. In conclusion, I extend my thanks and conclude by expressing my support for the Budget.

*__SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU):__ Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful for the opportunity to express my views on the General Budget, I support the General Budget 2014-15. Despite various apprehensions, this budget provides relief. It has not imposed any harsh or burdensome measures on the people. The Hon. Minister of Finance, despite numerous adverse circumstances, has ensured that every section of society receives some benefit, while also striving to pave the way for reforms. The new Government, through this budget, has presented a picture of reform that appears effective. Efforts have been made to provide relief to the common people burdened by inflation. This budget is set to place the country on a path of development and prosperity. Through the first budget, the Government has made every effort to transform the country's economic scenario and strengthen the foundation of key sectors.

Taking into account the demand for "One Rank, One Pension" for ex-servicemen, the budget has made provisions that will benefit millions of former soldiers. About 60 percent of the country's population is directly or indirectly engaged in agriculture. While the railways, with its 13 lakh employees, has a separate budget allocation, no such specific provision has been made for the vast population

* Speech was laid on the Table.

engaged in agriculture. The distress faced by farmers mirrors the hardships of workers and artisans. The new Government has taken steps to provide relief to farmers, and there is now hope that agriculture will no longer be neglected. The Government has prioritised the agricultural sector, making a provision of over Rs. 11,000 crore. By giving agriculture such focus in the general budget, the rapid development of farmers and rural areas is expected. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana will help reduce the risks in farming, with an allocation of Rs. 1,000 crore. The budget also emphasises both private and public investment in agriculture. For MGNREGA, Rs. 34,000 crore has been allocated; however, in its current form, the scheme does not provide sufficient relief. It should be linked with agricultural activities. Greater focus should be placed on water harvesting under this scheme, and it should also facilitate the construction of railway under-bridges where necessary. Currently, in many rural areas, there are stretches of up to 40 km without any railway overbridges or underbridges, making it difficult for villagers to even take a camel cart to their fields. In my Parliamentary Constituency, under this scheme, railway underbridges were constructed earlier, however, later, following the directives of the Government of India, the previous average 60:40 ratio of labour and

materials maintained at the district level was shifted to the Panchayat level, causing work on the ROBs to halt. I request that the ratio of labour and materials be restored to the district level, as was done earlier. For the National Crop Insurance Scheme, an allocation of Rs. 2,823 crore has been made, which should be increased. There are significant discrepancies in this scheme, as it currently safeguards the interests of companies rather than protecting the farmers. In 2013-14, the Government of India and the State Governments had increased the premiums, further affecting the farmers interests. The premium has been raised from Rs. 200 per hectare to Rs. 528 per hectare, which should be retained at Rs. 200 per hectare. In 2013-14, crop insurance companies revised the temperature scale, raising the threshold in Churu from –2°C to –2.7°C. This is an overly stringent condition. Place with such an extreme minus temperatures, the threshold should be considered as -0°C, as full claims are being honoured at -0°C in other districts. These temperature records must be made public. Currently, control is exercised from Hyderabad, and companies are manipulating the temperature records at their discretion. This is a serious offence. The Government's target of Rs. 8 lakh for agricultural loans is commendable, however, farmers still have to run from bank to bank for KCC and other loans. Bank staff often treat them as if they

are beggars. This scheme is rife with corruption. Farmers are compelled to rely on agents to obtain loans. In my Parliamentary Constituency, the residents of Mahalana and Uttarada villages have faced serious corruption in KCC and other loans at the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, Sadulpur branch, Churu district. Payments meant for the farmers, amounting to approximately Rs. 7 lakh, were diverted to agents by bank managers and cashiers. This matter is still under investigation by the police.

The country is moving towards a severe drought. The situation in Rajasthan is even more alarming. The most pressing concern is the protection of livestock. A special package should be provided to the Rajasthan Government for this purpose. In my Parliamentary Constituency, there is an acute drinking water crisis, which requires immediate action. Under the Prime Minister's Gram Sadak Yojana, an allocation of Rs. 14,000 crore has been made. Under this scheme, villages in the desert region with a population of 250 are to be connected. However, in my constituency, there are still many settlements with populations exceeding 250, but as they are not designated as revenue villages, they are being excluded. These settlements should be included, and villages with populations of 100 should also be connected. In my constituency's Churu, Ratangarh, and

Sardarshahar areas, handicraft work is being carried out on a large scale, and this should be encouraged. The water-sharing agreement made in 1981 between Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan has still not been implemented. Rajasthan’s share of water should be ensured, and budget provisions should be made for the construction of permanent canals.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I stand to oppose the General Budget. The reason why I oppose it is that it has been the practice of the Ruling Party to oppose any upliftment schemes of minorities by calling it as appeasement.

I would like to enlighten them by putting forward some empirical data. I am sure that by putting forward this empirical data, their opinion about appeasement will not change but I am sure that it will make them think.

According to the Planning Commission, the poverty indicators are that 12.4 per cent in the rural areas and 27.9 in the urban areas Muslims are below poverty line. Is this appeasement?

Sir, you talk about the Muslim women. Thirty-five per cent of the Muslim women have BMI less than 18.5 per cent, and 54.7 percent of the Muslim women are anemic. These are the Planning Commission data. When we come to the Muslim children, infant mortality rate is 52.4 per cent; under five mortality rate is as high as 70 per hundred live berths. Then, Sir, if you read the India Exclusion Report, the Human Development Report 2011, Muslims are either landless or are marginal landholders.

Sir, the NSSO survey says that the per capita spending of Muslims as compared to Hindus, Christians and Sikhs is less. The NSSO survey also says that unemployment is high as compared to other religions. Is this appeasement?

Now, juxtapose this, with the budget that has been announced for minority affairs ... (*Interruptions*) I will sit down, if you want to say. I will yield to it. I will reply back. ... *(Interruptions)* I have no problem. I can argue with you for the next 24 hours. You cannot answer me back.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, juxtapose this, with the budget that has been announced for minority affairs, you see what the budget is. The percentage of the total Budget is 0.21 per cent; percentage to GDP for minority affairs is 0.03 per cent. What is this? This is tokenism. Is this appeasement?

Sir, the Government has announced about Rs.100 crore for the modernization of *Madarasas*. I would respectfully put forward that the word 'modernization' is patronizing. Why do you not use the word 'modernization' for Kendriya Vidayalas? [English] Why do you want to interfere in our religious teachings? [Translation] Do not interfere in that. ... *(Interruptions)* Listen to me. I would like to put forward my viewpoint. We do not want this *Madarasa* modernization. It is

because the recent Report issued by the HRD Minister, the Education Development Index Report clearly says that the Muslim enrollment at the primary level has gone up to 14.35 percent from 14.20 per cent in this year; at the upper primary level it has increased from 12.11 per cent to 12.52 per cent. Muslims want to study. You have to give them an opportunity. Leave these Madrasas to us. We will make our Imams; we will make our Khatibs; we will make our Mohaddis. We do not want you to give this money of Rs. 100 crore. Let the Home Minister say as to how many Madrasas there are. You divide this Rs. 100 crore. It comes to Rs. 15 per Madarasa. You open schools for us.

About Pre-Matric Scholarship and Post-Matric Scholarship, again a token amount has been given. The Prime Minister says that the Muslim child works at a tyre puncture shop; his father worked at a tyre puncture shop. No, that is stereotyping. There are Muslim youths who are studying in medical colleges and engineering colleges, who want to do well. Do not patronize us and stereotype us.

About the amount that is given for Pre-Matric scholarship, the data show that for one scholarship, 11 Muslim children are chasing. This in itself clearly shows that there has been a sea change in the Muslim community. They want to get highly educated.

About the Post-Matric Scholarship, please explain to me. You give OBC Post-Matric Scholarship. It is Rs. 760 crore. But when it comes to Minorities, it is hardly Rs. 300 crore. Is this not appeasement? Is this not tokenism? In this country, out of 100 graduates, only three are Muslim graduates. Is this not the responsibility of the Government to increase the Post-Matric Scholarship and Pre-Matric Scholarship and to make it merit-cum-means and demand-driven?

Make it demand-driven. I am not asking for a reservation. What is stopping you from making it demand-driven?

Now, coming to MSDP, this was a Central Assistance Scheme but unfortunately now, it has been made as a Central Assistance for State Plan. Which State Plan would want to utilize this amount for the development of Minorities? The previous Government, after a lot of persuasion, had included 710 blocks and 66 towns. If you divide this by 1250, it comes to Rs. 1 crore per town or per block. What can be achieved by this? With this, whether a school can be made or an ITI can be made or an NRHM can be made. I would leave it to the wisdom of the Government.

Sir, you come to the 15-Point Programme. Let this Government clarify. Are they committed to the Prime Minister’s 15-Point

Programme or not? I would like to say that this 15-Point Programme must be implemented on the line of SC Sub Plan and ST Sub Plan with additional Central Assistance. We do not want this Rs. 550 crore Haj Charter Subsidy. Take it away for God's sake. We do not want this Haj Subsidy. You give Muslim Women Scholarship. We want our children to study. We do not want the Haj Subsidy. For God's sake, take it away. This is tokenism; this is not appeasement.

Sir, the Minister of Finance very proudly claimed that he was announcing a new scheme – Upgradation of Traditional Skills in Arts, Resources and Goods. But there is not a single mention of this in the Budgetary Documents, either in the Minority Affairs head or in other heads. Is this a mere announcement that has been made? What is happening over here?

Sir, their Manifesto talks about protecting the Urdu language. But in their HRD Documents, they have not given a single paisa for the appointment of Urdu teachers. What is this? Is this appeasement? Is this not tokenism?

Sir, the Hon. Home Minister is here. The budget of the MHA is Rs. 65,000 crore. I would like to know from the Government. What kind of federalism is this? The Government sends a scheme to the Telangana Government saying that the Hyderabad City

Administration would be run by the Governor. Is this not contrary to federalism? Is this not contrary to what this party, day in and day out, says that the Hyderabad law and order will be run by the Governor? That is impossible, Sir.

I would like to know from the Government whether in the Defence budget, they are going to finalise the MMRCA deal. As it is, the costs have escalated.

Sir, in conclusion, I would like to quote what an eminent economist, who was once the Economic Advisor to a Minister of Finance of the NDA Government, said. He concluded his article in one newspaper by saying: Acche Din Doorast.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Hon. Chairperson, the discussion on the Budget has been continuing since yesterday. Many observations have been made, and many comments have been reported in the newspapers. A senior Congress leader remarked that this Budget lacks vision. Someone else said there is nothing new in it. I submit that those who have a problem with vision will not be able to see it.

I have listened to many Budgets. I have seen how schemes were framed earlier merely by calculating vote banks. I have also seen how former Minister of Finances attempted to find some game changer that could rescue a sinking ship. I would like to highlight two small but new features of this Budget. This is not a vote bank Budget, this is a Budget for the entire nation, in which due attention has been paid to all regions and all sections. It is a comprehensive and all-inclusive Budget. It is not a game changer, it is a fate changer. This Budget will change the destiny of India and there is no so-called game changing plan in it. For this, I extend my heartiest congratulations to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance.

In fact, the problem is not merely of policy. Since yesterday, much discussion has taken place and several policies have been changed.

The question is also of intent. The Union Government had formulated a plan for solar energy generation. Solar power plants were to be established in both Rajasthan and Gujarat. We all know that geographically, the conditions of Gujarat and Rajasthan are similar, and solar plants could have been set up equally in both States. The difference, however, was that in Gujarat, Hon. Narendra Modi Ji was the Chief Minister. Two years ago, a 500 MW solar power plant was dedicated to the nation. What happened in Rajasthan? In Rajasthan, with the entry of the Damaad ji (son-in-law), the progress of solar energy projects came to a halt. Our colleagues continued to shield him, but ultimately, the people of the country resolved to free the nation from his influence, and under the leadership of the BJP, the NDA Government was formed.

Agriculture and villages, villages and farmers, are the true elixir of the nation's progress. Hon. Minister of Finance has duly taken care of this aspect. However, until the farmer receives a remunerative price for his produce, neither the problems of the farmer nor those of the country shall be resolved. Let me give you a small example. In the year 2010, the minimum support price for sugarcane was fixed at Rs.129.84. Later, it was increased by Rs.10 to Rs.139.12. This calculation was based on 7 elements, including land, seed, the cost of

fertilizer etc. I had asked the Ministry how this figure was arrived at and requested them to provide the detailed basis of this calculation. On seeking the details, the reply I received in 2010, which I wish to quote before this House today, was as follows: [English] "Nothing relevant could be traced from the sources available with the Parliament Library. The matter is referred to the concerned Ministry and we will supply it as soon as it is received by us." [Translation] In other words, while fixing the price of sugarcane at 129.84 paise and later 139.12 rupees, the detailed breakdown was not available with them. As long as such carelessness continues regarding the pricing of farmers produce, the farmers will not truly benefit. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Finance to rectify this.

Chaudhary Charan Singh ji was born in my constituency. I consider myself fortunate for that. Chaudhary Sahab served this country as the Prime Minister. He fought tirelessly for the farmers. His birthplace is a small village, Noorpur Madhaiya, near Hapur.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now it is six o' clock. We have a long list of Members to speak with.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): How many Members are there?

18.00 hrs.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There are many Members yet to speak. Therefore, what I am suggesting is that, if the House feels, we can extend the discussion up to 8 o'clock, including the 'Zero Hour'. Discussion on the General Budget will be completed by 7.30 p.m. Then, we can start the 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Up to 8 o'clock, you can continue the discussion because everybody wants to speak on the General Budget.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: All right, at 8 o'clock, we will see what the position is.

Shri Rajendra Agrawal, you please conclude your speech.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL: Hon. Chairperson, I submit that a national-level Food Processing Research Centre be established at the birthplace of Chaudhary Charan Singh ji. This would serve as a true tribute to him and would also greatly benefit the farmers of the region. The condition of IT hardware is extremely poor. I do not wish to cite the entire set of figures of the previous Government, but it is a fact that the funds allotted were not utilised. If indigenous production of

IT hardware does not take place, it will pose a serious threat to our security.

Uttar Pradesh is a very large State. One IIM, AIIMS or IIT is not sufficient. I agree that there is a shortage of resources and shortcomings in the planning of the previous Governments. I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance to give priority to setting up such institutions in Meerut (Western Uttar Pradesh) in the coming one or two years. Western Uttar Pradesh is an important centre in the NCR. While Rajasthan and Haryana have witnessed development, Western Uttar Pradesh, particularly Meerut, has not. I urge that a special package be provided for the proper and speedy development of Meerut, with due emphasis on infrastructure.

[English]

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I rise to oppose the Budget proposals for the year 2014-15 presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance. The people of India were very eager to hear the new Budget proposals or the new Budget speech from the new Government formed by the NDA. The people were having high expectations and hopes from the new Budget proposals. As the campaign during the 16th Lok Sabha elections was done under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, people were assuming that something new would come out of the Budget. The BJP is a party of difference and Shri Narendra Modi ji is a man of different caliber. The people also trusted the manifesto, slogans, and assurances given by the campaigners.

Sir, during the election campaign, having confidence in the assurances given by the BJP, people voted for the BJP. They got 283 seats and came up as a single majority party. It has happened after one and a half decades of political experiences of having coalition politics in India. So, what has happened when the Budget was announced and read out in the House of the People, the entire hopes and expectations have lost just like that of deflated balloons. It happened because there is nothing new; there is nothing innovative in the Budget. The Budget

is lacking in vision. No new programme and no new scheme is there in the Budget. The Budget has no long term vision. The duration of the Budget speech was very long but it delivered nothing new. That is why I am saying the hopes and expectations of the people of India – who believed the BJP's campaigner, Shri Narendra Modi ji, as a man of different caliber – have dashed. They hoped that something new would come out of this Budget, but it has disappointed the whole electorate, who voted for this Government. That has a resultant effect of the Budget announcement for the year 2014-15.

Sir, most of the critics of the economy have already narrated that this is the continuation of the UPA Budget. Just before, some of the learned friends from the other side were arguing that if it is the Budget of the UPA; if it is having the resemblance of the Budget of the UPA, why do you not support this Budget? Sir, one of the critics of the economy described that this is a UPA Budget with saffron lipstick. This is the narration or the description which is given by one of the economic experts. Most of the things in this Budget resemble the normal Budget which was announced by the then Minister of Finance, Shri P. Chidambaram. Let us examine it. I am not going into the details because of paucity of time. When we go into the details regarding fiscal deficit, both in the normal Budget and in the Interim

Budget, it is mentioned that it is to be contained to 4.1 per cent of the total GDP and the revenue deficit is to be contained to 2.9 percent of total GDP. Regarding Government expenditure, it is proposed in the Interim Budget to be 13.4 percent of total GDP and in the regular Budget, it is proposed to be 13.9 per cent. There is a marginal difference. Regarding the tax to GDP ratio, in the interim Budget, it was 10.7 percent and in the normal Budget, it is 10.6 percent. There is a difference of just 0.1 per cent. Regarding the disinvestment proceeds, which the Government expects or estimates out of this Budget as well as the Interim Budget, is more or less same. Then, 18 flagship programmes have been announced in this Budget which were also there in the Interim Budget. Except in three programmes – PMGSY, AIBP and SSA – in all the other 15 flagship programmes, the Budget allocation is more or less the same. Then, I would like to know from the Treasury Benches what the difference is. Is it a party with a difference? Is he a leader of a different caliber?

What is the economic philosophy of the newly formed Government of NDA under the leadership of BJP? Coming to policy comparison, what is the FDI policy of this Government? During the time of the former UPA Government, 26 per cent was the FDI allowed in the defence sector. Now, it is going to be increased to 100 percent.

In the insurance sector, it is being increased from 26 to 49 per cent. In the railways also, FDI is being invited. The then Defence Minister, Shri A.K. Antony has very specifically stated that it is dangerous and harmful to the internal security of the country. If you are allowing 100 FDI in the defense sector, it will definitely harm the internal security of the country because all the defense industrial units will come under the control of four multinational companies and these companies are being controlled by the big powers of the globe. That means the internal security of the country is at peril. What is the Swadeshi Jagran Manch's slogan in this regard? Where is Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi? He had joined hands with the Left parties in fighting against FDI in the retail sector. What is his opinion about having 100 per cent FDI in the defence sector? I do accept that for the time being, it is 49 per cent and it would be announced to go up to 100 per cent. So, policy-wise also, the distinction is very limited or nominal.

I would like to highlight one point regarding insurance. I would say that the Life Insurance Corporation has played a very important role in the nation building process of our country since 1955. It has done a wonderful job in the economic growth as well as in insurance coverage in the country. We are inviting FDI up to 49 per cent? What is the experience of the private companies, especially the MNCs, in

India regarding insurance, especially in the rural sector? The Hon. Minister of Finance has to just review the position in respect of private insurance companies.

Regarding the election manifesto of BJP and things which have been done, the specific allegation made in the manifesto against the UPA was inflation, price rise, corruption and policy paralysis. It is also being described as ‘governance of deficit of the UPA’. What is being done in this Budget? What new and innovative things are being done in this Budget?

I would like to put forth one more point. Hon. Minister of Finance is also here. The main slogan of Shri Narendra Modi during his election campaign was ‘I will tap the black money.’ The BJP manifesto says:

> “BJP is committed to initiate the process of tracking down and bringing back black money stacked in foreign banks and offshore accounts."

What is the wording of the Budget Speech by the Hon. Minister of Finance? It states that: “We also must fully address the problem of black money, which is the curse of our economy.” It means that it is only an academic observation by the Hon. Minister, and there are no

concrete steps to curb black money or to bring black money back to our country.

Lastly, I would like to conclude by stating that unless and until you review the economic policies -- these neo-liberal economic reforms, which have been enunciated since 1991 in this country -- you are not going to deliver good to the people of this country, and no difference will be felt by the country. So, I oppose this Budget, and with these words I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

***SHRI VIRENDER KASHYAP (SHIMLA):** Hon. Minister of Finance has recently presented the General Budget for the year 2014-15, which is welcome. The manner in which the UPA Government had, during the last 10 years, ruined the economic situation of the country, efforts have been made to bring it back on track. Although it may take some time to improve the present situation, yet even for the forthcoming 8 months, a glimpse of the roadmap indicating in which direction the country has to be taken in the coming years, is visible.

In order to increase employment, emphasis has been laid on boosting the manufacturing sector. It is expected that in the coming days, educated unemployed youth will have more opportunities of employment. Similarly, for the establishment of 100 Smart Cities, an allocation of Rs. 7060 crore has been made so that the problem of rising population influx towards cities can be addressed. To ensure that farmers in villages may make full use of their land, a provision of Rs. 1000 crore has been made for the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana'. This scheme will bring more prosperity in villages. For the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

elderly in the society, a corpus of Rs. 6095 crore has been kept for the commencement of the 'Varishtha Pension Bima Yojana'.

Provision of funds has been made in the sub-plans for the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. By allocating Rs. 50,548 crore for the Scheduled Caste Sub- Scheme and Rs. 32,387 crore for the Tribal Sub-Scheme, the development of these sections will be promoted. To ensure that electricity is available in every household round the clock, the 'Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana' has been initiated, for which Rs. 500 crore has been kept. To improve the quality of education and to ensure that children are taught by good teachers, a scheme in the name of Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya Ji will be implemented. An initial allocation of Rs. 500 crore has been made for this scheme so that training of teachers may be undertaken from time to time. For the establishment of good institutions through 5 IITs and 5 IIMs, a provision of Rs. 500 crore has been made. An announcement has also been made to set up one IIM in Himachal Pradesh, which has been widely welcomed in the State. This will provide greater opportunities for the children of the hill State to progress. To ensure that farmers may obtain loans in a more convenient manner, a provision of Rs. 8 lakh crore has been made. Farmers will be able to avail a benefit of 3 Percent on timely

repayment of loans. Considerable funds have also been allocated for road construction so that the means of transportation may become efficient, effective and more modern. An increase of Rs. 5000 crore has been made in this regard, from Rs. 25,000 crore allocated in the Interim Budget. For providing proper storage facilities for the produce of farmers, a provision of Rs. 5000 crore has been made. In the coming days, for the construction of 8500 kilometres of roads in the country through NHAI, a scheme of Rs. 37,880 crore has been formulated. In the defence sector, allowing 49 Percent FDI is a good decision because until defence equipment begins to be manufactured in our own country, we cannot move towards self-reliance. In this way, if all defence equipment begins to be manufactured here by our scientists, the billions of rupees of budget which otherwise goes out of the country will be saved.

Special provisions have been made in this Budget for income tax payers. Senior citizens, aged 60 years and above, will now have an exemption from tax up to Rs. 3 lakh, while all others will have an exemption up to Rs. 2.50 lakh. Under Section 80C, tax exemption will now be available up to Rs. 1.5 lakh, and in the case of housing loans, this exemption will be up to Rs. 2.0 lakh. This is also highly welcomed. Increasing the tax on intoxicating substances will

undoubtedly be beneficial, and the revenue generated from this will be utilised to fund health-related schemes, which will ultimately benefit the people of the country.

I would like to bring to the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance that the previous UPA Government committed a grave injustice to Himachal Pradesh. The industrial package granted by Atal Ji to this hilly State for ten years was curtailed, as a result of which millions of youth who were gaining employment there have become unemployed. Investments worth billions through industries were stalled. Industrialists who were willing to invest in the State have withdrawn their plans. I urge the Hon. Minister of Finance to give this matter due attention and consider whether this package can be extended till 2020. If this is done, the doors of employment will reopen for millions of youth in the State. Himachal Pradesh is a State where apples are produced in large quantities, and the economic condition of the local fruit growers depends heavily on it. It also holds significant importance in the State's economy. In recent years, apples have been imported in large quantities, causing losses to the local producers. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Finance that apples be placed in a special category and a 100 Percent import duty be imposed on them.

On the whole, although the present Budget has been prepared only for a period of 8 months, it indicates that the Hon. Prime Minister's commitments made before the people during the General Elections have been earnestly addressed by the Hon. Minister of Finance. Despite the adverse economic situation, every effort has been made to ensure that the country benefits from it in the coming days and moves forward.

