

Sixteenth Series, Vol. III No. 18

Friday, August 1, 2014

Shravana 10, 1936 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Second Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. III contains Nos. 11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 1, 2014/Shravana 10, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

OBITUARY REFERENCE

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House of the sad demise of Shri Shridharrao Nathobaji Jawade who was a member of the Sixth Lok Sabha representing the Yavatmal Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra.

Shri Jawade served as a Member of the Committee on Government Assurances during the Sixth Lok Sabha.

Shri Jawade was a Member of the Madhya Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1952 to 1956 and Member of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly from 1956 to 1962.

An agriculturist by profession, Shri Jawade participated in freedom movement during 1942. Shri Shridharrao Nathobaji Jawade passed away on 27th May, 2014 at Amravati, Maharashtra at the age of 92.

We deeply mourn the loss of Shri Shridharrao Nahobaji Jawade and convey our condolences to the bereaved family.

Now, the House will stand in silence for a short while as a mark of respect to the departed soul.

11. 01 ½ hrs.

The Members then stood in silence for short while.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH (CHHINDWARA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I have moved an adjournment motion.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Your adjournment motion has been received.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: Hon. Madam Speaker, I have moved.

...(Interruptions) That law was enacted by this House.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes. I have received your Adjournment Motion. It relates to the misuse or irregularities concerning the Right to Education Act. I am examining it. However, it is a law enacted by us. I will inform you of my decision later. The matter may be discussed subsequently under an appropriate Rule.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI KAMAL NATH: For the discussion...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please submit it first. Today, the Adjournment Motion cannot be allowed in this matter.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): But will we be able to have a discussion?

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: You give me something in writing.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Question 341 - Shri Ram Charitra.

SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD (MACHHLISHAHAR):

My name is Ram Charitra Nishad.

HON. SPEAKER: Sorry, Nishad is not written here. I will write.

11. 03 hrs

***ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 261, Shri Ram Charitra Nishad.

(Q. 341)

[Translation]

SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD: Madam Speaker, this is my first oral question. I have been elected for the first time. I am also speaking for the first time. I seek your affection and blessings.

Madam, in his reply, the Minister had stated that health is a State subject. The Clinical Establishments Act was implemented by the Union Government in the year 2010. However, it is also stated in this context that Parliament has no authority to legislate on matters exclusively falling within the domain of the States. The said Act of 2010 is, at present, applicable only in some States. Today, the fields of medical

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

care and education in the country have been completely commercialised. A poor person in this country cannot even imagine going to these hospitals because of the manner in which economic exploitation of the poor takes place there, which is unparalleled. Through unnecessary diagnostic tests, the poor are reduced to financial distress. This concerns the field of medical care. The mortality rate in these private hospitals is higher as compared to Government hospitals. The primary reasons for this are inexperienced doctors and lack of infrastructure. In these private hospitals, there is more hospitality and less treatment.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he proposes to establish, at the earliest, a regulatory authority to monitor private hospitals.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that we respect the basic spirit of his question. He has suggested the introduction of a regulatory mechanism or regulator in respect of activities connected with the medical profession. I would like to inform him that, at present, in relation to the various dimensions of the

medical profession in the country, bodies such as the Medical Council of India, the Dental Council, the Nursing Council and other Councils are functioning. Under the Medical Council, while there is regulation and guidance in respect of medical education, it is also entrusted with the responsibility of regulating the profession in matters relating to medical ethics connected with medical practitioners. The Hon. Member had also raised his principal question. The Clinical Establishments (Registration and Regulation) Act, 2010, which was passed by Parliament, has so far been implemented by eight State Governments and by all Union Territories except Delhi. In addition, several other State Governments have, by suitably modifying its basic spirit, enacted their own laws. I can discuss the State-wise position in detail, if required. Under this framework, it has been ensured that all medical establishments in the country, ranging from small clinics to large hospitals, from small diagnostic centres to large diagnostic centres, from small X-ray facilities to major CT scan and MRI centres, and covering all systems of medicine practised in India except those exclusively related to the armed forces, fall within its ambit. A key provision of the Act is that, along with

registration, the Government is required to prescribe a range for various kinds of tests, within which any diagnostic centre or doctor may levy charges. High-powered Committees constituted under the Act, which are at advanced stages of implementation and whose details are available on the respective websites, are tasked with displaying these prescribed rates for doctors and diagnostic centres. It is mandatory for hospitals, nursing homes and diagnostic centres to inform the public of these rates. We are of the view that when a regulatory mechanism already exists, it should be implemented more effectively. At the same time, it may be considered whether an oversight mechanism on behalf of the Government is required, so that the functioning of bodies connected with the medical profession is examined more seriously within the Government framework. However, in my view, when so many mechanisms are already in place, there is no justification at present for developing yet another mechanism.

SHRI RAM CHARITRA NISHAD: Madam, Madam, my second question is connected with the same matter. Hon. Minister, a few days ago a sting operation was telecast on television. About ten days ago, the Hon. Minister had also

informed this House regarding it. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that if the contents of that sting operation were found to be correct, what action has been taken in that regard. It was also stated that the Government has certain schemes to provide free medicines and insurance coverage for poor people. I would also like to know what action the Government has taken in that respect.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam Speaker, on the 21st, a television channel aired certain sting operations in which it was shown that some diagnostic centres in Delhi were allegedly giving commissions, either by cheque or in cash, to concerned doctors in return for referring patients for X-rays, pathological investigations, CT scans and similar tests. I also saw the telecast for the first time at 10 p.m. on the 21st, and on the 22nd, I made a suo motu statement in both Houses of Parliament. That statement had two components. The first component was that I immediately wrote to the President of the Medical Council of India, requesting that the matter be placed before the Ethics Committee of the Medical Council, that it be discussed in detail, and that whatever decision was taken by the Ethics Committee be uploaded on its website. If any doctor or

establishment was found guilty, appropriate action was to be taken against them. In this regard, I would like to inform the House that on the 23rd, the Medical Council of India convened a meeting of its Ethics Committee and issued notices to nine diagnostic centres. If required, I can read out their names. After issuance of notices, they were directed to appear before the Committee on the 25th. Subsequently, the Medical Council of India wrote to us stating that until their investigation is completed, all such diagnostic centres should be removed from any Government panels, including panels of other Ministries of the Government and those providing facilities to the Government of Delhi or other State Governments. As soon as I received this communication from the Medical Council of India, we issued written directions to the Health Secretary and these diagnostic centres have been de-panelled from all Government arrangements. Secondly, we did not leave the matter solely to the Medical Council. We directed the Health Secretary to conduct a detailed examination of all such matters and to explore how accountability and transparency in the medical profession could be strengthened and how a thorough investigation into such practices could be ensured. A

Committee has been constituted under the chairmanship of Dr. Athani, who is our Special Director General. It includes a senior Radiologist who is a Head of Department, and a Pathologist who is Head of Department at Ram Manohar Lohia Hospital and Safdarjung Hospital, among others. This four-member Committee has been given six weeks to examine all aspects of the matter in seriousness and to suggest what actions should be taken to ensure that such practices do not recur in the medical profession and how transparency can be further improved. This is the progress made so far. The House will be informed of further developments in due course.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Madam, Madam, under the Clinical Establishments Act, several monitoring Committees have been constituted and this Act has been implemented by many States, including Uttar Pradesh. Through you, I would like to submit to the Hon. Minister that while such institutions are being constituted to ensure accountability and responsibility in the medical sector, I feel that given the vast population of our country and its enormous health needs, the number of doctors required to meet those needs is far less than what is necessary. As needs continue to increase, regulation is

also increasing. Earlier, there were many unqualified practitioners, and the Government is rightly taking action against them. However, unless, through the Medical Council of India, the number of trained teachers in medical colleges is increased and the number of doctors is augmented, merely creating more such authorities will not address the needs adequately. The Government of Uttar Pradesh has, within just two years, increased 550 seats in medical colleges, which is a record. ... (*Interruptions*) My point is that unless medical seats are increased... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: What is your question? Please ask the question.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: I am asking the question. Unless seats are increased... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The question here is not about seats.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: I am asking the question. Unless seats are increased, such authorities will not be effective. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You are not asking questions.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Hon. Madam Speaker, this is a very important matter. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please confine yourself to the original question.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Unless free treatment and free medicines are provided for serious diseases, no such institution will succeed. ... *(Interruptions)* As far as the original question is concerned, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister how many registrations have been carried out State-wise under this Act so far, how many institutions or agencies have been found guilty, and what action has been taken against them. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, that is not the way.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam Speaker, there are four aspects in the Hon. Member's question. The first relates to seats. ... *(Interruptions)* We have no difficulty in accepting that point. We are making whatever efforts we can in that direction. Many district hospitals are being converted into medical colleges, many medical colleges are being upgraded, and we are encouraging the process of opening new medical colleges.

The second aspect he has mentioned relates to medicines and diagnostic activity. I would like to inform the House that the Government is determined to ensure this. As you would have heard mentioned in the speech of the Hon. Finance Minister as well, we are working on this with great depth and seriousness. Very soon, we will announce a detailed plan for this, under which we are making arrangements to ensure that at health centres across the country, at least 50 such essential medicines, which can definitively treat more than 95 Percent of diseases, are made available in an accessible manner for every patient in the country. We are also ensuring that certain basic investigations, which are essential for the diagnosis of all major diseases, are made available in an assured manner at all our health facilities through the National Health Mission and other schemes of the Government. Through a comprehensive package, we intend to provide people across the country with a detailed framework for preventive as well as promotive healthcare. Certain services will be assured at all health facilities, whether they relate to maternal health, child health, treatment of the elderly, or diseases such as diabetes. These services will be made available in an assured manner. At the

same time, we are working in great depth to bring people across the country under Universal Health Assurance, including through a Universal Health Insurance scheme, so as to ensure that no needy person in the country is deprived, at any cost, of health services and the various dimensions associated with them.

HON. SPEAKER: Please put your supplementary question briefly, and the Hon. Minister may also reply briefly.

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: Madam, it is a well known fact that a good number of doctors are colluding with pharmaceutical companies and clinical establishments. This is an unhealthy trend. May I know from the Hon. Minister as to what deterrent steps are being taken by this Government to check this unhealthy trend in the health sector?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: As far as this issue is concerned, I may agree with the Hon. Member that there may be some unhealthy practices like this in the profession but there cannot be a generalization about it. You cannot give a general statement on that account.

Secondly, such issues are basically related to ethics of the medical professionals. As I had said earlier also, the issues related to medical ethics are basically governed by the Medical Council of India. If you have any specific instances of such practices in your notice, you may kindly bring it to the knowledge of the Government. We will make sure that a strict action is taken against such professionals -- anywhere in the country -- through the Medical Council of India.

DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA: I want to ask about Janani Suraksha Yojana. Usually this Scheme is administered through Government hospitals in all the States. In certain States, the private institutes are also included. I would like to know whether the Government can ask the recognized private medical colleges to give free delivery facility and anti-natal check up to all those who will be under Janani Suraksha Yojana. The Government should supply moneys under NRHM or ICH to the beneficiaries through private medical colleges.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This supplementary question is not related to the original question. If you wish to reply, you may do so.

[English]

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: You have drawn attention to a very sensitive issue that concerns maternal mortality. All the programmes related to safe motherhood are being taken care of on war-footing by the Government and in the near future, we want to develop it as a big movement. We have already had meetings with the Association of Gynaecologists of India as well as of the whole world. In the near future, we will make sure that we can rope in private medical colleges as best as possible. We cannot force the private practitioners to give free treatment. But we are trying to inspire the private gynaecologists to participate in Government programmes and especially to help the needy as far as possible. We are trying to ensure that with the help of the Indian Medical Association and the associations of the specialists like the gynaecologists, we successfully implement the Millennium Development Goal Nos. 4 and 5 which concern the infant and the maternal mortality by the end of next year.

(Q. 342)

SHRI M. B. RAJESH: Madam, from the answer given by the Hon. Minister it is clear that he is going to slash subsidies in a ruthless manner in the coming years. This will be done in the name of reducing fiscal deficit. However, the uncollected tax demand alone will be around twice the total subsidy Bill of the Government of India. In addition, huge tax concessions given as incentives to growth and Double Tax Avoidance Agreements also will cause revenue loss of unimaginable proportions.

Madam Speaker, my specific question, through you, to the Hon. Minister is, whether this Government will take immediate and meaningful steps to do away with, or at least limit huge tax concessions and scrap Double Tax Avoidance Agreements and address the issue of huge uncollected tax demands in a time bound manner so that the fiscal deficit can be controlled even with a substantial hike in subsidies.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, fiscal deficit really is a situation which is reached when the expenditure of the Government goes out of control and the income of the State

does not increase. Now, both these areas are operating in separate fields though they converge at one when they have an impact on the quantum of fiscal deficit. Now, in the debates and discussions that have been held in this House we have gone into this question at length and what the Hon. Member considers – that is, concessions are being made available only to corporates -- this perhaps may not be a very farsighted view of the subject. Taxations are rationalized in terms of Excise Duties and Customs Duties in order to make Indian products competitive. When Indian products become competitive, their sale-ability increases and therefore the growth of the economy itself takes place and that results in larger revenues. I have already said in the earlier debates that it is a question of difference of perception as to whether the economy will grow on the strength of higher taxations or lower taxations. This Government is very clearly of the opinion that the higher the taxes the more sluggish the economy is going to become.

As far as subsidies are concerned, there are very many vulnerable sections of our population which are entitled to be subsidized on certain commodities. After all, the subsidy is the difference between a market determined price and a price

which is fixed by the Government because of the vulnerability of those sections. The debate is not whether subsidies are going to be abolished as far as these sections are concerned, but the question is, are they to be rationalized so that they only reach the targeted sections which deserve them and not sections which should otherwise be outside the scope of subsidies but under the present regime are still getting it?

SHRI M. B. RAJESH: Madam Speaker, surprisingly the Hon. Minister who used to give very convincing answers, this time he has avoided two parts of my question. Anyway, I will come to my second supplementary.

This Government is actively considering a hike in the price of natural gas as demanded by the private player operating in KG Basin in Andhra Pradesh. According to an estimate, one dollar hike in the price of 1 MMBTU of natural gas will cause an increase of Rs. 1337 in the price of urea per tonne. The Government is considering a hike of four dollar per 1 MMBTU.

Madam Speaker, my specific question is, whether the Hon. Minister will assure this House that in the event of an increase

in the price of natural gas and the consequent increase in the price of urea, whether these increased prices of urea will not be passed on to the consumers and also that the Hon. Minister will assure sufficient provision of money to insulate consumers from the possible price hike of urea.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, the question is based on a great hypothetical premise. The hypothetical premise is, what will happen if the prices of natural gas are increased. The Hon. Member knows well that the previous Government had taken a decision with regard to gas pricing that was based on the Rangarajan Committee Report. The present Government was asked to reconsider because the Election Commission had put that issue to a stop. The present Government is considering the matter. The present Government has not taken a final decision in the matter. As and when a decision will be taken, the House will certainly be taken into confidence.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister. Referring

to the figures provided by the Hon. Minister in his reply regarding food items, I wish to draw your attention to them. In the year 2011-12, Rs. 72,822 crore were allocated; in 2012-13, Rs. 85,000 crore; in 2013-14, Rs. 92,000 crore were provided for food items. For the year 2014-15, Rs. 1,15,000 crore have been extended as assistance to State Governments for food items.

Madam, my question is that many State Governments misuse State assistance. Recently, some Governments have utilised the assistance received for food items for other projects. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether any instance of misuse of State assistance has come to the notice of the Government. If so, what steps have been taken in that regard, and what mechanisms or guidelines are in place to ensure proper utilisation of such assistance?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, the distribution of subsidy on foodgrains is carried out strictly in accordance with the National Food Security Act. We expect that State Governments discharge this responsibility fully, as ours is a federal structure. If any such complaint is received, the

Department of Food of the Government will certainly take up the matter with the concerned State Government.

[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI: Madam Speaker, just now, the Hon. Member asked the question about subsidy, how the State Governments are giving them and how some State Governments are diverting the subsidy. But the Hon. Minister said, to control the price of consumer products, he is procuring food grains after fixing the MSP and afterwards, at subsidized rates, they are supplied to them. Now, the farmers are more exploited in the country. For generations together, they are not able to get a remunerative price. That is why, we are often raising the matter saying that the Government should come forward to give more concessions to the farmers as regards subsidy. For example, the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu is giving free electricity to the farmers. They are giving concession for 100 per cent free electricity for irrigation. They are giving fertilizers at a lower price. Like these, there are many schemes in the State Government.

I want to know whether the Union Government will come forward to implement such schemes like giving free electricity to the farmers so that prices are controlled. Fertilizer subsidy must also be increased. During drought condition, the compensation given by the Union Government is very low whereas the Government of Tamil Nadu is giving high compensation. Hence I would like to know whether the Union Government will come forward to rescue the farmers by giving free electricity, fertilizers at a lower price and other things as farmers are the vulnerable section of the society. Therefore, I am requesting the Hon. Minister to come forward to give such facilities to the farmers.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, a Government can only spend within its means. If a Government spends beyond its means, then in that case, it is going to borrow to spend. And if the Government starts borrowing in order to spend, then it is going to leave the next generation in debt for which higher taxes will have to be paid by the next generation. The idea appears to be very popular and I think the State Governments that are affluent enough to do it are doing it, as the Hon. Member has mentioned that the State Government of Tamil

Nadu is doing it. Electricity distribution is the prerogative of the State Government. The State Governments have to manage their own finances. In case they have to subsidise it, the Electricity Act of 2003 makes it very clear that the subsidy burden then will have to be borne by the State Government itself. Those States which are doing it are bearing that burden. The Centre gives its own grants in accordance with the recommendations of the Finance Commission to the various States. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO: I am happy to note that the Hon. Minister, while recognising the need to have a subsidy mechanism in our economy, is attempting to reduce the subsidy burden as a percentage of GDP, from 2.2 per cent to 2.03 per cent.

However, today's *The Economic Times* has a news report which states that the Government has already achieved 56.10 per cent of its annual subsidy targets in the first quarter itself. Given that we are going to have a poor monsoon, therefore higher food prices, therefore higher food subsidies; given that the revenues are muted at best; given – even though the Hon.

Minister calls it hypothetical, but I would call it inevitable – that the gas prices will increase; with all these things in mind, it is going to be very difficult for the Government to achieve its ambitious fiscal deficit target of 4.10 per cent.

Therefore, the need of the day is to ensure that subsidies are made more efficient. The Hon. Minister, in his speech in the House, had stated that he will attempt to make it more transparent, more effective and more efficient.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what are the steps, including that of direct cash benefit transfer scheme, which the Government is planning to take and when it would put them into action.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The Hon. Member has prefaced his question with certain amount of comments. Let me tell the Hon. Member that when these monthly data are released in the earlier part of the financial year, some of the figures may actually intent to create a contrarion impression. For instance, a large part of the direct tax collections starts towards the later part of the year, like 15th September or 15th December or 15th March. Therefore, what appears at the pre-15th September

situation is not reflective of the entire fiscal position of the Government across the year itself.

Similarly, in the earlier part of the year, some part of the subsidy burden of the last quarter of the previous year is also factored in. Therefore, the subsidy Bill at this stage will include some parts of the last quarter of the previous financial year and it may not be a representative figure for the entire year altogether.

Now, the Hon. Member is right that we face several challenges. Fortunately, the monsoon appears to be a little better than what we thought it would be a fortnight ago. We are still keeping our fingers crossed and hope it will further improve and the shortfall in the monsoon is made up in the next couple of weeks.

As far as the fiscal deficit is concerned, I have already said that it is a daunting challenge. I have accepted the figures and I moved on the presumption that the figures given in the Vote on Account of the Interim Budget by my predecessor are correct. Therefore, I have maintained those figures in the larger interest of the economy. We are going to endeavour for more economic

activity, better growth and, therefore, higher tax buoyancy. That seems to be the strategy at the moment.

As far as subsidies are concerned, I have made no secret of the fact that the Government shall rationalise subsidies so that the targeted subsidies reach those who deserve those subsidies the most. For that purpose, the Government intends, in the next few days, to constitute an Expenditure Management Commission and management of the subsidy Bill of the Government will be one of the major tasks of that Commission itself, which is expected to give its report by the end of the year.

(Q. 343)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister what the State royalty is in this regard. Has the Government undertaken mapping of granite deposits or not? In which States are such deposits located, and what is their usage category-wise in terms of quality? Specifically, what study has been conducted regarding deposits in Singhbhum in Jharkhand, as well as in West Bengal and Odisha? Where have such deposits been found so far?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam, first of all, on the question of granite exports, I would like to inform the Hon. Member, through you, that because of the increasing global demand and also because of the competitiveness of the marble industry in India, exports have been growing. It has been growing in the last three years for which we have given the details of country-wise export in the answer which has been provided. It is given for the last three years and it is also given for the latest available year. As it is, let me inform the Hon. Member, through you, that India is endowed with a good

quantum of granite and there are about 200 different shades of granites which are available. So, a number of studies are available on it. They are enough. Mapping has been done. Promotion is not actively engaged in because the industry is itself competitive.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether there is any proposal to permit Foreign Direct Investment in this sector. It has been heard and observed that in areas where mining activities take place and stones are extracted, monopolistic mafias and contractors often fail to provide the facilities that ought to be extended to the local villagers. The villagers are subjected to considerable exploitation. Does the Government propose to bring any legislation for the benefit of the local population in such areas, so that they may receive due facilities and are not subjected to exploitation or adverse impact?

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: I would like to let the Hon. Member know that the export of granite is free. There

is no restriction on the export. Therefore, it does not come under any focussed group incentive, area-based incentive or any such thing.

As regards application to common people in that area, I think, it is a larger issue. I am looking at the issue related to export of granite. On that, the answer is explicit...
(*Interruptions*) There is no proposal at the moment.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister how much mining can be undertaken annually. What is the annual growth rate in this sector, and what is the total granite reserve available?

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Actually, granite comes under minor mineral. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You are looking after exports only.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: On that, I think, adequate information is also available from the Department of Minerals which deals with it. It has been extensively mapped.

HON. SPEAKER: Next Question – Q. No. 344

(Q. 344)

[Translation]

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: Hon. Madam Speaker, I had sought bank-wise details of loans advanced by banks out of the hard-earned money of the country's taxpayers. Through you, I would like to thank the Hon. Finance Minister for providing a very detailed list in his reply, and I am satisfied with the information furnished. In response to my second question, details were provided regarding the recovery made during the past three years. However, I am deeply disappointed to note that, in comparison to the volume of loans disbursed during the last three years, the recovery has been considerably low. The taxpayers' money of this country has gone into the hands of mafias and defaulters. The hard-earned tax contributions of the people are taken as loans from banks and then appropriated by such persons, which in common banking terminology is referred to as Non-Performing Assets, or NPAs. I would like to ask the Hon. Finance Minister whether any Committee has been constituted to review NPAs. If so, was corruption also a contributing factor in the creation of NPAs? If any corruption

is found, does the Government propose to take action against those responsible, so as to prevent the recurrence of NPAs in the future?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam Speaker, an account becomes a Non-Performing Asset when a borrower fails to repay the loan taken from a bank even after the due date and the expiry of the prescribed notice period. There can be several reasons for this. In some cases, the intention of the borrower itself may be mala fide, with no intention to repay. However, I would like to point out that banking activity, which provides loans, forms the basis of a substantial part of the country's trade, business and economic activity, whether it is building a house, running a shop or operating an industry. It has a direct linkage with multiple sectors of the economy. If there is any case of corruption, it generally arises at the stage of sanctioning the loan, for instance, where a loan is granted without adequate surety or without proper collateral security to a person who ought not to have been given such credit. Such cases, which fall within the banking sector, are referred for criminal investigation. Action is taken, and proceedings are ongoing against several individuals in such matters.

Another factor relates to the prevailing economic environment in the country at the relevant time, as well as the recovery powers available to banks. In the past two to three years, one of the reasons for the increase in NPAs has been the slowdown in the economy. When the economy slows down, several industries begin to incur losses, and this, too, contributes to an increase in NPAs.