[English]

SHRI SURESH C. ANGADI (BELGAUM): Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to speak on the General Budget. Firstly, I would like to congratulate the Government for presenting a modern, progressive, growth-oriented and pro-people Budget for the year 2014. It surely serves as an indicator that the country needs to progress in an ascending path of development under the leadership of our beloved Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji.

[Translation] This morning, Shri Mulayam Singh stated that bad days have begun. However, it was learnt just this evening that with the rainfall, good days have arrived in Delhi, and good days are to come. [English] My dear friends, today morning only Shri Mulayam Singh has stated that [Translation] good days would not come. With the rainfall, good days have now begun in Delhi.

[English]

Our country has many unemployed youths both amongst the educated and uneducated class of society. A step to transform the present Employment Exchanges into Career Centres and allocating Rs. 100 crore as budget for it will surely bring relief to the said class of youths today.

The thrust by the Government to promote Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) selectively, and the proposal to raise the composite cap of the foreign investment to 49 per cent with full Indian management is truly a bold step and an appreciative move made by the Minister of Finance to improve the economy of the country. The industrialists and investors can invest their money, and we can create employment for the youths today.

The nation is registering an exponential growth in population. The provision of basic infrastructure and amenities in the fast-growing cities is the need of the hour. Hence, the Government has rightly addressed it by earmarking Rs. 7,060 crore budget to develop 100 Smart Cities. A day is not far off when all the cities will appear as developed cities, and our country as a developed country. It is a bold step taken by our Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance. I congratulate them on this occasion.

The UPA Government has always cared for the welfare of farmers and landless farmers. A scheme titled *Bhoomiheen Kisan* is mentioned wherein investment finance to the landless farmers to provide finance to the tune of five lakhs joint farming groups is made. Under the scheme *Pradhan Mantri Sanchayee Yojana* with a budget provision of Rs. 1,000 crore to carry out the irrigation process to their lands is a

most welcome move, and it will certainly help the farming community of this country and the farmers will be happier.

Sufficient care has been taken as regards women and child development. [Translation] Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao (Save the Girl Child, Educate the Girl Child). [English] Now, more care is being given by the Government to women of this country. This is a new venture for the girl child, and a provision of Rs. 100 crore is a good move made by the Minister of Finance amongst various other welfare schemes announced in this Budget.

The growth of the country's economy by urbanization is highlighted when we read about the industrial development proposal introduced for the development of industrial corridors with emphasis on Smart Cities linked to the transport connectivity, which should certainly be welcomed.

India has been a land of rivers. A Rs. 100 crore proposal for Detailed Project Reports for linking of rivers, and also a budget of Rs. 2,037 crore earmarked for the Integrated Ganga Conservation Mission "Namami Ganga" has been a welcome move in this Budget. It is a very good move and I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for making this provision. I, once again, request the Hon. Minister of Finance to make a provision for the interlinking of the

Ganga-Cauvery Rivers. The people and the farmers of this country are awaiting the interlinking of the *Ganga-Cauvery* Rivers. They want it to be done as early as possible, which can create more employment and lead to more agricultural produce. It is the wealth of the country. Therefore, on this occasion, I would request the Minister of Finance to make a provision for the interlinking of the *Ganga-Cauvery* Rivers.

Needless to say, the long-standing demand of raising the Income-Tax exemption limit from Rs. 2-lakh to Rs. 2.50-lakh has been met by the Hon. Minister of Finance. I thank him for the same.

Last but not least, the Urban Cooperative Societies are running the banks in the rural areas. In Karnataka, most of the cooperative societies are running such banks. The small farmers and youth can take finance from these cooperative societies/banks. There is a tax levied on these societies and because of that, these societies are facing a lot of problems in Karnataka. The Urban Cooperative Banks are passing through a difficult phase. As per the Finance Act, 2006, which was passed in this Parliament by the previous Government, it is requested that these Urban Cooperative Banks should be allowed to enjoy the exemption from Income-Tax as admissible. These Societies have been in existence for the past 12 decades in Karnataka and also

in various other sectors in other parts of the country. Hence, I appeal to the Government and the Minister of Finance to be kind enough in extending the total tax exemption benefit to these Urban Cooperative Banks as early as possible.

I support this Budget, which is a development-oriented Budget for this country. I, once again, congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance for presenting a very good Budget.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): Hon. Chairman, in the last parliamentary elections, the major campaign by the NDA was built around four issues. They are (1) inflation; (2) corruption; (3) unemployment; and (4) fiscal deficit and current account deficit. The NDA got a clear mandate as the people anticipated that these issues would be addressed. However, in the General Budget, we find that no measures have been taken to address these issues and they have not presented any roadmap to take care of these issues.

In the recent Railway Budget, Kerala has been totally sidelined. Cutting across party lines, all the Kerala MPs have protested against this. We met the Minister before he gave his reply. In spite of that, we have not got justice at all.

We expected a legitimate share of allocation for the State of Kerala in the General Budget. But to our dismay, all the new projects and institutions that were announced in the Budget with regard to education, agriculture, sports' university, river conservation, organic farming, etc., have gone elsewhere, when Kerala has a *bona fide* claim.

Most of my colleagues have spoken in depth and at length about national issues and suggestions with specific reference to Kerala. I do not want to revisit those issues again because of paucity of time. I

want to address certain vital issues which are affecting the economy of Kerala.

Sir, more than one million farmers are involved in rubber cultivation, and ninety-nine per cent of them are small farmers. During the year 2010-11, about three years back, the price of rubber per kilo was Rs. 240, which has come down to Rs. 140 now. It is not remunerative for the farmers. All the farmers are slowly stopping the farming and coming out of this cultivation. This is mainly because of the indiscriminate import of natural rubber which was facilitated by the reduction of import duty. Now, I request the Government of India to view the statistics of the last 6 months. From January to June alone, the production of rubber was 3,79,000 metric tonnes and there was a loss of Rs. 3,038 crore because of the price crash. The Kerala Government has lost revenue. This has affected the common man also. This has its cyclic effect. My request to the Government of India is that for one year, the import of rubber should be banned. The import duty should be increased.

Sir, we know that India is number one in production of rubber. In the international market, we stand first in rubber studies, research and technology. We need to safeguard this position. If we need to safeguard this position, the best way is to have more studies in this

particular field. I propose the Government of India to have a Rubber University in Kerala especially in Kottayam where the Rubber Board is situated. Right now, the Rubber Board is doing a very good job in the research. When we open a Rubber University, we can tell the whole world about the positive benefits of using natural rubber. In fact, more than 50,000 rubber based products are manufactured now. Moreover, the study has revealed that rubber trees consume more carbon di-oxide than any other tree. This will be an answer to the threat of global warming. This will also help the Indian Government in getting more funds from the world economy with regard to the reduction to carbon emission.

I would like to mention another major point. In the Last Budget, fund allocations were made for 16 ports. But the natural deep sea port, Vizhinjam has not been allotted any funds. I request the Government to allot sufficient money for the ports also.

It is a welcome step by the Centre to allocate Rs. 2,037 crore for conservation of River Ganga. In Kerala, we have 44 rivers. Most of them are dying because of pollution. I request the Government of India to allocate a certain percentage of money for conservation of rivers also.

For Indian navigation, Rs. 4200 crore has been allotted. The most potential State for navigation in India is Kerala but not a single penny has been allotted for navigation. I hope that the Hon. Minister of Finance's reply will be very satisfactory for the State of Kerala regarding allocations of funds as per the aspirations of the people of Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAMLA DEVI PAATLE (JANJGIR-CHAMPA): Hon. Chairperson, you have allowed me to speak on the Budget, for which I am grateful.

Hon. Chairperson, while supporting the Budget, I extend my thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley, for taking into account the interests of all sections of society and all regions. The Budget has accorded special attention to villages, the poor and farmers. Efforts have been made to equip ordinary citizens with better and modern facilities and to reduce rural-urban disparities. Consideration has been given to the development of infrastructure, roads, and the railway sector, provision of internet up to villages, clean drinking water, round-the-clock electricity, farmers markets, affordable housing, welfare of women, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, and minorities, as well as honouring martyrs and caring for ex-servicemen. The Budget also addresses reduction and control of inflation, and the provision of education, skills and talent development for the youth. The limit for income tax exemption has been increased by Rs. 50,000, benefiting the middle class, Government employees and young professionals. Under Section 80C, the investment limit has been increased by Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1.5 lakh. By increasing the

minimum monthly pension under the Employees Provident Fund to Rs. 1,000 per month, 28 lakh pensioners will receive direct benefit.

Sir, the Hon. Minister of Finance is present in the House and through you, I would like to place certain demands of my Parliamentary Constituency before him. My constituency, Janjgir-Champa in Chhattisgarh, despite being the largest district of the State and a power hub, does not have a single Kendriya Vidyalaya. Though 36 sub-post offices operate in the district, there is still no main or head post office. Even though the district is categorised as backward, it has not been included under the BGRF Scheme. Despite 70 to 80 Percent of the area being irrigated, facilities such as horticulture, a gardening mission, and cold storage granaries for grains are lacking. The district's naturally established Kotmi-Sonar crocodile sanctuary has not been recognised at the national level. I urge that provision be made in the Budget for the construction of a well-equipped outdoor and indoor stadium in the district, as well as for the preservation of various sites of historical and archaeological importance.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: As already informed, we have to complete the discussion on the Budget and 'Zero Hour' before 8.00 p.m. Therefore, I would request all the Members who are going to speak to

be very brief. As already announced, others, who are interested, can lay their speeches on the Table.

DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS (DHARMAPURI): Sir, I rise to welcome the Budget. I would like to commend the Minister of Finance for giving us a very frank Budget without any rhetoric and at the same time, to meet the expectations of the people of India.

I would like to compliment the Minister and the Government on focusing on the core sectors, on social sectors specially agriculture, health and education. I would dwell on these three subjects today.

On the agriculture sector, I welcome the Budget presentation on the issue of higher investment in irrigation and on other river water projects. I also welcome the announcement about the Kisan TV specially for the agriculturists. On the concept of inter-linking of rivers, Rs.100 crore has been allotted for the projects. Earlier, during the NDA Government under Shri Vajpayee ji, Shri Suresh Prabhu was appointed as the head of the Committee on Inter-Linking of Rivers. I would urge the Government to utilize his services for quickly implementing this project.

But interlinking of rivers across different States will need nationalization of rivers. Without nationalization of rivers, I do not

see where we are going to interlink rivers cutting across different States.

On the MGNREGA, while soliciting votes from the villages during my election campaign I saw apprehensions being expressed by womenfolk on whether MGNREGA will continue if a new Government comes. I am happy that the Minister of Finance has set aside their apprehensions and announced that the scheme will continue. At the same time he said that the programme will focus on agricultural labor.

Since the Minister has said that the MGNREGA will focus on utilization of labor for agriculture, he should consider this suggestion of mine. Exclusively for agricultural labor purposes, if a contribution of Rs. 150 is given by the Union Government, Rs. 50 by the State Government, and Rs. 50 by the farmer who utilizes the services, the total remuneration that a laborer gets reaches Rs. 250 a day. And this will be a win-win for everybody. The farmer gets his labor, the worker gets nearly Rs. 250 a day, and it will be utilized for agricultural purposes which is going to increase productivity for the country.

Sir, my party is against freebies. However, an exception could be made and we could give free tractors for each Panchayat. The services

of this tractor could be utilized for agricultural purposes and the control should be given to the Panchayat President.

Coming to the health sector, I would like to compliment the Minister for raising tax on tobacco from 11 per cent to 72 per cent. But that is not enough. I would request the Minister of Finance to increase it to 200 per cent. Also, there should be uniform taxation on all tobacco products, not just cigarettes. The Minister of Finance left beedies untaxed. We want uniform taxation on all tobacco products since tobacco is a huge problem for the country.

WHO studies have said that in the last one year the total health and other types of burden owing to tobacco consumption in India is about Rs. 1,10,000 crore. It is a huge burden for individuals as well as the Government, while the industry is only half of that size. So, the Minister should impose further taxation on tobacco products. Today tobacco kills about 10 lakh people in the country. It is the second highest killer. It kills more people than HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, malaria or road accidents do.

But the biggest killer in India today is alcohol. I urge the Government to bring a national alcohol policy. Alcohol consumption is not only a health problem but it is also a social problem. Millions and millions of families have been ruined because of consumption of

alcohol. Article 47 of the Constitution of India says that it is the duty of the state to raise the level of nutritional level, standard of living, and public health. It says that the state shall endeavor to bring about prohibition of consumption, except for medical purposes, of intoxicating drinks and drugs which are injurious to health. However, unfortunately no State in India except Gujarat has got total prohibition.

During my election campaign when I was soliciting votes in the name of Shri Narendra Modiji, I told the people of my Constituency that like the Gujarat model, Shri Modiji, after he becomes the Prime Minister, will bring in total prohibition in the country. I, therefore, urge upon the Government to bring the Gujarat model of prohibition to the entire country as alcohol consumption is the biggest killer of people in the country. Every year nearly 18 lakh people are dying due to alcohol consumption.

Some of the States say that if you have prohibition, there is going to be illicit alcohol. Only 100 people die in each State every year due to illicit alcohol. But due to the alcohol sold by the Government, nearly one lakh people are dying and millions of families are being ruined.

On the issue of allocation for health, I would say that there has been a meager allocation for health all these years. It was earlier 0.9 percent and today it is about 1.2 per cent of the GDP. I am sure within the next five years the Minister will allot a minimum of three per cent of GDP on health.

On education, the earlier Government had brought the Right to Education Act which says that children of six years to 14 years age group are eligible for right to education. Preschool children, kindergarten children have not been brought under the purview of this Act. I urge upon the Government to amend the Act to include children from zero years to 16 years of age. That would cover the Plus-Two level children also. This should be done because children are the future of the nation.

I also urge the Government to bring in a uniform curriculum of education. Today we have several syllabi like ICSE, CBSE, State syllabus, matriculation, Anglo-Indian, and so on. We have many syllabi of education being followed across the country according to the disparity, according to people’s paying capacity. So, this disparity should be off and the entire country should be having one system of education and one syllabus.

I also urge the Government to spend more on the toilets of the schools because we see that the mothers refuse to send the girl children during the age of 12 or 13, on menarche, if there is no water in the school toilet. We have seen so many girl children not going to school.

Sir, again, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for giving India a good Budget. There was a huge expectation. During the Budget presentation, the Minister of Finance was in some sort of a pain but ensured that the country goes painless and also poverty will be eradicated.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHAHJAHANPUR): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you very much. I am present before you to support the Budget for 2014-15. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister.

The dream of India, the dream of our Party, is that of a 'Great India, One India, Prosperous India', and to realise this dream, Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Ji and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Ji made the supreme sacrifice. Since independence, power has largely been in the hands of our colleagues in the Opposition; however, unfortunately, the intentions and policies of our previous Governments were neither in the interest of the people nor of the nation, and as a result, we all, and our country, fell far behind.

Our country is primarily an agrarian country, and 70 Percent of its population resides in villages. For years, the people of our country have aspired for a roof over their heads, sufficient food and clothing, but previous Governments, after every five years, came and failed to fulfil their promises. Due to the firm determination of our Government, the Hon. Minister of Finance and the skilful leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, the entire nation has extended its support to us, and a hope has arisen that perhaps now India will become a

prosperous nation, and the identity that India once held will regain its rightful place.

In our Budget for 2014-15, the Hon. Minister of Finance has given special attention to villages. Under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme, a provision of Rs. 34,000 crore has been made. For urban areas, funds have been allocated for the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Urban Mission. This will ensure a guarantee of 100 days of employment for all the unemployed in villages as well as in cities. Further, our Government is committed to providing a roof to every poor family. To this end, the Hon. Minister of Finance has allocated Rs. 16,000 crore under the Indira Awas Yojana to provide houses to families living below the poverty line in villages, of which 60 Percent has been earmarked for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. We are all grateful for these measures.

The people of this country are in need of safe drinking water. For many years, we have been yearning for clean water. Today, the water available to us is such that it is neither suitable for drinking nor for use in fields and farms. This water is chemical-laden, containing arsenic, which is rendering our fields barren and reducing crop yields. For this reason as well, there is a dire need for safe drinking water. Under this scheme, our Hon. Minister of Finance has allocated Rs.

11,000 crore for sanitation and Rs. 4,260 crore for India-marked drinking water.

When our NDA-I Government came to power, our revered Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji was deeply concerned about the hunger of the poors in this country. He introduced the Public Distribution System, ensuring food grain supply throughout the nation. Under this system, arrangements were made so that every family could at least have two meals a day, and this provision was implemented by our Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji during that NDA Government. Today, our Hon. Minister of Finance, keeping in view the needs of the people and the plight of poverty, has allocated Rs. 1,81,000 crore to the Food Corporation of India and the State Governments for the construction of warehouses. This is indeed a highly commendable step. With this, there will be no shortage of storage in our country, and there will be no hindrance in the supply of food grains to the poor. An amount of Rs. 1,60,000 crore has also been allocated for the construction of storage capacity infrastructure, which, I believe, will bring relief to the people of our country who were standing on the verge of starvation.

Sir, I also would like to draw attention to certain requirements of my constituency. I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for allocating

Rs. 1,418 crore under the Prime Minister's Employment Scheme to provide jobs to the unemployed. I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance that the offices which are currently at the district level may kindly be extended at least to the tehsil level, if not to the block level. This would be a praiseworthy step, as it would provide ease to the rural populace and make employment opportunities more accessible.

Hon. Chairperson, this very dream was also cherished by our Members in the Opposition but unfortunately, had their dreams been converted into reality rather than remaining confined to papers, the people of India would not have been compelled to face such adversity today. They often admit to their mistakes, but the Budget presented is nothing but a repetition of what we had seen during UPA-I and UPA-II. Indeed, the dream was common to all, but somewhere in their policy and intent there was a flaw, somewhere there was an error. I would put it in two lines that "Itihaas ke panno mein vah daur bhi dekhe hain, lamhon ne khata ki sadiyon ne saza payi" (the history has witnessed such times when mistakes of moments have inflicted suffering for centuries). Sir, they have made such mistakes that I would only say, when will we get redemption from them? But since ours is a nation of divine values, traditions and faith, at some point a

leader emerges, and today the Hon. Prime Minister is taking the responsibility of guiding our country.

Sir, there are two-three issues in my constituency. My district is severely affected by floods. ...*(Interruptions)* There is a provision for interlinking of rivers, and I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance towards this matter. My district is surrounded by rivers. ...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have taken ten minutes. Please sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ: Thank you very much.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): I am on a point of order. Let me just ask a question. Is the job of the Minister of Finance alone to pass the Budget?

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is no point of order.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seats.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I am on my legs. Please sit down. When I am standing you should sit down.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The debate is going on. The Minister of Finance is present in the House. He is going to answer the debate.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Alone!

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Not alone. What about your Party Members? Do not unnecessarily raise such issues.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have given my ruling. There will be no further discussion on this.

Shri C.N. Jayadevan.

* Not recorded.

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN (THRISSUR): Thank you for allowing me to speak on the Budget.

Sir, several UPA Members were saying that it is the same Budget that they had brought last time and that is why I am opposing it. This Budget is the continuation of the economic policies of UPA-II. This is a Budget of the rich and has completely ignored the poor and the down-trodden sections. It is quite paradoxical that a Party which argues for nationalization of economic resources has embraced internationalization of the economy and our resources.

This Budget has unequivocally favored the rich and the corporate houses and has ignored extra allocations to popular schemes like MGNREGA. The most alarming matter is the opening of Foreign Direct Investment in the strategic sectors like Defence. The opening of investments in the defense sector is a direct threat to the national security and sovereignty of our country. It is a matter of great concern that the proposed industrial corridor has been routed through the tribal areas which invariably evades the mass displacement of the adivasis and the poorer sections.

The insurance and banking sectors are one of the strongest pillars of our economy and it is quite ironic that this Government has exposed these prime sections to the free market economy. The proposal to cut

short the fuel subsidies will automatically increase the prices of essential commodities whereby the life of poor men will be more miserable.

Thus, I would like to conclude that this is absolutely an anti-poor, anti-people Budget. The approach, the perspective, the goal and the aim of the Budget is solely to support the super rich business sectors and the corporate lobby. This Government is the Government of Indian monopolies and of course it aims at development through capitalist path.

This is the negative part of the Budget which I have brought before the House. There is some positive part in the Budget also. Of course, capitalism is a path of development and it brings development... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please address the Chair.

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Sir, I am on a point of order.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What is your point of order?

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, my point of order is under Rule 349 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business, Lok Sabha, 15th edition. This reference is to the Hon. Member.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have given a ruling on this. Do not reopen it. I have already given the ruling that the Minister will reply.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Please listen to me, Sir. I am just quoting the Rule. It says:

> "While the House is sitting, a Member shall not leave the House after delivering the speech. "
>
> Where are the TMC Members who have delivered their speeches?*... (Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is no point of order.

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN: Sir, I have put some negative points in front of the House but there is some positive part also as has been said by my friends. Shri Narendra Modi used to say in his election speeches that he will bring some immediate changes. I feel this car is monopolized. Shri Narendra Modi can sit in the driver's seat and he could press the accelerator more than the Congress so that this car could go more speedily. That is why, I said that there are some positive things which would speed up capitalist development.

[*]**SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL)**: Hon. Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. I thank Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchiththalaivi* Amma for allowing me to speak on the General Budget. While speaking on the Motion of Thanks to the Hon'ble President's Address, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has wholeheartedly appreciated the rain-water harvesting scheme followed in Tamil Nadu. Shri Modi had also asked other States of the country to take lead from Tamil Nadu in implementing rain-water harvesting schemes. This scheme is the brainchild of Hon'ble Amma. Not only the rain-water harvesting scheme, all other Schemes implemented by Hon'ble Amma are being emulated by other states.

The Uttar Pradesh Government led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Akhilesh Yadav has implemented the scheme of issuing free laptops following the Tamil Nadu model. The Odisha Government led by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Naveen Patnaik has felicitated the scheme for issue of free Mixer, Grinder and table fans, being implemented in Tamil Nadu. Emulating Tamil Nadu the Karnataka State Government has implemented the scheme of issuing free bicycles to school children.

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[*] English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

After personally witnessing the functioning of Amma Unvagam – a Canteen facility being operational in TamilNadu, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Rajasthan ShrimatiVasundhara Raje has implemented a similar Scheme in Rajasthan. Even the Gujarat Government has followed Tamil Nadu in implementing this Scheme taking inspiration from Tamil Nadu. Not only in India but this Scheme is being functional in Egypt also. Tamil Nadu remains a pioneer to all other States of this great nation. The whole nation is looking up to Hon'ble Amma who governs the State of Tamil Nadu with *par-excellence*.

That's why AIADMK has 37 MPs in this august House and out of which 33 are wearing dhotis. Hon'ble Amma- the savior for all Tamils, yesterday in her Address to the State legislature has stressed the importance of Tamil culture and wearing of dhotis. Hon. Amma's statement is being praised by Tamil speaking people all over the world. ….(*Interruptions)*..

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, while talking about the current budget presented by the NDA Government, Hon'ble Amma stated that it is a prudent budget which is aimed for economic revival and development of the country. It has been announced in the budget that with an amount of 7600 crores 100 Smart cities would be created. Hon. Amma has welcomed this initiative. Ponneri has been included in the list of

Smart cities. We wholeheartedly welcome you. While welcoming the allocation of Rs. 3600 crore for purification of drinking water, Hon'ble Amma has requested for Union Government's help in setting up a desalination plant in Tamil Nadu. I wish to state that the then Minister of Finance of Congress led UPA Government Shri P. Chidambaram allocated Rs. 1000 crore to Tamil Nadu. DMK was in rule at that time. After that AIADMK came to power. But that scheme was kept pending due to the indifferent attitude of the previous UPA Government. Those who kept this scheme pending were now rejected by the people of Tamil Nadu. Congress party has no MP from Tamil Nadu in Lok Sabha. Not only Congress, DMK which was involved in 1,80,000 crore 2G scam also has not even a single MP in this House of People. Because of the Amma factor, many recognized parties have lost their recognition.

Hon'ble Chairman Sir, slashing the rates of LEDs/LCDs, introduction of Kisan TV, a separate TV channel for the North-east are some of the welcome initiatives of the budget. I also want to stress that the long pending demand of Tamil Nadu for providing license to operate digital TV cable network in the State. Hon'ble Amma has given a memorandum to Hon'ble Prime Minister. While welcoming the impetus given to inland tourism, Hon'ble Amma has stated that

along with Kancheepuran and Vailankanni Srirangam should be included as a prominent pilgrim center. Tax exemption limit has been increased up to 2.5 lakh and tax on tobacco and tobacco products has also been increased. Hon’ble Amma has welcomed these budget proposals.

Hon’ble Chairman Sir the black money stashed abroad in foreign banks should be brought back to India. BJP had mentioned about this in their election manifesto. But there is no mention in this budget. As a common man’s Government, this Government should take steps to bring back black money stashed abroad. Sri Lankan Navy personnel arrest our fishermen while they go fishing near Katchatheevu. The Sri Lankan Navy also seized the boats and belongings of Tamil fishermen. This is a continuing issue.In order to find a solution to the Tamil fishermen issue, the Union Government should get back Katchatheevu from Sri Lanka. Even the External Affairs Minister of Sri Lanka had a meeting with our Foreign Minister in Delhi. But this issue was not on agenda. It is a matter of great worry.

An amount of Rs. 3000 crore has been allocated for modernization of police force. This is insufficient. The Hon'ble Chief Minister while meeting the Hon’ble Minister of Finance has stressed the need for allocation of additional funds. I urge that more funds should be

allocated. I thank the Hon. Prime Minister for nominating a monitoring committee for raising the height of Mullaiperyar dam from 136 to 142 feet as per the orders of Hon'ble Supreme Court. I also urge for the setting up of Cauvery Management Board on the advice of Cauvery river water tribunal at the earliest. Lastly, on behalf of all Members of Parliament. I request that the fund provided under MPLAD Scheme should be increased up to Rs. 12 crore per year to each Parliamentary Constituency as against the present allocation of Rs. 5 crore per year.

In Tamil Nadu for each assembly constituency Hon. Amma has allocated Rs. 2 crore and in a Parliamentary Constituency there are six assembly constituencies and it comes to a total of Rs. 12 Crore for a Parliamentary Constituency. Taking cue from this I urge the Union Government to provide Rs.12 crore per year under MPLAD Scheme to each Parliamentary Constituency. I thank you for this opportunity.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to extend my support to the General Budget presented by Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley. Prior to the recent elections to this Lok Sabha, the nation was passing through a period of grave adversity. Due to large-scale scams, corruption and spiralling inflation, the economy of the country had deteriorated severely. As a consequence, the people of the country gave a decisive mandate in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party, and this mandate was not without reason. This mandate was given in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party because when earlier also the Government of Hon. Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji was formed, the economic condition of the country was in a very poor state, and the Bharatiya Janata Party had succeeded in restoring it.

19.00 hrs.

In whichever State the Bharatiya Janata Party has formed the Government, be it Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Gujarat or Rajasthan, it has worked for the welfare of the people of those States, and whenever it has been in power at the Centre, it has worked for the welfare of the people of the country. It is for this very reason that the people gave a

mandate in favour of the Bharatiya Janata Party to reform this system. Hon. Minister of Finance has, through this General Budget, endeavoured to fulfil the expectations and aspirations which the people of this country had reposed in this mandate.

19.01 hrs.

(Prof. K.V. Thomas *in the Chair*)

In fact, the circumstances were very difficult. In such a situation, when the country's Budget is presented, the people of the nation have many expectations, and it is also the responsibility of the Government to live up to those expectations by presenting such a Budget that not only strengthens the economy of the country but also makes the people feel that the Government is concerned for them. Despite the very difficult circumstances, Hon. Shri Jaitley has endeavoured to do so. I have often heard his speeches as a party worker. When he delivers a speech, it seems as if a professor of Physics or Mathematics is speaking, who finds the simplest formula to solve even the most complex of problems and he has done the same here. At this time, the condition of the country is such that the treasury is empty, a large amount of money is to be given to the States, a great deal of money is entangled in tax litigations, and the economic system of the country has become hollow. Yet, despite all this, Hon. Shri Jaitley has

presented such a fine Budget, in which the hopes and expectations of the people appear to be fulfilled. In the Budget that he has presented, Hon. Minister of Finance has not reduced expenditure in the critical areas of defence, health, and education, where reduction was not possible. Even so, provision has been made for medical colleges, AIIMS, IITs, and Rs. 5,000 crore has been allocated to the textile sector. Many beneficial policies for the farmers have been announced. The North-Eastern States, which had always been neglected, have been given several facilities and schemes, through which they will certainly develop in the times to come. Many social measures have also been taken. For the Statue of Unity, for women safety, and for the development of waterways, Rs. 4,200 crore has been allocated to Uttar Pradesh. Rs. 5,000 crore has also been earmarked for developing a textile hub. Despite all this, there is no taxpayer who can say that he has not received any benefit. The tax for all has been reduced in one form or another. The exemption limit has also been enhanced. In addition, relief has been given to small and medium industries, incentives have been provided to manufacturing, employment opportunities have been increased, and a scheme has been formulated for medical education. This will bring about a reduction in inflation. As we had seen during the time of the previous Government, when

the GDP had declined, the rupee had fallen to sixty-eight against the dollar. In view of the nature of this Budget, I firmly believe that within one year we shall definitely achieve a GDP growth rate of eight percent, such a prospect is fully evident. Alongside, I would like to state that just as you have worked for the nation at large, you have also extended many schemes to Uttar Pradesh. I have been elected from Lakhimpur district, and in respect of my district, I would like to submit three or four points before you. Firstly, our district is flood-prone, and the water there has a very high content of arsenic, due to which the drinking water has become contaminated. In the drinking water scheme that has been formulated, priority may kindly be accorded to Lakhimpur district and arrangements be ensured so that the people there receive pure drinking water. Alongside this, I would like to submit that our region is a district spread across distant forests, being the largest district of Uttar Pradesh. In this area, hospitals are not available even within a distance of 40 kilometres, due to which women and children face many difficulties. I would like that some work should be done in this direction as well. Near the Dudhwa National Park lies the town of Palia, where nearly 20 years ago an airport was constructed at the cost of crores of rupees. Even today, lakhs of rupees are being spent for its upkeep, yet no regular flight

services are operational there. I request that regular air services be commenced so that the airport may be put to proper use. The Hon. Minister of Finance, while living up to the aspirations and expectations of the nation, has presented such a Budget that the faith of the people of the country in the Government led by Shri Modi has further strengthened. The Members of the Opposition remind us of the very slogans - Achhe Din Aane Wale Hain (Good days are about to come). They have made this promise. We have never said that good days will not come. The Bharatiya Janata Party is fully committed, and we shall fulfil the promises we have made. However, within merely 45 days, you have begun to feel that the Bharatiya Janata Party is functioning in such a manner that all promises will be fulfilled within five years, and therefore you have become anxious. That is why you are expecting, within 45 days itself, that the work of five years should be accomplished. Certainly, at present the foundations are being laid, and after five years, when the Bharatiya Janata Party goes before the electorate, it shall present its report card in hand, as has been stated by our leaders. We shall fulfil all our promises. Good days shall come. I firmly believe that the economy of our country, which had earlier deteriorated severely, will be strengthened in the coming years.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) …[*]

[*] Not recorded.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity. There have been many labels put on this Budget, the first NDA Budget of 2014-15. Many have called it 'nothing laudable, all full of tokenism'. I would call it 'mile-wide-inch-deep'. Some people are, of course, as of now, very enamored with your victory and they would not be willing to accept a critical analysis of this budget. They will obviously change very soon and you are also aware that it will happen extremely dramatically. Surely, with a deep desire to please all those who must have helped in moving the slurry in the pipelines for those candidates out there to win the recent election, the Government dug very wide but not deep enough to make any tangible impression on the weak and tumbling economy of the nation. You have aroused the aspirations and hopes of the people of this country. They are all waiting for you to wave the magic wand. Please shake, rattle and roll it as quickly as you can. We are all with you to assist you, not for you but for the sake of this country. It needs a change and we hope you are capable and you are good enough to be able to materialize the hopes and aspirations of these people.

Not many political leaders have had this kind of an opportunity in India after Independence. Maybe Indira Gandhi ji had it in 1971 with

her *garibi hatao* slogan; maybe again she had it in 1972, after the Bangladesh War; maybe Rajiv Gandhi ji had it in 1984 after her assassination. But in our memories Shri Damodardas ji's victory has been a laudable one, which all of us hope will bring in a huge change. Not only people of Gujarat but even in far off Banares, I am sure, there will be enough people, who would rush into the Arabian Sea at his behest. This is an opportunity which does not come to every leader after every election. But in the past we have seen it has been misutilised. Now, we hope it will be properly utilized.

I will take this opportunity to talk about my State. Our Chief Minister, Shri Naveen Patnaik, to quote him, had said: "The concerns of the States for adequate compensation for loss in the Central Sales Tax have not been tackled. The nominal increase in flagship schemes will hurt the development process of the States." This shows that your policies do not get the applause, the all-round applause, that you expected to get. Like a woodpecker, this 'one size fits all' Rs. 100 crore Budget, pecks at a surfeit of subjects. You have touched many subjects, but you also are aware that most of the critical subjects, for instance – I will name just a few – the family planning, environment and wildlife protection, and farming, which are important aspects, have been ignored. Safeguarding the farmers not only from the

vagaries of nature like the drought-like situation that we are seeing now, that is prevailing nearly all over the country but also from the evil market force is needed. Everybody talks about the market force and reforms. But the market forces are out to destroy the backbone of Indian farming and the Indian farmers. Farming somehow needs a lot of thought on how to make it opulent and how to make it attractive that the youth of this country would actually be interested in going back to the land and find it attractive, find it beneficial to fulfill his dreams.

You were talking about creating a hundred Smart Cities. I would suggest why not go in for a thousand Smart Villages.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I will wind up. Yesterday, we had a get-together where there were some colleagues-Members of Parliament present. They suggested: "Forget about hundred Smart Cities or Villages, why do you not make the Parliament smart so that people coming here do not have to waste paper, do not have to sign up or do not get paper in thousands of tonnes and destroy the forests and destroy the trees." We can make this into a Smart Parliament.

The Eastern States like Odisha, West Bengal, Bihar, Jharkhand, the North Eastern States have been ignored for far too long by the

Congress and especially by the UPA Government. These States have contributed enormously to the Central Exchequer because of the mineral wealth that we possess, because of the forest wealth that we possess. But these States, right from the days of freight rationalization till date, have not been adequately compensated in terms of health, agriculture.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I will wind up.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Five minutes are being allotted to you.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I have not completed five minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have taken more than that.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: I will take another one minute.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: That is all right.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, the President's Address, which could be called a Vision Document, had mentioned about the Look East Policy of the previous Government and this NDA Government said: "We will keep that going." But in the Budget if you see there is no looking east. There is probably looking more to the North or to the South not of India but to some other country.

Similarly, with the Mid Day Meal also, I was calculating the amount that has been apportioned off from the Budget and the number of children who are beneficiaries. The per-head, per-day, per-meal cost comes to Rs. 4.70. If any of us Hon. Members here, including the Hon. Minister, is willing, I am willing to check out how much nutrition, how much food value would we get for Rs.4.70 as grown ups. So, forget about the children. What would be the calorific value?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Tathagata Satpathy, please conclude now. You have taken more than seven minutes.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Sir, I will wind up in one minute.

My State requires special attention. We have about 10 percent of the subcontinent's fresh water running through the landmass of Odisha but we are unable to dam it, to hold it and to utilize it for drinking as well as for irrigation. We need special attention for that. Our royalty rates had not had a re-look for the past so many years. So, the royalty needs to be revisited and we need a fair deal.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now. Next, Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Finally, I would like to say that not only the Ganga but rivers like Narmada, Mahanadi, Brahmani – all these need special attention and improvement.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: This is the last issue. I would request the Government to have a re-look at them.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, you have taken more time. Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav. Nothing else will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down. Please cooperate. Nothing will go on record. You have taken more time. Shri Laxmi Narayan Yadav to speak now.

*(Interruptions) ...**

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

***SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH):** I support the Budget for the financial year 2014-15 presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance.

After 10 years of despair, the people of the nation were expecting such a Budget which would stand the test for every section of society. The Hon. Minister of Finance, in a very short time, has presented a Budget which leads every section of society towards happiness and a promising future. This Budget is being appreciated by people of all walks of life. The Budget has stood firmly on the principle of 'Your cooperation, development for all'. From the industrial sector to the agricultural sector, resources have been provided for all. This Budget is the beginning of laying the foundation of development that will take place in the coming five years. The Hon. Minister of Finance has taken up the challenge of achieving a growth rate of 7 to 8 percent, which is commendable. Although there is something or the other in the Budget for all sectors, I am expressing my agreement by highlighting a few specific issues. The target of Rs. 8 lakh crore credit for small and large farmers is a matter of happiness. I urge the Hon. Minister of Finance to ensure this through the public sector banks. For the proposal and

* Speech was laid on the Table.

allocation of establishing Agricultural Research Institutes in Jharkhand and Assam, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister. I also urge that tax concessions be granted on agricultural machinery such as tractors, harvesters, pumping sets, pesticide spraying equipment etc.

There is immense satisfaction among the people regarding the increase in the exemption limit in personal income tax, the enhancement of the PPF limit, the increase in the deduction limit on housing loan interest, and the revival of Kisan Vikas Patra. The people have begun to see the beginning of good days. The river interlinking project, the plan to purify the Ganga, the allocation of Rs. 100 crore for Madarasas, focus on the energy sector, and the Smart Cities Mission, all these will assist in putting the country back on the path of development. The Hon. Minister of Finance has also paid full attention to defence and internal security. The allocation for the modernisation of State Police Forces has been increased by 60 percent. I support this. States like Jharkhand and Chhattisgarh, which are grappling with Maoist challenges, will benefit. The Hon. Minister of Finance has made provision for a Sports University in Manipur. I request that a similar university be established in Jharkhand. The tribal-majority community of Jharkhand can bring many medals for

the country through this university. We once again place before the Hon. Minister of Finance the long-standing demand for an IIT in Jharkhand and for granting IIT status to the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad.

In conclusion, I fully support this Budget.

SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV (SAGAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise to support the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance. The people of the country are wholeheartedly supporting this Budget, and in fact, those who are opposing it here are doing so due to political compulsions otherwise, the people in their constituencies are also praising this Budget.

When reactions to this Budget were being telecast on television for three to four days, everyone except those under political compulsion was fully supporting it. Even the common man in the markets was supporting this Budget.

This Budget contains a very good scheme, which has pleased more than 50 percent of the people who have read about it, and has created a distinct sense of optimism in their hearts. This scheme is the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. When this scheme is fully implemented, it will bring about a revolutionary change in the country. Just as the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana brought transformation during the time of Hon. Atal Ji, this scheme too will bring positive changes to the country's economy.

Another positive aspect of this Budget is the River Interlinking Scheme. The Hon. Minister of Finance has allocated a relatively small amount for it so far, but from my experience in my State, Narmada

and Shipra have already been linked, which is a commendable step. The Chief Minister of our State made efforts to link Narmada and Shipra. There is a saying about Malwa that “Malwa dharti gahan gambheer, pag-pag roti dag-dag neer” (Malwa, a fertile and abundant land, where nourishment is found at every turn and water flows at every step). For the past 20-22 years, there has been such a scarcity of water, and this scheme will help overcome that shortage. On the day the inauguration of this scheme took place, lakhs of people were present. Now in Malwa, the message has spread that the water problem will soon be resolved.

Hon. Minister of Finance, I would like to say that the Agricultural Insurance Scheme should be reviewed again. Its relaunch should be considered and proper oversight ensured. It appears that this scheme is not serving the interests of farmers, rather, it causes them loss, with their money being deducted and not returned, and there are systemic issues that need to be addressed.

This Government has set the goal of “Ek Bharat, Samridhh Bharat” (One India, Prosperous India), in which education will play the most important role. We all reside in villages and observe that a significant gap is emerging in education, the difference between education in villages and in cities. In higher educational institutions

in cities, it has been observed that very few boys from villages are able to gain admission. This problem is growing, and I have a suggestion, the Navodaya Vidyalaya scheme, which currently has one school in each district, should be extended to one school at the block level. I am confident that this will enable talented boys in villages to gain admission and receive quality education. The best aspect of Navodaya Vidyalayas is that the environment itself is conducive to learning. In comparison, the Model School scheme launched by the previous Government does not seem to have yielded much benefit.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV: Therefore, my suggestion is that if we want to promote talent from villages as well, the Government should open a Navodaya Vidyalaya at the block level.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have taken more than six minutes. There are more Members from the BJP who want to speak. So, you have to cooperate and conclude your speech now.

[Translation]

SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV: In addition, I would like to convey to the Hon. Minister of Finance that I come from Bundelkhand. Bundelkhand is very backward, and there have been several discussions about Bundelkhand in the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record. I am calling the next speaker.

(Interruptions) ...[*]

[*] Not recorded.

KUMARI SUSHMITA DEV (SILCHAR): Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Sir. I will try to speak as fast as a bullet train.

I may sound impatient in my speech today. But I recall what my leader Rajivji once said, 'India is an old country, but a young nation and like the young everywhere we are impatient.' We impatiently waited to see what unfolds after the decisive mandate. I was very anxious. I heard Jaitleyji starting his speech by saying that the people of India have voted for a change. I would say that there has been a paradigm shift in Indian politics and what we were all hoping for is to see the same shift in the Budget that was presented by Jaitleyji. I know it is too early to judge a Government, vis-a-vis its performance. But he has given an indication of his policies and we have seen some performance in the way they have managed price rise. I am sorry to say that there is nothing novel in their devices and who knows better than you, Mr. Chairman, that the UPA Government applied the same devices.

We heard Mr. Jaitley talk about and shun mere populism, indecisiveness and wasteful expenditure. He sought to embrace fiscal prudence, bold steps and better growth. He expressed his concern over the fiscal deficit and current account deficit. But the most significant deficit, one that has emerged, is the deficit between their election

propaganda and their budget. The people who voted for change today are asking this. Is Skill India any different from Skill Development Mission? Is Pradhan Mantri Sinchayee Yojana any different from AIBP? Is Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission any different from JNNURM and UIDSSMT? Is Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Feeder Separation going to be any different than Rajiv Gandhi Grameen Vidyutikaran Yojana? The only visible and glaring change vis-à-vis this Budget is the change in their stand on FDI in defense and insurance.

There is an allocation of Rs. 100 crore in 29 projects. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that I wonder if that is mere populism. Announcing five new IIMs without first looking into the fate of the ones announced by the last Government may well turn into wasteful expenditure. I wish the Hon. Minister of Finance had taken a leaf out of the budget. Speech of the Railway Minister where he repeatedly said that old projects must see the light of the day before new projects are taken up. In Headlines Today, I saw that many IIMs till today have not even got land for their campuses.

Sir, every time policy paralysis and indecisiveness comes up in any speech, I am forced to say that some introspection is necessary on the part of the Bharatiya Janata Party. Session after session was

paralyzed not due to lack of our conviction, but the resolve of the Opposition to stall the proceedings of this House. This Parliament became Jantar Mantar.

Sir, much has been said about the legacy. [Translation] We have often heard about legacy in Parliament. [English] Is food for the hungry, employment for the unemployed and education for all not the legacy you have inherited? You may view these as doles and wasteful expenditures. We saw it as a balancing act in an unequal society. What did we inherit from the NDA Government? [Translation] When we had stated in Parliament that the Telecom Resource Allocation Policy was handed to us as a legacy, you were not pleased with that statement. [English] The Members of Parliament from the Treasury Benches are still on a campaign mode whereas the nation wants to move on. We must therefore talk of substantive changes that we want to see as a nation.

'I am young and I have a dream', Rajiv *ji* had said. Today, I will say, I am young and I have a dream. I want to see the North East Region emerge as a strong and self-reliant Region. Since the creation of East Pakistan in 1947, this Region has been facing economic and social seclusion. We share 5300 kilometers of international border and our success depends largely on our foreign and economic policy with

Bangladesh, Myanmar, Bhutan and the South East Asian countries. But I leave that discussion for another day.

An allocation of Rs. 53,000-odd crore includes Rs. 20,000 crore to the Ministry of DONER. But the solution to the North East is not in allocations alone. The North-East needs development and investment in a planned way.

Today a sports university has been declared for Manipur and Rs. 100 crore has been allocated for that. But I ask you, will any world-class trainer agree to go to a State like Manipur where there is no air connectivity, where there are road blockades on highways? These are the questions which we must ask ourselves.

We need to see that the missing links of the Trans Asian Railway network are completed. Sir, 219 kilometers of Jiribam-Moreh line must be completed. I hope the road connectivity to Bangladesh must also improve.

We thank the Government for a new 24x7 channel for the North East. But the North East suffers from a huge power deficit. We need to look at that too. ... *(Interruptions)* But India is hoping for a better future. We represent the people and we speak for the people.

As a woman Parliamentarian, I would like to say that I was hoping that more than Rs. 150 crore would be given as allocation for the Nirbhaya Fund. I was hoping that the gender budget would be more encouraging but admittedly the increase is marginal.

I have not understood – this is my last point – what 'Upgradation of Traditional Skills in Arts, Resources and Goods' means for the minorities. I see it as popular politics for the electorate of Varanasi.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, repeatedly we have heard from the Treasury Benches how proud they are of the mandate. But today, I ask you to introspect that after this Budget Speech, the people who have given you the mandate, are they truly feeling proud of you? Here I end my speech.

[Translation]

DR. MAHESH SHARMA (GAUTAM BUDHHA NAGAR): Sir, with the trust with which the great people of India gave the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA a clear majority, this Budget is a step towards realising their aspirations. An economist Prime Minister and an experienced party have, particularly over the past ten years, held the reins of the country. The entire nation and the world wished for India to emerge as an economic power. However, due to wrong policies, corruption, and weak willpower, our economic strength weakened, and our economy declined. We cannot merely excuse ourselves on the basis of natural calamities or our dependence on international markets.

Sir, today the young Member of Parliament, Shri Scindia, stated that the Budget presented by the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA is like an island in an ocean. Raising the rates of cigars and cigarettes, not increasing the prices of televisions below 19 inches, imposing higher duties on drinks, bringing in 49 percent FDI in the defence sector as a country importing goods worth thousands of crores of rupees, are these matters to be described as an island? The Bharatiya Janata Party believes in Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. It draws inspiration from the philosophy of Integral Humanism propounded by

Pandit Deendayal Ji. The Bharatiya Janata Party believes in systems wherein, under the scheme of Antyodaya, the development of the person standing on the last rung of the ladder of progress is ensured. Under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi Ji, with Shri Jaitley Ji, Shrimati Sushma Ji, Shri Rajnath Ji, and other colleagues, the formation of a Government in the country is not merely a political event but a divine occurrence. We must acknowledge this.

Sir, despite having inherited a fragile economic system, the Hon. Jaitley has presented a Budget which, whether in the newspapers or among the people, all are compelled to appreciate. This is the truth, and this truth must be acknowledged that within a span of merely 45 days such a commendable Budget has been presented. If its reality is examined with sincerity, perhaps even the Opposition may find little scope for criticism. I am, by profession, a doctor. I firmly believe that education and healthcare are the true indicators of the nation's strength and progress. The Hon. Minister of Finance has announced the establishment of four AIIMS and 12 medical colleges. On this subject, I would like to have a detailed discussion. The fact remains that today the country has six and a half lakh doctors, and there is a shortage of four lakh doctors. From 12 medical colleges, 1,200

doctors will graduate annually. There is, however, a need for further expansion in this regard.