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank the Hon. Finance Minister for the information provided. My second question to the Hon. Finance Minister is this: he has stated that NPAs increase depending on circumstances. One of the principal circumstances is that the rate of interest charged by banks on loans, whether housing loans, commercial loans or industrial loans, is very high. I would like to know from the Hon. Finance Minister whether there is any proposal in the future to reduce the rate of interest charged by banks, so as to reduce NPAs and to facilitate housing for the people, promote commercial activity and encourage industrial growth.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, the regulation of interest rates is within the domain of the Reserve Bank of India. The

Reserve Bank takes into account several factors while determining interest rates. One of the principal considerations is the prevailing level of inflation in the country. When the inflation situation stabilises, the Reserve Bank correspondingly reduces interest rates.

SHRI CHANDRAKANT KHAIRE: Madam, I want to know that many industries become NPA after facing loss. But there are many industrial groups that take loans worth crores of rupees from banks and then do not return them. For example, I would say that like Kingfisher company, it has crores of rupees lying with the banks, it was 15 hundred or 16 hundred crore rupees at that time, now it might have become even more. There is a company named Fateja in my Parliamentary Constituency. That Fateja company kept the entire land, they ran away with the entire industry and all its owners also ran away. When I was in the 13th Lok Sabha, I had raised this question, at that time the amount was Rs 800 crore, till now not a single penny has been recovered from it and that money was lost. Whereas, this money belongs to the general public.

The second thing is that when loans are given to farmers and if they do not pay back the loan, then, it gets confiscated and after it is confiscated, the farmer cannot do anything. There are many farmers in Maharashtra whose loans were confiscated due to their non-payment. I would say why nationalized banks do this. He has one policy regarding farmers and another policy regarding industries. I want to know whether there will be any control in this regard from RBI or your side?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, there is no separate policy in this. Reserve Bank of India issues its circulars from time to time and efforts are made to implement that policy with every loan under it. Be it an industry or a farmer, efforts are made that if his industry or farming can run better through restructuring, that is, by providing more opportunities, then there is no need for his property to be snatched away. But when the situation becomes very bad and it seems that it cannot pay back the loan and has no intention of paying back, then action is taken. This property acquisition power, which is given to the banks under the SARFAESI Act, was enacted in 2002 and it has had an impact. It is also used in large quantities in industries. Let me give you the biggest example of this that in

2002, the situation was that 14% of the loans given by banks had become NPAs. At that time, the then Government had brought this superficial law that those who could not return the loan, their property would be confiscated. The result was that 2-3 years ago this 14% NPA had become 2%. Now, in the last two years, because there has been a slowdown in the economy, this 2% has again increased to 4%.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam Speaker, debt recovery has become a huge problem in the country today. Since many years the captains of industry are taking advantage of bank loans and these captains of industry normally maintain good connections and good relation with the Government or with the Ruling Party, whoever is in power, whether they are from this side or that side and they are the major gainers of the bank debts and loan taking process etc. My specific question is this. What is the plan of action of the Government to recover debts amounting to lakhs of crores of rupees which are prevailing in the country and the steps taken for monitoring of NPAs and their recovery?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, as I mentioned, the Reserve Bank of India is statutorily empowered to guide the banks on what actions are to be taken in this regard. From time to time, depending on the volume of NPAs and the kind of NPAs which are there, strict guidelines are issued to the banks which the banks act upon accordingly. For instance, with effect from January, 2014, they have come out with a policy that there will be an earlier detection of the NPA, that is, even before an account is declared as a NPA, all companies which have an amount of more than Rs. Five crore pending will be kept under strict vigil of the banks. So, it is keeping an early eye on them. The second step that they have announced recently on 22nd May, 2014 is to save the companies by a process of refinancing and restructuring because thousands of employees are also working there and the lifeline of the economy depends on these businesses and find out which are the ones which are incapable of survival. The third is to empower them to sell the assets of these NPA companies. The fourth is increasing the number of Debt Recovery Tribunals. These are all different procedures which are in action as a result of which the NPAs are recovered. The total amount of loans given by banks is also

very huge. As I mentioned just now, there was a time when these NPAs had become very large. Now, because of the increased empowerment which have taken place in the last 15 years or so, these NPAs came under some containable limit. But in the last two or three years, because of the slowdown they have marginally increased again.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister has very clearly articulated that, whether by this Government or by the past Government, many steps have been taken to ensure that a lot of these loans are recovered either through SARFAESI Act or through Debt Recovery Tribunals and other Acts. But if you go under the surface level, what is glaring is that if you look at the increase in NPAs and the numbers, in the private sector banks the increase of NPAs is only 14 per cent whereas in the public sector banks the increase is 40 per cent. It is something to be very alarmed about from a public sector perspective. The public sector banks have also written off more loans than they have been repaid, as the private sector banks have a very low ratio of gross NPA to gross advances, which is less than even one per cent.

So, my question to the Hon. Finance Minister is this. The only lone saviour public sector bank in this whole situation is SBI which has actually recovered a lot of loans. So, can we put together some sort of a committee that can look at the best practices that the private sector has done and SBI has done? How can this be taken forward to recover all these NPA loans and lower this discrepancy between private sector and public sector NPAs of 14 *versus* 40 per cent?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, in the Indian banking system, of course in the last few years, the number of private sector banks has also increased, but the public sector banks have also performed a lot of social commitments. Therefore, the loans which have turned into NPAs or bad debts are not necessarily the corporate loans or the bad debts. There are also some of the retail borrowers. As a result of this, my learned friend would know, the private sector banks are always more circumspect in choosing whom to help and whom not to help. On the contrary, the public sector banks have a large function to perform. The public sector banks are the ones which are spread over the entire rural sector of the economy. Therefore, the possibility of the public sector banks of having large NPAs,

as they cater to a larger number of constituents, their retail loans also being bad in certain cases, is inevitably there. So, let the Hon. Member not go by the sheer percentage, because the nature and the areas of the functions of them are slightly different. The Hon. Member can keep that also in mind.

(Q. 345)

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: Madam Speaker, in the answer given by the Hon. Finance Minister, he has stated that the NABARD provides refinance to cooperative credit institutions against their short-term and long-term lending to farmers.

If we go through the answer, there is a general impression that all the cooperative credit societies are getting these facilities. Kerala has a very strong cooperative movement. The State Cooperative Bank, the 12 District Cooperative Banks and a large number of cooperative societies are not getting this refinance facility.

Through you, Madam, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to why such a huge number of banks are denied these facilities. May I know whether there is any special norm for providing this refinance to these societies?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, there are settled norms which the NABARD follows with regard to refinancing. If the Hon. Member looks at the reply, there are some States which now want it to be increased from 50 per cent to 75 per cent. Some States like Andhra Pradesh want it to be increased from

50 per cent to 80 per cent. But the policy that the NABARD follows is the same across the country. So there is no discrimination as far as one State or the other is concerned.

Kerala has – the Hon. Member is right – a very strong cooperative movement. This year itself, for the year 2014-15, as far as the State Cooperative Agriculture & Rural Development Bank, Kerala is concerned, it has already been lent an amount of Rs. 56. 41 crore. I have mentioned it in the reply itself. Therefore, this is the amount which goes to the State cooperative which, in turn, can do the lending as far as the cooperatives at the District and the primary levels are concerned.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN: To my knowledge – I am subject to correction – according to the norms prescribed by the NABARD and the RBI, those cooperative institutions which have 4 per cent of CRAR, that is Capital to Risk (Weighted) Assets Ratio, are able to get this facility, which is well known to the Hon. Finance Minister. All other institutions that are not able to maintain four per cent of CRAR, are not able to get the refinance facilities.

12. 00 hrs.

The Government has given financial assistance to the nationalised banks only. It is not possible for the cooperative banks to get this assistance. Will the Hon. Minister consider having flexibility as far as this CRAR ratio is concerned? Even the State Cooperative Bank, which is a model for India, is not able to get the financial assistance. Will the Hon. Minister consider this suggestion also?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I will certainly bring it to the notice of the NABARD. But the earlier question is with regard to NPAs. We do not want a situation where we compel them to lend, where the possibility of loans turning also NPAs increases. Currently CRAR is to be above four per cent. That is the norm which they are following and that is in view of the fact that NABARD has to do a huge amount of lending. This year the lending proposed by NABARD is going to be something like Rs. 8,00,000 crore. Therefore, they will have to sustain this lending with an ability to recover this amount also.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 346 to 360

Unstarred Question Nos. 3216 to 3445

12. 01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE

(SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Defense for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 426/16/14)

- (2) Defense Services Estimates for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 427/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA SANJAY

GANDHI): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 428/16/14)

- (2) Outcome Budget of the Ministry of Women and Child Development for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 429/16/14)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRIES AND PUBLIC ENTERPRISES (SHRI ANANT GANGARAM GEETE): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under Article 151(1) of the Constitution:-

- (i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) (No. 13 of 2014)-Compliance Audit Observations for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 430/16/14)

- (ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) (No. 2 of 2014)-General Purpose Financial Reports of Central Public Sector Enterprises (Compliance Audit) for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 431/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 432/16/14)

- (2) Outcome Budget of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2014-15.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 433/16/14)

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 34 of the Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Act, 1994:-

- (i) The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 77(E) in Gazette of India dated 4th February, 2014.
- (ii) The Pre-conception and Pre-natal Diagnostic Techniques (Prohibition of Sex Selection) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification

No. G.S.R. 119(E) in Gazette of India dated 26th February, 2014.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 434/16/14)

- (3) A copy of the Food Safety and Standards (Licensing and Registration of Food Businesses) Amendment Regulations, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. 2-15015/30/2012 in Gazette of India dated 10th June, 2014 under Section 93 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 435/16/14)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY
OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME
IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN
THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT**

SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited and the Department of Defense Production, Ministry of Defense, for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 436/16/14)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1)

A copy each of the following Annual Reports and Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Regional Rural Banks for the year ended the 31st March, 2014 together with Auditor's Report thereon:-

(i) Allahabad UP Gramin Bank, Banda

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 437/16/14)

- (ii) Andhra Pragathi Grameena Bank, Kadapa
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 438/16/14)

- (iii) Assam Gramin Vikash Bank, Guwahati
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 439/16/14)

- (iv) Baroda Gujarat Gramin Bank, Bharuch
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 440/16/14)

- (v) Union Madhya Pradesh Gramin Bank,
Chindwara
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 441/16/14)

- (vi) Jharkhand Gramin Bank, Ranchi
(Placed in Library, See No. LT 442/16/14)

- (vii) Kashi Gomti Samyut Gramin Bank, Varanasi

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 443/16/14)

(viii) Maharashtra Gramin Bank, Nanded

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 444/16/14)

(ix) Paschim Banga Gramin Bank, Howrah

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 445/16/14)

(x) Puduvai Bharthiar Grama Bank, Puducherry

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 446/16/14)

(xi) Purvanchal Bank, Gorakhpur

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 447/16/14)

(xii) Sutlej Gramin Bank, Bathinda

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 448/16/14)

(xiii) Uttar Bihar Gramin Bank, Muzaffarpur

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 449/16/14)

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

(i) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Civil) (No. 16 of 2014)-Performance Audit of “Global Estate Management by the Ministry of External Affairs” for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 450/16/14)

(ii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 17 of 2014) (Communications and IT Sector)-Compliance Audit Observations for the year ended March, 2012.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 451/16/14)

(iii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 12 of 2014)

(Department of Revenue-Customs)-Compliance Audit for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 452/16/14)

- (iv) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (No. 1 of 2014) (Financial Audit)-Accounts of the Union Government for the year ended March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 453/16/14)

- (v) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Report No. 2 of 2014)-On Revenue and Social and Economic Sector (PSUs) for the year ended 31st March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 454/16/14)

- (vi) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Government of National Capital Territory of

Delhi (Report No. 2 of the year 2014)-On Social General and Economic Sectors (Non-Public Sector Undertakings) for the year ended 31st March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 455/16/14)

(vii) Report of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (of 2014)-On State Finances for the year ended 31st March, 2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 456/16/14)

(3) A copy of the 19th Liquidator's Report (Hindi and English versions) on voluntary winding up of IIBI to the equity shareholders of IIBI (under Members' voluntary winding up) for the quarter ended 31. 03. 2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 457/16/14)

- (4) A copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 458/16/14)

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the NOCCI Balasore Infrastructure Company, Balasore, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the NOCCI Balasore Infrastructure Company, Balasore, for the year 2012-2013.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 459/16/14)

- (7) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English

versions) of the Baddi Infrastructure, Solan, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Baddi Infrastructure, Solan, for the year 2012-2013.

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

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 460/16/14)

(9) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chanderi Development Society for Weavers, Chanderi, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chanderi Development Society for Weavers, Chanderi, for the year 2012-2013.

- (10) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (9) above.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 461/16/14)

(11)

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) issued under Section 18G of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

- (i) The Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2014 published in Notification No. S.O. 411(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th February, 2014.
- (ii) The Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2014 published in Notification No. S.O. 610(E) in Gazette of India dated 3rd March, 2014.
- (iii) S.O. 1694(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th July, 2014, making certain amendments in the Notification S.O. 3050(E) dated 23rd December, 2010.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 462/16/14)

(12) A copy of the Patents (Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 125(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th February, 2014 under Section 160 of the Patents Act, 1970.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 463/16/14)

(13) A copy of the Company Secretaries (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. 710/1/(M)/1 in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014 under Section 40 of the Company Secretaries Act, 1980.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 464/16/14)

(14) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 1498(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India

dated 11th June, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in Notification No. S.O. 709(E) dated 20th August, 1998 under section 296 of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 465/16/14)

(15) A copy of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority (Registration of Indian Insurance Companies) (Sixth Amendment) Regulations, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. IRDA/Reg. /6/89/2014 in Gazette of India dated 28th April, 2014 under Section 27 of the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 1999.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 466/16/14)

(16) A copy of the State Bank of India General (Amendment) Regulations, 2013 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. LAW/F-207/2013 in Gazette of India dated 4th March, 2014 under sub-section (4) of Section 50 of the State Bank of India Act, 1955.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 467/16/14)

(17) A copy of the Notification No. G.S.R. 432(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 4th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of steel and fibre glass tapes and their parts and components, originating in, or exported from China PR for a period of one year i. e. up to and inclusive of the 14th May, 2015, pending outcome of Sunset Review investigations, being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties under sub-section (7) of Section 9A of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 468/16/14)

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

(i) G.S.R. 418(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th June, 2014 together with an explanatory

memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-CE dated 17th March, 2012.

- (ii) G.S.R. 423(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 50/2003-CE dated 10th June, 2003.
- (iii) G.S.R. 439(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 1/2011-CE dated 1st March, 2011.
- (iv) G.S.R. 440(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 2/2011-CE dated 1st March, 2011.
- (v) G.S.R. 441(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 64/95-CE dated 16th March, 1995.

- (vi) G.S.R. 442(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 108/95-CE dated 28th August, 1995.
- (vii) G.S.R. 443(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2012-CE dated 17th March, 2012.
- (viii) G.S.R. 444(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from excise duty specified goods required for the National AIDS Control Programme funded by Global fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.
- (ix) G.S.R. 445(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the

Notification No. 33/2005-CE dated 8th September, 2005.

- (x) G.S.R. 446(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 15/2010-CE dated 27th February, 2010.
- (xi) G.S.R. 447(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 42/2008-CE dated 1st July, 2008.
- (xii) G.S.R. 448(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 16/2010-CE dated 27th February, 2010.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 449(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the

Notification No. 23/2003-CE dated 31st March, 2003.

- (xiv) G.S.R. 450(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 67/95-CE dated 16th March, 1995.
- (xv) G.S.R. 451(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum rescinding Notification No. 3/2010-Clean Energy Cess dated 22nd June, 2010.
- (xvi) G.S.R. 452(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 49/2008-CE(N.T.) dated 24th December, 2008.
- (xvii) G.S.R. 453(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to specify “the resident private limited company” as of class of persons for

the purposes of clause (c) of Section 23A of the Union Excise Act, 1944.

- (xviii) The Union Excise (Third Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 454(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xix) The Union Excise Valuation (Determination of Price of Excisable Goods) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 455(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xx) The CENVAT Credit (Sixth Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 456(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xxi) The Pan Masala Packing Machines (Capacity Determination and Collection of Duty) Second Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 457(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th

July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 469/16/14)

(19)

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

- (i) G.S.R. 66(E) published in Gazette of India dated 28th January, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 152/84-Cus. , dated 15th May, 1984.
- (ii) G.S.R. 458(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 24/2005-Cus. , dated 1st March, 2005.
- (iii) G.S.R. 459(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the

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

- (iv) G.S.R. 460(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 81/2005-Cus. , dated 8th September, 2005.
- (v) G.S.R. 461(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 1/2011-Cus. , dated 6th January, 2011.
- (vi) G.S.R. 462(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 27/2011-Cus. , dated 1st March, 2011.
- (vii) G.S.R. 463(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the

Notification No. 9/2012-Cus. , dated 9th March, 2012.

- (viii) G.S.R. 464(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 10/2008-Cus. , dated 15th January, 2008.
- (ix) G.S.R. 465(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 13/2012-Cus. , dated 17th March, 2012.
- (x) G.S.R. 466(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 14/2012-Cus. , dated 17th March, 2012.
- (xi) G.S.R. 467(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the

- Notification No. 39/96-Cus. , dated 23rd July, 1996.
- (xii) G.S.R. 468(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 21/2012-Cus. , dated 17th March, 2012.
- (xiii) G.S.R. 469(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 84/97-Cus. , dated 11th November, 1997.
- (xiv) G.S.R. 470(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to exempt from customs duty specified goods required for the National AIDS Control Programme funded by Global fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.
- (xv) G.S.R. 471(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory

memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 51/96-Cus. , dated 23rd July, 1996.

- (xvi) The Project Imports (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 472(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xvii) The Baggage (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 473(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (xviii) G.S.R. 474(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to specify class of persons for the purposes of Section 28E of the Customs Act, 1962.
- (xix) S.O. 164(E) to S.O. 196(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22ND January, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum containing corrigendum relating to the rate of exchange of the Kenyan

Shilling for purpose of assessment of imported and export goods under Section 14 of the Customs Act, 1962.

- (xx) S.O. 1417(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th May, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.
- (xxi) S.O. 1452(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th June, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* of the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (xxii) S.O. 1526(E) published in Gazette of India dated 13th June, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.

- (xxiii) S.O. 1565(E) published in Gazette of India dated 19th June, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* of the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.
- (xxiv) S.O. 1649(E) published in Gazette of India dated 30th June, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 36/2001-Cus. (N.T.), dated 3rd August, 2001.
- (xxv) S.O. 1684(E) published in Gazette of India dated 3rd July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum regarding revised rates of exchange for conversion of certain foreign currencies into Indian currency or *vice-versa* of the purpose of assessment of imported and export goods.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 469A/16/14)

(20)

A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 94 of the Finance Act, 1994:-

- (i) G.S.R. 475(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 25/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012.
- (ii) G.S.R. 476(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 12/2013-Service Tax dated 1st July, 2013.
- (iii) G.S.R. 477(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 26/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012.

- (iv) The Service Tax (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 478(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (v) G.S.R. 479(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 30/2012-Service Tax dated 20th June, 2012.
- (vi) The Service Tax (Determination of Value) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 480(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (vii) G.S.R. 481(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum making certain amendments in the Notification No. 26/2004-Service Tax dated 10th September, 2004.

- (viii) The Point of Taxation (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 482(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (ix) The Place of Provision of Services (Amendment) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 483(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum.
- (x) G.S.R. 484(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014, together with an explanatory memorandum specifying “the resident private limited company” as class of persons for the purposes of clause (b) of Section 96A of the Finance Act, 1994.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 470/16/14)

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

- (i) Finance Accounts of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for the year 2012-2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 471/16/14)

- (ii) Appropriation Accounts of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi for the year 2012-2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 472/16/14)

- (iii) Appropriation Accounts of the Defense Services (Union Government) for the year 2012-2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 473/16/14)

- (iv) Appropriation Accounts of Postal Services (Union Government) for the year 2012-2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 474/16/14)

- (v) Appropriation Accounts of Union Government (Civil) for the year 2012-2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 475/16/14)

- (vi) Finance Accounts of Union Government for the year 2012-2013.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 476/16/14)

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

- (i) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 477/16/14)

- (ii) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Parliament, Secretariats of the President and Vice-President for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 478/16/14)

- (iii) Outcome Budget of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 479/16/14)

- (iv) Outcome Budget of the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the year 2014-2015.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 480/16/14)

(23)

A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) of the Market Borrowings by Union Government during 2013-2014.

(Placed in Library, See No. LT 481/16/14)

12. 03 hrs

MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA

SECRETARY-GENERAL: Madam Speaker, I have to report following message received from the Secretary-General of Rajya Sabha:-

“In accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (6) of rule 186 of the Rules of Procedure and Conduct of Business in the Rajya Sabha, I am directed to return herewith the Finance (No. 2) Bill, 2014, which was passed by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on the 25th July, 2014 and transmitted to the Rajya Sabha for its recommendations and to state that this House has no recommendations to make to the Lok Sabha in regard to the said Bill.”

12. 03 ½ hrs

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Landslide incident in Pune district of Maharashtra*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I wish to inform this House of the tragic disaster that occurred in Pune district of Maharashtra. The Maharashtra state Government had informed that a landslide occurred between 8 am and 8.30 am in Malin village under Ambegaon taluka on July 30. About 40 to 50 Houses were buried due to the landslide and about 158 people were trapped under the debris. The state Government informed that a taluka level disaster management team was immediately dispatched there under the supervision of the Executive Magistrate. The nearby public health center at Adivare was identified to provide medical assistance. 30 dumpers, 20 JCBs and 50 ambulances were sent by the state Government. Rescue

* Placed in Library, See No. 482/16/14.

operations were started with the help of about 300 workers from two nearby municipal corporations, Janner and Aledi. Bright lights, called floodlights, and other equipment were arranged from the municipal corporations of Pimpri, Chinchwad and Pune. 09 teams of NDRF with around 380 personnel reached the spot with all necessary equipment. According to information received at 8 am today, eight injured persons have been rescued so far. 51 bodies have been taken out. As per the Census data of 2011, the village had a population of 704, including 666 Scheduled Tribes and 34 Scheduled Castes.

I have received a report from the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) that they received first information from the district administration on 30th July morning on 10.45. By 11 am, two teams of the 5th Battalion in Pune left for Malin village and reached the spot at 3 pm. At 5.30 pm on July 30, 05 more teams of NDRF reached the site of the incident. I visited this village on 31 July. I was apprised of the progress of rescue operations by the District Collector, Superintendent of Police and Commandant of NDRF. Due to continuous rain, rescue operations have been hampered and rescue operations need to

be carried out carefully. Because after rescue, necessary medical aid has to be given to the injured and the dead bodies also need to be cremated with dignity and respect. I found that relief and rescue operations are being carried out continuously.

I would like to assure this House that the Government of India is providing all necessary financial and other assistance for immediate relief and rescue operations. I would like to inform this Hon. House that this landslide has occurred in an area which till now was not considered highly vulnerable to landslides. According to the classification made by the Geological Survey of India, the Western Ghats do not fall in the extreme risk zone or high risk zone. We will ensure that the Geological Survey of India does a scientific investigation on this entire issue, so that necessary corrective and mitigation measures can be taken in the populated areas of the Western Ghats. Without such scientific study, it would not be right to take the risk of making any guesses regarding the specific causes of this landslide.

In conclusion, I would like to say that we are with the families of the victims of this tragedy and all the ministries of

the Government of India will provide all possible assistance required to the Government of Maharashtra in relief and rescue operations. It is important for us to see that appropriate lessons are learned from the experience of this disaster, so that we can take appropriate corrective measures in this direction.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):

Madam, I want a clarification on this. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not discussed. The Hon. Minister has given such detailed information.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Give notice if you want a discussion. But there are no such questions.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: That doesn't happen.