I would like to discuss about my constituency, Noida. It is not merely the pride of Uttar Pradesh but also the show window of the NCR. If I do not speak of it here, it would be meaningless. By the year 2020, Delhi shall become the second most populous city in the world. If the population pressure is to be eased and shifted towards the NCR, particularly regions such as Noida, then the toll must be waived. Passing through the toll road towards Gurgaon consumes considerable time, and valuable hours are lost therefore, the toll on the DND must be abolished. The plight of the farmers is such that the Governments do not even have sufficient funds for land acquisition. In Noida and Greater Noida region, there is a proliferation of private colleges and universities, yet there exists only a single degree college. The connectivity of the Metro Railway must be expanded. A region like Noida must be granted freehold status so that the burden on Delhi may be eased. While the matter of cleaning the river Ganga has been taken up, equal attention must be accorded to the lifeline of Delhi and the lifeline of Gautam Buddha Nagar in Noida, the Yamuna and Hindon rivers, and a plan must be formulated for their cleaning. In a region like Noida, there is no electricity for eight to ten hours a day. From

the perspective of infrastructure, much remains to be done here. I firmly believe that under the prevailing circumstances, no better budget could have been envisaged. Hon. Modi Ji, a person who was born and brought up in poverty and has witnessed poverty from close quarters, under his leadership and through Shri Jaitley Ji, has presented a budget which fulfils the aspirations of the people. This is indeed a budget that realises the dreams of the Bharatiya Janata Party, the common people, and the vision of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Ji and Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee. For this, I extend my felicitations.

[English]

*__SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJNAGAR)__: I would like to express my views about the maiden budget of the NDA Government. BJP and its ally's parties had promised "Achhe Din" during the election campaign and now when the time has come to bring those promises into reality, the Government has backtracked from his poll promises. After watching this budget, people have started asking "Modi Ji ke bhe achhe din aa gaye, hamare acche din kab aayenge?"

Many people thought the Government's maiden budget would produce a major vision for five years, major reforms and some bitter medicine. Sorry, there was no great fiscal vision, only minor reform, and sugar-coated pills rather than bitter ones.

Instead of being long on vision, the budget speech was long in duration. We still doubted the promised "Achhe din" for 29.6% of the population. This is the new total poor population status in India from Dr. Rangarajan Committee. Now, it looks like the Government has postponed those "Achhe Din" to 4 years. It means that the Government is really not doing anything to bring those promised

* Speech was laid on the Table.

"Achhe Din" to the common man because anyhow those "Achhe Din" will automatically come after 3-4 years as it was predicted by Shri P. Chidambaram ji in his last budget. Then there is no effort from this Government, it is just the false poll promise.

Shri Arun Jaitley ji in his budget speech has announced Rs. 100 crore each for 28 schemes. These budgetary provisions are too meager and nothing can be achieved from this budgetary allocation.

Here, I would like to quote Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's vision on women empowerment, "I measure the progress of a community/country by the degree of progress which women have achieved." But this Government has made a budgetary allocation of just Rs. 100 crore to "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao programme". Literacy rate of women in India is 65.56%. Now I would like to question this Government's vision and thoughts they have for the welfare of the weaker sections of this country. I seriously doubt the Government's commitment towards the welfare of the middle class and weaker sections.

In many of the poll campaigns, Modi ji and his colleagues had made hours of speeches on Mahatma Gandhi ji's Gram Swaraj. When time has come to take affirmative action, again the NDA Government has backtracked. It has made only Rs. 100 crore budgetary allocation for Skill Development in rural areas. It proves that the Government is

not committed to its promise. Now, the villages in India are becoming old age homes, rural youths are losing interest in Agriculture.

Again the promised “Achhe Din” looks like not for farmers, it is for corporate houses which backed the NDA parties during the poll. This is reflected in this budget. The Government has made only Rs. 100 crore for “Commissioning a study on interlinking of rivers”. These provisions may not bring any appreciable change from the existing situation to the rural poor and farmers. What is the rationale behind these provisions?

The budget also lacks details and it is reflected in its promise of reducing the fiscal deficit to 4.10% of GDP. But, at the same time there is increased provision made for subsidy. How will this be achieved? The budget lacks details.

The Government has raised the FDI limit (49%) in the insurance and defense sectors. We need to know about the Government’s commitment for the welfare of this great nation or just support the corporate houses, which supported them in the elections. Insurance sector is a very sensitive sector. Crores of middle class people have invested their precious savings from their earnings to make it useful for their hard time. Any misallocation and scams in this sector due to

foreign players will impact hundreds of thousands of families across the country.

Again the defense sector is another area where the Government needs careful evaluation of FDI limit increment. Government should make stringent policies in place for technology transfer/sharing and other sensitive issues.

On the other hand, the Government has a dual stand on FDI in the multi-brand retail sector. The FDI in multi brand retail sector as proposed in the previous UPA Government has the vision of helping farmers and food processing and cold storage industry. The real beneficiaries are the farmer community. The NDA Government pays least attention towards this community.

There has been continuous rise in inflation in the country, food prices are rising affecting the very basic welfare of common man in the country. Under the situation, what measures are proposed by the Government to tackle inflation which is expected to touch double digit? The details in this aspect are totally lacking in the budget.

When Modi ji visited Bangalore for the election campaign, he made so many promises and shared his dreams about Bangalore city. But all his promises and visions are limited only for his poll speech, nothing has been implemented. Though Bangalore is considered as

the IT city (Silicon city) of India, this fact is ignored by the Government in making provisions for new IITs in the country. Provision for IIT in Bangalore would have provided a strong synergy between industry and the institution to work closely.

Now, I would like to question this Government. Does the decision of the Government have any scientific rationale? To boost agricultural education and research in the country, establishment of Agricultural Universities in AP and Rajasthan and Horticultural Universities in Telangana and Haryana with Rs. 200 crore is a welcome move. But how about the already existing 60 plus farm universities in the country? These universities also suffer from lack of basic infrastructure for education and research, they need financial support from the Union Government. Though this is a serious issue, the Government lacks foresight of development.

The budget does not suggest any concrete programme to the rural-urban migration problem leading to the emergence of urban, slums and labor scarcity in rural areas for agriculture. Now, the villages in India are becoming old age homes, rural youths losing interest in agriculture which will have serious implications on agricultural development and the country's food security.

The budget totally lacks any proposals to strengthen agricultural development as it is the backbone of the Indian economy as millions of farmers and others depend directly or indirectly on agriculture.

The important challenging issues that are ignored by the Government are:- Strengthening of existing institutions; Rural infrastructure – roads, transport, markets, processing and storage etc.; Rural energy sector – agriculture; Agricultural labor – farm mechanization ; Climate Change – coping mechanism and adaptation strategies; Natural resource management; and Information Communication Technology (ICT).

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Hon. Chairperson, I welcome the budget presented by Shri Arun Jaitley Ji under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, and I, along with my party, extend support to this budget. The revered founder of Shiv Sena, Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Ji, had envisioned that this nation should truly belong to the people and be governed by the people, so that even the smallest worker gets the right to participate in governance and has a strong platform to voice his concerns. The Government under the leadership of Modi Ji is endeavouring to fulfil the vision of Hon. Balasaheb Thackeray Ji. For this, the provisions made in the budget while keeping in mind every section of society, are such as to bring relief to all. The budget has provided for employment opportunities for the youth, relief for the farmers, facilities for the students, and security for women. If we bring the thoughts of the revered Balasaheb Ji into our conduct, we shall certainly be able to work for the welfare of the people and open new avenues for their better living. For this, I congratulate the Hon. Minister. Hon. Chairperson, I come from Mumbai under the leadership of the Chief of Shiv Sena Party, Shri Uddhav Ji, and I would like to share some points regarding Mumbai.

[English]

Sir, the city of Mumbai has been the commercial capital and national financial center of India.

Mumbai is India’s largest sea port and an important center of trade, commerce and finance. The two ports in Mumbai handle one-third of the country’s total foreign trade and share about 38 percent and 26 percent of international and domestic passenger traffic respectively.

The premier financial and Government establishments such as the Reserve Bank of India, various headquarters of the National Banks, Mumbai Stock Exchange and Atomic Energy like BARC Nuclear Power Corporation, Naval Headquarters of Western Command, Mazagon Dock, etc. are situated in Mumbai. It is a major manufacturing center and accounts for 30 percent of the country’s industrial production and an estimated 10 percent of industrial employment. It contributes over one-third of India’s tax revenues. Thus, it is a major contributor to the Central revenue, with receipts from customs duties and income tax every financial year. This city generates five per cent of India’s GDP. It can, therefore, be said that the city of Mumbai is playing a distinguished role in the Indian economy.

Sir, the cities all over the country, particularly in Maharashtra, after Independence have attracted a large number of people from rural and other areas, leading to large migration into the cities. The population of Mumbai is growing at a higher rate than the rest of the country.

Sir, the city has 1,900 km road length, 1,400 km sewer drain length, 300 km trunk lines and 4,000 km feeder/distributor mains.

Sir, today, as a result, over 4.97 million people live in the slum areas. The large volume of commercial and industrial activities in this metropolis has led to a sizable influx of people from other parts of the country, with the population going up from 9.9 million to 12.46 million, as per the Census.

Sir, the responsibility of providing water supply, sewerage services, roads, storm water drains, solid waste management services, fire fighting services, arrangement of primary education, arrangement of preventive health as well as hospitals, cemeteries, markets, etc. to this huge population rests with MCGM. I would like to make a request to the Hon. Minister of Finance to allocate more Central funds for providing these facilities to the people of Mumbai in order to facilitate them.

Sir, investment in Mumbai returned in several folds. Therefore, investment in Mumbai's infrastructure and special projects will be immensely beneficial to the nation as a whole.

[Translation]

I would like to inform you that the important projects of Mumbai had already been submitted before the 14th Finance Commission. Among them, the Coastal Road project of Mumbai was also included. For the Coastal Road, for the development of infrastructure in Mumbai, for providing infrastructure facilities in Mumbai, and for roads and bridges, the total requirement is Rs. 2,041 crore. Out of this, for the Coastal Road, for the construction of concrete roads and for storm water drain improvement, an amount of Rs. 3,927 crore is required. For providing a solid waste management system, nearly Rs. 1,617 crore is required. For providing health care, hospitals and specialty systems, nearly Rs. 2,340 crore is required.

[English]

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Mr. Chairman, Sir, we are not safe. There is leakage in the roof. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE: For education, the requirement is Rs. 2,126 crore. For providing fire services, the requirement is Rs. 2,514 crore. For the overall development of the city's infrastructure, the total requirement is Rs. 71,000 crore. Earlier, the State Government and the Mumbai Municipal Corporation had submitted these requirements to the 14th Finance Commission. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, it is a matter of concern. The Hon. Member has pointed out some leakage in the ceiling and it can create a problem. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is being looked into. Let us continue with the debate.

... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL RAMESH SHEWALE: Hon. Chairperson, since a budget provision has been made for the Statue of Unity in this budget, I would like to request the Minister of Finance through you that a budget provision should also be made for the international memorial

of Bharat Ratna Dr. B.R. Ambedkar at Indu Mill. Similarly, a budget provision is needed for the construction of the Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj memorial in Mumbai. Through you, I submit this request to the Minister of Finance.

[English]

SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY (ANANTAPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to make my maiden speech on the Budget presented by Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has shown his trinity of skill, scale and speed in his Budget. There is no doubt that the Budget is forward-looking and growth-oriented.

As many of my previous speakers mentioned, the present pathetic economic state has been thrust upon us by the UPA. The Hon. Members from the UPA are making generic criticism and not genuine criticism, which clearly shows that they are on a slippery path. Be that as it may, many of my colleagues from the TDP and BJP have spelt out the priorities and preferences of the Budget. They have spoken at length about various proposals and also made suggestions to make the Budget more realistic.

Sir, due to time constraint, I would only wish to touch upon a few aspects of the Budget and also some of the legitimate demands of my State of Andhra Pradesh, which were left out at the crossroads. My State is looking at the Union Government for help and assistance to stand on its own.

As per the Directive Principles of the State Policy, India is a welfare State. It is imperative on the part of the Union and the States to implement welfare measures for the poor and the downtrodden. I agree that all the poor, SCs, STs, OBCs and minorities have to be ameliorated through inclusive growth. But in the name of welfare, the successive Governments and parties are doling out freebies.

Sir, I question to what extent can we go doling out freebies? Is it one per cent or two per cent or three per cent of the GDP? Now, there is a competition among the political parties that if 'X' doles out Rs. 1,000 crore, then 'Y' doles out Rs. 2,000 crore without looking at the consequences. They are all doing it but at whose cost? It is at the cost of taxpayers. Okay, but even after spending crores of rupees, are the benefits reaching the poor people? No. So, where are the successive Governments taking this country? They are taking this country to drown it in the Bay of Bengal. They are taking this country back to the ship-to-mouth period.

Sir, all that I want to say is to put a cap on welfare measures and freebies. I would not suggest keeping it at a certain cap. Let the House fix it. The cap may be 10 percent or 20 percent or 30 percent or 40 percent of the Budget that the States and the Centre have to spend on welfare measures... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: Sir, the rain water is falling in the House… *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is being looked into. Let the discussion proceed.

Yes, Mr. Reddy, continue.

SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY: Sir, I would request that the Hon. Minister of Finance should listen to me… *(Interruptions)*

In the South, on welfare measures, money is being spent like anything. Some people are giving free TVs; some people are giving free *thalis*, which is only a symbol of a married woman. For such things, they are spending a lot of money. But we are not able to do any concrete work. That is why we are all suffering a lot in the States.

Sir, the second point that I wish to make is relating to inter-linking of rivers. The Hon. Prime Minister is very keen and interested in inter-linking of rivers. He said about it many times during his election rallies and promised that he would take up Interlinking of Rivers Project. He has proved this in Gujarat by linking some rivers. I appreciate this move and support it wholeheartedly because without linking rivers, I strongly feel it is next to impossible to achieve not only growth in agriculture, power generation but also to get sufficient

water for drinking and industrial purposes. As a part of his promise, he initiated a project called Jal Marg Vikas between Allahabad and Haldia. Even though it is a waterway, at least a beginning has been made. I welcome this.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY: Without going deep into the details, I wish to point out that there is an urgent need to interlink the rivers of Ganga and Cauvery. I represent Anantapur.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please sit down. Your time is over.

SHRI J.C. DIVAKAR REDDY: Thank you, Sir, for giving me the opportunity.

[Translation]

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA (KARAULI-DHOLPUR): Hon. Chairperson, I sincerely thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget. I also pay my respects to the leaders of my party, the workers, all members of our ideological family, and the people of my Parliamentary Constituency who have enabled me to reach this temple of democracy.

Sir, with the presentation of the General Budget, the Minister of Finance has laid a strong foundation to fulfil the vision of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" as announced by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. The Budget presented by the Minister of Finance has been formed keeping in mind the needs and development of all sections of the country, instilling energy and enthusiasm across the nation, while enhancing India's prestige and standing in the world. The Minister of Finance has provided significant benefits to the middle class through income tax relief. Simultaneously, with a view to the country's future, the Budget has laid the groundwork to promote all forms of industry, including small and medium enterprises, which is expected to greatly accelerate industrialisation in the country. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to extend my special thanks to the Hon. Minister of Finance for allocating Rs. 14,389 crore under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. This provision will develop a network of roads across all villages in the country, which will serve as a significant asset for the nation's development.

Sir, it is very heartening that the Hon. Minister of Finance has understood the difficulties of poor villagers whose homes have no electricity. I would like to sincerely thank him for providing, through the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, a budget allocation of Rs. 500 crore to ensure that even such households, waiting with the hope of light, are illuminated.

Sir, I would like to sincerely thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for showing his dedication and patriotic spirit by providing a necessary budget of Rs. 500 crore to preserve our country's culture and promote tourism. This support is for the very foundation that is the soul of India, our culture and our tourism. I hope that this initiative will grow like a large tree, enabling our country's culture to flourish, promoting tourism, and creating employment for the people.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance for launching the Prime Minister's Agricultural Irrigation Scheme. This is an important

scheme under which they have allocated a budget of Rs. 1,000 crore. I believe that, unlike the statement of the previous UPA Government that "money does not grow on trees," the Hon. Minister of Finance has decided not to generate wealth from trees but from the land and its crops. Under the Prime Minister's Farmers Scheme, they have created a plan to ensure that every field has water and every farmer has employment. I sincerely thank them for providing Rs. 1,000 crore for this purpose.

I would also like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance. I come from Rajasthan. The Hon. Minister of Finance has given a very significant gift to Rajasthan by establishing an Agricultural University. On behalf of Rajasthan, I express my heartfelt gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Finance for providing this Agricultural University.

Our former Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, took a visionary decision and conceived the idea of interlinking the rivers of our country. He formulated such a plan. In our country, on one hand, there are situations of flooding, as one Hon. Member mentioned this morning, they have to pass through four feet of water, living a life of hardship and on the other hand, Rajasthan is a state where farmers suffer and die due to drought. Shri Vajpayee understood this. I would

like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister for understanding this suffering of the nation. ... *(Interruptions)* One minute.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. You have taken five minutes. A large number of Members want to speak.

I have a small suggestion. We have got a long list of Members who want to speak. I would ring the bell in four minutes. If you take more time, we will not be able to conclude it.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let me be very frank. I am suggesting to the entire House. At the end of the four minutes, I will ring the bell. In five minutes, you have to conclude your speech. Otherwise, it would be a never ending process.

Now, you continue. You can take one minute.

[Translation]

Dr. MANOJ RAJORIA: Sir, he has undertaken the significant task of interlinking the rivers, which I hope will bring far-reaching benefits to our country in the coming years. There will be no region in the country troubled by floods, nor any region afflicted by drought. I

express my sincere gratitude to him on behalf of the people of the country for understanding this suffering.

Sir, I come from the Karauli-Dholpur Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan. In my constituency, there is also a large area of unirrigated land, approximately 1,20,000 hectares. I would request the kind attention and blessing of the Hon. Minister of Finance, as employment for around four lakh people can be generated on this land. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Chairperson, my heartfelt gratitude and sincere thanks to you.

*__SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ):__ I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting the first popular Union Budget for the year 2014-15. Under the able leadership and guidance of the Hon. Prime Minister, this Union Budget takes every possible consideration for the country's 125 crore people. I welcome the Union Budget and support this popular, people-friendly, and development-oriented Budget. The Government's thinking is reflected in the Budget as being in tune with the common man. It aligns with the aspirations of the people. This Budget will prove to be a milestone for the all-round development of the country. The Hon. Minister of Finance has paid attention to all sections of society. This is a progressive Budget. This Budget takes into consideration everyone, from those living in huts to those living in palaces, and has been formed keeping all religions and communities in mind.

I once again thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance on behalf of the people of my Lok Sabha Constituency for presenting such a people pleasing Budget. As the Government, focusing on the weaker sections of society, is set to launch a time-bound programme called the Financial Inclusion Mission on 15th

* Speech was laid on the Table.

August, I would like to request the Government to ensure that banking facilities reach the maximum number of people. In my Constituency, where the number of bank branches is quite low, more branches should be opened. Specifically, branches of the State Bank of India should be opened in Baniyapur Block, in Jalalpur Block, and in Dhobwal Market of Baniyapur Block, and branches of Punjab National Bank should be opened in Badeja Market of Ekma Block.

This Budget provides an income tax exemption of Rs. 50,000 to the common man, which is a welcome step. It will give significant relief to the lower-income groups, who constitute a large number of people in the country.

Today, the construction sector is going through a phase of slowdown, a legacy inherited from ten years of UPA rule. To revive the construction sector and instil hope, the Hon. Minister of Finance has granted an income tax exemption of Rs. 50,000 on housing loan interest. This is a commendable step that will strengthen the country's economy.

The production sector has been placed at the centre of this Budget, which is unprecedented. This will not only help in boosting the country's gross domestic product but also create large-scale

employment opportunities, thereby reducing the widespread unemployment in the country.

Until the development of basic infrastructure takes place, the country's progress is not possible. Taking this fact seriously, the Hon. Minister of Finance has announced the development of 100 cities in the country and has allocated funds for this purpose. The far-reaching positive outcomes of this initiative will be visible in the times to come.

Education holds a special importance in ensuring economic development. Acknowledging this, the Hon. Minister of Finance has provided adequate budgetary allocations for school education as well as higher education. Emphasis has also been placed on technical education.

This Budget also gives special importance to Health and Family Welfare. Announcements have been made to establish new AIIMS in various states, which is a welcome step, as a healthy India is the key to a prosperous India. 65 percent of our country's population is below the age of 35. Our country is young, and taking care of the health of our youth is our foremost priority. The Hon. Prime Minister highlighted this prominently in his speech in the House, and the Hon. Minister of Finance, building on that vision, has announced concrete

steps in his Budget speech. We will witness very positive results from these initiatives.

By providing for the “Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao” Scheme in his Budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance has taken a historic step. Despite various laws, female foeticide continues in the country, and atrocities are committed against girls and women. This problem is widespread across the nation. Our Government has recognised this concern and allocated an appropriate budget for it. In our society, daughters are considered a form of Lakshmi. If we protect them, prosperity will naturally come to our country. As the scriptures say, “Yatra Naryastu Pujyante Ramante Tatra Devata” (Where women are honoured, divinity thrives there). The Hon. Minister of Finance has carried forward this vision, and I extend my heartfelt congratulations to him for this.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has also announced the revival of the Kisan Vikas Patra, which is a welcome step. This will promote small savings across the country and bring prosperity at the grassroots level. The limit for PPF savings has been increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh, enabling the common man to save more and also benefit from income tax exemptions.

With these words, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting a progressive and development-oriented Budget.

[English]

SHRI BALKA SUMAN (PEDDAPALLI): Thanks for giving me this opportunity. This is the first time I am speaking in this House of the People. This is my maiden speech. I never thought in my life that one day I would step into this temple of the great democracy. I never thought about it; I never expected it.

At the moment, I remember two great personalities over here. First is Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar, the father of the Indian Constitution, who provided reservations for SCs/ STs. With the help of reservation, we have studied; we have got many opportunities. Second is Sri K. Chandrasekhar Rao, the father of Telangana. Under his leadership we had been fighting for the cause of separate Telangana statehood for the past 14 years. Finally, with the help of Madam Sonia Gandhi ji, BJP party and many parties in this House, we achieved our goal.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, I should remember the people of Peddapalli Parliamentary Constituency, who have elected me with a thumping majority of 2,91,000 votes. The greatness of democracy is that an ordinary student leader can defeat a billionaire. It happened in my case.

While presenting the General Budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance tried to please all segments of society and laid emphasis on agriculture, industries, manufacturing sector, middle income group, particularly the working class, etc.

In the Budget about Rs. 50,548 crore have been allocated for SC welfare. There is very little progress of SCs across the country in terms of all development parameters. Realizing this, the State of Telangana has embarked upon earmarking a separate budget of nearly Rs. 10,000 crore per annum for the welfare of SCs. I would like to suggest to the Government that a similar process may kindly be followed by the Centre to earmark at least 16 per cent of the Union Budget commensurate with their population for the welfare of SCs in this country.

Similarly for the welfare of Backward Classes, the Centre should establish a separate BC Welfare Ministry. Separate funds may be earmarked and entrusted to the BC Welfare Ministry for taking up welfare and development activities for the Backward Classes in this country.

In spite of giving emphasis on education in all the five year plans and annual budgets, literacy rate and dropout rates remain very high, particularly in the case of women and SCs/STs. Realizing this, the

Government of Telangana has embarked upon free education from KG to PG. Hence, I earnestly request the Minister of Finance and Hon. Prime Minister to introduce this concept all over India.

As I come from the State of Telangana, we were deeply disappointed with the General Budget and the Railway Budget. Four crore people of Telangana were completely neglected and ignored.

Now, I would like to state a few issues relating to my State. I request the Government of India to allocate funds to the Information Technology Investment Region (ITIR) in Hyderabad.

We have two major rivers - the Krishna and the Godavari - in Telangana State. Our position is just like a song in a Hindi movie *'Sagar kitna mere pass hai, mere jeevan mein phir bhi pyas hai*'. We have two rivers, but we do not have sufficient water for drinking and irrigation. So, I request the Government of India to declare national status for two projects of Telangana State – one is on the Krishna River and the other is on the Godavari River called 'Pranahita Chevella'.

There are existing defunct fertilizer units belonging to Fertilizer Corporation of India, which need revamp and sufficient supply of gas. One such unit of FCI at Ramagundam is in my Peddapalli Parliamentary Constituency which needs to be revamped. I would

request the Hon. Minister for Petroleum and Natural Gas for allocation of sufficient gas, the pipeline for which passes through Telangana State.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please stop for one minute.

Now, it is going to be 8 o'clock. There are many Members waiting to speak. If the House agrees, we will extend the time of the House by another half-an-hour. The time allotted to all the parties is already exhausted.

I would like to know the desire of the House as to whether we can extend the time of the House by another half-an-hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time of the House is extended by half-an-hour.

SHRI BALKA SUMAN: There has been a consistent demand from the employees of the Singareni Coal Mines, who work in very hazardous conditions, for income tax exemption. Our State Government of Telangana has already passed a resolution in the State Assembly. I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance to consider this.

I would request the Minister of Finance to grant two industrial corridors in the State of Telangana – Kagaznagar to Kothagudem through Mancharyal and Hyderababd to Warangal.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

SHRI BALKA SUMAN: Sir, this is my maiden speech. I am concluding.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay. You take only one minute.

SHRI BALKA SUMAN: Sir, Telangana, being a new State of the Indian federation, expected a lot of support in terms of financial and fiscal measures and infrastructure in terms of roads, education, health, irrigation and social sectors. Nine out of ten districts are very backward in Telangana State, receiving funds under BRGF.

Even the issues, which were mandated by the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act, have not found place in the Budget except a horticulture university. There is also no mention about the issues flagged before the Hon. Prime Minister. It is not understood as to why my State Telangana has been singled out for this treatment.

I request the Hon. Prime Minister of India and the Hon. Minister of Finance of India to consider, Telangana being a new and the

youngest State, our concerns, provide funds and schemes as a special case.

[*]DR. K. KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI): I solemnly and sincerely thank our respectful Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Hon. "AMMA" for giving me an opportunity to represent the people of Kallakurichi constituency. I also thank the people of my constituency.

I congratulate the articulate Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley for the presentation of his maiden budget, as he rightly said in his speech that people of India have decisively voted for change. The corrupt Congress Government was convicted by the people of Indian democracy. The expert economist, previous Prime Minister, Super Prime Ministers led the Indian economy to sub 5% growth and double digit food inflation by their inaction, indecision and vote bank politics. The suffering of the Minister of Finance with the shoulder and the back pain at the time of presentation of the Budget reflects the financial status of the Indian economy.

Our Hon. Chief Minister "AMMA" has expressed the hope that the "forward looking budget" will lead to economic revival.

Water is the Elixir of Life (Neerindri Amayathu Ulagu). World cannot exist without water. I would like to bring to the knowledge of the House that ground water level in the country has reached

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

dangerous levels, getting water for drinking needs, and agricultural purposes is very difficult. What the country requires today is, plans to improve ground water level, rain water harvesting, building new dams, lakes, desilting of dams and interlinking of rivers. Our Hon. Chief Minister "AMMA" had introduced and implemented rain water harvesting nearly a decade ago.

I welcome the proposal of the Minister of Finance for sanctioning Rs. 100 crore for preparation of detailed project report to interlink the Rivers, proposal to improve access to irrigation by the farmers with allotment of Rs. 1000 crore under the scheme of "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana" and giving impetus to watershed development in the country under "Neeranchal" programme with allotment of Rs. 2142 crore.

Even though the Minister made an effort in the right direction, allotment for the above said schemes must be enhanced and at least few rivers must be inter-linked in the current financial year to address the problem of water scarcity in the country. At the end of 5 years, if the Government is able to increase the ground water table in the country, it will be the biggest achievement.

I request the Minister to provide funds for constructing a Dam at the Foothills of Pachamalai near Veeraganur of Salem District, which

will provide drinking water to people of Gangavalli and Thalaivasal districts.

Agriculture sector contributes nearly 1/6th of the nation's GDP and nearly two third of population depends upon agriculture. The Minister giving impetus to the agricultural sector is a welcome step, unlike the previous Prime Minister's advice to the farmers to leave the agriculture sector to the industry sector. The Minister has proposed to set up few agriculture universities that will disseminate knowledge of agricultural methods and it is a welcome step.

I welcome the proposal to start Kissan TV to impart knowledge to the agricultural community regarding farming techniques, water conservation, organic farming, etc. I also request the Minister to address the problem of weeds and pest management that is the main reason for the increase in cost of farming.

The effort of the Minister to increase allocation to various developmental funds in the agricultural sector will address the problem of the farmers and results of the efforts will bear fruit in the years to come.

I request the Minister to take necessary steps to bring down the cost of agricultural machinery so that farming techniques are mechanized that will reduce the need of the agricultural laborer. I also

appreciate the Minister for accepting the suggestion made by our Hon. Chief Minister “Amma” to modify the “Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme” to make works more productive by focusing on creation of assets and linking them to agricultural operations.

I request the Hon. Minister to establish cold storage facilities at Thalaivasal, Salem District for the benefit of vegetables, fruits and green leaves growing farmers, to avoid the wastage of perishable products.

“National Rural Drinking Water Programme” for providing safe drinking water to affected people with excess of Fluoride, arsenic, heavy toxic elements etc. through community water purification plants alleviate the sufferings of the people in the affected areas. I request the Minister to allocate the funds to set up the water purification plant in many villages of Ayothiapattinam block in Salem district of my constituency which are affected by excess fluoride in water.

Health for All – the idea of providing free diagnostic service and free drug service to the poor people will lead to earlier diagnosis and treatment of disease thereby reducing the morbidity and mortality of illness.

I also thank the Minister for sanctioning the National Institute of Ageing at Madras Medical College, Chennai which is the first institution in the country to start with geriatric medicine and geriatric surgery departments to address the medical care of the elderly patients.

The plan to set up AIIMS, IIM and IITs in different parts of the country to improve and address the education needs of the society is laudable. I like to bring to the knowledge of the Minister and the House that all the institutions are set up in the major cities that are already functioning, whereas the rural areas are completely neglected. I request the Minister to set up an AIIMS like institute in the rural areas so that people can access the tertiary care in their areas. Kallakuruchi is an ideal place for setting up AIIMS like institutes in the next budget, because people have to travel 70-100 km to seek medical facilities in case of trauma and emergencies.

I request the Minister also to start TV Channels and Education Channels in the INTERNET like “Kissan TV” to impart the knowledge of health and law to the general public.

“Digital India” programme to ensure better broadband connectivity to villages will improve the internet penetration in the country. I also urge the Minister to use wireless broadband technology

rather than wire line broadband connectivity if it does not impose radiation hazards to the community.

The scheme for development of new airports in Tier I and Tier II cities will provide much needed air connectivity and save time to a large number of aspirational Indians.

I request you to improve the facilities and restart the air service at Salem airport, which is the first airport in the country built with the help of contributions from the general public.

The target of national highway road construction to the tune of 8500 km in the year 2014-15 will improve the road connectivity. I also urge the Minister that all the bye passes in National Highways must be converted into four lanes instead of two lanes immediately because most of the accidents are happening in the two lane bye passes. I also request the Minister to simplify the procedure for laying the State and National Highways in the forest and the reserve forest areas.

Solar and wind energy are abundant. Proposal of the Minister to exempt excise duty for manufacturing of machinery and equipment in the field of Solar, Wind energy and Biogas plants will decrease the dependence on non-renewable energy from coal, diesel, etc and save the same for the future generations. I also welcome the proposals of Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects in Tamil Nadu and launch of

schemes for solar power driven agricultural pump sets. The tax on the indigenous and imported solar power products must be brought down so that residential solar power plants with lesser cost are taken up by the people.

To reduce import dependence I urge the Minister to concentrate on setting up special economic zones in the production of electronics and computer products, biomedical instruments, automation machineries and agricultural machineries.

The induction of uniform Know Your Client (KYC) norms and inter usability of KYC records across the entire sector along with introduction of one single DEMAT account for financial taxation will reduce the time, procedure and cost to the investor. To strengthen the capital markets and eliminate the fly by night operators, I urge the Minister of Finance to enact stringent rules to bring IPO and follow up issues to safeguard the interest of the investor community.

I welcome the proposal of the Minister for introduction of a small savings instrument to meet the requirement of education and marriage of girl child. Our Hon. Chief Minister “AMMA” has already implemented “Cradle Baby Scheme” and the Chief Minister’s Girl Protection scheme for protecting the interest of the girl child (marriage assistance and 4 gms gold coin).

I welcome the budget. The Minister of Finance has done a balancing act in his 45 days office to bring change in the financial status of the Indian economy.

20.00 hrs.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR): Hon. Chairperson, I support the Budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley.

Hon. Chairperson, today a large population of this country is living below the poverty line and suffering under the burden of poverty. Under the leadership of the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister, by framing anti-poverty programmes and giving the mantra of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", a new, strong, honest, multi-dimensional, inclusive and development-oriented initiative has been undertaken which will create a vibrant and robust India.

For many years, the economic, social, cultural, administrative, and infrastructural mismanagement of the UPA Government has left the entire country in a state of complete uncertainty. There is no need to elaborate further on this. At present, mobilising resources is the need of the hour, and it is indeed a challenging task. The Hon. Minister of Finance, in his speech, has accepted this challenge, confronted it with strength, and patiently given assurance. The Hon. Minister of Finance has courageously stated that we shall not undertake developmental works merely by borrowing in order to increase our

popularity. He has refused to push future generations into indebtedness and economic bondage by widening the fiscal deficit, but rather resolved to carry out developmental work with the resources available.

The Congress, the UPA Government, was operating on the principle –

"Yavat jeevet sukham jeevet, rin kritva ghritam peevet"

Live well at any cost, whether by borrowing or by chaining future generations in slavery, but live in comfort. By following this maxim, they have pushed the country and its states into a pit.

I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for stating that we need to apply fiscal prudence. This will pave the way for fiscal strengthening and discipline. He also said that, because of the importance of intergenerational fairness, fiscal prudence is of utmost importance to him. Therefore, by not increasing the fiscal deficit and by not pushing future generations into bondage, he has taken a new initiative. I congratulate him for this.

I understand that if we look at this Budget, it stands firmly on the soil of India and reflects the soul of the nation. While preparing the Budget, an effort was made to understand the feelings of the country

and its problems. By assessing the region-wise issues of the entire population of India and systematically finding solutions, this Budget has not been made merely a budget of numbers. Instead, it touches every section from labourers, farmers, and traders to Government and non-Government employees and the industrial sector and reaches every region and corner of the country, which is certainly commendable.

The Hon. Prime Minister has said that we will move forward taking 125 crore people along. If each of these 125 crore people takes even a single step forward, the country will move 125 billion steps ahead. This vision is reflected in this Budget. I would like to congratulate the Government for this.

Sir, I understand that regarding the issue of inflation, members on both sides want to know what it was under the UPA Government and what it is under the NDA Government. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for arranging secure funds and a reserve fund. This will curb black marketing, and the positive effects of this will start to be seen. The prices of onions and potatoes, which recently went up to Rs. 70 per kilo and Rs. 80 per kilo, have been brought under control, for which I congratulate him.

Sir, I understand that an important step has been taken to end the arbitrary influence of the dollar and the euro. Trade and transactions with our neighbouring countries or countries with similar economic ideologies can now be conducted based on local circumstances, local economy, local markets, and local currency. This is a very significant decision.

Sir, the Expenditure Management Commission has been established. The empowerment of states has also been addressed.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down. Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...[*]

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Sir, not even five minutes have passed yet. I am saying this while looking at the clock.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No, I cannot give more than five minutes. It is practically impossible to give more than five minutes to speak. Please sit down.

[*] Not recorded.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK: Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Sir, the Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley began his Budget Speech by declaring that 'the people of India have decisively voted for a change'. Really, the people were expecting a Budget, which can control price rise; contain unemployment; and boost development, but it was a total disappointment for the common people. The Government is depending on the private sector for investment in development. It is to be seen whether the decision to increase the FDI in insurance and defense sectors to 49 per cent will be beneficial for the country or not.

As it has been done in the Railway Budget, Kerala has been totally neglected in the General Budget too. The tax share of Kerala has been reduced from Rs. 9,101 crore in the Interim Budget to Rs. 8,972.51 crore in the present Budget.

Kerala has not been given even a single AIIMS or IIM. Even though the upcoming Kochi Metro project sought a fund of Rs. 878 crore, the amount announced in the Budget was only Rs. 462.17 crore, which will definitely delay its completion. The Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited, which is facing an acute financial crunch and on the verge of closure, has been given a paltry amount of

Rs. 42.66 crore in the Budget. This has been done in spite of the promise of the Union Minister of Chemicals and Fertilizers that the process for sanctioning a package of Rs. 900 crore is in final stages. The Budget has not allocated any money for the proposed Vizhinjam Port in Kerala. Needless to mention the completion of the Vizhinjam Port situated at the southern tip of India and just near the international ship route, which can attract immense trade for the country.

I would urge upon the Hon. Minister of Finance to consider the following issues pertaining to Kerala, in addition to above demands.

First, a lot of people in the Malabar region of Kerala, especially in Kasargod District, are suffering from diseases caused by Endosulfan, including cancer. I would request the Hon. Minister to develop the Malabar Cancer Centre in Kannur District as a National Cancer Research Institute at the earliest. An AIIMS-like hospital should be set up in Kerala at the earliest.

Second, the contribution in the field of sports by Kerala, especially by women, is well-known, for example, the famous Indian Athlete Mrs. P.T. Usha. She is a product of the Kerala Sports School. The athletes have brought laurels for the country, both at national and international levels. I would urge upon the Hon. Minister to set up a National Sports University and a Sports Academy, in addition to

creation of indoor and outdoor stadia of international standards in Kerala, to encourage budding sports talent of the State and also of the neighboring States. The land for the project is easily available in Kannur.

Third, tourism is one of the job creators on a larger scale, globally. Many economies world over are supported by tourism. The tourism potential of Kerala should be exploited to attract domestic as well as foreign tourists and thereby create more jobs for the people of the country. There is enough potential for medical tourism in the field of Ayurveda in the State and hence it should be encouraged. Sabarimala, the second largest pilgrimage center in South India, should be developed as a religious tourist center under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive Programme. Thiruvananthapuram, Guruvayoor and Kottiyoor in Kannur, where Sree Padmanabhaswamy Temple, Guruvayoor Sreekrishna Temple and Kottiyoor Temple are respectively located should be brought under the National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana for conserving and preserving the heritage character of these cities.

With these words, I would urge upon the Minister to favorably consider the genuine demands of the people of Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH (SURAT): Sir, I represent a city where three major industries operate. First of all, I have risen here to thank Shri Arun Jaitley. Surat is the fastest developing city in India, and its three major industries are Diamond, Textile, and Zari. I was thinking about the journey we have undertaken, spending five years there and five years here, and I have many thanks to offer you for that. Under the leadership of Shri Narendra Bhai, we have seen and experienced significant development in Gujarat. Many of the inherited issues were also resolved.

Firstly, in the Diamond Jewellery industry, to regulate economic transactions, banks used to provide international-level facilities for 120 days, which had been reduced to 80 days since 2011. By restoring this limit to 120 days, as done by the current Government, the Gem and Jewellery industry will benefit. Additionally, Surat has been chosen for establishing a cluster for Textile, which covers two industries.

The third industry is the Zari industry, which depends on the prices of gold and silver alongside diamonds and falls under the small-scale sector. Although many schemes and funds have been allocated

for small-scale industries, this industry requires additional clusters, similar to what other cities have received, to ensure its survival in Surat.

I have one more demand, although there are many thanks to be expressed.

[English] Well begun is half done. [Translation] Shri Arun Jaitley has made an excellent start. Representing Surat after winning by a large margin, I note that Rs. 200 crore has been allocated for the Statue of Unity, among many other schemes. As a woman, I have risen here to speak. The Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao Scheme is something we have implemented and experienced in Gujarat, and we will continue to do so in the future. I extend my sincere thanks, which will also continue over the next five years. Alongside the Smart City project, I request that the Twin City project between Surat and Navsari be approved. Another inherited issue that we have is the Rs. 6,000 crore income tax on the sugar mill, which I also request to be resolved.

Regarding the Nirbhaya Fund, although funds were allocated in the previous Budget, little utilisation took place. I understand that for the new five-year period, the Nirbhaya Fund, meant for the safety and education of women, will be implemented, and I support this initiative. I also express my thanks for this.

I have one more demand.

[English] Despite Surat being the largest manufacturing centre, [Translation] 80 out of every 100 diamonds are produced here. The rough diamond mining companies sell their goods through auctions in global markets such as Antwerp, Moscow, Johannesburg, Dubai, Tel Aviv, and Hong Kong, where small traders get the opportunity to purchase these diamonds. If Surat is given the status of a Special Notified Zone, these traders will also be able to survive. I request this from the Hon. Minister of Finance. I also thank the Government for allocating several hundred crore rupees for working in various sectors.

To promote the manufacturing sector, importance has been given to small and micro industries, benefits have been provided for power sector investment, and advantages have been obtained due to reductions in excise. I conclude my speech by once again thanking the Government for these benefits.

Small traders get the opportunity to purchase these goods, but if Surat is granted the status of a Special Notified Zone, these traders will also be able to survive. I also request this from the Hon. Minister of Finance.

[English]

SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY (KHAMMAM): Sir, the Hon. Minister of Finance has presented Rs. 17.98 lakh crore annual Budget for the financial year 2014-15 with a fiscal deficit target of 4.1 percent of GDP and Revenue Deficit target of 2.9 per cent for the current year 2014-15. I am happy with the Minister of Finance's commitment for fiscal consolidation. Can he do so without substantially cutting the budgeted Plan Expenditure for the year 2014-15? The Union Government has already incurred 45.6 percent of the fiscal deficit and 53.6 percent of the Revenue Deficit budgeted for the year of 2014-15. I am aware that the present Government is in no way responsible for this extraordinary situation.

Sir, the former Minister of Finance, Shri Chidambaram had to cut the Budgeted Plan Expenditure by rupees one lakh crore to meet his fiscal deficit target of 4.6 per cent for the year 2013-14. Otherwise, it would have been 5.6 per cent of the GDP.

If the Government cuts the Plan Expenditure to comply with the fiscal deficit target, the GDP of this country will be affected. Consequently, the revenues will be affected, compelling the Government to borrow even more. How do we achieve the sustained growth rate of 7 to 8 percent within the next 3 to 4 years? It is

disheartening to note that about 43 per cent of the net tax revenues of the Union Government are going towards meeting expenditure and interest on borrowings. The total outstanding liabilities of the Union Government to GDP ratio are already as high as 46 per cent.

The need of the hour is to step up public investment in infrastructure at any cost. Even if it means that we have to borrow more for stepping up Capital and Plan Expenditure, we should not hesitate to do so. Otherwise, we will continue to live in the vicious cycle of low investment, low growth and low revenues.

Now I come to my own State of Telangana which is just a three month old infant. The Budget has ignored the aspirations of Telangana State, barring the announcement of setting up of a Horticulture University and a Debt Recovery Tribunal in Hyderabad. There is no other developmental measure relating to the State in the Budget. I would request the Government to set up the promised Horticulture University at Aswaraopet in Khammam district which is very backward and predominantly covered by tribal population.

I would also request the Hon. Minister to select the Khammam and Kothagudem cities in Telangana State to develop as Smart Cities. Hence, I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance to address these

problems of the people of Telangana in the present Budget and render justice to the Telangana State.

*__DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN)__: I am a first time Member of Parliament and a young component of Shiv Sena with blessings from Hon. Shivsena pramukh Hindu Hridaya Samrat Balasaheb Thackrey and Hon. Shri Uddhavji Thackrey. I would like to compliment Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitleyji, with a positive aspiration that the country is finally on a road to designate itself worthy of its golden past globally.

This is my maiden speech in this August House. I would like to dwell on the subject of employment as it is probably the only subject that touches the youth of this great nation.

If you seek the information on employment across various sectors you would be appalled by the emerging figures. For a set of 5 years from 1999-2004-05 the employment growth increased by 61 million and for the next set of five years. The growth was just 2.7 million. The two largest sectors affected worst were agriculture and manufacturing.

According to the National sample Survey, India will need 44 million additional jobs between 2015 and 2020 at an annual rate of around 9 million jobs per year. This underlines the need for creating a much wider spectrum of jobs for the youth in coming years.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Considering the extreme shortage of skilled workforce in the ensuing decades, we must energize IT, telecom, logistics, retail, engineering, healthcare and others.

Our Prime Minister, Hon. Narendraji Modi has rightly spotted these lacunae and has given the new mantra of SKILL INDIA. The scheme has a tremendous potential and the same has been proved in Gujarat.

In Thane District of Maharashtra, the Thane Municipal Corporation has proposed a huge educational hub on 100 hectares of land and the process has begun. I would request the Government to bring the benefits of SKILL INDIA to this huge campus dedicated to education.

I also request for designating KALYAN as one of the locations for establishment of one of the 8 Railway Training Institutes across the nation.

I am sure that the avenues for employment generation in all sectors will be fruitful with the measures being announced in the Budget.

On the health care front, our performance has been far from impressive. High rates of infectious diseases, reproductive and child health problems and nutritional deficiencies have coexisted with

growing burdens of Chronic diseases. Infant and maternal mortality rates still remain higher. The National Family Health Survey brings devastating data to the fore.

The Government must embrace the idea of tax funded universal coverage as opposed to contributory or subsidized private health schemes.

The Government has taken a firm step towards enhancing medical facilities by introducing four new AIIMS and since one such center is scheduled in Maharashtra, I sincerely thank this Government for this much needed and awaited Facility.

I would suggest that our funding of Public Health programs is less than many countries. Therefore, additional resources should go to strengthen primary health care, quality of services and equitable access to poor people. Severe shortage of doctors and nurses also needs to be looked into in connection with the same.

With an experienced doctor like Dr. Harshwardhan heading the crucial Ministry I am confident that the health systems will come out from the evil syndromes and recover faster. I am sure that the strong political commitment and effective stewardship of Hon. Narendraji Modi will surely improve the health of Indian citizens.

Infrastructure development is vital for any economy and the Budget. This year has taken into account the various aspects of this in great detail. There is a goal oriented action plan in sectors such as Expressways, Highways and Rural road development.

The PMGSY launched by the then NDA regime has proven to be a boon to the rural areas awaiting to be connected to the mainstream. This budget therefore rightly enhanced the provisions in this successful scheme to a tune of Rs. 14,389 crores.

As I am thanking the Minister of Finance for his vision, I would be much thankful to Gadkariji if he generously sanctions roads in my constituency which has almost 50% rural areas which are deprived of good roads.

I would also like to mention important projects that need to be undertaken on priority in my Thane district. These are 8-laning of NH3 Mumbai Nashik Highway; 4-laning of Kalyan-Murbad State Highway and further crossing the Malshej Ghat; and to ease the burden on road network there is a dire need for Railways to go in a big way for transportation of materials and goods.

The inordinate delays in conceptualization to completion have to be reduced drastically and people should be made accountable for delays on their part.

With Minimum Government, Maximum Governance vision of our Prime Minister, the scenario is set for a positive change.

Management of urban population densities has always posed challenges. The main areas for improvement in this section are water supply, sanitation and mobility.