Item No. -11, Shri Arun Jaitleyji.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Give notice if you want discussion.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister's statement is not discussed.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You guys, don't talk new things.

Shri Arun Jaitley. ...(Interruptions)

12. 04 hrs

ELECTION TO COMMITTEES

(i) Union Advisory Committee for National Cadet Corps

[English]

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENSE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to move:

"That in pursuance of section 12(1)(1) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Union Advisory Committee for the

National Cadet Corps, subject to the other provisions of the said Act. "

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That in pursuance of section 12(1)(1) of the National Cadet Corps Act, 1948, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Union Advisory Committee for the National Cadet Corps, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.."

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

12. 06 hrs.

**MOTION RE: CONSTITUTION OF JOINT
COMMITTEE ON OFFICES OF PROFIT**

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF
LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):**

I beg to move:-

“That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen Members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the Members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote:

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be –

(i) t
o examine the composition and character of all existing “committees” [other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred] and all “committees” that may hereafter be constituted, Membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a Member of either Houses of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;

(ii) t
o recommend in relation to the “committees” examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;

(iii) t
o scrutinize, from time to time, the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and

to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the Members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the rules of procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of the Members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That a Joint Committee of the Houses to be called the Joint Committee on Offices of Profit be constituted consisting of fifteen Members, ten from this House and five from the Rajya Sabha, who shall be elected from amongst the Members of each House in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote:

That the functions of the Joint Committee shall be –

- (i) to examine the composition and character of all existing

“committees” [other than those examined by the Joint Committee to which the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Bill, 1957 was referred] and all “committees” that may hereafter be constituted, Membership of which may disqualify a person for being chosen as, and for being, a Member of either Houses of Parliament under article 102 of the Constitution;

(ii)

t

to recommend in relation to the “committees” examined by it what offices should disqualify and what offices should not disqualify;

(iii)

t

to scrutinize, from time to time, the Schedule to the Parliament (Prevention of Disqualification) Act, 1959, and to recommend any amendments in the said Schedule, whether by way of addition, omission or otherwise;

That the Joint Committee shall, from time to time, report to both Houses of Parliament in respect of all or any of the aforesaid matters;

That the Members of the Joint Committee shall hold office for the duration of the present Lok Sabha;

That in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Members of the Committee;

That in other respects, the rules of procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees will apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

That this House recommends to the Rajya Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do join in the said Joint Committee and to communicate to this House the names of the Members to be appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.”

The motion was adopted.

—

... (Interruptions)

12. 10 hrs.**ELECTIONS TO COMMITTEES.... Contd.****(ii) Jawaharlal Institute of Post Graduate Medical
Education and Research Puducherry**

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):** I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of section 5(1)(k) read with section 6(2) of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Act, 2008, the Members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner, as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of section 5(1)(k) read with section 6(2) of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, Puducherry Act, 2008, the Members of this House do proceed to elect in such manner, as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Jawaharlal Institute of Post-Graduate Medical Education and Research, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

12. 11 hrs

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (Interruptions)

**(iii) National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-
Sciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore**

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):** I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of Section 5(1)(1) of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Bangalore Act, 2012, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Bangalore, subject to the provisions of the Act.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of Section 5(1)(1) of the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences, Bangalore Act, 2012, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of

National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro-Sciences,
Bangalore, subject to the provisions of the Act.”

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

12. 12 hrs

*At this stage, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scinda and Shri
Dharmendra Yadav came and stood on the floor near the
Table.*

... (Interruptions)

(iv)

**All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) at Bhopal,
Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh**

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of Section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Act, 1956 read with section 6 of the AIIMS (Amendment) Act, 2012, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to each of the six new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) set up at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh, subject to the other provisions of the said Acts.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of Section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Act, 1956 read with section 6 of the AIIMS (Amendment) Act, 2012, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to each of the six new All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) set up at Bhopal, Bhubaneswar, Jodhpur, Patna, Raipur and Rishikesh, subject to the other provisions of the said Acts.”

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

(v)

All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of section 4(g) of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the All India Institute

of Medical Sciences, New Delhi, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

**(vi) Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and
Research, Chandigarh**

**THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY
WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):** I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of Section 5(g) read with Section 6(2) of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of Section 5(g) read with Section 6(2) of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, Act, 1966, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

... (Interruptions)

**(vii) Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export
Development Authority (APEDA)**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, MINISTER OF STATE
IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF
STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS
(SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN):** I beg to move:

“That in pursuance of Section 4(4)(d) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985 (2 of 1986), read with Rule 3 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Rules 1986, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of Section 4(4)(d) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Act, 1985 (2 of 1986), read with Rule 3 of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority Rules 1986, the Members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two Members from amongst themselves to serve as Members of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, subject to the other provisions of the said Act.”

The motion was adopted.

—
... (*Interruptions*)

12. 15 hrs

At this stage, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar came and stood on the floor near the Table.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, 'Zero Hour'.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You go to your places, I am starting Zero Hour.

12. 15 ½ hrs

At this stage, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Shri Dharmendra Yadav and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.

HON. SPEAKER: I am starting Zero Hour. I am starting Zero Hour. If you have something to say during Zero Hour, say it.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: There is no clarification, there is no clarification on the statement.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You listen to me.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Then, what for are we here?... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You sit, you do not know the subject.

The first thing is, Kharge ji, you also know, in the Lok Sabha.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please keep quiet, take your seat.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Sit quietly, understand the rules too.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Kharge Ji, you also know, rule 372 of Lok Sabha. If you want, I can read it to you, I am going on the basis of that. Rule 372 reads:

[English]

“A statement may be made by a Hon. Minister on a matter of public importance with the consent of the Speaker but no question shall be asked at the time the statement is made.”

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You understand my point. If you want any discussion on this subject, you can give it under any rule, you can have a full discussion.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: It's not in the rules, this doesn't happen.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairo Prasad Mishra.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: You speak in Zero Hour, I will allow you.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I want to say in the House that the Parliamentary Constituency from which I am elected, Chitrakoot, a famous religious and tourist destination of the country, is located. Where thousands of pilgrims and tourists come every day. Every month during Amavasya, the number of pilgrims reaches lakhs. ...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now that I have given the ruling, what is left after that?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: In a few months, this number increases to twenty lakhs. ...(Interruptions)

The condition of roads in my Parliamentary Constituency is very bad. There are potholes at many places on the roads,

due to which accidents are taking place, hundreds of people have died in those accidents so far. ...(*Interruptions*) Although there is a drought there, but where it has rained, the pits are filled with water and the situation is such that even paddy can be grown there. ...(*Interruptions*) No arrangements are being made for repairs there. ...(*Interruptions*) Be it National Highway roads, State roads or Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana roads, it is being said that there is no money for them. ...(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I demand from the Government of India that those potholes should be repaired. Thank you very much.

HON. SPEAKER: Jyotiraditya Ji, please sit down. Kharge Ji, one minute. You also know what is Democracy. You also please listen. No, I am sorry.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It does not happen. I am sorry. You change the rule, then speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry, Kharge Ji. You are a sensible person.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down. Why are you all standing? Kharge Ji. . .

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit. You also sit. Kharge Ji, one minute, first understand my point. When this rule. . .

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Please. Why are you talking? I read the rule to you. There is no clarification after the statement. If you want to have a discussion on the same topic, you can give notice under any rule, if it suits, then a full discussion can be held on it, but this is not there in the rules. It may be somewhere else, but not here. Not here in the Lok Sabha, I have read out the rule to you. If you want to speak in Zero Hour, I will allow you. But there can be no talk of clarification on that statement. If you want to raise it in Zero Hour, I am allowing you, but no clarification on the statement, I am sorry.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: So many times this has happened in this House before. Even when you were here, clarifications have been asked. This is not a new thing, so I was appealing to you. This is a rehabilitation program. There has been a very big accident, natural calamity so what we wanted to ask is how the rehabilitation has been done, how much money has been given from the Union Government, how much is the contribution of the state Government so all these clarifications, which first-hand information they had, because, they themselves went to that site and they have seen everything there so that is why I just wanted to know as to what compensation is given and what the rehabilitation programs are. That is what I wanted to ask; nothing else. And they went away. If you had given a minute, the time of the House would not have been wasted and there was no need to discuss it. You know that the money in the National Calamity Fund is given by the Union Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It does not happen like this. They will give money, right. I am not refusing to discuss.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: And it is our right to ask. ...(*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No clarification on it. I cannot allow it.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit and understand. Just understand the meeting, please sit.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: When that committee is formed, the report of that committee should come here.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to make a request...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: No, not everyone has a request. He is speaking.

[English]

Do you want to have a discussion on it.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: He is not giving any clarification.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): It is not my right, the Chair has to decide...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Clarifications are not giving anything. This does not happen when I have given the ruling.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: I am not commenting anything on the ruling or advice given by the Speaker.

I would like to humbly submit to the House that this Government is sensitive. The moment we came to know of the

incident, I discussed the matter with the Hon. Prime Minister. The Hon. Prime Minister directed the Hon. Home Minister to go and visit the place. He has visited the place and come back. We had a discussion on it. The Hon. Home Minister told me that he wanted to make a Statement about his visit and about what happened there. He made a Statement in the House. Some Hon. Members have some doubts in this regard. I would like to say that there is no such practice as far as Lok Sabha is concerned or there is no such rule by the Chair. My suggestion would be that the Hon. Minister has not gone away because of any disrespect to the Opposition Members. He is making a Statement about this incident in the other House, which is slated at 12:30 pm. We had said in the other House that as soon as the Statement is over in the Lok Sabha, he would come back to the Rajya Sabha. So, he has gone there.

I request the leader of the Congress Party or other friends, who want to discuss this issue – I do agree that this is a very serious issue and we should discuss it – to give us a notice and let the Chair admit it. We will discuss it definitely. I will convey it to the Hon. Home Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to make a submission.

HON. SPEAKER: No, the matter is over now. Jyotiraditya Ji, this does not happen like this.

Your party leaders have spoken.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Anytime you want to give me suggestions, choose another speaker and come here. This is not the way. I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: No one will speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry. No.

... (Interruptions)

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Madam, I have given a notice. I am on a point of clarification. I would like to know ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rameswar Teli.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am accepting whatever Zero Hour notices have come.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am giving time to those who have notices to speak.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH): Hon. Madam Speaker, I come from Dibrugarh region of Assam. ...(*Interruptions*) In my area, Magherrita and Lidu, which is the North-East Coal Field, the mining that takes place in this North-East Coal Field, ...(*Interruptions*) The workers there should work for eight hours, but they are forced to work for twelve hours. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: After this I will listen to you. Please sit down.

...

SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI: Madam, their wages, in some mines they get Rs 150, in some mines they get Rs 200, in some they get Rs 250. This way, there is a possibility of discrimination.

I want to draw the attention of this House to the fact that the laborers working in the mines should be required to work for eight hours. The North East coalfields, which are the Lidu and Magherita mines, account for about 100,000 tonnes of coal theft per day. There is no security arrangement.

I request the Hon. Coal Minister, through this House, to make arrangements to stop the coal theft that takes place from the North East coalfields, Lidu and Magherita. I also want to say that arrangements should be made to open the North East Coal Field in which mining has been stopped for a few days. I make this request to the Minister.

HON. SPEAKER: Under which rule, which notice have you given? What notice have you given? Just tell me.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: I am not talking about you, I am asking them. You tell me. Notice of what, have you given notice in Zero Hour?

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: Madam, I am on a point of clarification.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Zero Hour does not have a point of order.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: I am on a point of order.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Point of Order is not in zero hour. Can you tell me later which rule you have noticed? We will think about it.

[English]

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: It is under Rule 288.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: There is no point of order in 'Zero Hour'.
You know better than I do.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN: As a Member of this House, I would like to know from the Government ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Tamradhwaj Sahu.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing of that sort ever arises. Please, you sit down. It does not happen this way.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: No, I am sorry.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You are a sensible person, why are you doing this? Please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, Shri Tamradhwaj Sahu.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: In 'Zero Hour', there is no rule and nothing is followed. This is Zero Hour. You sit down.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU (DURG): Madam, my Zero Hour subject is as follows. I am placing a matter of great importance before the Government, through you. This will directly benefit crores of weavers across the country. At present, rural weavers are facing a lot of difficulties to keep their business profitable. First of all, there is no availability of land, for this, the obstruction of panchayats, revenue department comes to the fore. If you get land or if you buy it by adding some money, then there is no money to build a work shed, there is no money to buy a machine. There is no Union scheme for this. Just as assistance is available from the

Government for buying fertilizers and seeds in farming at support price, similarly there should be state, Union assistance schemes for weavers. Along with this, the cooperation of the Government is also required for better marketing of the clothes produced by them at national and international level.

I hope the Government of India will definitely look into this. Hon. Madam Speaker, you gave me time to speak, thank you for that.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): Thank you, Hon. Madam Speaker. There are many residential villages in Kudal tehsil of Sindhudurg district of Maharashtra - Mangaon and other residential villages, there are a lot of nuisance by elephants in those villages. Last year, these elephants have killed about 8 persons of those areas and injured many people. The farmers there have stopped farming due to the nuisance of these elephants. Students who go to school cannot go to school. The nuisance of these elephants is increasing not only in residential villages but also in the urban areas near them.

Hon. Madam Speaker, for the last several years, the people of the residential villages there have been demanding to catch those elephants and release them elsewhere, but unfortunately till date they have not been treated properly.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I have heard that the Government has a plan to completely sabotage the terror that is increasing due to the man-eating animals in the residential settlements. I request the Government through you that there should be a strict plan by the Government to stop the disturbances caused by such wild elephants and other animals in the villages of Kudal tehsil of Sindhudurg district. There should be security for the residential village there.

[English]

PROF. SUGATA BOSE (JADAVPUR): Madam Speaker, the war in Gaza has turned ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: By the way, this matter has already arisen.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: By the way, this topic has already happened in the House.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

PROF. SUGATA BOSE: Madam Speaker, it is an ongoing crisis, and that is why ... (Interruptions)

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam, please allow him to raise this very important issue. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, I am allowing him.

... (Interruptions)

PROF. SUGATA BOSE: It has taken a further tragic turn, namely, a school was attacked and women and children who were sleeping there were killed. The United Nations has termed this attack by Israel as a clear violation of international law. We cannot afford to sit on the fence when there is disproportionate and excessive use of force. Therefore, I would urge the Government to take a clear stand on the side of morality and law. Thank you very much. ... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members Shrimati Sonia Gandhi, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Shri Rahul Gandhi, Shri K. C. Venugopal, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Shri Gaurav Gogoi, Shri Rajeev Satav, Kumari Sushmita Dev, Shri Rajesh Ranjan, Shri M. B. Rajesh, Shrimati P. K. Shreemathi Teacher, Shri Md. Badaruddoza Khan and Dr. Ratna De (Nag) are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Prof. Sugata Bose.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI): Hon. Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to put the most important problem of my Parliamentary Constituency Hingoli before the Government. If there are the worst roads in the whole of Maharashtra, it is in my area. More than 50,000 vehicles ply on the National Highway of Number 161 every day. It is so bad that at least two-three thousand women and 4,500 children have fallen off motorcycles and have been admitted to hospitals.

I request the Government through you to allocate funds for the repair of this national highway.

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (NAUGONG): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government and this House that according to the reservation system in the country, 27 per cent OBC, 7.5 percent ST and 15 percent SC, total 49.5 percent reservation. At least 80 percent of the country's population is from these communities by taking MOBCs, OBCs, STs and SCs. According to this, it is injustice. Yet I want to point out one thing that there is a reservation of 27 per cent for OBCs, they have been divided in both creamy layer and non-creamy layer. On what basis have they been divided and why? Today we have become MPs. Till yesterday, we were common people. After becoming MPs, we must have reached the creamy layer. Our child's competitive efficiency has not increased. In that sense, our child is being deprived. This is a great injustice. If creamy layer and non-creamy layer have been imposed with OBC, then it should be applied with the rest of the SC and ST, there are also many creamy layer people among them. This injustice should end. All OBCs should be brought under OBC category.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Dharmendra Yadav associates himself with the issue raised by Shri Rajen Gohain during Zero Hour.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR (CHANDRAPUR):

Hon. Madam Speaker, I want to speak regarding OBC. 27 percent reservation was given to OBCs as per the recommendations of the Mandal Commission in the country. This policy has been accepted in Maharashtra as well. In some states, the reservation for OBCs is somewhat less. Maharashtra has considered 27 percent reservation, despite this, reservation of OBCs has been reduced in Yavatmal, Chandrapur, Gadchiroli and other districts. Not only this, a lot of injustice is being done to OBCs. The limit of creamy layer which was four and a half lakhs has been increased to six lakhs from the last year. But the State Government has kept it at four and a half lakhs. Due to this, many students who had taken admission in schools and colleges last year had to pay higher fees and thus left their studies. The state Government is also going back and forth to implement the Union Government's policy of imposing a limit of six lakh on Creamy Layer.

All over the country, OBC students are given scholarship after matriculation. But Maharashtra Government is not giving

scholarships to those students for many years. I request the Government through you that the injustice being done to OBC students should be inquired about from the Government there and the Principal Secretary or Chief Secretary of the concerned ministry should be called here and instructions should be given in this regard that injustice should not be done to the OBC community.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Prahlad Singh Patel, Shri Nana Patole, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, Shri Ramdas C. Tadas and Shri Anil Shirole are granted permission to associate with the matter raised by Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir.

DR. ANSHUL VERMA (HARDOI): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance towards the serious problems of my Parliamentary Constituency Hardoi and request that in the assembly constituencies of Sawaijpur and Gopamau in my Parliamentary Constituency, farmers have to grapple with the severe problems of waterlogging and erosion during the rainy season, due to which crops on lakhs of hectares of land are destroyed every year.

There is an urgent need for a special economic package in public interest to prevent the damage caused by annual erosion and waterlogging by Bhainsata River and Sai River in my development block Sandi's five Rivers - Neelam Ganga, Ram Ganga, Gambhiri Kunda, Garra and Gopamau Sandi Vidhan Sabha Constituency. I demand it through you. ...(*Interruptions*)

To prevent crop damage due to floods there is a need to construct dams along the banks of approximately 25 km of the following Rivers. It is necessary to build a dam from village Shyampur and Arjunpur to Dehliya to prevent floods and to build a dam by installing cut stones to stop erosion near village Mohaddipur on the banks of River Garra in development block Sandi.

SHRI CHHOTELAL (ROBERTSGANJ): Hon. Madam Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on a very serious matter in Zero Hour. NTPC produces electricity in my Parliamentary Constituency Robertsganj, District Sonbhadra, Uttar Pradesh. The local residents are not getting power supply for three to four hours daily due to which they are facing a lot of hardship whereas

according to the Government of India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Sonbhadra is a special Left Wing Extremism affected district. It is also the home of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs.

Therefore, I demand from the Government of India that arrangements should be made to provide electricity for at least 22 hours per day in my Parliamentary Constituency Robertsganj, District Sonbhadra and Chakia Legislative Assembly of Chandoli District.

HON. SPEAKER: Most of the Members are raising state matters. That is being allowed, but I request everyone that if you take up the matter referred to the Centre, it will be better.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI CHAND NATH (ALWAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the House about the decreasing number of camels. Camels are very expensive to maintain, and they are now rarely used for transportation. Selling camel milk is also prohibited. In fact, this milk is used to make sweets etc. A letter has been written to the National Research and Chemical, Food Safety and Standards Authority

of India located in Bikaner regarding declaring the sale of milk legal, but no decision has been taken in this regard. Camel milk is rich in vitamin C, zinc and insulin. In Dubai and the US, this milk is available in packets.

I request the Government to make this milk legal for purchase and sale, so that the breed of camels, called the ship of Rajasthan, can be saved from extinction. Thank you very much for giving me time to speak.

HON. SPEAKER: Sushri P. P. Chaudhary, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Dr. Ram Shankar Katheria associate themselves with the subject of Shri Chandnath.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): Hon. Madam Speaker, my Parliamentary Constituency Siwan, Bihar is the birthplace of the country's first President, Dr. Rajendra Prasad. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India has declared his ancestral residence as a national heritage, which is welcome. Under this, a notification has been issued, according to which people living around this national heritage have neither the right to build new rooms in their existing Houses nor the right to construct new buildings on vacant land. In this way, a very

difficult situation has arisen for the local people there, because due to increase in population they are not able to convert their one storey House into two or three storey House. Even if they try to build, the police immediately arrest them. If Dr. Rajendra Prasad were alive today, looking at his simplicity and behaviour, we would feel that he would have abolished this law on his own.

Hon. Speaker, through you, I would like to request the Union Government to relax that rule so that the local people there can get help.

[English]

***SHRI P. R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL):** Hon. Madam Speaker. The Union Government had sent a circular to all CBSE schools in the country to celebrate Sanskrit week from 7th to 14th August, 2014 in order to encourage students to learn Sanskrit. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has written a letter to Hon. Prime Minister objecting the move of the Union Government. Tamil is a classical language. Tamil Nadu has an ancient culture and Tamil is an ancient

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

language. Hon. Amma has been striving hard to uphold Tamil language and social justice. Hon. Amma is highly regarded as the champion of social justice. Hon. Amma had successfully organized the World Tamil Conference in Thanjavur. In this context, contradicting the policy of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the present Union Government had sent this circular to celebrate Sanskrit week throughout the country. India is a nation having so many languages. Celebrations should be organized only with regard to the language of the State concerned. Hon. Amma, in a letter written to Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has stressed the need for organizing language week celebrations only on the basis of the language that is being spoken in the State concerned. Hon. Amma also wanted to withdraw Sanskrit week celebrations which is aimed to uphold Sanskrit as the mother of all languages. During the first week of Tamil month *Chithirai* (i. e. from 14th April to 21st April) Tamil week celebrations should be organized. I do not know whether Hon. Prime Minister is aware of this circular being sent by the Ministry of Human Resources Development.

I urge the Hon. Prime Minister, through this House, to look into this matter and stop the Sanskrit week celebrations. As there is paucity of time, Hon. Prime Minister should intervene at the earliest.

SHRI B. SENGUTTUVAN (VELLORE): Madam Speaker, the National Highways Authority of India (Fee Collection and Determination) Rules prescribe that the distance between two toll booths must at least be 60 kilometres and the fee collected should be in accordance with the norms laid down in the rules.

It appears that the L&T Krishnagiri-Walajahpet Toll Way Limited which is operating two toll booths on National Highway 45 is situated within a distance of 50 kilometres and is collecting exorbitant fee from the road users. The Tamil Nadu Transport Corporation buses which ply across the road are particularly charged much more. Earlier, the monthly passes that were issued at Rs. 8,230 per month for any number of crossings, have been limited to just fifty, which is used by the Transport Corporation Department in a matter of four days. For the entire month, it costs around Rs. 82,000 and odd.

Therefore, it is placing a very huge financial strain on the Tamil Nadu State Transport Corporation.

I would request the Ministry concerned to look into the matter because there appears to be a collusion or connivance between the NHAI and the concessionaire who is operating the toll booths.

SHRI JITENDRA CHAUDHURY (TRIPURA EAST):

Madam, I would like to raise one very important humanitarian issue. There are more than 35,000 Reang people who are the residents of the Mamit district of Mizoram. Following an incident there, they had to desert their place and they have been sheltering now in the North Tripura District for the last 17 years. I hope the common people of Mizoram are also very apathetic that these people, their own people should go back to their own home. In the previous years, there have been a number of attempts from the Government of India, the Government of Mizoram and the Government of Tripura in this regard.

My request is that the Government of India should take a concrete initiative so that these people are repatriated and

rehabilitated properly. Before that, some initiative should be taken to have a meeting between the community leaders of Mizoram and the displaced people so that they could stay there in their home in Mizoram and settle there. The children of those displaced persons who were born in 1997-98 have grown to 17 to 18 years. Their names are also to be enrolled in the electoral rolls and they are also to be enrolled in the panchayat register. They should be provided with all facilities till such date that they can live up with their livelihood. This is my earnest request.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M. B. Rajesh, Shrimati P. K. Shreemathi Teacher, Dr. A. Sampath, Shri P. Karunakaran and Md. Badaruddoza Khan are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Jitendra Chaudhury.

SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI (TENKASI): Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchithalaivi* Amma for giving me this opportunity to speak in this august House.

HON. SPEAKER: Cold storage and factory. Asking together. Please continue.

SHRIMATI M. VASANTHI: *Courtallam* waterfalls in my Constituency has a salubrious climate. Tourists in large numbers from Tamil Nadu and different parts of the country visit these waterfalls. Hon. Amma had directed the Government officials to take measures for protection of nature, environment and forests. Under the able leadership of Hon. Amma a Commission has been set up to protect the natural beauty and serene atmosphere of this area. Constructive measures are being undertaken by that Commission. *Courtallam* waterfalls should be prominently included in the tourist map of India and World as a most sought-after destination and adequate funds should be allocated for improving the infrastructure and basic amenities in *Courtallam* so as to attract inland and foreign tourists. Jasmine, Lemon, Mangoes and Grapes are grown in large scale in my Tenkasi Constituency. Farmers and agricultural labourers could be much benefitted if their produce are stored, processed and imported to foreign countries. This will also create enough employment opportunities. *Courtallam*, Tenkasi, Puliyangudi, Sankarankovil, Kadayanallur, Rajapalayam and Srivilliputhur Assembly constituencies can be covered if the Union

Government sets up a cold storage facility in Vathirayiruppu in my Tenkasi Parliamentary Constituency. I urge that adequate funds should be allocated to set up a perfume manufacturing factory in my Tenkasi Constituency. This will improve the living conditions of the people of my Tenkasi Constituency.

[Translation]

SHRI ALOK SANJAR (BHOPAL): Hon. Madam Speaker, today, for the first time, I have had the opportunity to present the topic of interest of Bhopal in Zero Hour. First of all, I thank the voters of Bhopal Parliamentary Constituency, as I always say - the voter is my God, from the bottom of my heart that they expressed their full faith in me and gave me the opportunity to speak today in this highest temple of democracy.

Hon. Madam Speaker, in Bhopal, which is known as the city of Raja Bhoj and the city of lakes, the Jummerati Hanumanganj Dal-Chawal Grocery Market located in Old Bhopal provides ration to more than 20 lakh population of Bhopal as well as the surrounding areas, cities and towns. The density of the city has been increasing for the last several

years. Today, the population of Bhopal has exceeded about 20 lakh. Also, in the coming ten years the population will increase to around 40 lakhs. Due to the increasing population and density of the area, the transportation of goods through trucks is hindering traffic and accidents are also increasing. A wholesale market equipped with modern facilities is proposed on the new bypass road from Mubarakpur to Mishraut, an area near Bhopal, for which I have discussed with Shivraj Ji, the Hon. Chief Minister of our state. In future, if a bypass for railway goods traffic is proposed from Sukhi Sewania to Mandideep, Abdullahganj, then the wholesale trade center will get its benefit, and also if the goods train going from Bhopal goes directly from Sukhi Sewania to Abdullahganj, the route distance will be reduced by about 15-20 kilometers. Not giving a stoppage in Bhopal will save about one to two hours of running time. If the time of trains carrying goods worth crores of rupees is saved, then it will also increase the efficiency of the railways. Therefore, Madam Speaker, through you, I request the Hon. Railway Minister to accept my suggestion and conduct a survey of it and recognize my suggestion in the interest of the people of Bhopal.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI

(AHMEDNAGAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I want to draw your attention to a very important topic. Our country has thousands of years of culture. Different artists worked to preserve this culture. That's why we gave Bharat Ratna awards, Padma Shri, Padma Bhushan etc. in the country. They worked to keep their culture populated by giving different awards. But after a study by the Culture Ministry, a pension scheme was started for old artists and they are given a pension ranging from Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 14,000. Very less budget was earmarked for this last year, due to which only two people got pension from my Ahmednagar district. Whereas last year I had given a proposal of 100 people from my area and this year I have given a proposal of 200 people. I urge that all those who have contributed to keeping this cultural population alive, should be given full rights. Due to which they also feel that the Government has Honoured me, appreciated my art. If this happens, this culture will survive and will continue. The way the Hon. Minister of Finance has started a scheme in this year's budget to give pension of Rs. 1,000 to people above 60 years of age, similarly a provision of Rs. 500 crore should be

made for these artists in the form of pension. Therefore, I urge the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Culture Minister to make a provision to give pension to more and more people by doing more allocation in the budget.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat associates himself with the issue raised by Dilip Gandhi.

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to bring a heartbreaking incident to your notice. In Bundelkhand region, in my Parliamentary Constituency Jalaun, in Gharhotha, Bhuwanipur, there in Gharhotha tehsil of Jhansi district, on the evening of 28th, about four farmers died and half a dozen people were injured due to lightning. Ram Dayal s/o Ram Bharosa in Ghrotha tehsil, who was 55 years old, was working with his family in the field. The entire family was sitting in the hut. At that time lightning struck there. What happened was that luckily his wife went out of the hut to bring her goat so only she survived, but the rest of the family perished due to the lightning strike. Similarly, Rohit Yadav s/o Dev Singh, who was 11 years old, had gone to give him food. He too died in the

accident. Along with this, the people of that village who were working in the nearby fields also got injured due to lightning. Among the injured were Lal Singh s/o Chandrabhan, a resident of Nepal, Ballu Pushkaran Singh and Bhole Mantole. His clothes were charred and blood started pouring from his nose and mouth. I demand from the Union Government that those who died in this accident caused by lightning in my area, their dependents should be given five lakh rupees each and those who got injured should be given two lakh rupees each for treatment etc.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Harinarayan Rajbhar - Not present.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATLIPUTRA): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to a very important matter. Many castes including Mallah, Nai, Prajapati, Luhar, Kahar, Beldar, Bind, Tapti, Tatva, Ganaut, Carpenter, Nunia, Tuda, Rajbhar, Malakar in Bihar have been demanding Scheduled Caste status for a long time. Their economic and social level is equivalent to that of a Scheduled Caste or lower. Many of these castes have been given the status of Scheduled Castes in many states

of the country due to their condition not being good, but they have not been given this status in Bihar so far. Out of these, the state Government has sent the anthropographic report of about 11 castes to the Union Government, in which it has recommended notifying these castes as Scheduled Caste. But the matter is still at the Union level. I would like to draw the attention of the Union Government and say that this demand has been going on for many years and is very important demand, so the castes whose anthropographic report has come should be immediately reduced to the Scheduled Castes. Apart from this, please seek the report from Bihar Government about those castes for which anthropographic report has not been received and notify them as Scheduled Caste.

SHRI SATISH KUMAR GAUTAM (ALIGARH): Hon. Madam Speaker, I would first thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak in Zero Hour. I would like to draw the attention of the Government to my Parliamentary Constituency Aligarh, which is in Uttar Pradesh. Due to increasing harvest of animals for export of meat, farmers are being killed every day. When they come to take away the animals, they do not hesitate to even kill the farmer.

13. 00 hrs.

There is a Government of Yadavs in Uttar Pradesh and when we go to do some auspicious work, we touch the feet of our parents and also touch the feet of Mother-Cow before going, then the work is successful. But Hon. Madam Speaker, India is number one in the slaughter of cows that is taking place. I request the Union Government that the meat factories which are running in the Parliamentary Constituency Aligarh should be closed with immediate effect and no license should be given to open any new factory.

HON. SPEAKER: Pappu Yadav Ji, first thing is that apologising is not enough. Your behavior has been very bad. It

should not be repeated. Apologise honestly, this should not happen again.

[English]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Madam, please allow me to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): I personally apologize to you. You are like a mother to me. Hon. Madam Speaker, I would urge that I have to take some limits to speak in the interest of the people of the country for which I apologise. Hon. Madam Speaker, I do not like to raise the same question every day. I would like to urge you that I have also been an MP five times and MLA once and Independent four times, I do not win at any mercy, I have been an Independent MP. So no certificate is required, I respect you.

HON. SPEAKER: No one is giving a certificate. You put your point.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, I showed the newspaper how the common people of Delhi were troubled yesterday, they could not get vegetables, they were lathi

charged. You read in the Dainik Jagran newspaper, 38 students are missing and the UPSC report has also come to the Government. The Government had said that when the report comes, we will give a statement. What report came, the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs had come, I was only asking him to give the statement. Secondly, I would urge the Government, through you, to stop the way you are firing bullets and lathis on the students as well as the youth and not play with the future of the children of the country by returning the CSAT, removing its solution. That is my request.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Dharmendra Yadav and Shrimati Ranjit Ranjan are associated with the subject of Shri Rajesh Ranjan.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.00 p. m.

13. 03 hrs

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

14. 03 hrs.

*The Lok Sabha re-assembled after Lunch at Three Minutes
past Fourteen of the Clock*

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

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Venugopal, what do you want?

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Sir, I want to raise an important issue regarding an article published in the website of Sri Lankan Defense Ministry.

The Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has been writing letters to the Hon. Prime Minister on the repeated attacks on our fishermen by the Sri Lankan Navy. She has been urging that retrieval of Katchatheevu is the lasting solution.

A private individual in Sri Lanka has written an article which is derogatory to our Hon. Chief Minister. What is worse

is that this article has been posted on the official website of Sri Lankan Defense Ministry. We strongly condemn this and urge the Government of India to take immediate action on this as this infringes upon the sovereignty of our country.

14. 04 hrs.

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

Flood and drought situation in the country – Contd.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, we will take up discussion under Rule 193. Shri Ramsinh Rathwa.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA (CHHOTA UDAIPUR): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you very much because you have given me an opportunity to speak on an important topic like drought. Every state in the country has different circumstances during the rainy season. The structure of our country is such that at some places there is drought, at some places there is flood, at some places there is heavy rain and at some places there is less rain. Due to this, the farmers of the country have to suffer a lot. I come from tribal belt. The tribal belt always has to depend on nature. When big dams are constructed, the same tribal people have to be displaced from there and go somewhere else. But

where do they go, they do not even drinking water. Most of Gujarat receives rain in the first week of June. This time it started raining very late i. e. at the end of July. The tribal belt has been completely dry due to this and when it rains, they have not got even the time they need to sow food grains. Due to this, whatever percentage of rainfall you say, it gets completed in one week of the whole year for our farmers and because of this, they do not get the benefits of drought which they should get.

I believe that the linking of Rivers, which was talked about in the Government of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, is the only way left to deal with the problem of drought in the country today because if every River which is flooded is linked and the water goes to the places where there is drought, then the farmers of that state will get water and at the same time the flood-affected areas can also be saved. Gujarat has done very well in this direction.

When our Hon Prime Minister was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, then by releasing the water of Darda Dam into different Rivers and by releasing the water of that River into

different ponds, this opportunity was found to solve the problem of drought in Saurashtra which was a part of the country. Because of this, the farmers there get water as well as the animals there get grass and fodder and because of getting grass and fodder, those farmers also get the benefit of milk from those animals. I believe that the Government should do the work of inter-linking of Rivers at the earliest. This Government of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee has brought a plan, however our Government is committed to linking the Rivers and by doing this the entire country can be saved from drought on one hand and on the other hand it can also be saved from floods. This is a good project and the Government should take this project forward by taking all the Hon. Members together. I conclude by supporting the proposals that Yogi Ji has brought.

[English]

***KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR):** The Karnataka State is experiencing severe drought condition for the last 4 successive years. The deficit rainfall due to monsoon failure in many parts of the State severely affected agricultural activities in 125 taluks of Karnataka. The performance of monsoon in terms of spatial and temporal distribution of rainfall was not satisfactory in parts of the Karnataka State. The deficit rainfall, for the 4 consecutive year has caused adverse impact on agriculture and also on drinking water, fodder and over all socio-economy of the agriculture and other sectors of the State.

Karnataka covers an area of 1,91,976 sq. km. and comprises humid, sub-humid, semi-arid and arid climatological regions. State comprises 30 districts, 176 taluks, 747 lobbies and 5628 gram panchayats. The population of the State is 6. 11 crores out of which 66per cent are rural based and are dependent on agriculture. Nearly 76per cent of the sown area is under rain fed agriculture and is vulnerable to the vagaries of

* Speech was laid on the Table.

the monsoon. The total area sown in the State is around 75 lakh hectares.

The total land holding in the State is 1,23,84,721, out of which the small and marginal farmers constitute 37per cent of the total land holding. 75per cent of the farmers in the State are small and marginal farmers. The drought causes untold misery and socio-economic distress to this large group of farmers with small land holdings. Early rainfall was very crucial from the point of crop condition as the crop are under grain setting. The timing and the duration of the active and break events are particularly important for the agricultural activity over the State. And also prolonged breaks can adversely effect the crop development, growth and yield.

The dry spell during the crop growth period causes agricultural drought. Agricultural drought occurs when soil moisture and rainfall are inadequate during the crop growing period causing extreme moisture stress. Agricultural drought thus arises from variable susceptibility of crops during different stages of crop development, from emergence to maturity.

The drought indicators in 125 taluks of Karnatak State says that there is severe drought in the State. Deficit rainfall during the 4 consecutive weeks of dry spell and moisture stress, deficit rainfall shows the agriculture, horticulture and sericulture in the State is in distress.

More than 70 per cent of minor irrigation tanks in the State are dry or with insignificant storages. An area of almost 4 lakh hectares fall under the command area of these tanks are deprived from irrigation due to the poor storages. The poor storages in Minor irrigation tanks along with persistent drought conditions prevailing consecutively for the 4 year has resulted in lack of ground water recharge and problem in the drinking water supply to rural and urban areas. There is fluctuation in

ground water levels. In some districts, the ground water depleted severely and people are forced to drink chemical contaminated water like fluoride, arsenic and iron content. For many villages, we have to provide water with tankers which is not sufficient for their daily needs.

Government have to have the plan of desilting these minor irrigation tanks. At least for coming years, if there is a rainfall the minor tanks will be useful for the villagers. The storage in major reservoirs are satisfactory but most of the major reservoirs are filled with silt. The task force which is constituted by then Karnataka Government recommended the desiltation in major reservoirs which is very much needed in almost all reservoirs in Karnataka.

Late monsoon and deficit rainfall affected the food grains crops in Karnataka. Coconut plays a significant role in the agrarian economy of India. Karnataka is a major coconut growing state. Coconut is grown around five lakh hectares in Karnataka's districts like Tumkur, Hassan, Chickmagalur, Ramnagar, Mandya, Mysore, Chitradurga, Chamarajanagar etc. Most of the coconut plantations in these districts are totally

rained and their prospects depend largely on the occurrence of satisfactory monsoon rains. The above districts received less rain in the past four years. These interior districts are characterized by soils with less water holding capacity and hence experience drought like situation more frequently. This is reflected in terms of the poor yield during last 3 years. The drying palms need immediate care for the revival to reduce the further damage to the existing palms in coming days. Presently, the coconut growers are in severe financial distress and situation urgently calls for rejuvenation of the drought affected palms. The financial requirement of the State is huge. Union Government should plan a contingency plan to protect the farmers.

Immediate attention should be given to small and marginal farmers by helping them financially by waving loans.

Contingent action plan should be prepared by the scientists of agriculture, specially Agriculture University and research centre.

Seeds and fertilizer requirement should be monitored closely (when they needs it)

Steps should be taken to distribute the seeds at subsidized rates.

Micro-Macro irrigation programmes should be closely monitored for less utilization of ground water. More funds should be given to emergency supply of drinking water.

Effective implementation of flushing, deepening and hydro-fracturing works. Borewells have to drilled only during emergency.

Animals should be given quality fodder. Fodder is the immediate requirement of Karnataka State. Goshala should be opened in all affected Taluks to save the cattles.

Agriculture Department should take action immediately to save the farmers and the animals of Karnataka State.

[Translation]

***SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA):** We have to find a permanent solution to the problem of flood and drought. It is true that nature cannot be controlled. But mankind is capable of facing all kinds of obstacles and challenges with its might, intelligence and wisdom.

On one hand, Maharashtra, Gujarat-Saurashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh are suffering from drought due to lack of monsoon, on the other hand, flood crisis is deepening in many districts of Uttar Pradesh. The monsoon is playing hide and seek in Bihar and Jharkhand. Initially, the monsoon was active in Bihar and weak in Jharkhand, but today the situation has changed. 25 districts of Bihar have been affected by drought. The Jharkhand Government was about to declare the entire state drought-hit, but now there is drought only in Palamu division. The monsoon sometimes becomes inactive and sometimes active at the same time. The Union Agriculture Department had identified 38 districts across the country where

* Speech was laid on the Table.

the rainfall situation was alarming in June. But today the situation has changed.

The reason for change in seasonal cycle is the effect of environment on climate. On one hand there is the effect of Global Warming and on the other hand there is the effect of 'El Nino'. The Meteorological Department (IMD) expects the monsoon to be active in July and August. The IMD expects a change in the monsoon pattern.

On the other hand, Sharda, Ghaghra, Ganga, Ramganga are set to cause floods in UP and Uttarakhand. Heavy rains have lashed the hills of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh. On 22/23 July, 72 hours of continuous rainfall disrupted life in Vidarbha. Many cities in Odisha are facing the threat of floods. The havoc of Kosi continues in Bihar also. Water has created havoc in many villages. 1200 villages in seven districts of Chhattisgarh have become islands due to floods. In my Lok Sabha Constituency Chatra, in one block Pathalgadda and some parts of Simaria, 72 mm rainfall in one day in the month of June destroyed the entire crop. Agricultural equipment was also swept away by the sudden flood in the River. The affected

people are still waiting for compensation. But the insensitive state Government is silent and mute.

Floods and droughts will cause shortage and loss of food grains, loss of life and property and power crisis. We have to find a permanent solution to this problem.

While the water crisis has caused social unrest and tension, it has also caused an economic crisis in rural India. At the same time, while a large part of the country is facing the terrible tragedy of floods, on the other hand, the drought caused by water crisis seems to be wreaking havoc. God and nature have given invaluable treasure to mankind in the form of Rivers. It is the duty of mankind to make proper and better use of this fund.

Various schemes have been discussed and debated since before independence for the proper and better utilization of water resources. Even after independence, such plans have been made in the country. Many celebrities like Ather Cotton, Visveshvaraya, C P Ramaswamy Iyer, K L Rao, C C Patel, P S Vaidyanathan, R B Chakraborty, R D Verma, S P Namasivayam, P K Balakrishna, K Bharathan, Kanwarasen,

Gulati, N G K Murthy, M L Champakaran, Captain Dastur, D P Dhar etc were not encouraged by political leadership and bureaucracy. The then political leadership not only lacked foresight but also lacked the will to take timely and appropriate decisions. The politicians of that time who gave the slogan of 'farsightedness and firm resolve' remained busy in fulfilling their selfish interests. As a result, the dreams of the engineers were shattered and mutual bitterness regarding the use of rain and River water increased. The agony and plight of rural India grew.

Today, there is no alternative to the "linking of Rivers" programme announced by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Government to overcome the water crisis. A people-oriented economic structure will be created through the adjustment of Rivers. With the increase in the pace of the rural economy, the economy of the country will get a new direction. Problems like drought, flood, unemployment prevailing in rural areas, urban-rural imbalance due to migration, wasteland etc. will be solved. Under this scheme, 14 and 16 peninsular Rivers of the Himalayas will be adjusted. 27 large dams and 56 water storage centres will be built at 54 places from the confluence of

Rivers which will change the flow of 173 Billion cubic metres of water for which 12500 km canals can be constructed. The scheme will provide additional irrigation facility to 35 million hectares of land and generate 34000 MW of hydropower. Along with the water crisis of rural India and metropolitan cities, inter-state water disputes will be resolved. The damage caused by floods and droughts will be prevented. Crops worth Rs. 25000 crore to Rs. 40000 crore per annum have been destroyed in natural calamities since 2002. This scheme will help in controlling the devastating floods. The population of India will be 1800 million in 2050, which will require 500 million tonnes of food grains. To achieve this production target, irrigation capacity has to be increased to 160 million hectares. This target will be achieved through this scheme.

As a result of this scheme, there will be a lot of movement in economic activities, due to which the GDP will grow at the rate of 10 to 12% per year.

We will be able to embody the slogan 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' only when the country can get rid of the problem of floods and droughts. There is only one solution for this -

'adjustment of Rivers'. Through which it will be possible to provide water to every field and work to every hand.

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA (SIKANDERABAD):

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. There is flood on one side and drought on the other side of the country. Telangana is a new state. This state usually receives rain in the months of June and July and the Kharif season begins. Last year and this year too, the meteorological department had recorded 146 mm. The figures are given. Last year, the figure was 487 mm. This means that the rainfall has come down so much due to the failure of 70 percent monsoon. The districts of Nizamabad, Nalakonda, Hyderabad have been affected badly in the state of Telangana. Especially, in the State of Telangana, there are 464 divisions, out of which 426 divisions have received very deficient rainfall. The Telangana State Government is moving ahead with a target of 1 crore 5 lakh paddies. So, the situation is very alarming. Food grains and pulse is 29 and 41 percent.

[Translation]

About 89 per cent is the worst affected area. That is why, many of the cotton growing farmers committed suicide. Even in the last two to three months, approximately 28 farmers committed

suicide. Particularly cotton growing farmers have committed suicide. They are digging bore wells for want of water. When they are unable to get water, they invest more and more on land. Then they are unable to pay the private money lenders. As a result, they commit suicide. Earlier also, in Andhra Pradesh, approximately 4000 farmers committed suicide.

Sir, approximately 23 lakh bore wells are there which depend on power. But maximum power cut is there. For power cut, there are some other reasons. My major demand to the Hon. Minister for Agriculture and request to the Union Government of India is that at least 1000 MW of power should be allocated to Telangana out of the unallocated power which is with the Centre.

The Government of Telangana has already declared that they want to waive off loans worth Rs. 1700 crore but still the farmers are in difficulty. They are unable to get loans. I would impress upon, through you, the Hon. Minister that adjustment can be made regarding the loan scheme.

Lastly, of course, there are temporary measures to tackle the problem. But there are permanent measures which have to

be taken up. Seeds and fertilisers which ought to be given should be given. Other than that, Telangana is always a drought prone area. Farmers are always committing suicide in Telangana. Therefore, I appeal to the Hon. Minister, the Hon. Prime Minister and the Union Government that Pranahita Chevalla Project should be treated as a national project and see that this project comes under the State of Telangana.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL): Hon. Chairperson, through you, I want to say a few points on the serious issue of floods and droughts. It is a matter of great pleasure that its Ministers belong to Bihar. I hope the Hon. Minister understands the fiscal catastrophe very well. The most important point is, we have been discussing floods and droughts for years, but are we really serious about the farmer, floods and drought.

Secondly, I would like to say whether natural calamities are to blame, global warming is to blame, or, we are facing floods and droughts today due to human error. I think human error is greater. A very big example of this is the breach of the Kusa dam in 2008, where I think there has never been a flood after independence, the dam breaks on that side and there is a loss of several lakhs of hectares of land and property. There is a great example that it was not a natural calamity, but a human mistake. The spur we did not pay attention to, where the spur should have been 1500 meters, reached 250 meters. But you must be understanding this very well, the food and irrigation

department means cream, in which we put a little soil on the dam, closed that rat hole, now our dam is safe, by saying this, we supplied the food. If there is flood, there are very poor and helpless people. Yesterday, Badruddin Sahab was saying here that what is the condition of those who suffer floods, if any one of us is even a little sensitive person, we hang our heads in shame. I go there every year during floods and meet people. I go by boat and my body shivers when the Hon. Minister, during the floods, the condition in which they are living is seen. As a woman, seeing a pregnant woman, my body shivers that if she has a child on the island during that flood, she is walking thinking that either both of them will survive or they will both die. This is the situation and it has been going on for years together. The most important thing is whether we are considering a permanent solution or not. The Kusa dam that broke in Kosi today, followed by Swaminathan's report, is a very big example that after the breach of the Kusa dam, several lakhs of hectares of land has become sand and barren today. It was a very fertile land. On the one hand, the Kosi is called Alhad, it is called the River of horror, whereas in the true sense, if you see, there is no River that gives fertile soil to that

land every year. But we ignore it, calling it a River of carelessness and terror. I think, no matter who is the ruling party or the opposition, as long as our intention remains that we have to do vote politics in flood or drought. We feel very ashamed when we go and see that we buy grains from those people by giving them 20 or 25 kg. We do not go towards its permanent solution. The main problem is there. I want to give a small example, we are talking about floods and droughts, but how much are we able to implement. After the Kusa Dam broke there, hundreds of canals, thousands of fields and roads got covered with sand. The team went, experimented, research was done, that sandy soil was divided into three grades and it was said that crops and vegetables could be cultivated here. But till date that land is barren, the farmers there are dying of hunger. Seven and a half crore rupees were given by the UPA Government to repair the canals again. But till date, there is not a single canal from which water has reached the fields. The strange irony is that seven to eight districts are affected by the Kosi floods. There are floods and there is drought also. We get so much water through floods, but we are not able to irrigate the land with it, so that when the fields and farmers need the

same water, we can give the same water to the fields. I would like to tell the Hon. Minister, through you, that you also belong to Bihar, why not once a dam was built in Chhappan, the Kosi River is flowing at ten kilometres. Why don't you build a pilot dam and look from above, people who go to Ganga in October, when the entire River is full, supply food and go away. While our point is that when the River is flowing in a very low current, the River is flowing in ten kilometers, if you look from above with a helicopter. If we build a pilot dam in the middle and then dam it again after a distance of four to five kilometres, ten years ago the River was flowing towards the west and hence there was a lot of pressure on the western dam, there is a possibility of floods and floods cause a lot of erosion. You know that Kosi cuts off many villages every year. This time there is a lot of pressure in the East. Why don't we dam the River in the middle so that if the dam is safe on both sides, the population on both sides will not have to suffer erosion again and again. Along with this I would definitely like to say that along with Kosi, we have seen it very closely, I love the mountains very much. Why do landslides, droughts and floods come to the mountains? We talk of electric power. I would like

to ask you a question that when we are generating electric hydro power, then environmental criteria is given that if you have cut so many trees then so many trees have to be planted. But how many trees do you plant? 30 years, 40 years, 100 years old cedar, which are pine trees, how will you be able to meet their shortage? We have seen with our own eyes that their work is done by using various tricks in the mountains to fulfill their needs. Due to which, the trees that hold the mountains together, the trees that maintain the moisture of those mountains, that work to connect the moisture of those mountains and the mountains, cutting those trees also leads to landslides and those mountains also become vulnerable to drought. Are we just focusing on making money? We need electricity, but we don't want mountains to dry up and experience landslides. In Haridwar, we talk a lot about Ganga, especially your party talks a lot. But I would definitely like to say that Mr. Nigamananda was martyred a few years ago. I think he was martyred after three months of fasting. We chant Ganga-Ganga. Sand mafia is engaged in Ganga and illegal mining is going on. It was repeatedly asked to stop because it was repeatedly damaging the natural way of the Ganga, which

resulted in repeated floods. I think the day our intentions for floods and drought are right, we will definitely find a solution to it, otherwise we will keep on discussing. I do not think that till date there is any Member in this House who truly thinks about floods, droughts and farmers.

SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):

Hon. Chairperson, first of all, I would request you that a dam of time should not be built on the proposal brought by Yogi Ji on a serious issue like flood. Since this is a national problem and I think all the Members sitting in this House are accountable in their respective areas due to the problem of drought and flood. Let their pain spill over into this House today. When everyone's pain comes, then ask the Hon. Minister to speak on it. This is my humble request to you. Still I know that your time will be up.

Sir, flood water and human youth, its condition cannot be stopped. This direction can be changed. Since independence, in every monsoon session, there have been many discussions and debates on serious issues like drought and flood, but it is a matter of regret that it has not been resolved permanently till date. I wanted to discuss about the floods in Assam and the devastating floods in the Rivers up to the foothills of Nepal, but yesterday during the discussion here, an Hon. Member from Uttar Pradesh was showing a leaflet asking for a grant

from the Union Government. I would like to echo his words because he changed my direction. I am moving from the nation to the state, Uttar Pradesh. I have been elected from Sant Kabir Nagar Lok Sabha Constituency, which has three Rivers, three districts and three commissionerates.

Sir, at present, there is flood and drought in my area. I would like to say that on 1st August, 2013, there was a catastrophic flood and at eight o'clock in the night, I was also there. When flood occurred at MBD dam of Danghata Legislative Assembly, the officials there were smiling. I was standing there, the River was two kilometers behind and I was saying repeatedly that the dam will break, the MBD dam will break and an engineer there said with a crooked smile, hey brother let it be, if there is no flood then how will the money for the disaster come. It is very painful that someone rejoices at someone's mourning. It is so painful that some people rejoice in mourning and have asked for grants. Sir, Rs. 27 thousand 503 crore has been given by the Union Government so far from 2011 to 2014-15. I would like to tell that out of that, Uttar Pradesh has received Rs. 1,744 crores and out of that, our Sant Kabir Nagar district, which is also a Lok Sabha Constituency,

has been given Rs. 57 crores. I visited that place on 20th June while discharging my Parliamentary duties to repair that MBD dam. I informed the District Magistrate and said that this is a very serious issue; the dam will break again and there will be a flood again.

Sir, I would like to humbly say that the junior engineer of the irrigation department was also present there, the assistant engineer was also there, I went there along with the common people and did the physical verification of the spot. I got measurements done at 13 places, where the volders that were to be laid in 18 hundred meter square were to be laid three feet, whereas there only two feet were laid. I got the assistant engineer to write with his pen that you write that instead of three feet, two and a quarter feet were inserted. In 13 places we did physical verification and also got it written. As a witness, I also included local journalists there.

Sir, it is painful that the Executive Engineer did not even bother to come there. Since they had the patronage of the power there, from Belauli Bandh to MBD Dam, today they have destroyed it illegally. I have felt that pain. When the dam

of that area cuts, Bhikharipur is a village, which does not have its existence today. The people there are telling the story of the suffering of floods today by becoming beggars. I am reminded of that poem of Dinkar ji, when he had seen the tragedy of the flood during Nehru Ji's time, when the flood victims were begging for a piece of bread and licking a leaf. At the end he had to say:

“Lapak Chaatate jhuthhe Patte, Ji Din Dekha Maine
Nar Ko,

Socha Ky Na Aag Laga Dun, Aaj Main Iss Duniya
Bhar Ko.” (The day I saw the male licking the false
leaves, I thought why don't I set fire to this world
today.)

Sir, I knew that you would ring the bell when the time is over, but still I would like to say one last thing. I stand in support of the motion raised by Yogi Ji. I would like to congratulate that since independence, if any Hon. Prime Minister has tried to understand this pain, then it is our Shri Narendra Bhai Modi, who, after taking oath, first of all

performed the Aarti of Mother Ganga and paid obeisance to the River. The tradition that we have, the party that I am associated with-

"Ganga, Sindhusya, Kaveri, Yamuna Cha
Saraswati,
Reva, Mahanadi, Goda, Brahmaputra Punatmam."

We have started strong efforts because the basis of flood is water and the basis of water is River and the efforts started by our Government by paying homage to the Rivers will definitely solve the problem of flood. I thank you very much for giving me the time to speak.

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): Sir, India is a country of farmers and more than 70 per cent of the people here earn their bread, cloth, employment only through agriculture i. e. they are their source of income. Even today, 70 percent of those who do farming do traditional farming and they cultivate by depending on the natural resources only. The geographical location of our country is very contradictory. In the discussion being held in the House itself today, many Hon. Members are saying that there is drought situation and many Hon. Members were saying that there is flood in many places. Certainly, due to the geographical conditions in this diverse country, today there is such a situation that somewhere there is drought, somewhere there is flood and we have all gathered here to discuss that. Certainly, this is a sensitive subject. In a country where farmers are the economic backbone, if floods and droughts affect agriculture and farming, then the country certainly becomes weak. We believe and our party also believes that this country will become strong only when the farmers become strong. Actually, the situation is, from my area Lakhimpur, where the flood starts, the area from Lakhimpur to Bihar, which is connected to the border of Nepal, the cause of

flood there is the water released by the Nepalese Rivers. Along with that, there are some dams which also cause floods in our area.

Sir, through you I would like to request the Hon. Agriculture Minister that there is a need to make a radical change. This area which is affected by floods is the border area of Nepal. The paddy here has been badly damaged and you have kept the damage percentage at 3 percent in the Government procurement policy, due to which the paddy of our area is not being sold at the Government price. Therefore, I would like to request you to reduce the damage percentage to at least five percent. ...(*Interruptions*) Still, if you tell the Hon. Prime Minister then it will definitely happen because rice is not being purchased. The FCI people damage the points and destroy them, due to which the condition of the farmers is worsening day by day. I would like to request through you that the farmer's pocket has become empty, only the Bharatiya Janata Party Government will fill his pocket. My request is that agriculture is the basis of our livelihood, our livelihood and in fact whatever economic system there is in this country is based on farmers only. Secondly, a big problem that has arisen in our

area due to the flood is that our drinking water has become contaminated with arsenic and many people in our area are falling sick because of Japanese fever, which we call Japanese encephalitis. Therefore I want that this very important attention is required to make our area free from floods. For that, you may have to talk to the Nepal Government or in your own dams, like the Banbasa dam or other dams, such arrangements should be made in those dams so that this area can be saved from floods. I also request you that farmers should get profitable prices for their agricultural produce and it should be determined on the basis of cost. Unless agriculture becomes a profitable business, the economy of this country will not be strong. At the same time, in times of flood and drought, we are given a meagre compensation. I demand from you that arrangement should be made for complete compensation not by compensating. Crops should be insured and arrangements should be made to rehabilitate the people whose fields have been cut off due to floods, whose villages have been cut off, in our area five out of five villages have lost every trace.

I would like to make a policy request to the Government, through you, that the farmers who have to go to the mandis and

sell gallas are subjected to a lot of exploitation. Market committees have been formed in many places, but they are not being utilized properly. I want the Government to intervene in this and tell the farmers that paddy will be sold in the mandi committees only and their wheat should be sold through their bidding process and their food grains should be sold and they should get remunerative prices. If not, the difference between the support price that the Government declares should be given to the farmers. If we make such an arrangement, then definitely the farmer will be strong and when the farmer is strong then the country will also be strong. The Bharatiya Janata Party clearly believes that when the farmers are strong in this country, then only this country will be strengthened.

***DR. SWAMI SAKSHIJI MAHARAJ (UNNAO):** I wholeheartedly support a proposal called flood and drought brought under Rule 193 by my friend MP Yogi Adityanath. In the context of floods and droughts, it would be pertinent to say that as the medicine approached, the disease increased. Even after sixty-seven years of independence, we have not been able to overcome this terrible situation that the farmers and the poor are constantly faced by natural calamities, but the system has also not done any justice to these poor and helpless poor and farmers. The farmer is the giver of food and yet he is looted, the farmer is the creator of India's fortune, but no one is concerned about his fate. I demand from the Government of India to give agriculture the status of industry.

70% of India's population is based on agriculture, but the condition of farmers is becoming worse day by day. In independent India, the farmer commits suicide. Families are being destroyed. This House expresses concern, discusses and then the situation remains the same. I am very happy to say that in 2014, a Government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi has come to serve the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

interests of a very sensitive farmers, the poor, the neglected and the exploited. At least our good days have arrived. Now, I have full faith that even the farmers will now have good days.

It is a very strange situation, at some places the soul of the country is groaning due to drought, and at some places the horrific orgy of floods is seen. From Haridwar to West Bengal, when the life-giving Mother Ganga takes on a monstrous form, she takes away the lives of thousands of people. I was born on the banks of the Ganga. I have represented Lok Sabha constituencies situated on the banks of Ganga-Yamuna; hence, I am well acquainted with the dangerous havoc created by floods.

I come from Unnao, the place of penance of the first poet Maharishi Valmiki, famously known as Up-Kashi, the birthplace of freedom lover Shri Chandrashekhar Azad, the birth and workplace of martyr Shri Gulab Singh Lodhi who first hoisted the tricolour, and the birthplace of historical litterateur and national poet Pt. Suryakant Tripathi Nirala. Unnao is the largest Lok Sabha in Asia. Here (22,50,000) Twenty-two lakh fifty thousand voters choose MPs with great

hope and confidence by using their vote, but from independence till date the people here have got only and only deceit. It has to be said with great sadness that in the name of development in Unnao district, there are only two dozen slaughterHouses and two dozen leather factories, which have ruined the entire life of the people.

In fact, the stretch of the holy River Ganga from the Hardoi border to Fatehpur, Raebareli border in Unnao is about 200 kms. The Loan River also flows from here which is filled with the waste of slaughterhouses. There is also the Sai River, but it does not have water. Due to lack of cleaning of the Loan River, the city of Unnao gets submerged in water during rains. Ganga is polluted due to its dirty toxic water. Due to these reasons, underground water has become very polluted and children are being born disabled because of it. The rich people have left Unnao and started living in Lucknow or Kanpur. If the situation is not handled here, then the entire district will be ruined.

Half of Unnao district is in the grip of drought while half of the district is facing floods. I do not understand how this

district will survive such a difficult situation. I humbly request the sensitive Government of India to kindly provide a good irrigation scheme to our district Unnao by linking Sai and Lon Rivers with Ganga and a big package to stop the erosion caused by Ganga every year and also provide a package for the people of the district to drink clean, pure and pure water.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion under rule 193 regarding flood and drought situation in the country. It is common that flood and drought will not come together any time. But we are discussing these two together considering the seriousness of the natural calamity.

As far as India is concerned, we are facing a very serious situation. We are experiencing both drought and flood in some parts of the country. We can say that it is a natural calamity, but at the same time it is a man-made calamity to some extent. For example, exploitation of the natural resources, exploitation of the forest wealth and illegal activities of the sand quarry mafia that we see in various parts of the country are some of the reasons for this man-made calamity. But we are not able to discuss all these issues with all seriousness. I know that in the 14th, 15th and 16th Lok Sabha we have been routinely discussing some subjects like price rise and we know the results of the discussion on price rise. Natural calamity is also one of them.

We have been discussing all these issues. But they are connected with many of the other policy issues. For example, on the issue of carbon emission, Western countries say that they are not ready to reduce carbon emission, but they are asking India to reduce it. We have to think whether we can take any decision on this issue.

The Government should take strong steps to prevent illegal activities of sand quarry mafia and also to stop exploitation of the forest wealth which we are losing. These are also some of the reasons that we have to discuss in detail. I am not going to discuss all that. I would like to come to my own State because of shortage of time.

At present, Kerala is facing very severe rain in northern part of the State, that is, Kasargod, Kannur, Kozhikode, Wayanad and Malappuram. It is told that in many parts of my State, we are facing very serious and adverse effects. At the same time, this is not the first time. The Government of Kerala has always been approaching the Union Government to get assistance.

As far as flood and drought situation is concerned, the Government should take a long-term plan, that is the perspective aspect, as well as the short-term plan. Perspective aspect would reduce the damage in the long term. Of course, the short-term plan is to give immediate relief to the farmers. So these two issues have to be taken into consideration. I think that the Government may give some substantial and positive reply on this.

As far as Kerala is concerned, every year the Kerala Government approached the Union Government for financial assistance. I am sorry to say that the heavy loss is not, any time, fully compensated by the Centre. For the year 2012, Kerala had requested for Rs. 143. 1 crore; for the year 2013, we demanded Rs. 503. 9 crore and for the year 2014, we demanded Rs. 141. 7 crore. All these requests were as per the SDRF norms.

Due to heavy loss, in the year 2013, a request for a special package with regard to drought was submitted. The total estimate was Rs. 3936. 61 crore. A request for a special package was also given in the year 2013 by all-party

delegation. The request was for Rs. 5660 crore. I am sorry to say that the Union Government, either the earlier Government or the present Government, was not ready to give adequate compensation to the State. Even though they gave the compensation, it was not given on time.

The compensation prescribed by the Union Government or the Planning Commission for the loss of agricultural crops, cash crops has to be seriously reviewed. For example, the compensation for paddy, coconut, arecanut, rubber, and other products is really very meagre. It is not possible for the farmers to meet their loss due to this meagre amount and this also is not given on time.

As already pointed out by Shri Mullappally Ramchandran, some of the major incidents like lightening, sea erosion and landslides are not included. The Government of Kerala has been requesting the Centre to include them because there is a big loss as far as these incidents are concerned.

The Earlier Government had appointed, as you know, Dr. Swaminathan Commission to study the problems concerning agriculture. The Commission has made a number of

suggestions. One among them is to give loan to the farmers at a cheaper rate and, as far as paddy is concerned, to give interest free loans. That report has already been submitted. I would like to know whether the Government is ready to accept that report and whether the Government is going to take any action.

Sir, we think about the farmers' issues and we want to assist them. How is it possible? It is possible only by giving them cheaper credit and also interest free credit. The Government has to take these issues into consideration.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATLIPUTRA): Hon. Chairperson, today the House is discussing the very important and serious issues of flood and drought.

Sir, due to the weak monsoon, there is a drought-like situation in the entire country and especially the state I come from, Bihar, is a backward and poor state, 80 to 85 percent of its population depends on villages, on farms and barns. Its economic condition depends on the agriculture. Not just today but for many years, the residents of Bihar are troubled by floods and drought every year.

Sir, as many Hon. Members mentioned the name of Bihar during their discussion, definitely today Bihar is again going through a period of crisis. There has been about 26 percent less rainfall than the expected rainfall. Today, the situation is such that drought situation has arisen in 27 districts of Bihar. There is an outcry among the farmers. If there is no rain till August 15, the people of Bihar will go through a terrible crisis and there will be a very pathetic situation. The State Government has not provided any special facility at its level which would

benefit the farmers. All the tubewells are out of order. Electricity is not available in the fields. Diesel has become very costly. The condition of the farmers is very bad.

Sir, the Hon. Agriculture Minister is sitting here who fortunately is from Bihar and after a long time someone from Bihar has become the Hon. Agriculture Minister of India. I understand that a large area in the Parliamentary Constituency of the Hon. Agriculture Minister is affected by both floods and droughts. So he knows that pain very well. I do not know whether the State Government has requested the Union Government to send a team to assess the drought situation or not. I would request the Hon. Union Minister to not leave the ten crore people of Bihar at the mercy of the State Government and to take the initiative on his own and send a Union team there so that after assessing the situation, some work can be done to deal with the drought situation there and to save the farmers who are about to die.

Sir, the flood situation is that every year in North Bihar, many areas are flooded. It has been discussed by many Hon. Members. I don't want to repeat it. But the situation is that

when it rains in Nepal and when the dam is opened after the rain and when that water comes here, then seven-eight districts of entire North Bihar, which is called Kosi region, get hit by terrible floods. This causes loss of millions of lives and damage to infrastructure. There is already a backwardness in Bihar and I think that no solution has been found for it yet.

Sir, India has been in talks with Nepal for many years. There is talk of constructing a dam. The construction of a dam will also produce electricity. This will benefit the Nepal Government and the people will get relief from the shortage of electricity in Bihar and it will also be supplied to rest of the country. There was talk of making a DPR for that. The previous UPA Government had allocated a few crore rupees to make its DPR. It also has an office in Nepal. But, it is not known what action has been taken on it till date. Fortunately, our Hon. Prime Minister is on a visit to Nepal. I think they will play a positive role in that. He will enter into a treaty with Nepal to build a dam, which will provide relief to Bihar from floods.

Sir, I will take one more minute. I speak very little and have stood up to speak on a very important question.

Sir, let me tell you that the area from which I come in Patna district, the entire area is facing the crisis of drought. The area is surrounded by three main Rivers. One is the River Ganga. The second is the Punpun River and the third is the Son River. The canal system of the Son system in that entire area has been ruined. There, water used to come from Madhya Pradesh every year and that water used to go to the fields of the farmers through canals. But unfortunately, recently, Madhya Pradesh Government has stopped releasing water. Initially some water was released, but then it stopped again. This Agreement is applicable from the year 1973 itself. Now the situation is such that when it rains, the Government of Madhya Pradesh completes its formalities by releasing water. But today, when there is a drought situation, water is no longer coming from there.

Sir, I will conclude in one minute. This is a very important matter and I would like to draw the attention of the Government through you.

Sir, people are in great distress there due to drought. Let me tell you that the Union Government should talk to the Madhya Pradesh Government. The State Government says that I gave the money and the Government of Madhya Pradesh says that it did not get the money. Now, because of these two, the farmers of that entire area are troubled. The seven-eight districts affected by this are Buxar, Bhojpur, Aurangabad, Arwal, Kaimur, Sasaram, Jehanabad and my area is Patna. They are suffering from severe drought. Farmers are in a dilemma and there is no arrangement of water yet. The system of Son Canal there has completely collapsed. I think that work should not be done on the canal right now. Due to the erosion of the Ganges, people are being displaced on a large scale. ...(*Interruptions*)

Hon. Chairperson, I would request the Minister through you that more than one lakh people live there, take concrete measures to protect their lives and property, take arrangements to settle the displaced people.

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to request the Hon. Minister through you once again to take some concrete steps

and make special arrangements to save Bihar from the crisis of drought...(*Interruptions*) so that the farmers of Bihar can be protected.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHHAJAHANPUR): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the floods and droughts of 193. Today, the whole country is suffering from floods and droughts. It is unfortunate that since independence, till today, there has been no thought on this in any way, if the previous Governments have thought about it, then perhaps it has remained only on paper, they could not be implemented.

Chairperson, I want to tell the House through you that our flood prone area was one crore hectares in the year 1991. Continuously in 1960, this area increased to 2.5 crore hectares and in 1987, this area increased to approximately three crore hectares and in 1980 also, the area affected by flood and drought increased to approximately three to four crore hectares. So many schemes were made continuously, people expressed concern in this House every time. Everyone's concerns were similar and discussions would also have been similar, but today in the year 2013-14, about seven to eight crore hectares of land in our India has been damaged and has been submerged in

Rivers, which is a matter of concern today. We blame the previous Governments for this. There is no doubt in the fact that they did not make any solid arrangements. If they had, then probably we would not be discussing this here today.

Hon. Chairperson, through you, I congratulate the Hon. Minister of my Government, who did the work of linking the Rivers. By linking the Rivers, on one hand we are suffering from drought and on the other hand we are suffering from floods, there will be a balance between the two and the Rivers will flow smoothly. We will get relief from all these things.

Hon. Chairperson, I want to tell the House through you that for this, our Government has allocated Rs 100 crore for linking the Rivers. Certainly this is a commendable step, the Hon. Prime Minister deserves praise for this. The thinking of our Hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Bhai Modi, is that the upliftment of any country can happen only when 70 percent of its population is happy and content. But unfortunately, even today our farmers work so hard to make the land fertile, the crops are productive, but when the time comes to collect the

money, sometimes they are hit by floods, sometimes by drought.

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to inform you through you that allocation of funds has been done state-wise and year-wise in all the states of the country. In our Uttar Pradesh also, a cost of Rs. 3,21613 crore was given for this so far, but even today, the situation is as bad as it is. Today, I stand here to express the pain of my Parliamentary Constituency also. My district comes under Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh. Our Parliamentary Constituency is surrounded by five Rivers - Ganga, Ramganga, Behgul, Garra, Khanaur. I would like to tell the present situation in our area due to the erosion of these Rivers. Till now lakhs of acres of paddy crops were destroyed in our country from land erosion. Our district Shahjahanpur, my Parliamentary Constituency, suffered a lot of casualties. I am saying again, my opposition colleagues should not feel bad about this, their policies were not in the interest of the country. It was not in the interest of floods and not in the interest of drought. 10 days ago, a notice comes that our country is still suffering from drought and after that an information comes from the Irrigation Department that water is flowing above the

danger mark in all the Rivers like Ganga, Sharda, Ghaghra etc. I would also like to tell you that in the floods that we have during the time of drought, Nepal, which is our friendly country, releases three to four lakh cusecs of water without informing us.