Keeping this in mind the Minister of Finance has given due importance to SWACHHA BHARAT ABHIYAN with a preset goal of complete sanitation up to 2019.

Here, I would like to suggest that to overcome the ever-enhancing problem of Waste Water management, this wastewater can be provided for agriculture in Peri-Urban areas. This formula has been successfully implemented in and around 7 cities in Gujarat.

To overcome the water crises, I am sure Modiji will transform the Water Economy which is in RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT mode to the Effective and Efficient MANAGEMENT mode.

As a concrete step in this direction, I would like to request Hon. Modiji to create a World Class WATER UNIVERSITY with a focus on managing Hydro Power, Irrigation, Urban and Rural Water Supply and Sanitation.

The new Government has undertaken an initiative for Metros in cities with a population of more than 20 lakhs. However, all modes of transport should be integrated with high quality feeder services.

In my Constituency, an alternative waterway connecting Kalyan-Thane-Mumbai-Navi Mumbai needs to be explored apart from road and rail transport to ease the burden on existing services.

The Government needs to be applauded for the initiative to create 100 smart cities across India and I will be the first person to applaud more loudly if Kalyan city in my constituency is included in this prestigious list.

Kalyan ka Kalyan kar do.

The Minister of Finance has shown great sensitivity by proposing empowerment of the differently abled persons.

He has also proposed a Center for Disability Sports to give equal opportunity. As a doctor I am personally grateful for this considerate approach of the Minister of Finance.

As a token of ACCHHE DIN the Minister of Finance has raised the Income Tax Exemption limit to 2.5 lakhs accompanied with many tax concessions for the Neo-Middle Class.

Similarly, I welcome the step of implementing the Goods & Service Tax (GST) to simplify taxation and avoid double taxation.

In the light of the recent KBC Scam in Nasik area, I would like to request the Minister of Finance to put in place a New Resolution Corporation that identifies distressed financial firms, initiates corrective steps while protecting the interests of the unsophisticated consumers. Otherwise, this will lead to twin maladies of distressed financial firms growing unchecked and causing loss to the consumers which the Government inevitably has to address.

Pollution in the country is affecting the health of humans as well as flora and fauna in the country. I would like stern measures to be taken against those who flout the norms prescribed. Everyone is talking about inflation but no one is talking about population. If the population is not controlled, whatever measure the Government takes would be in vain.

Maharashtra has been bestowed by a rich history through its Forts. All of them have a natural beauty and can be great TOURIST destinations. I would request the Government to allocate adequate funding for bringing these forts and historical places on a global platform.

There has been a neglect of the historical places in Maharashtra by the Archeological Department. I would request the Government to take up restoration of the forts so that past glory can be revisited by tourists. These forts, if equipped with sound and light show along with basic infrastructure can not only generate employment but will also boost the local and state economy.

A huge Statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj is proposed at Mumbai Sea. This is going to be a monument like nowhere else in the world attracting tourist traffic to the Country. I request for adequate funding for the same from the Government of India as it has supported the prestigious statue of unity.

I have placed my suggestions on the Union Budget at this august House. I am also grateful to the visionary leadership of Hon. Narendraji Modiji who has shown ample courage and steel to walk the path he has talked during the election campaign.

The Minister of Finance has truly in sense depicted in his budget the underlying principle of “SABKA SAATH, SABKA VIKAS”.

I place on record my humble respects to Hon. Hinduhriday Samrat Balasaheb Thackrey, Hon. Shri Uddhavji Thackrey and all my senior Shiv Sena leaders.

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget for the year 2014. I am thankful to the voters of North Mumbai. On their behalf, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley, the Hon. Railway Minister, Shri Sadanand Gowda, and their colleague, Shri Manoj Sinha.

Hon. Chairperson, in this Budget, a member of our Opposition said that we will speak at the speed of a bullet. Hearing this, I realised that our young friends have accepted Shri Narendra Modi's Bullet Train. In the days to come, we will have to deliver speeches on the Budget at bullet speed. We will have to achieve the development of the country at bullet speed. We will have to reduce corruption in the country at bullet speed. We must take this nation forward at bullet speed.

Hon. Chairperson, this Budget reflects the future of our youth. It shows respect for senior citizens and guarantees the safety of women. Therefore, I would like to once again thank Shri Arun Jaitley. This Budget also ensures justice for Dalits, Muslims, and Adivasis. A friend from the Congress, while speaking on this Budget, claimed that

it does nothing for Adivasis. Your perspective is correct in recognising Adivasis as Adivasis, but we consider Adivasis as the Deen-bandhu. Provisions have been made in this Budget for the Deen-bandhus as well.

Hon. Chairperson, our Muslim Members of Parliament have said that nothing has been provided for minorities. Our party has, from the very first day, believed in Justice for All and Empowerment for None. The provisions and facilities available to Hindus in this Budget are equally available to Muslims and Christians. I would like to add that the modernisation of madarasas by Shri Narendra Modi is a step towards leading the Muslim community towards a bright future, and we must all acknowledge this.

Hon. Chairperson, this Budget also provides for the displaced persons from Kashmir. For the first time, provisions have been made for those displaced from Kashmir. Despite being citizens of this country, Kashmiri Pandits have been wandering from place to place for the past 15 years. The Congress overlooked their plight for 15 years. Shri Arun Jaitley, with courage and under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, has made provisions for them for the first time. I would like to thank him for this. This Budget also provides water facilities for the poor. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) …**

* Not recorded.

*__SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MAHESANA):__ This is the first Budget of the Modi Government for the remaining 8 months of the year 2014-15. We all know that the Government had very little time to prepare this Budget. Usually, preparing a Budget takes around three to four months. Preparations for presenting the Budget in March begin from December. However, this Government had only one month. Preparing a Budget in such a short time that reflects the state and direction of the country is nothing short of a miracle. I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance, the Ministry of Finance, and all other officers and staff who contributed day and night to the preparation of this Budget.

I would also like to express special thanks to the Hon. Prime Minister, who provided guidance to present such an excellent and unparalleled Budget. I am not the only one praising this Budget, the media in India and abroad has lauded it. According to reports published in the media, despite all adverse circumstances, the Hon. Minister of Finance has made every possible effort to provide something for everyone while also paving the way for reforms. The main objective of this Budget is to bring speed and efficiency at the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

administrative level for the progress of industry and trade. The Budget is being praised everywhere, both in India and abroad.

I would now like to highlight the points that make this Budget a Super Budget and why many economists are calling it a roadmap for development. First and foremost, this is a Budget aimed at reducing inflation. Over the past decade, the people of our country, and indeed all of us, have witnessed difficult times. Onions had to be purchased at Rs. 100 per kilo, and even everyday necessities were hard to afford. Therefore, the Hon. Minister of Finance has taken comprehensive steps to reduce inflation. The prices of everyday essentials have not been increased in this Budget. Moreover, this Budget has also taken care to ensure abundant production of fruits, vegetables, and cereals in the future. With this objective, special attention has been given to the agricultural sector. Providing loans to farmers at low interest rates is a priority of this Government.

Agriculture is the backbone of our country's economy. For the year 2014-15, a target of Rs. 8 lakh crore has been set for agricultural loans. Farmers face significant difficulties in storing their fruits, vegetables, and grains due to inadequate storage facilities. To address this issue, the Government has allocated Rs. 5,000 crore in the Budget. To provide timely information to farmers on new agricultural

technologies, water conservation, and organic farming, Rs. 1,000 crore has been allocated for Kisan TV. The Blue Revolution aims to promote the fishery industry.

In Gujarat, our Hon. Prime Minister, as Chief Minister, had launched a highly successful scheme to issue Soil Health Cards to farmers, benefiting millions. Now, through this Budget, the Hon. Prime Minister has expressed the resolve to implement it across the country. One hundred mobile soil testing laboratories will be established nationwide. A provision of Rs. 156 crore has been made for soil testing and the issuance of Soil Health Cards, which can be increased if necessary. Pulses are an important source of protein in our country. Their production is declining, and imports are required to meet demand. Pulses are part of the daily diet and are so expensive that the common man finds it difficult to afford them. Therefore, alongside the Second Green Revolution, emphasis has also been laid on a Protein Revolution. I am confident that these measures will help control inflation within a year.

The shortage of electricity and water is the second most pressing problem in the country. Today, our Opposition members are creating a ruckus on the streets of Delhi, shouting “No electricity! No water!

No electricity! No water!" Over the past 15 years, what they could not achieve, they expect us to resolve in 15 days.

You are performing your role as the Opposition with such zeal that the public might, for all time, confine you to that very role. You have not shown patience even for two or three months. Had you allowed the Budget to be presented, you would have seen how seriously and conscientiously the Modi Government regards electricity and water. Electricity and water remain among the highest priorities of our Government. It is both our vision and our intent that every citizen of the country has access to electricity and water. Vigorous efforts are underway to increase electricity production and to explore new sources of power. The Government has provided an initial allocation of Rs. 100 crore to commence work on a new scheme called Ultra-Modern-Super Critical Coal-Based Thermal Power Technology. An allocation of Rs. 500 crore has been made for Ultra Mega Solar Power Projects in Rajasthan, Gujarat, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Ladakh. An initial provision of Rs. 100 crore has also been made for one megawatt solar parks along canals so that work related to designing and site identification may be initiated in this direction. Steps have been taken to ensure uninterrupted supply of coal to thermal power plants. This Budget also pays due attention to

providing clean drinking water to the people of the country, particularly those in rural areas. On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, a blueprint is being prepared for launching the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan on a large scale, with the objective of providing sanitation facilities to every household in the country by the year 2019.

In the last two to three years, the people of the country have been greatly agitated on the issue of corruption. Several major movements also took place on this matter. Despite the directions of the Hon. Supreme Court, the previous Government made no serious attempt to identify the money stashed in Swiss banks and bring it back to India. Our Government took an immediate decision that black money would be brought back and, for this purpose, a Tribunal has been constituted. The Hon. Minister of Finance, in his Budget, has informed that a decision has been taken to establish six new Recovery Tribunals for this purpose.

The previous Government not only gave rise to unbearable inflation but also encouraged unemployment. As a result, crores of educated youth in the country were left unemployed. Despite having merit and eligibility, they could not secure jobs. This Budget lays full emphasis on both employment generation for the youth and providing

them with job opportunities. Preparations are underway to launch large-scale new schemes in the country, such as the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, the Shyama Prasad Mukherji Rurban Mission, the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, the Neeranchal Programme, the Vanbandhu Kalyan Yojana, the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao Yojana, and the Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya New Teacher Training Programme. These initiatives will generate lakhs of jobs and provide employment to as many as ten lakh youth.

The matter of women safety is a very sensitive one. It is not only connected with law and order but also with the mindset of men towards women. Although the safety of women is essential everywhere, whether in villages or cities, in our metropolitan cities such incidents reach the media within minutes, thereby tarnishing our image at the national and international level. The foreign tourists visiting our country also form a negative impression about us. Several steps have been taken for the safety of women. Along with the modernisation of the police and security forces, certain new schemes have also been implemented. An amount of Rs. 500 crore has been allocated for the women safety scheme in public road transport. In addition, Rs. 150 crore has separately been allocated for schemes to enhance women safety in large cities. Furthermore, attention has also

been given to other issues related to the health and social concerns of women and separate funds have been allocated for the same.

People often say that while there was a Government in our country, governance was missing. This Government has received a mandate for good governance and has begun working in this direction from the very first day. The Government is fully aware that good governance does not mean ruling in an authoritarian manner, but rather educating the children of the lowest sections of society, giving full attention to their studies, and shaping them into responsible citizens of the country. The mantra of good governance is simple: own your responsibility. Our Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Modi, has publicly stated that he will go to the utmost limits of diligence. For the welfare of the people, he works 20 hours a day. His life serves as a source of inspiration for all of us. If we all follow his example, the day is not far when we shall witness good governance being realised everywhere across the country.

The security of the country is of paramount importance to us. Threats to national security do not arise only from outside, but elements of anarchy within the country also pose challenges on a daily basis. This budget has given special focus to national security, particularly internal security. An amount of Rs. 3,000 crore has been

allocated for the modernisation of State police forces. In addition, Rs. 2,250 crore has been provided to strengthen and modernise border infrastructure.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House to some key features of this budget-

The dream of interlinking the rivers, envisioned by Hon. Atal Ji, will be realised by Hon. Narendra Modi, as reflected in this budget. The Nirbhaya Fund will be utilised to ensure the immediate treatment of women who have been subjected to acts of brutality. This budget is set to promote small industries, as the Modi Government recognises that micro, small, and medium enterprises form the backbone of the economy, providing large-scale employment and making significant contributions to production. To this end, the Government is establishing a fund of Rs. 10,000 crore. In a challenging economic environment, the Hon. Minister of Finance has presented a comprehensive budget. The initiatives to encourage entrepreneurship are commendable and will be particularly beneficial for the IT industry. The Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Modi, aims to achieve the miracle of providing electricity to every household, following the Gujarat model, and to this end, provisions have been made to grant tax exemptions to power companies for 10 years. For electricity

distribution in villages, separate lines will be provided, and an important decision has been implemented on the ground to establish 4 ultra-mega solar power projects simultaneously.

Even before the enactment of this NDA budget, the retail inflation rate has fallen by 1 percent in two and a half years. In June, the inflation rate decreased from 8.28 percent to 7.31 percent, the lowest in this period. The Government has adopted an aggressive approach towards controlling inflation by announcing the establishment of a Price Stability Fund. A new television channel will provide farmers with timely, accurate, and advanced information on agricultural techniques. Arun Prabha channel will be launched for the North-Eastern region. This General Budget is a lifeline for an economy that was on the verge of stagnation. It will propel India to new heights of development and offers a ray of hope for the poor and marginalised sections of society. Hon. Narendra Modi and Hon. Arun Jaitley have outlined a long-term vision for development. The commitment to never compromise on the politics of development is clearly reflected in this budget. This budget emphasises the BSP, with Hon. Jaitley opening the treasury to ensure that all sectors receive something. Special incentives have been provided to the real estate sector, which generates the highest employment, thereby encouraging greater

investment. This is expected to create employment opportunities for approximately 80 lakh people. The introduction of internet in rural areas is a positive signal and gives due attention to the Skill India initiative. Under social responsibility, concessions on home loans in income tax have been provided to senior citizens and middle-class salaried individuals, pleasing the middle class. Paying tribute to the bravery of our soldiers, the NDA Government has laid the foundation for the long-pending National War Memorial (Rs. 150 crore) and the Police Memorial. The defence budget has been increased by 12.44 percent. An additional allocation of Rs. 1,000 crore has been made for One Rank-One Pension. A concrete step has been taken by allocating Rs. 500 crore for the return of Kashmiri Pandits. The Namami Gange Mission has been announced to clean the river Ganga. A proposal has been made to launch a new mission to combat malnutrition. Air India has been provided a lifeline with a budgetary support of Rs. 9,474 crore. A commission will be constituted to improve the royalty given to states under petroleum products. Rs. 200 crore have been allocated for the Statue of Unity (for Gujarat), which is commendable. The process of improving MGNREGA activities will serve as a Sanjeevani (lifeline) for the daily wage labourers. Finally, I would like to raise another important point. I have read the lines of a poet-

"Mere mann mein uthata yah prashn prabal hai ki

Ganga ka kitna pani Gangajal hai.

(In my mind arises the pressing question that

how much of the Ganga's water is truly Gangajal?)

The pitiable condition of Ganga Maa is known to everyone. River Ganga is a symbol of our country's culture. Its water is no longer pure. It has become so impure and polluted that its very existence is under threat. A threat to the existence of Ganga means a threat to the culture of India. Our Government has shown great sensitivity towards this issue and has undertaken the challenging task of cleaning the Ganga. An allocation of Rs. 2,037 crore has been made in this budget for this purpose. A sum of Rs. 100 crore has been provided for the beautification of Ganga ghats in various cities. Additionally, a decision has been taken to establish an NRI fund to preserve the sanctity and purity of the Ganga. We hope that within a year or two, the Ganga will become so clean that people will joyfully go for a holy dip. There is no terror in this budget, however, there is a commitment to the 5 Ts - Tradition, Talent, Tourism, Trade, and Technology.

Finally, I would like to recite a couplet by a poet about this budget:

"Is budget se desh ki taameer (shakl-surat) badlegi,

anaginat logon ki ab takdeer badlegi.

Ab nahi hai door acche din kisi se bhi,

jald hi ab doston tasveer badlegi.”

(This budget will transform the very structure of the nation.

It will change the destinies of countless people.

Good days are no longer far away for anyone;

Soon, my friends, the picture will change.)

[*]**SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN):** Under the leadership of the head of the NDA Government, Hon. Shri Narendra Modi Ji, the Minister of Finance of India, Hon. Shri Arun Jaitley, has presented a Budget that is a historic step towards the welfare of the common people of India and is set to become a significant milestone in shaping the nation's future. The long-term outcomes of this Budget will enable India to be recognised as a major power.

So far, the esteemed members of Parliament have expressed their views on this Budget. I represent the Jalaun-Garautha constituency of the Lok Sabha. This region is fundamentally extremely backward in all sectors. I am fully optimistic about this Budget. It will prove to be in accordance with the principles of Antyodaya advocated by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, which have been recognised throughout Jalaun-Garautha. This will lead to progress in agriculture, commerce, and small-scale industries, and will completely eradicate unemployment and widespread illiteracy.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has announced numerous schemes for the development of the agricultural sector, including irrigation,

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

revival of cooperative institutions for crop loans for small and marginal farmers, among others.

The previous Government never ensured proper storage facilities for the produce of farmers, which resulted in millions of tons of food grains being wasted in the open.

Hon. Jaitley ji has addressed the concept of storage in this context, which is extremely significant to overcome this shortcoming.

During the tenure of Hon. Atal Bihari Ji's Government, Hon. Rajnath Singh, who is currently the Home Minister, had established the Kisan Call Centre, from which millions of farmers continue to benefit even today.

Today is the age of television, with TV available in almost every household. Building upon the standards established by Hon. Rajnath Singh, the Hon. Minister of Finance has pledged to set up "Kisan TV," which will enable farmers across the country to access solutions to their problems through television, thereby significantly increasing agricultural productivity.

The budget presented by Hon. Jaitley ji touches upon every aspect of human life. Whether it is the state of the economy, the welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, the issue of senior citizens

pensions, women empowerment, education, or industry, in all these sectors the Hon. Minister of Finance has left a lasting and multifaceted impact.

As I have mentioned earlier, the Lok Sabha constituency I represent is backward in all sectors. The youth do not have adequate access to education and employment, and farmers lack sufficient irrigation facilities. There is no proper arrangement for the storage of the produce they cultivate. The infrastructure and regulatory framework need improvement. After 16 May, even the common voter who has pinned hopes on the Government should be able to feel the promise of Acche din (Good days). Development must begin from the villages. Employment opportunities should be generated, and to prevent migration to cities, funds should be provided for new railway lines. Bundelkhand should be given a special package and power plants should be established. I also request the Hon. Minister of Finance to ensure that the provisions made in the budget benefit my constituency. Within my constituency, under Rampura Block, there is a remarkable confluence of five rivers, known as Panchnada. A dam at Panchnada could enable the irrigation of millions of acres of farmland for the farmers.

Sir, there is immense potential for industrial establishment in my constituency. Setting up food processing industries will create employment opportunities in the area. There is ample scope for micro, small, and medium enterprises in my region.

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Hon. Chairperson, such good days have arrived that even the roof of the Parliament is weeping, and water is starting to seep from the Parliament itself. ... *(Interruptions)* In the year 2014, good days have come for our country. ... *(Interruptions)* After the Budget, mass SMS messages were sent by the BJP on behalf of Prakash Javadekar ji – [English] Budget 14 is bold and beautiful, directional with a road map of future - Prakash Javadekar ji. [Translation] After the elections, once in power, people were expecting no marketing. Yet, you are still engaged in marketing. This time, the country deserved a good Budget, not good marketing. You have not presented a good Budget. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Madam, it is marketing that keeps the shop running. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: That will no longer work. If you deceive once, you cannot do it again. ... *(Interruptions)* What have you given? The Bullet Train. What have you done for women, youth, farmers, daughters, girls, and issues of sexual assault. ... *(Interruptions)* I have come here to discuss Bullet Train versus FCI. You have built Mumbai to Ahmedabad line, a single place with excellent connectivity where people travel by plane. If the Bullet Train runs 12 years from now, the fare will also be Rs. 10,000. The

Bullet Train was not required for the diamond traders. Shri Jaitley is not present here. I ask you, with that Rs. 60,000 crore, how many FCI warehouses could we have provided to panchayats? Today, our grains spoil due to the lack of storage. Could we not have spent Rs. 60,000 crore on FCI warehouses. ... *(Interruptions)* This is not your fault. When a woman has a family, if the woman were considered in the budget, the matter would seem small. People talk about women and only think about the kitchen. But a great legend once said, if a man compares himself to a woman, it is his childishness, not greatness. I must point out the quality given to women in this budget. When Shri Jaitley was taking suggestions from Dr. Manmohan Singh, I must say that if a woman stays out of the home for three months, the household budget suffers. Today, under your Government, you may realise the value of family. The country is realising that if family and women are absent from power, the Prime Minister is alone, what would become of the budget meant for the country's poor, not just for capitalists and industrialists?

The budget you have presented is precisely the situation where 10 Percent of the people are being given five-star meals, while 90 Percent of the farmers in villages, who are crying out for proper FCI godown facilities, are being neglected. ... *(Interruptions)* Two square meals

versus five-star hotels are being provided. ... *(Interruptions)* Please grant me two more minutes. ... *(Interruptions)* I am surprised that all those sitting here, most of whom are new, do not know what has been done for women. Everyone is praising them for doing much for women. But what exactly has been done for women? ... *(Interruptions)* You have given tax exemption of Rs. 200,000 to Rs. 250,000. Have you done Rs. 300,000 for women? ... *(Interruptions)* There are many cases of single women and divorced women. Single women parents should be granted at least Rs. 500,000 so that a lone woman can educate her children. ... *(Interruptions)*

What have you done for the youth? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

(Interruptions) ...[*]

[*] Not recorded.

*__SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH)__: Let me whole-heartedly congratulate the Hon'ble Minister of Finance for presenting a most wonderful Budget which lays the foundation of our dreams to be brought to reality.

Let me convey my sincere thanks for giving a long awaited AIIMS & IIM for Maharashtra. Shivsena's Yuva Sena Chief Aaditya Thackeray was pursuing this demand for a long time with even the previous Government but they did not fulfill this genuine demand. Hence, it is a proud moment for all of us that the Hon'ble Minister of Finance has fulfilled our demand.

I am also proud that the Virtual Class Room Scheme which was introduced by our Chief of Shivsena Hon'ble Udhav Thackeray for the student of the Municipal School of MCGM three years back is now being launched for the entire country which will help to upgrade the standards of the students going in Municipal and Districts Parishads schools.

The increase in the pension is another step towards improvement.

You have given budgetary support for the pension to the employees of DoT and those who have been absorbed in BSNL but

* Speech was laid on the Table.

not to the employees of DoT absorbed in MTNL. I therefore request the Hon’ble Minister to provide the budgetary support to the employees of DoT absorbed in MTNL as the only good thing the previous Government has done is to grant the Government pension to the employees of DoT absorbed in MTNL and accordingly notification was also issued.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister that it is the NDA Government which took the decision to absorb the employees of DoT in MTNL when Shrimati Sushama Swaraj was the Communication Minister; when the question of Government pension was raised; again it was the NDA Government which accepted in principle to pay the Government pension in the year 2002 when late Shri Parmod Mahajan was the Communication Minister.