I request you to make a proper policy in this after having friendly talks with Nepal. I would also like to tell you that some of my suggestions to the Hon. Minister are that along with interlinking of Rivers, Rivers are becoming plains, therefore, Rivers need to be deepened and they need to be banded and blocked. I have another suggestion that when Rivers become like plains, the situation will worsen.

That is my request to you. Thank you very much that you have given me the opportunity to participate in this discussion.

[English]

***SHRI R. GOPALAKRISHNAN (MADURAI):** With the blessing of our AMMA Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu who gave me an opportunity to be the Member of this August House, I would like to express my views.

I am to mention that the natural phenomenon flood and drought are unavoidable. But, proper schemes and by successful implementation, we can save our people from flood and drought.

Identifying the flood-prone and drought-prone areas of the country is the foremost task. A well preparedness approach towards flood and drought would reduce the effects of disastrous results of flood and drought.

Droughts can have significant environmental, agricultural, health, economic and social consequences. Drought can also reduce water quality, because lower water flows reduce dilution of pollutants and increase contamination of remaining water sources. Our Amma Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu announced relief package of thousands of Crores rupees to save

* Speech was laid on the Table.

the farmers of Cauvery Delta Region of Tamilnadu. Such a war footing measures as taken by Amma should be encouraged well by the the Union Government by providing special budgetary allocations to the State.

Channelizing and saving the flood waters would work well for drought-prone regions. Inter-linking of Rivers, especially the flood-prone Rivers, de-silting of waterbeds, saving the rain waters are to be given the topmost priority.

Rain Water Harvesting is one of the best methods to tackle both flood and drought. Rain Water Harvesting movement launched in 2001 was the brainchild of our Amma Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu. It has had a tremendous excellent results within five years, and every states took it as role model.

Amendments made to Section 215 (a) of the Tamilnadu District Municipalities Act, 1920 and Building Rules 1973, have made it mandatory to provide Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) structures in all new buildings in the State to avoid ground water depletion. Our Hon. Chief Minister of Tamilnadu earmarked about Crores of rupees to each Town Panchayats and Municipal Corporations in the State to augment water

resources there. Therefore, the Union Government should encourage such initiatives through monetary budget allocations to the State of Tamilnadu. Rain water Harvesting will improve water supply, food production, and ultimately the food security.

Therefore, I would urge upon the Union Government to device mechanism for integrated water resources development and managment. Adopt the Rain Water Harvesting model of Tamilnadu as a role model. Provide specific budgetary allocations to all the States to make the Rain Water Harvesting mandatory there.

Also I urge upon the Union Government for taking joint action by the Ministries of Agriculture, Water Resources, Urban Development and the Rural Development to tackle both flood and drought in the country.

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL (ZAHEERABAD): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I rise here to speak on the discussion under Rule 193 regarding flood and drought situation in the country.

I would confine myself to the State of Telangana. Our State has received just 146. 7 mm of rainfall till 26th July, 2014 against the normal rainfall of 327. 8 mm. There is a deviation of minus 55 per cent.

As regards agricultural activity, this time, due to less rain, the total area sown in my State was 23. 30 lakh hectare as against the normal area of 26. 76 lakh hectare.

Sir, the State of Telangana has been badly affected by the following natural calamities during the year 2013-14:

1. Heavy rains/floods due to low pressure area in Bay of Bengal from 21st October to 27th October, 2013;
2. Helen and Leher Cyclone from 19th November to 28th November, 2013;
3. Drought in 2013 during South-West Monsoon from June to September, 2013;

4. Unseasonal rains/thunderbolt/hailstorms from 28th February to 10th March, 2014;
5. Unseasonal rains/hailstorms in April, 2014; and
6. Unseasonal rains/hailstorms in May, 2014.

During the current year, the following were the loss of human lives, damage to property and loss of crops, which was reported.

In the unseasonal rains/thunderbolt/hailstorms, which occurred from 28th February, 2014 to 10th March, 2014, districts of Mahabubnagar, Raga Reddy, Medak, Nizamabad, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khamman and Nalgonda were badly affected in which 10 people died, 1,060 Houses got damaged and 61,819 hactore of crops got damaged.

Similarly, in the unseasonal rains/hailstorms, which occurred in April, 2014, districts of Mahabubnagar, Ranga Reddy, Medak, Karimnagar, Warangal, Nizamabad and Nalgonda were badly affected, in which 16,083. 06 hectare of crop got damaged.

Then, in the unseasonal rains/hailstorms occurred in May, 2014, districts of Mahbubnagar, Ranga Reddy, Medak, Adilabad, Karimnagar, Warangal, Khammam and Nalgonda were badly affected, in which 4,252.08 hectare of crop got damaged.

Sir, an Inter-Ministerial Union Team (IMCT) headed by Shri Narendra Bhooshan, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Government of India visited Warangal and Medak districts of the State in April, 2014. The IMCT submitted its findings and reports to the Government of India but those details are not available with the State Government.

The State Government released an input subsidy of Rs. 37.55 crore to the Agriculture Department for distributing it to the farmers affected by the hailstorms during February-March, 2014.

Following the then Hon. Prime Minister's assurance in November, 2013 of an assistance of Rs. 1,000 crore to the State, the Government of India released an amount of Rs. 700 crore from the NDRF during 2013-14 to the States towards relief necessitated by natural calamities of severe nature on

account basis, pending the final assessment of requirement of funds for immediate relief, operation and approval of the HLC.

The Government of India also released an amount of Rs. 3,000 crore of Grand-in-Aid of Centre's contribution to the State Disaster Response Fund during 2013-14 to the State Government on the basis of the recommendation of the 13th Finance Commission towards relief necessitated by natural calamities.

Drought may come in several forms. The Indian Government declares 'meteorological drought' when there is less than 75 per cent average rainfall in an area over a prolonged period of time.

A 'hydrological drought' is identified when there is a significant reduction in water bodies such as Rivers, ponds, tanks and groundwater.

Finally, an 'agricultural drought' is identified when crops fail because there is insufficient moisture in the soil during the crucial times of harvest. In India, this occurs when there is a 'meteorological drought' for four consecutive weeks during the

period of mid-May to mid-October or for six consecutive weeks during the rest of the year.

For many farmers, impossibly high debt is another consequence of drought. In Telangana, dependence on costly inputs such as fertilizers and pesticides has grown in recent years, and the farmers often borrow money to pay for them. A drought-stricken crop may make it impossible for a farmer to repay these loans. The situation is difficult, particularly for 87 per cent of the rural poor who do not have access to institutional sources of credit.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wind up.

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: Please give me one minute. They are forced to obtain money from private moneylenders who demand an interest rate of up to 35 per cent. These moneylenders may also be the local pesticide dealers who typically exploit farmers by charging 15-25 per cent extra for the goods obtained on credit.

Lastly, unfortunately, some farmers do not have any hope on the effectiveness of these cropping mechanisms and they choose to end their life instead. A recent study has revealed

that suicides committed in rural areas often follow intensive pressure and humiliation from moneylenders.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wind up. You have already taken five minutes.

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: Please give me one minute.

In the final analysis, it seems that the key requirement for drought mitigation is the cooperation of communities, NGOs and the Government to prepare village drought contingency plans that counter the impacts of the drought such as health problems, debts, suicides and migration. It must be made clear as to who is responsible for the maintenance of water harvesting structures, and how this will be paid for.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Next is Shri Ajay Tamta.

SHRI BHEEMRAO B. PATIL: While drought contingency plans may exist in some localities on paper, they are worthless unless the relevant community has ownership of it and is serious about implementing it. To do this, they need access to

funds and expert advice on the most suitable water harvesting structures and dry land crops for their location.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY TAMTA (ALMODA): Sir, I would like to thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving me the opportunity to speak under Rule 193.

Sir, all the Hon. Members raised their views in this House with great seriousness regarding the issue related to floods and droughts. From this, it is felt that in some or the other region of the whole country, approximately 70-80 percent of the area is such that sometimes there are severe floods or sometimes severe drought. There are many reasons behind this. I come from the state of Uttarakhand and the way Uttarakhand is facing losses due to continuous torrential rains, torrential rains, weather changes, excessive rainfall, at the same time, the Rivers which flow from Uttarakhand are also becoming a big cause of devastation.

Sir, there is a great need for us to go into all those issues, because last year in 2013, on 16-17 June, there was heavy rainfall in Kedarnath due to heavy rainfall, there are many reasons behind it. Areas adjoining the Himalayas, probably humans do not even go to those places which are icy places, in

those places, along with accumulation of maximum rain water, melting of glaciers and melting of icebergs also takes place simultaneously, due to which unnatural, which is natural, ponds are formed at very high heights and due to their bursting suddenly, because of the flow of heavy water, entire lands get washed away.

Sir, I also request that through you the cognizance will also be taken of the same to the Hon. Minister, since the people of Uttarakhand are farmers, there are terraced fields, where the people do not have large scale farming and whose society or village is connected with the River, if there is a lot of water all at once, then along with their farming, their residential lands also get washed away and they again move towards the forests. They don't have any land.

15. 00 hrs.

Last time, due to the incident which took place in Mandakini River on the 16-17th, at Kedarnath, the incident that took place in Gaurikund, due to heavy rains in Sonprayag Augustmuni, Vijay Nagar and Rudraprayag, Dharchula and Munsiyari, my Parliamentary Constituency, many incidents

took place in this area also in Gothi, Darma and Dummer areas. I consider this a great misfortune. It was a historic tragedy that claimed the lives of thousands of people. There are still 4024 people missing whose information has not been found yet. That kind of incident took place.

I feel proud to say here that as the then Chief Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, who is our Hon. Prime Minister, came there immediately after the Kedarnath incident and he provided great support to the residents of Uttarakhand state, who were on pilgrimage. At that time, our system was very poor. Connectivity was cut off due to the incident of Kedarnath. The former Chief Minister, Dr. Nishank gave first information in this regard to the Hon. Prime Minister of the country. Hon. Prime Minister informed the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, then we were able to control the disaster. The continuous increase of such incidents is becoming a curse for the state of Uttarakhand.

I would like to tell the Chairperson that keeping in mind the glacier based Rivers, there are many such Rivers in Uttarakhand which are formed due to underground water. Shri

Atal Bihar Vajpayee had proposed that Rivers should be linked. If we connect those Rivers which are not glacier based, currently our Government has also put forward this proposal, the rain water that comes from this will also be distributed. I think that through this also we can control floods in future.

This is my first speech. Hon. Agriculture Minister is well aware of the State of Uttarakhand and also of Bihar, which is flooding more. I think that there is a possibility of a good policy now. I would also like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister that he will also open a separate study centre.

15. 03 hrs.

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

DR. BHOLA SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Hon. Chairperson,

“Iss Basti Me Haye Kon Aansu Paunchhege,
Jo Milta Hai Sabka Daman Bheega Milta Hai,

Kitne Pyase Honge Yaaro Socho To,

Shabnam Ka Katra Bhi Jinko Dariya Lagta Hai.” (Who will wipe the tears in this township, Whoever I meet, everyone's clothes seem wet, Think about how thirsty they might be, friends. Those to whom even a drop of dew appears like a River.)

Hon. Chairperson, Begum Akhtar was singing while holding
back her tears -

“Abke Ayegi Barssat, Barsegi Sharab,

Aayi Barsat, Par Barsaat Ne Dil Tod Diya.” (Now the rain will come, wine will pour, the rain came, but the rain broke our heart.)

Sir, I have come from the State of Bihar. Bihar is a state of irony. Bihar is a state of cultural potential. This country is also a country of ironies. The entire country which is washed by Ganga and Yamuna. Which is the abode of Arabian Sea, Indian Ocean, Bay of Bengal, Mother India. Ganga-Yamuna are the two breasts of our mother from which stream of milk is flowing. But when the mother's breast itself becomes depressed, it also loses its usefulness over a period of time. Carlyle has rightly said this while explaining history. He has divided history into three parts. In the first part, it is said that that was the time when man was under the control of nature. In the second section, it is said that when man started walking with nature. In the third section, when human beings began to occupy nature. We have created the tragedy that is the burst of clouds, the fall of mountains, the absorption of the land of the sea. It is a matter of great sadness that our country has thousands of Rivers, reservoirs, and wades but this country is suffering from drought and floods. Not only this, along with these thousands of Rivers, we have thousands of cultural Rivers, drains, reservoirs. Our country runs through coordination among these innumerable cultural Rivers. There

was no coordination of Rivers. Yogi Adityanath rightly said that our problem is political. Politics is that social and economic management. Agriculture is a social, economic, political, religious and cultural system. When agriculture is good then the market is good, when agriculture is good then the border is good, when agriculture is good then there is vermilion on the daughters' forehead, when agriculture is good then there are bunches of flowers in the mother's lap. But this agriculture, our agricultural culture, Krishna are with the cow, Mahadev is with the bull. In this way, these cultural Rivers, Rivers of the land all have to be coordinated.

I don't want to take too much time. The life of Bihar is rooted in Nepal. All the Rivers that come from Nepal and the Himalayas bring tragedy to Bihar. That is why through you, we, the Union Government and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture Culture and Tradition, Radha Mohan Babu, I don't know whether he has a flute or the Sudarshan Chakra in his hand, I don't know. ...(*Interruptions*) But when Radha is with him, there is flute and culture. I want to request them. Bihar is terrorised by both drought and flood, Bihar is torn apart due to drought and the soul of Bihar resides in Nepal. We would like

to appeal to the Union Government through you to take action against the floods coming from Ganga, Kosi, Krishna, all these Rivers... (*Interruptions*) I will take half a minute more. You have come, I did not see, my eyes remain closed. My name is Bhola. ...(*Interruptions*) When Bhola's eyes are shut, if there is a tainted moon on his forehead, if there is a snake with poison around his neck, if his wife is a daughter of a mountain and if his friend is a bull, then you know that such a person is worn out. Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Minister that the Union Government should consider the tragedy of the big Rivers as a national calamity and free the state Government from it and adjust it and manage the water so that Bihar and this country, which is a heavenly country, can protect itself.

SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU (DURGA): Hon. Chairperson, I rise to discuss the situation arising out of floods and droughts. Floods are wreaking havoc across the country. Given the shortage of time, I would like to discuss only about my state and my Parliamentary Constituency. In Chhattisgarh, farmers have been affected by both drought and flood. Due to rain for two days in May, farmers thought that monsoon had arrived, so they started farming work. They had sown soybean, paddy, etc. Barring sporadic rainfall, the crop was ruined due to lack of rainfall for one and a half months. Due to incessant rains in July, there was a severe flood situation. Thousands of people were left homeless. Some crop was grown, but it also got damaged. The Government was supposed to provide seeds of paddy, soybean and other crops free of cost but they did not do so. The farmers should be compensated for the losses suffered by them.

Anicuts are being built in all the Rivers and streams in Chhattisgarh, which are good for increasing the water level, but all the anicuts are being built by the Chhattisgarh Government for industries. Anicut water is being sold to industries by not giving irrigation to farmers. Due to the erosion of the coast,

there is a threat to the villages situated on the banks of the River. The work of pitching and phase wall construction is to be done under flood control. The Government of Chhattisgarh definitely makes a provision of budget for this, but no work is done. It is said that work will be done only after funds are received from the Centre. The amount should be sanctioned from the Centre by inviting the list of all such Riverside villages from Chhattisgarh. Due to excess rainfall, water is released from many water bodies like Gangrel and Mongra, which creates a flood situation and poses a threat to life. Due to this many villages are drowned, Houses are washed away, animals and men are also washed away. At such time, instead of releasing water from the dam, the Rivers which are already full, irrigation will also be done on the other side by constructing a canal and the loss of Jan Dhan will also be avoided.

Similarly, Gangrel (Ravi Shankar) dam located in Dhamtari district is built in Mahanadi. Water is released when there is excess rainfall, which causes tremendous flooding and causes loss of more public money. At such a time, instead of releasing its water in the River, a canal should be installed in

the Tandula dam located in Balod district, because the Tandula dam cannot be fully filled. With this, farmers of Balod, Durg and Bemetara will be able to irrigate more. On the lines of inter-linking of Rivers, the dam should be linked with the dam, so that floods are avoided and farmers get irrigation facilities too. The loss to the crops of the farmers due to drought, should be surveyed and compensation should be provided and those who have suffered losses due to floods should also be compensated.

Hon. Chairperson, thank you very much for giving me the time to speak.

[English]

***DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL):** This is the not the first time during the last 5 years that we are discussing about the situation of floods and droughts. We discuss and discuss, but the problem persists. It has become a never ending phenomena. Long back, it was heard even in this august House that “Indian agriculture is a gamble with the monsoons” and that gamble is still existing.

The Indian subcontinent is blessed with the tropical climate but suffers from natural calamities and sometimes from manmade calamities thereby increasing the number of casualties like we experienced in Utrakhand last year. For the last two-three days, my home State Kerala is experiencing high rainfalls and hence schools have been closed.

It is said that in degree of priority the next best thing to a mother’s milk to a child is the natural rain water. But do we tap and tune the most precious natural resource in the world? The answer is no. While we worship the God of rain or Godess Rivers, we do not respect the water. Neither we rationally or

* Speech was laid on the Table.

scientifically use this scarce natural resource. The result is intermittent floods and droughts as well as depleting level of ground water. This will definitely endanger the human habitations in near future.

Drinking water is becoming a scarce commodity and this natural or free good in the words of economists has become an economic good very fast recently. Imagine one litre of drinking water costs Rs. 20/- in the street vendors shop and we still discuss about the poverty line criteria of spending Rs. 32 a day in rural and Rs. 47 in urban areas as fixed by Rangarajan Committee.

The latest Economic Survey Report claims that 82.7% of the rural Households and 91.4% of urban Households have access to safe drinking water. But let me say madam that most of the taps remain empty during most of the day. Access does not mean availability.

The lack of infrastructure for harvesting the rain water and the half-hearted efforts to end the water pollution aggravates the crisis of course, we may not be able to control the sudden climatic variations. But we may be able to overcome the drought situations if we have the will power and people's participation. It has been alleged by various quarters that the incidence of floods and droughts are some of the green pastures for corruption and siphoning of the public money.

If most of the floods and droughts can be forecasted why can't we not able to take maximum preventive steps in advance and also to prepare rehabilitation measure early? Interlinking of Rivers will not solve the problem. Without adequate, scientific and ecological study, if we go for the much hyped inter-linking, that may invite the sea water into the mainland and thereby the salinity of the ground water along the coastal belt may go up. This may lead to worsening of the drought situations as well as more scarcity of drinking water. This may also adversely affect the agricultural crops along the 5000 km

plus long coastal belt of at least ten States. The fresh water flora and fauna may also face extinction.

The need to preserve and conserve water and the scientific, nature-friendly way of cultivations should be encouraged. More public expenditure is necessary in this field. The disaster management schemes should be given proper emphasis. It has to start from the bottom level like schools, panchayati raj institutions, women SHGs etc. We have to give more priority for this sector under MNREGA. This is a war. A war for water and soil. A war for our survival and for our future generation's existence.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN (NAUGONG): Hon. Chairperson, today, in this discussion about flood and drought, I would like to talk about Assam. There are many Rivers in Assam, but one River, it is not a River but a River. There is only one River across the country called Brahmaputra. Mother Ganga is coming out of Lord Shiva's hair, hence we look at her with great love and devotion. In the same way, the son of Brahma is Brahmaputra. Today, the Brahmaputra River has taken such a fierce form that we have never seen it before. The River which should have a width of four to five kilometres, has now become twenty to twenty-five kilometres. At least twenty-five channels flow from this River. In this way, millions and thousands of people become homeless and landless from every channel. Our Government has not taken any steps to stop this till date.

Hon. Chairperson, I want to say that flood is a transcendental problem of Assam. People can travel through it for months at a time, but when a family loses its home, it is a matter of great sadness. Today, 40 to 60 thousand hectares of

land of Kaziranga National Park has due to erosion. Due to which, today the habitat area of wild life is becoming very less. According to that, so much erosion is happening every year in entire Assam, it should be stopped. We won't be able to stop it, there's no such thing. You see that there is a temple on the bank of Brahmaputra, whose name is Umananda. Nothing has happened to this temple for thousands of years. Even an inch of his land did not go anywhere, it still stands right there. Then why are we not able to stop this erosion? Therefore, I demand from the Government that all the small channels should be diverted and a main channel should be made, which will lead to reclamation of a lot of land and we can also use it for waterways. Earlier also there were many ships operating there. Nothing of that sort happens nowadays. That is why, regarding this issue of Assam, which is the erosion problem, some work is being done in Majuli village, but no work is being done in other areas. We see that where there is a coast, the River lives in three to five kilometers, but the area after the coast becomes 20-25 kilometers in it. It is very important to stop this. Therefore, I would demand from the Government that the Brahmaputra River should be taken with a little love and

seriousness, this son should be handled, otherwise it will create a lot of uproar which can be a big threat to the people of all of Assam.

***SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA):**

Under Rule 193, I express my views about the flood and drought situation in the country.

Agriculture in our country is dependent on nature. Sometimes it rains heavily, sometimes it is dry, sometimes it hails. At that time, farmers suffer huge losses.

Last year, farmers in my Parliamentary Constituency suffered losses due to hailstorm.

Today's Hon. Prime Minister and former Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Narendra Bhai Modi Sahib worked on linking the Rivers and created the Sujalam Sufalam Yojana, made good use of the River water, today I request the Government to create the Sujalam Sufalam Yojana of Gujarat by linking the Rivers so that everyone benefits.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

SHRI NANA PATOLE (BHANDARA-GONDIA): Hon. Chairperson, Shri Yogi Nath Ji, who has brought up the issue of flood and drought in this House, the situation that has arisen in the whole country today, there should be a thorough discussion on this issue and a decision should be taken today on it. This is the expectation of the House and the people of this country as well. Shri Modi Ji, who is our country's beloved Hon. Prime Minister, in his cabinet the Hon. Agriculture Minister Shri Radha Mohan Singh, in this too there is the name of Lord Shri Krishna, our Hon. Water Resources Minister Shrimati Uma Bharti Ji, in this too there is the name of Lord Shankar. These two are the gods of our culture, who have made many inventions in this country for the protection of our country and for the welfare of mankind. Through you I would like to talk about Maharashtra. A landslide occurred in Pune, Maharashtra and many people died there. On one hand, it is raining in Maharashtra and if we come towards Marathwada, there is no rain there. Some of Vidarbha's regions have rain, some don't. Of course, the weather patterns are not exactly uniform. We are seeing a situation where there is rain at some places in the country and drought at other places. It is being

repeatedly said that the coming great war will be only for water. At such times, solving the water problem becomes our biggest responsibility. Whatever water falls in our country, we have to stop that water and provide it to our farmers. Today we have the time to make such a system so that there is no crisis of drinking water in our country. If we continue to prolong this for longer, then certainly in the coming days there will be a great war for water in this country and in the world.

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to share that I come from Bhandara-Gondia area. ...(*Interruptions*) There, the Gosikhurd Project, which has been declared as National Project, started in the year 1983. A provision of Rs. 372 crore was made to complete that project, but today 34 years have passed, two generations have gone, that project has not been completed yet. Whatever project we take up, we have to decide its dignity, whether it is a project of the State Government or of the Union Government. Unless we decide on it and provide the required funds, it will continue as it is and become a centre of corruption. Today the situation has arisen that we could not rehabilitate the people and farmers there; through corruption the Government there has made Gosikhurd a centre of

corruption. A committee of CWC, which is an institution of the Union Government, has reported that there has been large scale corruption in the money given by the Union Government for that project. Even today no action has been taken on it. ...(*Interruptions*) I want to say that whatever such projects are built in the country, they are built to stop water or for corruption. We make them for the farmer or make them to ruin the farmer. Today, a decision needs to be taken in this regard. Unless we reach a concrete one, the discussion will not benefit. I have been in Maharashtra Assembly for many years before, similar discussions take place there. The discussion should not go in vain, we can give justice to the people of the country through discussion, this work should be done in this way. ...(*Interruptions*) Certainly, the Government of Shri Narendra which is working today will accomplish this.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

*(Interruptions) ... **

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra.