But the implementation of the said assurance was not done as NDA Govt. lost the power. Since then the employees went on a number of agitations when finally in the year 2014. The govt. took the decision to pay the govt. pension to the employees of DoT absorbed in MTNL and accordingly notification was released and hence I was expecting the Minister of Finance to provide budgetary provision for MTNL employees. As it is not in the budget I expect the Hon’ble Minister will make necessary provision promptly and grant relief to

MTNL employees and MTNL. Not only MTNL but also all PSUs such as Air India Banks, Insurance need special attention for their revival. Please do the needful as my constituency consists of hutment dwellers and old chawls in majority. As the Hon'ble Minister has granted a welcome monetary support to Delhi, I expect the same view will be taken by the Minister to provide budgetary assistance for rehabilitation of these poor and lower middle class people of Mumbai. Mumbai is known as the financial capital and hence I was expecting major support for revival of the pride city of Mumbai. I hope the necessary financial support will be granted in due course of time.

Under the guidance of Shiv Sena Chief Shri Uddhavji Thackery, MCGM has proposed a Coastal Road to grant relief to the millions of people of Mumbai who travel by road and are harassed by traffic jams. The most important thing is that MCGM has expressed the willingness to bear the entire expenditure for the same.

I expect our NDA Government should assist whole heartedly to complete this dream project for the Mumbaikars.

My Constituency has the boundaries of the Arabian Sea on the East and West Coast. Mumbai Port is the oldest and pride port of Mumbai and India since the British Regime. For a long time even the dredging was not done, causing the prevention of huge vessels to dock at Mumbai

Port. To make our pride port vibrant I request the provisions mentioned for dredging be allotted to Mumbai Port Trust on top priority. Mumbai Port Trust is going in losses and JNPT's profit is reducing day by day due to lack of number of docks for alighting the containers. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister to provide substantial support to these ports before the condition deteriorates.

Now as far as the MPLAD scheme is concerned I request the Hon'ble Minister to kindly grant the permission to provide the assistance for repairs of the building. As I have stated above my Constituency consists of hutment dwellers and old chawls, some of them more than 100 years old and need immediate repairs. Hence, I request the Hon'ble Minister to grant permission to provide MPLAD funds for repairs for these buildings so that I can grant relief to millions of residents of these chawls. I further request you to pay attention to the long pending demand of free housing for the mill workers (Textile) of NTC. I will provide substantial financial support to them.

In 2015 "Kumbha Mela" will be held at Nashik, a pilgrimage town of Maharashtra. I request the Hon'ble Minister to provide substantial financial assistance in the present budget to launch the infrastructure preparation for millions of religious people visiting the city.

Finally as I did not get the time to express my happiness towards the outstanding provisions made by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance to cater the needs of every human being of the society from poor to rich student to working class, from small businessman to industrialists and from young to old, I heartily congratulate the Minister of Finance for providing such a visionary budget. I expect the implementation of it including my small demands made above.

Our Hon. Members of the opposition were criticising the Hon. Minister of Finance by calling him a "Sapnon ka Saudaagar" (merchant of dreams). I would like to recite two lines for them:

"Manzilen unhi ko milti hain, jinke sapno mein jaan hoti hai;

Udaan pankhon se nahi, hauslon se hoti hai."

(Only those reach their destinations whose dreams have life;

Flight is not from wings, but from courage.)

The courage of our Government is steadfast, and we are confident that the pledges made will be fulfilled. This is indeed a budget of good days.

Therefore, I once again extend my felicitations to Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley and Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, and conclude my speech.

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): Hon. Chairperson, you have given me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget, for which I express my gratitude to you. It seems that today, as the last speaker, I am presenting my views. Just as our sister Shrimati Ranjeet Ranjan mentioned in the House that water was dripping, many remarks came from that side very rapidly. Hon. Minister of Finance is present here. I would like to tell him that mistakes, if any, should be acknowledged. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, since I have very few points to present, I would like to offer one suggestion to the Hon. Minister of Finance. Mahatma Gandhi envisioned a drug-free India. While there have been discussions here on youth, agriculture, inflation, and unemployment, nothing has been said about the vision of a drug-free India that Mahatma Gandhi had. I would like to tell the Hon. Minister of Finance that in the entire country, the majority of incidents, whether murders or heinous crimes like gang-rapes, have drugs as a contributing factor in about 90 percent of cases. Why do we not turn India into a movement for a drug-free nation and work on it, so that the entire country becomes drug-free? A drug-free India is the vision of a youthful India, and we can make it a reality.

Hon. Chairperson, now I would also like to place some matters of my Constituency here, because you will immediately press the bell. Bhagalpur, which is my Parliamentary Constituency, certainly does not figure only on the map of Bihar but on the map of the whole country. For that, I would like to state that Bhagalpur is fully affected by erosion caused by both the Ganga and Kosi rivers. Both rivers keep eroding the land and displacing the people there. I would request that funds be provided to save the erosion-affected areas, because the Vikramshila Setu which has been constructed there, if not protected this time, will have to be closed, its approach road will be washed away. It has already been cut at Sorha. If it is not stopped, then the railway line will also be cut. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Chairperson, I understand that you are repeatedly asking us to conclude. The Hon. Minister of Finance is also tired, and matters are going over his head as well. Therefore, in conclusion, I would only request that when the Hon. Minister of Finance gives his reply tomorrow, he should also speak about making India free from intoxication.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Jai Hind.

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR): Hon. Chairperson, at the very outset, I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji, who have brought forth the General Budget for the year 2014-15. They have presented a balanced Budget. I would like to directly raise the issues concerning my Constituency. Through the Budget of 2014-15, the Hon. Minister has given the slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Not today, but in the days to come, even our colleagues from the Opposition will realise what is destined to happen. A provision of Rs.100 crore has been made in the Budget for Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao. This will certainly help in curbing heinous crimes such as female foeticide. In Manipur, a Sports University is proposed at a cost of Rs.100 crore, and Rs.50 crore have been provided for programmes such as the National Sports Talent. Through you, Sir, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister that Jharkhand too is not lacking in talent, and therefore, an expert academy under the aforesaid scheme should be established there. Jamshedpur is an iron city. It is a miniature India in itself, where people from different States of the country come and reside. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There are two more Hon. Members speak. If the House agrees, we may extend the time for this discussion by ten more minutes.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Okay.

SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO: Hon. Chairperson, after Class II, there is no arrangement for education there. Therefore, along with establishing an education hub, an IIT should also be set up. Large industries such as Tata Tinplate are established there. Similarly, Rs.5,000 crore have been provided for agricultural produce storage. As the remote rural areas of Jamshedpur are predominantly agrarian, it is essential to have cold storage facilities there. An allocation of Rs.1,000 crore has been made for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Yojana. Sir, I would like to submit that the Subarnarekha Project was initiated around the year 1972. Even after nearly 42 years, the project has not been completed. Through you, I urge that this project be expedited. An allocation of Rs.440 crore has been made for the National Thermal Power Corporation. I would like that a nuclear power plant be established there, as Jharkhand has abundant reserves of uranium. I am grateful to you for having given me this opportunity to present my views.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much. Through you, I would like to make a few observations regarding the Budget. I shall not take much time as it is already quite late and the zero hour is still pending. The Hon. Minister of Finance is present here. One point is that Rs. 7,000 crore has been allocated for creating one hundred smart cities. It is being proposed that one smart city will be developed with Rs. 70 crore, whereas a shopping mall can be built for Rs. 250 crore. I am not sure what kind of planning this is. How can one hundred smart cities be built with Rs. 7,000 crore? Why has nothing been mentioned about smart villages? Nothing has been said about the monsoon, which is already approaching a weak phase. No attention has been paid to drought-affected areas. I shall recite a small poem, which encompasses everything. I have included observations about the Budget and general matters in it. I would be very pleased if it is listened to carefully. It is as follows: ... *(Interruptions)*

“Pehle kiraya badhaya rail ka,

phir number aaya tel ka,

khud hi das saal karte rahe nuktachini,

aate hi do rupaye kilo mehngi kar di cheeni,

har koi sapne dikhakar aam aadmi ko thag raha hai,

aam logon ko ab dar Cheen se nahi, cheeni se lag raha hai.

Duniya Moon par sarkar honeymoon par,

poochh rahe poore desh ke chai wale hain,

mehngai ki wajah se khaali chai ke pyale hain,

logon ko to bas do waqt ki roti ke laale hain,

sarkar ji bata dijiye acche din kab aane wale hain.

Shayad pata nahi hai ki Iraq hai kis ilaake mein,

Bharatiya Iraq mein fase hain, Sushma ji gayi thi Dhake mein,

Bangladesh ko ye videsh mantralay ka wafad kya das din baad nahi ja sakta tha,

kya Kandhar ki tarz par videsh mantri ka jahaz Baghdad nahi ja sakta tha,

main to ye kahunga ki humare desh ke log bahut himmat wale hain,

jinhone is mehengai ke daur mein bhi bachche paale hain,

lootne wale zyada, bas ginti ke rakhwale hain,

please sarkar ji bata dijiye acche din kab aane wale hain.

Mere sapne mein kal raat bullet train aayi,

maine kaha ji badhaai ho badhaai,

suna hai tum mere desh aa rahi ho,

mere desh ke tarakki ki speed badha rahi ho,

Bullet train boli- mera shikwa kisi gaay ya bhains se nahi,

Are main bijli se chalti hoon gobar gas se nahi.

Maananiya Pradhan Mantri ji ke bhashan logon ko khoob janche hain,

ek hi rahat ki baat hai

ki videshon se kaaldhan wapas aane mein matra pachaas din bache hain,

hum to Aam Aadmi Party wale hain, hume to har sarkar se dande khane hain,

Humne to sadkon par aur Parliament mein ye poochhne ke liye hi morche sambhale hain

ki bataiye acche din kab aane wale hain."

(First, the rail fares were raised,
Then came the price of oil, ablaze.

For ten long years they kept on nit-picking,
Yet on arrival, sugar rose by two rupees a kilogram, so striking.

Everyone shows dreams, deceiving the common man,
Now the people fear not China, but sugar in the pan.

The world is on the Moon, while the Government is on honeymoon,
Across the nation, every tea-seller asks a question soon.

Because of inflation, teacups lie empty in despair,
People struggle even for two square meals of care.

O Government, kindly tell us plain,
When will the good days truly reign.

Perhaps they do not even know in which region Iraq lies,
Indians are trapped in Iraq, while Shrimati Sushma ji had gone to Dhaka,

Could this delegation of the Ministry of External Affairs to Bangladesh not have gone ten days later,

Could not the aircraft of the Foreign Minister, like in Kandahar, have reached Baghdad sooner?

I would only like to say that the people of our country are indeed very courageous,
Who have raised their children even in this era of severe inflation.

Those who loot are many, but the true protectors are only a few,
Please, O Government, do let us know when the good days shall come true.

Last night in my dream, the Bullet Train came by,
I said, “Congratulations, O welcome, O hi!
I hear you are coming to my nation’s lane,
To speed up the progress of my country again.”

The Bullet Train replied, “I complain not of cow or buffalo’s,
For I run on electricity, not on dung-gas.”

Hon. Prime Minister’s speeches have been very well received by the people,
The only relief is that only fifty days remain for the black money to return from abroad,
We, the members of the Aam Aadmi Party,

We have to face blows from every Government,

We have taken up the fronts on the streets and in Parliament

Just to ask,

Tell us, when will the good days shall come?)

[English]

SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM (JAMNAGAR): Thank you, Chairman, Sir. This is my maiden speech in this House. At the outset, I would like to thank Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi and also my party for having given me this opportunity. I am also indebted to the respected citizens of my constituency, who have trusted me and have given me this honor to represent them in this temple of democracy.

I would like to congratulate Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Finance for a great budget. With a clean and complete departure from the prescriptions that led to policy paralysis in successive budgets by the past Government, he has given this budget.

What did we inherit? There have been a lot of discussions here on inheritance. It is a fact that the present Government has inherited declining growth, gross unemployment, high current account and fiscal deficit, high food inflation, stagnation in industrial growth, poor implementation of policies and much more.

For the past two days, as a new-comer to this House, I have been witnessing the Opposition saying all the time that whatever the BJP had said during the election campaign, the Budget is not on par with the promises it made during the elections. Sir, I would beg to differ

from the Opposition here because I feel that this Budget is the exact reflection of what the BJP said during the election campaign.

It is an all-inclusive Budget, Sir, with every segment of the society, every part of this nation being included in the growth process. All the policies have been implemented so that the middle-class, the lower middle-class and the poor section of the society do not suffer any more. The regions which were never thought of by the Opposition in the past have been included in this Budget. The *sutra Manniye Narendra Bhai* gave to the BJP during the election, '*sabka sath, sabka vikas'* has been proven by including Jammu and Kashmir, the Northeastern region, the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in the development of infrastructural programmes of the present Government.

Sir, I would also like to say that the common man suffered the most with high food inflation and the present Government, after coming into power, in just 45 days with its strong decision has shown a growth in that sector. Inflation has come down a great deal. I would not be wrong in saying that in 45 days the Government has taken such strong measures which the past Government could not take in 3650 odd days. We have witnessed ten years of mis-rule, the way the

middle-class which was the strength of our economy, has suffered during this period.

Savings have always been an inherent strength of the Indian economy. I will take the House back to the 2008 recession when we suffered global meltdown financially and economically. The strongest economy of this world suffered but India still stood by that melt down. All the economists, all the surveys said that the saving habit of the Indians, we save and pass it on to our future generations, has saved our economy. But, unfortunately, in the past ten years the middle-class suffered the most. We slowly started becoming an over-borrowed economy. Slowly the money in the hands of the middle-class and the lower middle-class, by policy-paralysis and lack of implementation of policy, was taken away.

Somehow, in the last three to four years, the kind of period which we saw as an Indian was the most shameful period in the history of our nation when our own investors refused to invest a penny in our country. Our own investors who loved our country, respected our country, wanted our country to grow with them did not even... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time allotted to you is over.

SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM: Sir, I would not be doing justice either to the Budget or to my constituency. I would request you to give me two more minutes.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down. It is not possible. Even the extended time is over.

SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM: It is my maiden speech. I wish to say something related to my constituency, sir. I owe it to my constituency.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We are starting the 'Zero Hour'. Even the extended time is over. You should understand that. You are a new Member to the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, the discussion on the General Budget is complete. Now, we would take up 'Zero Hour' and Shri Kaushal Kishore to speak.

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* Not recorded.

*__DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA, INC (INNER MANIPUR):__ I express my views on the consideration of the Union Budget (General), 2014-15 as presented by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley ji on the 10th of this month. I oppose the Budget. However, I do congratulate the FM for his maiden Union Budget. Our Minister of Finance also deserves kudos for his down to earth and very frank approach while presenting this year's Budget. Why I say so, is because he tries to formulate the Budget by maintaining a very clear concept of continuity from the past. I wish him all the best.

At the very outset, I would like to state that this Union Budget is, on the whole, an ordinary budget. Facing the various difficulties on hand, the Minister of Finance unsuccessfully tried to present a non-inflationary growth Budget in this year's budget exercise. The Minister of Finance talks of NDA Govt.'s committed principle of **"Minimum Government Maximum Governance"**. Very good. Now, for this, we have to look at the structure and functioning of our Constitution. In this great country, 'Unity in Diversity' is the reality. Nobody would deny the fact that the roles of Union Government and the State Governments are equally important in dealing with the manifold issues of the country as a whole. May be – the case of price rise of essential commodities, the internal security of the country,

insurgency movements, the Naxalite activities, Maoist activities, repeal of Armed Forces Special Powers Act, terrorism, climate change and international border issues.

On all these issues the Government would in my humble opinion, require developing a mechanism of creating awareness amongst the masses. To make awareness programmes really successful, the masses should be properly educated. The Right to Education Act of UPA Govt. is one such instrument towards achieving this goal. The country is very rich in human resources and the proper development of this resource, I repeat, proper development of human resources is the real key to everything.

Hence, I do propose to the Minister of Finance for more fund allocation for school education. Also, I would like to request the Minister of Finance to consider providing more funds for education both in Secondary and Higher education sectors. More money can be earmarked for research and development in the fields of basic sciences which are the paradise of ancient Indian scientists and scholars. This will go a long way to sustain our otherwise well-established traditions of scientific values and scientific temperament. By doing so, the issues on climate change; energy security of the country, fighting

superstitions, etc. can very well be addressed to. We demand for allocating a minimum of 6% GDP for education.

I would insist that more funds could be made available to the rural sector. Because, according to the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, India lives in villages, which is nevertheless a universal truth. Those living in these rural areas are very much marginalized in almost all respects. To improve their lot is a service of God. The basic infrastructure in these rural areas are completely lacking. No safe drinking water, no power, no basic health care facilities, no good schools, no good roads are the actual happenings there. We have to do so many things in these areas and that means more funds for rural areas.

I would like to urge upon the Hon. Minister of Finance that there should not be any shortage of funds for the social sector programmes like Mahatma Gandhi NREGA, National Rural Health Mission, etc. At the same time, RTE Act should be rigorously and judiciously implemented. We have to go for an equitable development of all states or regions. We need to do away with regional imbalances. For this, a new approach, a new policy is necessary on the part of the Government, Finance Ministry and Planning commission. If a state or

a region is lagging behind vis-à-vis development – I am afraid, there will be discontentment and revolt.

Therefore, we need a new way of thinking and a new approach to our economic planning and financial management. More attention must be given to the backward regions or states. More attention must be given to the poorer sections and disadvantaged sections of the society.

The Minister of Finance proposes to set up a sports university in my state, Manipur. Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. In this connection I would like to seek the indulgence of the House to the fact that during the UPA regime there has already been established a national sports academy in Manipur. I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister whether the Academy and the University will work separately as two different entities or else the Academy is being upgraded to a University.

1) My state Manipur has a huge presence of indigenous games. Mention may be made about a few of them, viz; Sagol Kangjei (Polo): Sagol means horse and Kangjei means hockey stick. It had its origin in Manipur; Mukna Kangjei (Hockey with Wrestling);Mukna (Wrestling). Yubi Lakpi (a form of Rugby played with oiled-coconut; and Kang etc.

Maybe because of the presence of these indigenous games, Manipur is able to produce a number of Olympians/International Players/World Champions in Hockey, Judo, Archery, Weightlifting, Cycling, Boxing. The most recent Olympic medalist in Boxing, Ms. Mary Kom is from my State Manipur. Hence to award the highest Sports Institution (Academy/University) to my State is exemplary. Thank you once again, Mr. Minister.

There have been inordinate delays in the completion of National projects in NE India. The reason for such delays has always been attributed to the law & order situation there. In this connection, the Union Govt. and Ministry of Home Affairs have been urged upon to provide dedicated security to all these national projects. The Minister of Finance has proposed to set aside an additional sum of Rs. 1,000 crore over and above the amount provided for in the interim Budget for North East Railway connectivity. Unfortunately, however, the national project, Jiribam-Tupul-Imphal Railway project has been over-delayed and the recent target for completion is 2022 as against the initial target being 2010. Therefore, a dedicated security for all these national projects in that part of the country has become a necessity. The amount set aside by the FM is still very small and it will never be adequate.

NH 2 is one of the two life-lines of Manipur. This NH has always been subjected to unnecessary blockades/extortions thereby causing a lot of inconveniences in carrying essential commodities including life-saving drugs.

Because of these unwarranted activities, the prices of the articles coming through this NH are sky-high (almost double/triple/quadruple at times). Here again Govt. of India and MHA has been urged upon to establish a Highway protection force to check these unwanted activities. The alternative NH 37 connecting Silchar and Imphal should be made an all-weather road. Here also the work is very slow. And rightly so, the executing agency BRO is always getting the blame. We don't want anything. What we want is the completion of the construction of the NH so that my state gets uninterrupted supply of essential commodities including life-saving drugs at reasonable rates. To arrest the exorbitant prices we are made to pay because of these inconveniences, adequate and sufficient transport subsidy could be an alternative. Hence, demand NHs Special Protection Force for all NHs in the Northeast for smooth passage of passengers and goods; Adequate transport subsidy for transporters on these NHs to arrest price escalation of essential commodities including life-saving drugs;

and dedicated security for all National projects in the Northeast for timely completion of these projects.

Coming to the problem of International borders, I come from the State of Manipur. Manipur along with our sister states Mizoram, Tripura, Meghalaya, Assam, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland do have a long stretch of international border with as many as five countries, viz., Nepal, Bhutan, China, Myanmar and Bangladesh. Here, I would like to seek the indulgence of this august House to the fact that in almost all these international borders the same type of people live there. Their children are married with another. They do have farmlands on either side of the so-called international boundary. It is really a very interesting and peculiar situation there. If at all any problem arises there, a genuine humane approach is always called for to sustain the everlasting cordial environment.

To facilitate the above proposition, proper education of our children and sustained economic development has to be the most important areas where the Union Government can help the States. Proper education can change for a better tomorrow, and finally, we are confident that we will be able to overcome all financial problems and become an economic superpower. No problem can defy solutions forever. All problems can be solved through negotiation. In our case,

the solution should be political. We should sincerely attempt for a political solution to these problems.

Now, I shall dwell on another much talked about issue of MPLADS. My colleagues would agree with me that in the case of small States, MPLADS funds do more damage than good. With the allocation of a meager fund under this scheme, some of us have landed in a strange situation. You know, why? Goa MPs have 20 assembly segments each. I have 32 Assembly segments in my constituency; my other colleague has 28 assembly constituencies; Arunachal MPs have 40 assembly constituencies each; Sikkim MP has 32 assembly segments; Mizoram MP has 40 assembly segments and Nagaland MP has 60 assembly segments. In these states MLAs have more local area development funds than the MPs. Now, our demand is either scrap MPLAD or increase it to some reassemble amount.

I always stand for the repeal of the Armed Forces (Special) Power Act (AFSPA), 1958. This Act is national in character and regional in application. It is really infamous and Draculian. All reports of the Justice Reddy Committee, Veerappa Moily's ARC, Hamid Ansari's Kashmiri IPC and Nirbhaya's Verma Commission, have recommended the repeal of this Act.

With the continued application of this Act in the Northeast and J&K, the number of fake encounters, widows/widowers, parents who lost their children, missing persons, custodian deaths, and extortion is on the rise. Life in the region where this Act is in application, is not safe at all. Anything may happen. Nobody knows what is going to happen. I urge the Union Government to repeal this AFSPA, 1958 immediately.

Once again, I oppose the General Budget 2014-15.

[Translation]

***SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ):** I support the budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance for the year 2014-15. The budget presented by the Government is not merely a document of figures, but an account of the Government's developmental plans for the entire year. The budget reflects the direction of the Government's development. Today, the economic situation inherited by the new Government is extremely disappointing. For the first time in the country, the previous Government had created a situation where neither domestic investment nor foreign capital investment was taking place, resulting in a continuous decline in production. For this reason, the country's growth rate had fallen to 4.7 percent. Under such circumstances, the fiscal deficit also increased significantly. People's confidence was waning. Industrial houses willing to invest domestically also started investing outside India. This year's budget has instilled confidence across all sections of the country. The focus of the new Government this time is more on infrastructure and production. The most significant achievement of the Government since its formation is that the BJP and NDA Government has provisioned Rs. 17,94,892 crore

* Speech was laid on the Table.

for expenditure for 2014-15, which is 13 percent higher compared to the previous year. The proposed expenditure will be used to pay interest on loans taken by previous Governments and for defence-related matters. This year, the Government expects a 19 percent increase in revenue receipts. The Government of India will establish an Expenditure Management Commission, which will suggest measures for improving Government spending. Even now, defence equipment is imported from abroad. Our Government has decided that, in the future, instead of importing defence equipment, it will be produced in India, with control solely in Indian hands. Therefore, a decision has been taken to increase FDI in the production of defence equipment from 26 percent to 49 percent.

Similarly, in the insurance sector, the FDI limit is proposed to be increased from 26 per cent to 49 per cent. By the year 2018, an equity infusion of Rs. 2,40,000 crore will be made in public sector banks. The Government has also provided an income tax relief of Rs. 50,000. Now, citizens up to the age of 60 years will be granted a full exemption limit increased from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh. Those aged between 60 and 80 years will receive exemption up to Rs. 3 lakh, and for individuals above 80 years of age, the exemption limit will be Rs. 5 lakh. The Government’s priority this year will be to resolve pending

tax disputes amounting to nearly Rs. 4 lakh crore that have been lying in courts for several years. At present, the number of taxpayers in the country is 3 crore 80 lakh. The Government will make efforts to introduce the GST, which is expected to add one per cent to the growth rate. Fiscal deficit rises only when Government expenditure exceeds revenue. During the previous Government, revenue was continuously declining while expenditure kept increasing. Therefore, it has been decided to bring the fiscal deficit down to 4.1 percent of GDP in 2014-15. The growth rate can increase only when more employment opportunities are created, as a rise in employment will lead to an increase in the nation's overall growth rate.

India has enormous potential for tourism, which needs to be fully developed. The greatest opportunities lie in sites associated with Lord Buddha. These locations should be connected via better road, rail, and air networks to establish a Buddhist Circuit. A key site in this circuit is Piprahwa (Kapilvastu), where Gautam Buddha was born. Even today, millions of Buddhist pilgrims face difficulties in reaching this site. Therefore, connecting Piprahwa (Kapilvastu), Shravasti, Kushinagar, and Sarnath through the Buddhist Circuit will lead to a substantial increase in tourist arrivals, thereby significantly boosting India's revenue. Since the current Government has decided neither to

alter nor reduce allocations for the social sector schemes of the previous Government, it is necessary to increase the nation's revenue. This Budget also includes a decision to reduce excise duty. At present, banking facilities are accessible to only 58 percent of the population, so a decision has been made to ensure that two members of every family have bank accounts. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY), an increase of Rs. 4,692 crore has been made compared to the previous year. This year, Rs. 14,391 crore has been allocated, whereas last year the expenditure was only Rs. 9,699 crore. Similarly, an expenditure of Rs. 10,950 crore has been allocated to the Backward Region Grant Fund (BRGF), which is Rs. 3,150 crore more than the previous year. An allocation of Rs. 16,000 crore has been made for the Indira Awas Yojana, and Rs. 5,145 crore for the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification scheme. The Government has decided to allocate more resources to development projects across the country. The BJP- and NDA-led Government has reiterated its commitment to enhancing irrigation capacity through river interlinking. This year, higher allocations have been made for the sectors of defence, food and public distribution, and rural development. The Government has provided increased funding in the sectors of defence, food and distribution systems, and rural development. To boost agricultural

growth, a provision of Rs. 9 lakh crore in loans has been made. I hope that the budget presented by the Minister of Finance is the best possible under the current circumstances, offering the middle class and salaried individuals relief through direct tax exemptions and enabling them to save money. In Eastern Uttar Pradesh, thousands of children die every year due to Japanese Encephalitis (JE) and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome (AES). I request a financial allocation for the development of medicines to treat AES and save these children. Additionally, I seek funding for the establishment of power plants to generate energy from rivers originating in Nepal, which would also help prevent catastrophic floods.

[English]

*__SHRI M. MURLI MOHAN (RAJAHMUNDRY):__ I welcome the maiden General Budget presented by Shri Arun Jaitely ji, Hon'ble Minister of Finance, is a people-oriented one. It is symbolic of the change we have witnessed in the last few months and the budget is a step in the right direction. During the previous regime, the country had witnessed several scams and depreciation of the value of Indian rupee. The financial and economic indicators had drastically dropped in the previous Governments.

I am happy to note that the Union Government has come forward to establish AIIMS, Petroleum University, IIT, National Institute of Disaster Management and Agricultural University in the residual state of Andhra Pradesh. I would urge upon the Government to allocate adequate funds for setting up all these proposed institutions in the interest of Andhra Pradesh.

I would also urge upon the Hon'ble Minister, to establish a Central University at Visakhapatnam and an IIM at Rajahmundry city by granting adequate funds in the supplementary Budget.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

I am also happy to note that the Union Government has also proposed in setting up Petrochemical Complex at Visakhapatnam, in set up of metro rail facility in Visakhapatnam city and in Vijayawada-Tenali-Guntur Metropolitan Urban Development Authority, promotion of Vizag Chennai industrial corridor, setting up a Steel Plant at Kadapa. I would request the Government to expedite in setting up these projects on priority basis and adequate funds may be earmarked in the budget.

Apart from other welfare measures announced by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance towards poor, downtrodden and weaker sections of the society, he has given more priority for the development of National Highways in various parts of the country by allocating a sum of Rs. 37,887/- crores.

In this connection, I would like to say that the historical city of Rajahmundry is situated on the bank of the mighty river Godavari.

Pushkaram falls after every 12 years whereas the Maha Pushkarams (Mahakumbamela) falls after every 144 years and the ensuing Mahakumba Mela falls next year, i.e. July, 2015. As Rajahmundry will be main center of attraction during the Pushkarams, lakhs of passengers from all over the country are likely to arrive at

Rajahmundry station by trains to have a dip and obeisance of Matha Godavari and visit in and around temples of the Godavari river.

The city of Rajahmundry is facing a lot of stumbling blocks, like narrow roads and improper drainage facilities. Due to lack of proper underground drainage facilities and narrow roads, the progress of Rajahmundry has come to a standstill. There is a need to widen the roads and construct a proper drainage system. Beautification of the Rajahmundry city is also the need of the Hour.

Keeping in view the importance of the City Rajahmundry and also Pushkarams (Maha Kumbha Mela) which will take place next year July, 2015. I would, therefore, request the Union Government to kindly allocate/sanction adequate funds at least minimum Rs. 500 crores for the development of the Rajahmundry city towards the construction of Underground Drainage System, widening of Roads, beautification of city with greenery and also for construction of new platforms and modernization of Rajahmundry Railway Station.

While welcoming the Union Government for setting up certain institutions in Andhra Pradesh, I wish to emphasize the need for the category of Special Status to the residual State of Andhra Pradesh.

At the time of bifurcation of the united Andhra Pradesh State the earlier UPA Government had assured this House, that a category of

Special Status to the residual state of Andhra Pradesh, will be given for a period of 10 years. I would request the Union Government that the period for Special Status category may be extended to 15 years, instead of 10 years keeping in view the financial crunch faced by Andhra Pradesh. I would like to know from the Union Government, as to why such permission is delayed in accordance with a category of Special Status. Due to bifurcation, the State Government of A.P. has lost the majority of its revenue portion.

As per the 13th Schedule to A.P. Reorganisation Act, 2014, the Union Government has also assured this House that all financial support for building the new capital for the residuary state of A.P. will be extended. However, no allocation has been made in the budget for building the new capital. I hope the Union Government will solve this issue amicably by granting adequate financial support for building a new capital with extending all financial support to A.P.

I would also request the Minister of Finance to kindly allocate Rs.15,000/- crores for building of Capital City for Andhra Pradesh.

I also request the Minister of Finance who was kind enough in allocating maximum funds for support in connection with cleaning of the River Yamuna. In this connection, I would request the Minister of

Finance to grant Rs. 200 crores for the cleaning of River Godavari which is the need of the hour.

With these words, I support the General Budget 2014-15 presented by the Hon'ble Minister of Finance.

[Translation]

***SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL):** I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to present my views on the General Budget.

First of all, I would like to express my gratitude to my leader, Shri Uddhavji Thackeray, Shiv Sena Party Chief, under whose leadership a small worker like me has been given the honour to sit in this august House.

The Hon. Minister of Finance, Shri Arun Jaitley, has presented a very balanced budget, keeping in view all sections of society. The attention of the nation's youth, salaried individuals, farmers, small entrepreneurs, medium entrepreneurs, and large industrialists alike was focused on this budget. Several special provisions have been made in this budget, which I would like to highlight. Since Independence, this is a budget in which special consideration has been given to rural areas, agriculture, the farming community, and the people of rural regions.

The Government of Gujarat has initiated the mission to construct the colossal statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. For the construction

* Speech was laid on the Table.

of this statue, a sum of Rs. 200 crore has been proposed in the budget, which I welcome.

The Government has also proposed the construction of a grand statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the middle of the sea in Mumbai. This proposal has been included in the Budget of the Government of Maharashtra. I request the Government of India, particularly the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance, to also allocate funds for the colossal statue of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, so that the nation may contribute to its construction.

The population of Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad is increasing day by day. The previous Government had announced the construction of a metro in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad, but this budget makes no mention of it for these cities. Young people from across the country come to Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad for employment and education. To address the growing traffic difficulties, it is necessary to construct a metro in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad. I request the Hon. Minister to allocate a special fund in this budget for the construction of the metro in Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has allocated Rs. 100 crore for archaeological sites, however, this provision is not sufficient. In my constituency, Maval, there are two historical forts, Rajmachi and

Lohagad, as well as two Buddhist-era caves, Karla and Bhaja. At all four sites, the Archaeological Department has only installed a signboard and done nothing further. Therefore, I request the Government to make adequate arrangements for the maintenance and security of these sites. The Karla Caves are situated on a high hill, attracting millions of tourists, so a ropeway facility should be provided to facilitate their access. Additionally, the Konkan region of Maharashtra has an extensive coastline. If the Government undertakes developmental projects for tourism in this region, it will attract both domestic and international tourists and generate substantial revenue for the Government.

Across the country, the Union and State Governments announce financial assistance for farmers affected by natural disasters. However, delays in disbursing this aid often drive farmers to the brink of desperation, sometimes leading to tragic suicides. To prevent such tragedies during natural calamities, the Government must ensure immediate financial assistance to the farmers.

This is the first budget since Independence in which the Government has proposed Rs. 100 crore for agricultural irrigation. Alongside this scheme, provision has been made to provide loans to farmers at 7% interest. I would like to request the Hon. Minister to

consider reducing this rate from 7% to 5%, so that a more number of farmers can benefit. I also would like to request the Government to establish Central Agricultural Universities not only in Andhra Pradesh and Rajasthan but also in Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh.

The project of interlinking of rivers was initiated during the NDA Government. This plan now needs to be restarted and implemented at a faster pace. There is an irony in the country, when one region faces floods, another suffers from drought. If the excess floodwater is diverted to areas where it is urgently needed, both regions will benefit. With this idea in mind, the Government has formulated the interlinking of river project. The Government needs to act on this project quickly, otherwise this irony will continue.

At present, life insurance is an important sector, but the previous Government had brought it under the ambit of service tax. In today's fast-paced life, it is necessary to educate every individual about the importance of life insurance. Therefore, the service tax on life insurance needs to be abolished. To stabilise agricultural produce prices, the Government has proposed a fund of Rs. 500 crore, which indicates that the Government will be able to exercise control over prices in the coming period.

The Government is committed to cleaning the river Ganga. Interestingly, the previous Government had also set up the National Ganga Basin River Authority and spent nearly Rs. 2,000 crore, yet the Ganga remained polluted. It is a matter for investigation as to what happened to that money. I am confident that this Government will make the Ganga's water safe for drinking. I would like to request that the Union Government also direct the states to launch special campaigns for cleaning rivers and take action against those who pollute them.

During the Lok Sabha elections, the NDA made several promises to the people, and this budget has made adequate provisions to fulfil those promises. We need the support of everyone. Development should reach all sections of society, regardless of class, caste, community, or religion. We must take everyone along on the path of progress.

I believe that this budget will increase the country's growth rate and improve India's reputation in the international community, which had declined earlier.

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SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Chairperson, a woman has been raped in Bihar... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing would go on record except the submission of Shri Kaushal Kishore.

(Interruptions) ...[*]

20.40 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan came and stood on the floor near the Table.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You go back to your seat. You can raise it tomorrow. You have not given any notice.

... (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You can raise it tomorrow. Nothing would go on record.

(Interruptions) ...[*]

[*] Not recorded.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please go back to your seat. You can raise it tomorrow.

20.41 hrs.

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan went back to his seat

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE (MOHANLALGANJ): Hon. Chairperson, I express my gratitude to you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and this august House to an important matter. National Highway No. 24, which connects Lucknow to Delhi, passes through the district of Sitapur beyond Lucknow, where lie the village of Ataria and the Nagar Panchayat of Sidhauli and Kamalapur. During the last month, around 300 shops and houses were situated along this stretch of the highway in Sidhauli, Kamalapur, and Ataria. The Sitapur District Administration has demolished these shops and houses without paying even a single rupee as compensation. Sir, I would like to state that the District Administration of Sitapur has deliberately violated the provisions of the Land Acquisition (Amendment) Act, 1984, as well as the decision and directions of the

Hon. Supreme Court. The residents whose houses and shops have been demolished have now been rendered unemployed and homeless as a result of this action. The district administration completely demolished their houses and shops. Their properties are recorded as residential, and their names appear on the voter list. They also regularly pay house tax and other taxes to the Nagar Panchayat. When I raised this matter with the District Magistrate of Sitapur, he stated that no compensation would be provided to them. I urge the Government to ensure that compensation is granted to the people of Ataria, Kamalapur, and Sidhauli whose houses and shops have been demolished, and that strict action be taken against the Sitapur district administration for carrying out this act in violation of the rules. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD): Hon. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

I would like to state that the Bodhan-Bidar Railway line having a stretch of more than 130 kilometers which was proposed long ago remains a non-starter even today… *(Interruptions)*. This railway line is very important for the fast development of Nizamabad district and other neighboring districts of both Telangana and Karnataka…

(*Interruptions*). This railway line was already mentioned in an earlier Budget also… *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down. You are always creating problems. The Treasury Benches should take care of their Members.

… (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Mr. Pappu Yadav, I am very sorry to say that you have not given any notice. We are calling those Members who have given notices.

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: A survey was also ordered in this regard but the work could not be started due to the reasons unknown. It is also to be noted that Asia's biggest sugar factory is situated in Bodhan which is in Nizamabad District of Telangana. Many passengers travel from Bodhan to Bidar on a daily basis due to business and other purposes also. It is the need of the hour to immediately take up this survey to complete this railway line.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now nothing will go on record. Now, Shri Virender Kashyap to speak.

*(Interruptions) …**

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, please allow me one minute. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI VIRENDRA KASHYAP (SHIMLA): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak on an important matter. Through you, I would like to place before the Government certain demands. In the majority of States in the country, the lives of the common people are being made extremely difficult by wild animals, particularly affecting the farmers. Himachal Pradesh is also facing this grave problem. Wild animals, including pigs, monkeys, and nilgai, are destroying the crops of farmers. Nearly 85 percent of the Panchayats in Himachal Pradesh are struggling due to this menace. Farmers have ceased sowing crops in their fields, thereby making it exceedingly difficult for them to sustain their livelihood. It is prohibited to kill wild animals under the Wildlife Protection Act, 1972. The present situation, however, has become such that if a person is found harming an animal, it is almost impossible for them to escape the law, whereas if a person is harmed, they may get away with it. Under these circumstances, the farmers of Himachal Pradesh are left with only two options, either to let their land turn barren or to sell it and become landless. I, therefore, earnestly urge the Government to

address this issue and provide immediate relief to the farmers. Thank you.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to draw your attention to the pain of two generations that have passed and two generations yet to come and I seek your protection in this regard. I would like to draw your attention to the suffering of 25,000 people and one lakh cattle. I would like to draw your attention to the Pokhran Field Firing Range, on the land that has honoured all of us with pride. This expanse of Pokhran, covering seven hundred and fifty square miles, hosts the largest field firing range in Asia. When it was established in 1966, 20 villages were displaced. The agony of that displacement has been borne by two generations, and now, when those people have finally settled at new locations, the threat of another displacement threatens them once again. Hon. Chairperson, land is available in Shahgarh Bulge in Jaisalmer, and surveys have already been conducted there. Yet, under political pressure, a conspiracy is being orchestrated to relocate once again those who have already endured the pain of displacement and to acquire irrigated land. We are a people endowed with great patience. During Operation Vijay, our fields were repeatedly

trampled, yet we did not complain. However, if we are displaced now due to political conspiracies, our patience will reach its limit.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal may be allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY (JALANDHAR): Hon. Chairperson, Punjab is facing a severe electricity crisis. Domestic electricity supply there is being cut for 12 to 15 hours. Electricity is not available for even three hours for the paddy crop and small-scale industries remain closed. It is ironic and regrettable that the Deputy Chief Minister of Punjab claims there is a surplus of electricity in the state and that this power is to be supplied to Pakistan. It is deeply unfortunate that Punjab is plunged into darkness while the Deputy Chief Minister wants to supply electricity to Pakistan. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Power to intervene and rescue Punjab from this crisis. Thank you.

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to raise a matter concerning the permission granted to a private limited company for setting up an animal slaughterhouse in the

Sandila Industrial Area of District Hardoi. Hon. Chairperson, under my Lok Sabha constituency, Misrikh, the Uttar Pradesh State Industrial Development Corporation (UPSIDC) has allocated 25 acres of land in the Sandila Assembly segment for a private limited company intending to establish an animal slaughterhouse. The company submitted an application for a No-Objection Certificate (NOC) to the District Officer, Hardoi. The application was examined by the SDM of Sandila, the Circle Officer of Sandila, and the Police Inspector of Sandila, all of whom recommended that the slaughterhouse should not be permitted. Despite these objections, the District Magistrate, under pressure from the Government of Uttar Pradesh, granted permission for the slaughterhouse to be established. Through you, I would like to request the Union Government to ensure that the NOC issued by the District Magistrate, Hardoi, be revoked immediately. People have already begun a hunger strike there, and this is a matter of grave concern and from the 19th, they intend to begin an indefinite fast unto death. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge that the No-Objection Certificate be revoked without delay and that no slaughterhouse be allowed to be constructed at this site. Thank you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Jagdambika Pal may be allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati Anju Bala.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJAN VICHARE (THANE): Sir, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on the sufferings faced by commuters travelling in Mumbai's local trains. A student of Ratnagiri Engineering College, Tushar Jadhav, travelled from Ratnagiri by the Konkan Kanya Express and get down at Panvel station. To reach his home from Panvel, he boarded the Panvel-Thane local train at 5 am, and near Ghansoli station, someone slit his throat with a sharp-edged weapon and stabbed him multiple times in the abdomen. He cried out for help. At that time, security personnel were present in the ladies compartment, and they heard his cries. When the train halted at the next station, they went to check and found Tushar lying in a pool of blood. He was rushed to the hospital, where he was declared dead. After the tragic death of the son, his father also passed away due to a heart attack. Through you, Sir, I would like to request the Ministry of Railways to extend support to the bereaved family, as they have lost their only earning member. I urge the Government to provide employment in the Railways to a member of the deceased's family on compassionate grounds.

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (DHANBAD): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Environment to the fact that the Damodar River in the State of Jharkhand has become the most polluted river in Asia. As there are several coal washers and coal-based factories along the banks of the river, their polluted water flows into the Damodar River, causing it to become increasingly contaminated day by day. Millions of people use the river water, and animals also depend on it, as a result of which they have been afflicted with serious diseases.

Sir, therefore, through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Environment to take strict measures to clean and make the Damodar River pollution-free so that the public can safely use its water.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government, to the fact that the agencies of the Government involved in the Minimum Support Price (MSP) operations, whether it is NAFED or, in our case in Rajasthan, RAJFED, purchase agricultural produce, but their payments are not made on time. A mechanism should be developed to ensure that payment is made on time after the purchase of agricultural produce. Through you, I would like to make this demand to the

Ministry of Agriculture, as the procurement of groundnuts has taken place here, but it has been two months and the payment has still not been made. Similarly, it has been one month since the procurement of chickpeas, but the payment has not yet been made. I urge that a system be developed to ensure that payments are made on time.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (SASARAM): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to draw your attention, and that of the Government, to the industrially underdeveloped nature of my Constituency. My Parliamentary Constituency, Sasaram, is an area in Eastern Bihar which has a large population of weavers, artisans, and skilled workers. It is a region of handloom, handicrafts, and carpet industry. There is abundant availability of raw materials and yarn here. There exist immense possibilities for small-scale industries in this area. Manufacture of export-worthy textiles can be undertaken from here. It is noteworthy that, due to the absence of industries, the skilled workers of this area are migrating to other states. If industries are established in this region, it would not only provide employment to the skilled workforce here but also contribute to the overall development of the region. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON.CHAIRPERSON (PROF. K.V.THOMAS): Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ...**

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to thank you for the time given to me to put forth my views. Madam Speaker, between Jhansi and Kanpur, four-lane and six-lane roads have been constructed. However, the stretch from Jhansi to Kanpur is in a very poor condition. The road is filled with potholes, causing serious inconvenience to commuters and frequent accidents. At several culverts, the road has sunk by nearly one foot. In some areas, the road is almost missing. The four-lane road is incomplete, and the current road has potholes nearly half a foot deep, resembling an unfinished road. Yet, toll tax is being collected at Sevani near Mauth and also after Anta. I request that toll not be collected where the road has not been properly constructed. There are 12 toll plazas within my parliamentary constituency, where Rs. 120 is being collected from commuters. This has placed an undue burden on the public. I urge the Government to review this

* Not recorded.

matter and take appropriate steps to stop this practice and address the hardship being faced by the people. Thank you.

DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a serious problem in my constituency. My Parliamentary Constituency, Latur in Maharashtra, faces a severe scarcity of drinking water. It is a city with a population of approximately 5 lakh. For the past three years, water has been supplied there only twice a month. The water comes from Dhanegaon Dam, and the current stock is sufficient only up to 1st August. Beyond that, there will be no regulation of water supply. Through you, I would like to request the Government, to take note of the difficulties faced by the people of Latur and ensure that this problem is resolved by the Union Government at the earliest.

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Hon. Chairperson, with a deeply anguished heart, I would like to draw your attention today to the tragedy in Uttarakhand.

On 16-17 June last year, at the time of the Uttarakhand tragedy, I was at the sanctum sanctorum of the Shri Kedarnath Temple, the guardian of life, with my family. I am a survivor of that calamity and struggled between life and death for three days. Of the fifteen people

who went with me during that great deluge, 7 lost their lives, and I witnessed with my own eyes many others being carried away by the fast-flowing water, an appalling sight that will remain unforgettable for life.

In various regions of Uttarakhand, 40 to 50 thousand people perished, yet today there is no one to mourn them. More than a year has passed since that tragedy, but neither has the Uttarakhand Government, ... *(interruption)* This is an important matter.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now. Kindly finish your remarks within one minute.

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY: I am myself a survivor. More than a year has passed since that tragedy, yet neither has the Uttarakhand Government presented an accurate record of those who perished, nor have the numerous dependent families been provided with the compensation announced by the State and Union Government and the death certificates, which number in the thousands across various states of the country. In particular, many dependent families in Bihar have neither received death certificates nor the compensation. Near the main gate of the temple, two deceased persons, including the senior journalist from Bihar, Subodh Mishra, and his wife, Sangita Mishra, despite being identified by the local

SDM, have still not received their death certificates, even though the Uttarakhand Government had identified Mr. Mishra's body as the first recovered in the media. ... *(Interruptions)* Only half a minute ... *(Interruptions)* Through you, I would like to request the Government that, in memory of the deceased pilgrims, a "Namami Shradhavan" be established in New Delhi or Haridwar. Thank you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI BIRENDRA KUMAR CHOUDHARY (JHANJHARPUR): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to draw your attention towards the future of lakh of students of this country. It has been brought to attention that the Union Public Service Commission has been practicing discrimination against candidates opting for Hindi and other Indian languages. We are Hindustanis, and even in Parliament, we are encouraged to write and speak in Hindi. Hindi is one of the principal languages of this country. Yet, over the past few years, policies have been implemented that sideline Hindi in favour of English, resulting in significant disadvantage to candidates writing in Hindi. We, therefore, demand that the Government abolish the C-SAT system and restore the Civil Services Main Examination in Hindi, as

it was conducted in 2014. This is a matter that concerns the future of millions of students. If the examination is not held in Hindi, it would constitute a grave injustice to Hindi-speaking candidates.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, it is over. The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 18th July, 2014 at 11 a.m.

21.01 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, July 18, 2014/Ashadha 27, 1936 (Saka)

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Published under Rules 379 and 382 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in Lok Sabha (Sixteenth Edition)