* Not recorded.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam, I want to raise a Point of Order.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Under what Rule?

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Madam my Point of Order is under Rule 376 and it is with regard to Rule 25.

Madam, at 3.30 p. m. Private Members' Business will start. The week's business is coming to an end. It is the rule that the list of Government Business for the coming week is announced. We raise our objections to the lack of it. The Government is running in such a way that on Friday even at 3.25 p. m, there is no list of Government Business for the next week. Nobody knows that what business will be transacted next week.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It is not mandatory for the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs to make a statement on Government Business. It is only a convention.

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Hon. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Shiromani Akali Dal, I am participating in the discussion that is taking place on the situation of flood and drought. This discussion has been going on for 60 years, measures are also being taken, but the fact is that the damage caused by floods and drought is increasing. I think the reason behind this is that no permanent scheme is made to prevent losses, only temporary arrangements are made. The reason for this is also political. I don't want to go into that. I want to talk about my state Punjab. Where the least rainfall has occurred in the country – 58 percent. There are two types of drought, many places have not been sown, many places have been sown, crops could not be handled. Compensation is given according to its parameters, but Punjab and Haryana have received the lowest rainfall, but the best crop. Today, the best crop in the country has been in Punjab. The reason for this is that the farmers there have spent Rs. 1520 crore rupees on additional electricity, 700 crore rupees on diesel and 300 crore rupees on deepening the tube wells. Our Hon. Chief Minister has given a report in this regard

to the Hon. Union Minister. But the newspapers published the statement of the Hon. Minister that no report has reached us. We are sorry about this. The farmers of our State have produced 90 percent for the Union pool and we ourselves consume only ten percent. When we produce food grains for the country, I would request that 2350 crore rupees should be given as special package to Punjab. Apart from this, the crop loss there is 3500 rupees per acre, it is very less. That should be increased to at least 20,000 rupees per acre.

I would also like to say one thing on the flood situation. My Parliamentary Constituency is Anandpur Sahib, it is below the mountains. The water from the mountains comes there and silt comes into the Rivers. The mining department does not allow for silt extraction. I will request the mining department and the water resources Minister to start the desilting project there. This is a 288 crore rupees project, which has been planned and sent to the Centre. That money should be given to us at the earliest. Himachal Pradesh has channelized, Punjab has been left out, which hurts Punjab. Therefore, we should be given money for that project.

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me an opportunity to speak. I would like to raise three or four issues before the House on today's subject. For thousands and millions of years our ancestors have been saying - "Yatha Pinde, Tatha Brahmande". That is, as in the body of a person, so it is in the world. When the discipline of the body gets disturbed, sometimes it leads to high blood pressure, sometimes depression and different kinds of diseases occur. Ever since we started messing with nature in this country, there are floods somewhere and drought somewhere else. Therefore, there is a need that our development planners, who look after the development work, should first tell the school and college students that there is a symbiotic relationship, that is, an interdependent relationship, among these individuals, the universe and the creation.

I would like to draw your attention to one important thing. Earlier in our country, when organic farming was being done, the requirement of water in the fields was very less. Then if water was needed for wheat cultivation three times, today it is

needed at least five or six times. Just now our Hon. Members were talking about Punjab. We use so many pesticides and fertilizers that the amount of water required for the fields has increased significantly. The second thing that has happened is that the water level has gone down and secondly, a lot of diseases have started increasing. An American Lady Professor has written in the book - How the Other Half Dies. In that she has explained how the Indian Agriculture Policy has been prepared, how it has been prepared. How half the people are being starved to death? We should pay attention to how messed up our agriculture policy is.

It is unfortunate that even after 67 years of independence, we have the Pesticide Act, 350 Pesticides molecules were made, but till date not a single Indian molecule has been developed in this country. There is a big conspiracy behind this. Therefore, there is a need to correct this Pesticide Act.

According to a report by the Indian Institute of Disaster Management, he spoke about Bundelkhand. It says that the disasters that happen are not due to climatic change, there are human reasons behind them, these are man-made. A very good

book has come. Shri P. Sainath has written a book by name “Let Us Have a Good Drought.” The more drought there is, the better. There are some bureaucrats and some politicians who are involved in this work; we need to change them.

The way eucalyptus plantation has been done in my Baghpat Parliamentary Constituency, the ground water level has gone down by at least ten metres. We need to think about what type of plantation should be done, what type of tube wells and bore wells should be made when the water level has gone down due to so much exploitation. Due to this, out of six blocks in my area Baghpat, five blocks have become dark zones. There is no new connection yet. On one hand there is drought, on the other hand people do not get connection. The state Government tells those who have connections in Baghpat...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude. It is going to be time for the Private Members’ Business.

[Translation]

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH: Madam, I will conclude my speech in a minute. It is written in the Gita and everyone will agree with this that the good clouds that are formed are formed by the yagya, if there are no good clouds then how can there be good rain? When the environment is clean, diseases will go away, there will be good crops and good clouds will also be formed.

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Chairman, will the Hon. Minister tell us what would be the business in the House next week? We are unable to know what would be discussed on Monday and which Bills would be considered. The Members have to prepare themselves in advance in order to be able to present their own case on the Bills or other matters that would be taken up. Neither a meeting has been called today nor are we being informed of the next week's agenda. How should we proceed in such a situation? ... (*Interruptions*)

If we raise a point of order under Rule 25, you say it is not mandatory, it is only a convention. You do not follow convention, you do not follow rule. Then what should be done, please tell us? ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): The Hon. Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs is sitting here quietly. Let him make a statement. ... (*Interruptions*) How can the House run this way? Let him call a senior Minister. ... (*Interruptions*)

15. 32 hrs

PRIVATE MEMBER'S RESOLUTION

**Implementation of recommendations of National
Commission on Farmers**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, let us take up Private Members' Resolutions. Shri Raju Shetti to continue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (HATKANANGALE): Hon. Chairperson, I am speaking on a non-official resolution regarding implementing the recommendations of Dr. Swaminathan Commission. I have to raise the issues of the farmers of the entire country in the House, hence I want your protection.

Hon. Chairperson, suicides by farmers are still taking place in this country. The reason for this is that farmers are getting prices lower than the cost price, their farming is

proving to be a loss-making deal, hence farmer suicides are increasing. In the year 2008, the Government announced a loan waiver of 73,000 crore rupees for farmers. But the fraudsters took advantage of this loan waiver. The farmers who used to do farming honestly did not get the benefit of this loan waiver. The UPA Government made a lot of noise about the loan waiver of Rs. 73,000 crore, but last week when I asked the Hon. Minister of Finance a question that how much loan has actually been waived for the farmers of the country, he replied that only Rs. 52,000 crore loan has been waived for the farmers of this country. This means that there is a difference of Rs. 20,000 crore in that also. For the last 8 years the previous Government was saying that we have helped the farmers a lot.

Hon. Chairperson, an Unstarred Question was asked in the House on 13th December 2013 and the Hon. Minister replied that in spite of the loan waiver in the year 2008, in this country from 2008 to 2012, 77499 farmers committed suicide within five years. This means that even after the loan waiver, the suicides of farmers have not come down.

Hon. Chairperson, recently 90 farmers from Vidarbha came to Delhi. He wrote an application to His Excellency the President to allow us to die of will because our farming is going into loss. We don't get the market price. Whenever the price of grains increases, the Government intervenes and reduces the rate and when production increases and supply becomes high and the rate is reduced, then the Government does not come forward to help the farmers. The farmers of this country get less than the cost price, because of which they are neither getting the basic means nor there is storage capacity, nor there is cold storage. The loss in pre-harvesting and post-harvesting in our country is of 44 thousand crore rupees every year because the technical assistance that we should have given to the farmers has not been given, so the farmers are committing suicide. Our farmers have increased production significantly in the last ten years but the share of our agriculture sector in GDP has lagged behind twenty per cent to 17 per cent. That means we are increasing the production but the farmers are not getting the right share of it and that is why the farmer is incurring losses. The cost of farmers is increasing day by day. Due to this, the prices of the fertilizers that the

farmer buys from the market are not in their hands. It is the policy of the country as to what will be the prices of fertilizers. Farmers have to buy fertilizers from the market price. Diesel prices are rising. Electricity prices are rising. The prices of pesticides are increasing. Seeds are also expensive and at the same time wages are also increasing. Accordingly, if the price of food grains that farmers have produced in the last ten years has not increased by this ratio. For this reason, today the farming is going into loss.

Madam, the Union Institute of Post Harvesting Engineering and Technology has suggested to the Government for the year 2015-16 that if the farmers of the country have to provide cold storage facility, then at least Rs. 55 thousand crores will be required because today only four states in this country have cold storage facilities and due to non-availability of cold storage facilities to the farmers in 24 states, they suffer a huge loss. This means that the farmer works hard and the one who produces does not reach the production market safely. It causes a lot of damage. The farmer does not have the storage capacity and because of this when all the farmers go to the market together, there is also a rule of the market that when the

supply is higher than the demand simultaneously, the prices fall. When the market picks up, the Government intervenes and does not allow the farmers to get the market price. Whether it is potato or onion in today's date, its export price has increased, the Government controlled it, but the Government does not think why potato and onion have become expensive.

The rains that had occurred in this country till two months ago and the hailstorms that had fallen have caused great loss to the farmers and they have nothing to sell. Therefore, under the demand-supply rule, today there has been a spurt. The farmers did not get compensation for the losses suffered by them. The Government is not ready to give that money to the farmers who thought that they were going to get more money. When the prices fall, the Government keeps looking at the farmers by handing them over to fate because in this very House I had raised an issue that when the farmers were throwing potatoes and onions on the road, at that time the Government did not help them.

Similarly, when there was a problem in the matter of milk, then what should the farmers of the country do with the milk,

because the Government did not help but when the rates of milk powder increased, they started exporting it. When sugar is expensive, when the price of sugar increases in the international market, the Government bans exports. But when prices fall, no one helps the farmers and that is why the condition of the farmers has become so bad that today the farmers are asking His Excellency the President to allow them to euthanize. This is a very serious matter. If infrastructure is to be built in this country, there is a need to bring a radical change in the field of agriculture in this country.

When our Hon. Prime Minister went to Maharashtra and Punjab in an election rally, he had assured that if our Government comes to power then we will not allow the farmers of this country to die, we will not allow suicide. We will give fifty per cent profit of the cost price to the farmers of this country. Such an announcement was made by Modi Ji in Maharashtra and Punjab. That is why I am proposing here today that the time has come to fulfil the assurance that Modi Ji had given to the farmers. But with great sadness, I want to tell in this House that on one hand, our Hon. Prime Minister said that we will give fifty percent profit of the cost price to the

farmers of this country and on the other hand the support price announced by our Hon. Agriculture Minister last month has come down to Rs. 1360, which was only Rs. 50 more than last year. Jowar was fixed at Rs 1530, which is only Rs 30 more than last year. There has been no significant increase in the prices of millets. Soybean remains unchanged. Maize is at Rs 1310. Pigeon pea was set at Rs 4350, with just a Rs 50 increase. Urad is also at Rs 4350. Cotton rose to Rs 3750, again with only a Rs 50 increase. The price of groundnut has been kept at Rs 4000. Wheat is now priced at Rs 1400, with a marginal increase of Rs 50. When calculated in percentage terms, this translates to just a one to two percent increase. Where the Hon. Prime Minister had talked about increasing it by fifty percent and where the Hon. Agriculture Minister has only increased the support price. This means that the farmers of this country felt that if there has been a change in power in the country, then it means that good days will come for the farmers. But increasing one or two percent support price in this way will not bring any good days. However, the number of suicides has increased.

I want to ask the Hon. Minister a question that the one and two per cent support price that has increased, what is the equation behind it? How was it studied? If diesel prices go up, if fertilizers prices go up, how does one percent support price go up if wages go up? The Government runs the rail, the rail fare increases by 15%, how does the MSP increase by one percent? The Hon. Minister has to answer this. I want to ask the Hon. Minister as to what is the way to find the cost price? As a farmer leader, I want to say that the Government finds an answer first and then does the equation. The Government first decides how much to give to the farmers and after that the equation takes place. No one knows how much is C1, C2. 62 per cent people of this country are dependent on agriculture. The Cost and Prices Commission fixing support price of produce in the country has only 35 people. These 35 people decide what will be the future of the farmers of this country and what will be the support price of the produce? They don't have any data. The support price of paddy is Rs. 1307. There are many institutions, social institutions and institutions of the State and the Union Government. I want to ask the Hon. Minister whether there is such a paper in any institution? Have

these people grown paddy or sown who calculate the cost price? If so, give me a paper study so that I can tell the farmers of my state to cultivate this way, it is a cultivation of profit, a Government babu in the Government of India who takes a lot of salary, if they can cultivate less money in this way, then farmers can also do it. What is its technology? What's the way? What kind of seeds did they sow? What kind of land was it? And we will study that. But there is no demonstration plot in any place. Why isn't it? The Government has land. If the Government has an agricultural university, then why is there no such experiment? Why isn't this kind of a demonstration plot? This should be so that farmers can come and see how to cultivate that the cost price is reduced. The Government has no time to do this. The Government is doing politics in the name of agriculture.

Madam, I have come to this House for the second time. For the last five years, I have been repeatedly asking in the House that food grains are collected in the Food Corporation of India, where is its account? How do you see the account? I have not got the answer till date. How much grain is gathered? How much is decomposed? How many are eaten by rats? How much

food grains reaches the poor people through the public distribution system? We demand account of it. Farmers give food grains to the Government at a low price but even that food grains do not reach the poor. When we ask the question, the answer is that the rats harmed a lot of grains. I want to ask the question which are the rats, white rats or black rats? I know these are all white rats and how they are eating food grains of the farmers and exploiting them. Farmers are committing suicide. The farmer grows crops, it is a matter of controlling the prices of grains. Inflation is discussed in this House. I never heard that toothpaste became expensive, so someone took out a march. I have not read in the newspaper that anyone took out a front to protest against the prices of petrol and diesel. I have never read that the fees of the students have increased, so somebody took the front. But if wheat is expensive even one rupee, then the front comes out. If the sugar is expensive one rupee, then the front comes out. If the tomato is expensive one rupee, then the front comes out. There is a tradition of our country, if gods have to be happy, then somebody has to be sacrificed. Therefore, what does the Government do is that to please those who speak against inflation, farmers are sacrificed

to pacify them, because the farmer is not able to do any retaliation. We have a tradition that a chicken or a goat is sacrificed to the gods. No one has ever sacrificed the lion, I have never heard it. Because the lion invades itself, no one sacrifices the lion. If human sacrifice is done then small children or women are sacrificed, but no master is ever sacrificed. Similarly, whenever inflation is discussed in this country, only farmers are sacrificed, but no one thinks about the condition in which farmers are living. No one thinks how the prices of farmers' fertilizers are increasing and the farmers will do farming. If the cost price of the farmers is to be reduced, they should be given basic facilities. Today, if we look at the farming available to farmers across the country, urea is the cheapest, that is why farmers use urea the most, whereas super phosphate and potash are expensive and thus create some distortions. Due to which crop production is reduced. But we are not ready to tell the farmers anything about it. Today I congratulate Modi ji that for the first time he has talked about Farmer Health Card, because farmers should also know what is required in their land, what fertilizer should I give and whether there is less organic fertilizer in the soil. If

the cost of fertilizers is to be reduced then farmers need to have cow dung and animals in their homes. But the farmer cannot sustain animals, because it is not so easy to raise animals today. The cost of animals, the cost price of milk is continuously increasing. Therefore, milk is not produced and in the absence of animals, the organic material which should go into the soil is not going. Therefore, the demand for fertilizers is increasing. So we need to consider all these things and make some policy, but it is not happening. Unfortunately, people talk about farming who have nothing to do with farming. There are some people in this area who have to buy farmers' fields and build big towers there after buying farmers' fields. But today nobody is talking about helping the farmers.

Sir, so I demand from this House that we should immediately implement the recommendations of Dr. Swaminathan Committee. Because we have passed the Food Security Bill in this House for the poor people of this country. If they have to give food grains, farmers should do farming. If the farmer of this country leaves farming, then no market in the world can give so much food grains to 121 crore people to eat.

Therefore, the farmers who do farming in the villages should do farming in the villages and they should be helped for that.

Also, I want to tell you one more thing that last week I had a farmer coming to me. I have to pay my two children's college fees, but I don't have money. There is a Deputy collector on his side, both his kidneys were damaged and he was looking for a donor for the kidney. That farmer told me to give me permission to donate kidney, so that the Deputy collector is ready to pay the college fees of my two children in return for that.

Hon. Chairperson, the farmers of this country should seriously think about where we are going, if the situation arises to sell their kidneys to educate their children. When we were dependent on agriculture, we had a large economy in the world. Today, our share in GDP has fallen to 17 per cent. 62% of the people are still dependent on agriculture. Every person from the village is coming towards the city today. The city is living in a dirty drain. That's why we should think that the Government and this House need to be behind the farmer who is working in the field. If 77 thousand farmers commit suicide

in the last five years, Hon. Chairperson, I have also studied a little bit of history. Nowhere in the world has there been such a large number of suicides. Farmers alone are committing suicide one by one, so no one is paying attention to it. If so many people had been killed simultaneously, it would have been discussed all over the world.

Hon. Chairperson, when someone comes after being displaced from Bangladesh, we discuss it, when someone comes after being displaced from Tibet, we discuss it. Discussions are held to help those affected. When farming does not fill the stomach, then when will we think about those who have left farming and come to the city, the people who are exiled, the people from the villages, who have started living in the slums of the city. Today, the country has been divided in two factions, one side is India, the other side is Bharat. Today, people displaced from Bharat have started coming to India to fill their stomachs and for the future of their children. If people from Bharat keep coming to India one by one in this way, then Bharat will become completely barren.

Hon. Chairperson, at that time, we should think about which market in the world we will go to and buy the grains, because we have made so much progress, so much progress but I do not know this, I want to ask a question to the Hon. Minister, because I have done some study, every country keeps giving some data or the other to its farmers every week. But our farmers never know what will be the policy of our country, what will be the policy of import-export policy. Are we going to ban export, ban export or buy food grains from outside? Farmers don't know anything about it. Farmers are accused that if one farmer sows paddy in a herd, then all the farmers sow paddy. If someone sows one sugarcane, then everyone sows sugarcane.

Hon. Chairperson, if a survey is done through satellite, every week our Hon. Agriculture Minister would give some data to our farmers that this year the domestic consumption of wheat is this much, that of pigeon pea is this much, that of sugar is this much, the rates in the international market are going to be like this, if you grow soybean then we can export it and bring money from abroad. In this way, it would have been nice if our Hon. Agriculture Minister had given any data. The

farmer is smart, he has an idea of how much the crop will come. But no data of domestic market is available to him, nor is there any data of international market. If in every eight days of satellite survey, every fifteen days, we give data that today so much has been sown in wheat, so much has been sown in millets, so much has been sown in rice, then we can advise the farmers that now stop sowing sugarcane, now the table is needed, because the table rates have increased in the international market. This is how we can provide data. There is no need to give money from the Government treasury, but the farmers do not get the information that should be given and the farmers are doing farming like gambling. It seems to him that today the price of sugar is good, let us produce sugarcane.

16. 00 hrs.

It seems to him that if he is getting good price for wheat, he takes wheat crop. He feels that if onion is getting good price today, then he takes onion crop.

Madam, the farmer of our country is very smart. For the last three months, I am seeing that the onion prices are rising, if our Hon. Agriculture Minister, our Hon. Food and Civil Supplies Minister said in the month of June that there is an onion shortage in this country, there is potato shortage in this country, even under adverse circumstances, our farmer, if he gets right money, he is ready to sow onions, is ready to sow potatoes.

Madam, in our Maharashtra, I know a farmer who takes mango fruit for 12 months of a year, takes grape fruit for 12 months, that technology is with him, but we do not give any data to the farmers. We do not take the farmers into confidence. We do not give any advice to farmers. When the crop comes to the market, there is a discussion about what should be done in it. I will tell you a straightforward thing. We spent Rs. 8,961 crore to import oil seeds in the year 2005 and

in the year 2011-12, that is, in five years, it increased so much that our Government spent importing oil seeds worth Rs. 45,940 crore.

Madam, this means the oil seeds like soybean, groundnut, sunflower etc. If we had increased their MSP, increased their support price and told the farmers of our country that we have to make this country self-reliant in terms of oil seeds. You can grow as many of these crops as you want, this Government is ready to buy them, so the foreign dollars that we are spending in importing them, that money would have been saved by our Government.

Madam, we do not have a place to have grains, there is no place to have sugar here and on the other hand we are importing pulses and oil seeds from outside. The reason for this is that farmers do not know anything about what kind of farming should be done?

Madam, I want to say with responsibility that if the Government helps the farmers of this country in this way, then we will make the country self-reliant in the matter of ethanol. We will make this country self-sufficient in pulses and oil

seeds. When this happens, the dollar which is at Rs 60 today can go below Rs 40. Our Government's import of oil seeds, pulses and petrol costs a lot of money. Our farmers have the ability to save in all these things.

Madam, I want to say that the mindset of the Government which should be there to do this is not today and that is why all this is happening. The way Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri took the farmers of this country into confidence, the way he had shown trust in the farmers, in the same way if the Government shows trust in the farmers, these farmers can again make this country a superpower.

Madam, I make a request to the House and the Hon. Minister that today the policy of calculating the cost price of the crop for the farmers should be changed. Former Cost and Pricing Commission Chairman Dr. T Haque had made a suggestion to the Government, saying that there is a need to make radical changes in this methodology. In 2008, he made this suggestion. There is a need to implement it because if it happens then the farmers will get the support price in the true sense, its cost price will be accounted for. Therefore, I request

the Hon. Minister that by returning the support price to which the Hon. Agriculture Minister has announced, we should declare the support price of wheat, cotton, soyabean, moongdal in a new way. I demand and I want to say that there is a need to control this mess that is taking place immediately by forming a committee, especially the babus sitting in the Agricultural Cost Prices Commission, trying to find out the fake cost price, this needs to be controlled and some radical changes need to be made.

16. 05 hrs.

(Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair*)

The Hon. Minister should take some decision in this regard. I request the Government and request the House also that the Hon. Prime Minister of this country has given a promise to the farmers of this country. We will implement the Support Commission. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister to say in this House that we are immediately following the recommendations of Dr. Swaminathan Commission.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The motion is introduced:

"This House urges upon the Government to take effective steps to implement the recommendations of the Union Commission for Farmers, also known as the 'Swaminathan Commission', to overcome the crisis in the agriculture sector."

[English]

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY

(BAHARAMPUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would appreciate Shri Raju Shetty who has brought forward this Resolution with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission of Farmers.

As we all know, the Commission was led by Dr. Swaminathan and it is recognized as the Swaminathan Commission. The Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, who led the farmers of Champaran towards the freedom struggle, was quoted as having said: "India begins and ends in villages." Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru exhorted: "everything else can wait but agriculture." Sardar Vallabhai Patel exhorted " I believe in one culture, that is, agriculture." So, naturally, India is very much an agricultural country. Even in Kautilya's Arthashastra, it is found that there is a recitation for the Lord:

"Salutation to Lord Prajapathi Kashyapa.

Let the crops flourish always.

Let the Goddess reside in the grain and seed."

So, this is India where since time immemorial we have to rely upon agriculture and the farmers are the founders of our civilization and prosperity.

The Swaminathan Commission was constituted by enshrining the terms of reference:

“To work out a comprehensive medium-term strategy for food and nutrition security in the country in order to move towards the goal of universal food security over time”

Propose methods of enhancing productivity, profitability and sustainability of the major farming systems of the country; suggest policy reforms to substantial increase flow of rural credit to all farmers; formulate special programmes for dry land farming for farmers in the arid and semi-arid regions, as well as for farmers for hilly and coastal areas; suggest measures for enhancing the quality of cost competitiveness of farm commodities so as to make them globally competitive; protecting farmers from imports when international prices fall sharply; empowering elected local bodies to collect effectively;

and conserve and improve the ecological foundation for sustainable agriculture.

The then UPA Government has approved the recommendations of the Dr. Swaminathan Commission and adopted various initiatives in order to implement the recommendations to the extent of the financial capacity of the country. Here, Rajiv Shetty *ji* was pleading for more subsidy to the farmers of our country but this Government has been caught in a great quandary.

[Translation]

In the Question Hour this morning, the Hon. Minister of Finance said that he is trying to reduce the subsidy. Fuel, Food and Fertilizers is our biggest issue of subsidy. It has been announced in the budget that the subsidy will be reduced by more than two percent. On the other hand, the World Trade Organization, which India is also a Member, their developed countries in the trade facilitation agreement are saying that the subsidy that you are giving will have to be reduced. It is dichotomy. On the one hand, the Government says that they will reduce the subsidy, on the other hand WTO tells the

countries that we will not reduce the subsidy. What is the truth about this? We should know that. What is the Government's stand on this?

[English]

Developed countries have been insisting upon the developing countries to curtail the subsidy component. So, the Government should come out with a clear objective of what is to be done by this Government. ...(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

Yes, we did. When you were in power, Arun Jaitley Saheb went to Cancun and fought very hard. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You guys do not talk to each other. You make your point.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): We are saying because you are spoiling. ...(*Interruptions*) You do this, because you are sitting there only to do this. ...(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please deliver your speech.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, today, the irrigation and drought was being discussed throughout the day.
...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, don't talk amongst yourself.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Irrigation with agriculture is very much related. Where Shetty comes from is also a very dry area.

Sir, I would like to give a statement, so that you will understand that there is a lot more to be done in our country. Because the storage capacity that we have from which the irrigation work will be done, it is on-capita very less. Sir, where the capita storage capacity is 6,150 cubic meters in North America, 6,013 cubic meters in Russia, 4,729 cubic meters in Australia, 2,886 cubic meters in China and in India it is 262 cubic meters. Consider what we are going through.

Sir, we have to focus more on water efficiency and water productivity. We have 174 cubic kilometer storage capacity by combining all the dams in our India. Sir, there is a small country called Zambia where there is a dam named Kariba. The

storage capacity of this dam is 180 cubic kilometers and in India where we have dams around 2784 our storage capacity is just 174 cubic kilometers. You must have heard of Aswan Dam. The storage capacity of the Aswan Dam is 12 cubic kilometres more than our storage capacity.

Sir, I am saying this because on one hand there is talk of drought, on the other hand there is talk of flood. Our 40 million hectare area is flood prone. It has a crop area of 3.5 million hectares. As far as Drought is concerned, 26% of our population is settled in the area of Drought. One-third of the geographical area of our country is affected by drought. Therefore, we should balance irrigation with drought. Swaminathan has also done this.

Sir, I want to bring one thing to your attention that first of all agriculture should be brought in the concurrent list. Agriculture is still on the state list. Therefore, agriculture should be brought in the concurrent list, so that we can make a comprehensive plan. Since the year 2004-05, there has been a big change in the field of agriculture in India. When we became independent, during independence, India's food grain

production was 51 million tonnes and today our food grain production is 264 million tonnes. The Swaminathan Commission had made a recommendation that our agriculture growth should be 4%. It's happening right now. Secondly, the Swaminathan Commission had made strong recommendations to provide loans to farmers from banks. Today, see that more than eight lakh crore rupees are being given in agricultural credit in this budget. In UPA era, it was given up to Rs 7,35,000 crore. ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now conclude your speech.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, let me speak.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Many Hon. Members still have to speak. This is a very important issue. There are 20-25 Members to speak on this.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, there are not many Members yet. Let me speak comfortably.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: We give them time to speak according to the number of Members we have.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Sir, the year 2004-05 is a turning point.

[English]

The Mid-Term Appraisal of the 10th Five Year Plan reviewed, for the first time, the depressing trend in agriculture and proposed multi-pronged steps to address the malaise. How was it done? A substantial correction began to be made in 2004-05 with increased allocation for various departments concerned with the development of agriculture, animal husbandry and agricultural research and education. During 2005-06, a National Horticulture Mission became operational and it extended the programme beyond fruits and vegetables and embraced medicinal plants and spices. A Unionly-sponsored scheme called the Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms was launched in 2005-06. In 2005-06, a National Fund for Basic, Strategic and Frontier Application Research in Agriculture and a National Agricultural Innovation Project were launched. It was, at that time, as per the recommendations of the Swaminathan Committee that agricultural trade was opened up by the Government under the World Trade Organisation. These were also attempts to reform domestic agricultural marketing through the formulation of a model Agricultural Produce Marketing Committee (APMC)

Act in 2003. You know that model APMC Act was conceived by the former Government. I am telling you the last issue. Total gross capital formation as a percentage of agricultural GDP averaged 12.9 per cent during the five-year period ending 2003-04. I am telling Mr. Anurag. But thereafter it steadily increased from 13.5 per cent in 2004-05 to 17 per cent in 2012-13. increases in public investment in agriculture, though moderate, aided significant increases in private investment. private investment to agricultural GDP ratios, which had hovered around 10 per cent to 11 per cent for quite some years, shot up to over 14 per cent in 2008-09 and remained at that level thereafter.

[Translation]

What is happening right now is that where we had high productivity states, like Punjab, Haryana, West Uttar Pradesh, our productivity is not increasing there. Where we had a low-productivity state, our productivity is increasing. It is nice to see that where there was low-productivity from Chhattisgarh to M.P., Odisha to Jharkhand, it is increasing, but where we had high productivity, it is not increasing. This means that the

previous Government has tried to follow the recommendation of the Swami Nathan Commission. At the time of independence in India our food grain production was 51 million tonnes, which is becoming 264 million tonnes today.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your mutual conversation should not be recorded.

*...(Interruptions)**

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Hon. Chairperson, the subject that is being discussed today is the most serious issue for the country. For which after independence, every Government continued to promise that our Government is a Government of farmers, a Government that changes the life of farmers. A National Farmers Commission was set up to change the life of the farmer whose report was submitted on 19th December, 2004, 11th August, 2005, 29th December, 2005. The third final report was submitted on April 13, 2006.

Hon. Chairperson, you are a scholar. You have always led the exploited and suffering farmers within the country. Today

* Not recorded.

everyone is happy that as the Hon. Chairperson you are sitting here, you know the pain and suffering of the farmers. Today, the entire House is worried for how to rectify the plight of farmers. Of the 3-4 points which were specifically addressed in this report, the biggest point was land reform. After land reform, the problem of water is known to everyone in our country that our underground water is getting exhausted and the condition of surface water is not good in the whole country.

On the water problem, this report was seriously discussed and recommended. The problem of loan was also recommended in this committee. It also recommended how to have marketing linkages. The report also reviewed the way farmers produce more through new techniques. Climate change is also a very important subject within this country, about which its report has also been presented by studying this report. Though I do not agree with the complete report, a lot has changed in the country after this report. That change has also taken place for the fact that gradually the way agricultural land has started coming into work for non-farm work, due to which the acreage of agricultural land in the country has decreased. Not only this, the acreage has decreased, but the family has

grown and the farmer who had a big acre got converted into small farming. At some time, when the farmer used to go to the field, he did not get any loan, there were no soil testing laboratories, there was no technology, but after that the farmer used to go, then there was happiness on his face. We did not hear in India that a farmer has committed suicide, but today in this country, we are hearing that farmers are committing suicide. They are sinking with the debt burden today and just as the Hon. Member having our original proposal spoke about the way in which agricultural production is sold and even thrown at cheaper rates on the roads. Many times, we have also seen that the farmer finds more money to cut that crop or the vegetable and if he gives the cutting money and goes to sell in the market, he does not even get the cost of harvesting its production.

Pandit Deendayal had said one thing long ago about what is the current situation on this earth, he had said that 'Adheya Matrika Krishi' i. e. not dependent on God, but a combination of self-reliant agriculture is necessary. Today, the way climate change is happening and the way surface water is decreasing, this country needs to follow the path shown by Pandit

Deendayal. Today, it is needed because Shri Narendra Modi, the former Chief Minister of Gujarat and now Hon. Prime Minister, has given a direction to the country by being the Chief Minister of Gujarat for 14 years, so that the family of the farmer can also grow up through the use of that water. Even today, there are so many water sources, wells, old stepwells in our country, if all of them are revived, then perhaps we can stop that underground and surface water, every drop of water in this country and use it for irrigation and drinking.

Hon. Chairperson, very good things were said in the Swaminathan Committee Report. It also talked about reducing the loans of farmers. Even after this, he implemented many recommendations. When the Hon. Prime Minister of our country addressed the country's Parliament for the first time, he said that how did Gujarat change? On which land should they be cultivated for soil testing, what should be the quantity of fertilizer in that land, for all these testing laboratories, gave a direction to the country.

Hon. Chairperson, where should ANICAT be made through satellite? An attempt has been made to give a new

direction to the country in this field through satellite, a new technology, to determine whether ANICATS is built or not, what kind of farming should be done on which land, how much crop will be produced.

Whenever there is too much production of food grains in this country, its price decreases. If there is less food grains, then its price also increases. Sometimes there is too much of a vegetable and it has to be thrown away. Sometimes, if a fruit becomes too plentiful, its price in the market goes down. That is why the Hon. Prime Minister has given a direction to the country. In the coming times, this country will see that we were talking about change based on agricultural production, we were talking about making the farmer self-reliant, a direction for that will be seen in this country. Through soil testing, it is decided which crop should be grown where and how much crop should be grown. How much crop is being produced and how much will be produced in the future? What will be the market? Today we were talking about the support price. It is true that when the Government fixes the support price in this country, it seems that it does not do justice to the farmers. Many times we feel that the rate of DAP, rate of urea, rate of diesel, price of seeds

are not correct. There is no electricity for the farmers where there is no electricity, the farmers are dependent on God. Today, we see that the economic condition of the farmer has not improved. Even today the farmers do not have slippers on their feet and no clothes on their bodies. When they arrange for two meals, sometimes there is a flood, sometimes a storm comes, sometimes their crops are infested with insects, sometimes there is hailstorm and sometimes there is a famine. Farmers are again in debt.

Hon. Chairperson, you must have seen that the farmers come to the fields again and do farming with a smile. When we go to the village, we think that there will be a huge crop of soybean. It seemed that there would be a bumper crop of soybean. But, when we go there after 15 days, we find that the soybean crop has been infested with worms and the farmer's crop has been destroyed. When we see his suffering, we see that he is in debt worth crores of rupees.

Hon. Chairperson, I have heard your speech. In this world, farmers do not decide their prices but a merchant, who produces pens in a factory, decides the price of that pen

himself. But, in this country, the farmers cannot fix the price of their crop. If farmers cannot decide the price of their crops, then at least the Government should fix the price of crops in such a way that the farmer can remain secure after recovering the cost of production and profit on it.

Hon. Chairperson, in this country, first of all, the farmers have to be kept safe. To keep the farmers safe, it is important that they get the right price for their crops. The crop insurance policy should become practical. It should not be built at the tehsil level. It should be made at village level. There is hailstorm in some places, there are different climate changes. Sometimes there is a flood, sometimes there is hailstorm and somewhere it does not. Therefore, crop insurance should be such that the farmer should get at least the cost of his produce on the basis of crop insurance. If we secure the farmers of this country, then whether there is a flood, storm, hailstorm or insect attack, the farmer will get insurance based on the cost price of the produce and the cost price money will always be covered on the basis of insurance. If the farmer of this country is safe, we will move towards a new change.

This is a serious matter. So I want some time from you.
...(Interruptions) Our colleague MP Dushyant Singh is sitting.
...(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Say your point in brief because there are so many Members who are going to speak.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): When garlic started selling at Rs two-three a kg, the farmer was throwing garlic on the roads. He was getting less cost. Garlic was selling less in the market. We came to Delhi. We said garlic should be procured under the market intervention scheme. Where there is a support price, the market intervention scheme should be made a practical form of what is applicable so that we can keep the farmers safe in three ways. First, he should always get his production cost on the basis of crop insurance. Secondly, its support price should be fixed in such a way that it covers the production cost. Thirdly, under the Market Intervention Scheme, whenever any vegetable or any commodity which cannot be bought at the support price is bought in the market, by making the Market

Intervention Scheme practical, then perhaps the farmers of the country can be protected. ...(*Interruptions*)

I request that many recommendations of the Swaminathan Commission reports are good...(*Interruptions*) The farmer should be protected and get a reasonable cost for his production. From storage to all the things which are the thoughts and ideas of our Hon. Prime Minister, our friends will see that in the times to come, the farmer will be safe in the country, he will get market, his life will be better. In villages, other produce along with crops, as we say from cow to all the things, all the related aspects of agriculture, if you go to Gujarat, a person can feed himself even by selling 2-3 kg of milk. A similar networking system will be established in every village, on the basis of which farmers will be able to stand on their feet through timely planning of agriculture along with other animal husbandry and industries related to agriculture. ...(*Interruptions*) Our Government will make collective efforts for this.

[English]

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, Thanjavur Constituency in the State of Tamil Nadu needs to be provided sufficient funds for various agriculture and animal husbandry schemes. Thanjavur is the granary of South India, where most of the people are dependent on agriculture. On behalf of the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, I thank the Government for the allocation of adequate funds for agriculture, animal husbandry, rural development and several other welfare schemes.

An amount of Rs. 1,000 crore has been allocated for agricultural farmers and irrigation under the Hon. Prime Minister's Irrigation Scheme. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission aims to provide road facilities to rural areas. Deendayal Upadhyaya Rural Jyoti Scheme aims to provide electricity facility to villages. In order to make the people of Tamil Nadu benefited by these schemes, necessary funds should be allocated to the State. The Union Government has proposed to set up agricultural research institutions in Assam

and Jharkhand at a cost of Rs. 100 crore. I request that such an institution be set up in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Thanjavur.

An amount of Rs. 50 crore has been allocated for inland fishing and cattle breeding. Hon. Amma provide milch cows, goats to the people below poverty line in Tamil Nadu in order to uplift them. The Union Government should also allocate adequate and requisite funds for Tamil Nadu for implementing schemes relating to agriculture and animal husbandry.

I wish to bring to your kind notice the importance of conservation of historical moat of Thanjavur Big Temple, rainwater harvesting and revival of water bodies in my Thanjavur Constituency. Thanjavur district stands unique from time immemorial for its agricultural activities and is rightly acclaimed as the granary of South India. It lies in the deltaic region of famous River Cauvery and criss-crossed by lengthy network of irrigation canals, green paddy fields, mango gardens and other vegetation.

Brahadeeswarar Temple, which is called the Big Temple is on the UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is also known as the Great Living Chola Temples. This is one of the largest temples

in India which is 1000 years old. The temple complex sits on the banks of a River that was channelled to a moat formed 1500 years ago. At present, this moat is filled with debris and vegetation. It is the need of the hour to renovate this moat so as to attract large number of tourists to this temple in Thanjavur. Desilting and underground water connectivity at the moat is the need of the hour. Existing moat can be rejuvenated at a cost of Rs. 200 crores.

In order to make Thanjavur regain its traditional admirers, I urge the Hon. Minister of Environment and Forests to sanction adequately to the project of rejuvenation of moat of Thanjavur Big Temple.

Sir, an amount of Rs. 7060 crore has been allocated for creating 100 Smart Cities throughout the country. Many cities of Tamil Nadu, particularly Thanjavur should be included in the list of Smart Cities. Thanjavur has thousand years of history and tradition. Thousand years old Brahadeeswarar Temple is in Thanjavur. UNESCO has declared Darasuram Iravadeswarar temple and Jayankondam Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple as the Great Living Chola Temples. This

area should be declared as Siva Circuit and necessary provisions should be made for tourism development in my Constituency.

Tamil Nadu should be brought under National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive and National Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana.

Thanjavur is famous for Thiruvaiyaru music festival, Bharatanatyam, Thanjavur arts, veena - a musical string instrument - folk arts, heritage temples, etc. All the nine planets (Navagraha) have separate temples in my Constituency. The adjoining temple in Kumbakonam where Mahamaham is performed should be declared as a heritage place and a pilgrim centre of excellence.

Adequate funds have to be allocated for enhancing the infrastructure and rail, road and air connectivity in Thanjavur. I, therefore, urge that Thanjavur should be declared as heritage centre.

Sir, the following are the immediate requirements of Thanjavur railway station. All departmental offices may be

constructed in the area from booking office to signal cabin. For the benefit of public, a separate reservation counter office may be constructed in the place of the existing railway store. A separate ticket counter office may be constructed nearer to the subway. A two-wheeler parking may be constructed as a multi-storeyed parking as it is in Trichy. The existing subway may be extended up to platform numbers four and five. For the convenience of the public, toilet facilities may be provided in the middle of the platforms. All the departmental offices located on platform numbers two and three were built during the metre gauge period. So, they may be remodelled.

In the Budget, a proposal has been approved for having a double line and electrification between Trichy and Thanjavur, but no fund has been allocated till now.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please speak on the subject. This discussion is not on the Railway Budget.

[English]

SHRI K. PARASURAMAN: Please give me one minute.

A scheme has already been approved for a railway line between Thanjavur and Pattukottai, but no fund has been allocated for it till now. There is a long pending demand of the people for a new broad gauge line from Thanjavur to Ariyalur. As a result, the travelling distance will be reduced by 100 kilometres and on the economic side, a large quantity of diesel may be saved.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I must thank Shri Raju Shetty for bringing this Resolution on farmers, highlighting their cause. He is from Ichalkaranji in Kolhapur district of western Maharashtra. He is a prosperous sugarcane farmer himself. He understands the problem of farmers. He has won his election, without support from either the UPA or the NDA, on his own strength. He had also won the last time. So, he must be having a lot of credibility among the farmers. It is good that he has brought this Resolution.

[Translation]

I am not standing here to say that nothing has happened in agriculture in the country after independence. I had seen in my childhood that when PL-480 wheat was coming from America, our ration shops used to function. Today India is self-sufficient in food grains. We also export all types of things outside. But, despite doing so much, the condition of farmers is still bad. What I mean by this is, what can we still do with what has happened and what needs to be done in the future?

Hon. Chairperson, everyone has said that Dr. Swaminathan Commission was constituted in November, 2004, which gave four reports in December, 2004, August, 2005, December, 2005 and April, 2006. After that, the National Policy on Farmers was brought by the then Government, UPA-1, on 23 November 2007. Then, for preparing the course of action, an inter-Ministerial committee was formed. Currently, many missions of the Government of India are working in agriculture. Shri Sanjeev Kumar Balyan is...*(Interruptions)* He is very famous in Muzaffarnagar. A statement has come from him. He says that five missions are working - National Food Security Mission, Mission on Sustainable Agriculture, Mission on Oil Seeds and Oil Palm, Mission on Agricultural Extension and Technology, Mission on Integrated Development of Horticulture. Apart from these, there is a National Crop Insurance Programme, Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Cooperation, Integrated Scheme on Agricultural Marketing, a scheme on Agricultural Census and a scheme for Economic Service. At the state level, there is the National Agricultural Development Scheme, which is a scheme of the UPA Government, and it has been replicated. I am quoting what

Balyan Saheb has said in reply to a question in Parliament. Nothing new has happened yet. I want to tell that after this, even after ten years the condition of the farmers is still bad. Our agricultural growth has been four percent. Right now, we have record foodgrain stock, even if there is a drought for a year, we can feed the people, but what is the condition of the farmer? Still the spoilage of foods and vegetables, which gets spoiled, is thirty percent. There is no health insurance for farmers. Only 14 percent farmers are covered by crop insurance. The credit has not reached them yet. In the year 2008, the Government had brought a debt-waiver scheme, but six years have passed since then, now once again a debt-waiver scheme is needed to save the farmers, otherwise, we cannot save the farmers from suicide. The record of both the UPA and NDA Governments in this regard is very bad because farmer suicides continue. You will be surprised to hear how many people committed suicide. Their number was more during the NDA time, but during the UPA time the number had decreased slightly. In the year 1999, 16082 farmers committed suicide, in the year 2000 around 16603 farmers, in the year 2001, 16415 farmers, in the year 2002, 17971 farmers, in the year 2003,

17160 farmers committed suicide, which was the highest in the NDA regime. In the first year of UPA regime, the number of suicides was high - 17368, after that farmers suicide decreased slightly. In the year 2010, this number was 15964, in the year 2011, 14027 and in the year 2012, 13750 farmers committed suicide. There was a declining trend in suicide, but that is no re-assurance. What is the main reason for this? This is because farming is becoming less and less remunerative, and more and more capital-intensive. A farmer takes a loan to do farming and gets stuck in debt, that is why the farmer commits suicide. Similarly, there is a policy, like why cotton farmers of Vidarbha commit suicide, because suddenly we import cotton, the price of cotton decreases. In this way, people also commit suicide because of the policy. The worst condition is of the farmers of Punjab. Punjab Agricultural University conducted a survey and its report came. Three universities of Punjab have conducted a survey and its report has come. It states that: "...6,926 farmers committed suicide during 2000-2010. The situation is very bad in a State, which is known for high productivity of its farmers." This is the maximum in the Sangrur District of Punjab. More farmers have committed

suicide there. Now, what is the question, the big question is that our farmer will have to give as much input as he needs. What is needed in inputs, it needs quality seeds, water for irrigation, fertilizers and agricultural credit. The sad thing is that even after 67 years of independence, forty percent of our agriculture is still rainfed. Even now we are dependent on monsoon, whether El Nino comes or not, we see that sixty per cent of gross cropped area and 45 per cent of total agricultural input. We only look at the sky to see if El Nino is coming, how much shortfall there will be in monsoon, then we are not able to cover it in irrigation. We have not yet made any solid method as to how inputs will be given to the farmer at a good price and how the farmer will get the right price for his produce. It is true that we have increased the MSP, but the Swaminathan Commission report says that the Minimum Support Price should be 50 per cent higher than the weighted cost of farming. 50 percent more should be paid than the cost of producing a crop, only then there will be capital formation. But till date, this has not happened in our country.

Our productivity is still low. The Swaminathan Commission report states, how far behind we are in

productivity of crops. If we take paddy per hectare kilogram in the world, then it is 2929 in India, 6321 in China, 6414 in Japan, 6622 in USA, meaning we are almost one-third of the productivity of USA, China or Japan in matters of paddy. In matters of wheat, if we look at the kilograms per hectare in India, it is 2583, in China it is 3969, in USA it is 2872 i. e. India's productivity in wheat is good. There was a time, when it was said that a farmer of Punjab gives the same productivity as a farmer of Texas.

Hon. Chairperson, you look in the sugar cane. Mr. Raju Shetti is sitting here. In this, our production capacity per hectare is 68012, in China, it is 85294 and in USA, it is 80786. This means that our production capacity can be further increased.

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to give some suggestions, because I do not want to say much. I want to say that the report of the Swaminathan Commission has become outdated as of today, because it has been eight years since that report came out and in the meantime a lot of changes have taken place in agriculture. Therefore, the Government should form a

commission. The Government should also formulate and implement a fresh agriculture policy. Similarly, arrange for fresh debt waiver as Mr. Chidambaram did in 2008. Jaitley Ji also has to arrange for a debt waiver, cover more farmers under crop insurance and convert micro-finance into livelihood finance. Into Livelihood Finance was discussed in this House. Just giving money for farming will not help, money should also be given to save it.

17. 00 hrs.

It is necessary to provide family health insurance to the farmers because they do not have any social security. You want to bring foreign money in insurance but before that try to give our own health insurance to the farmers.

A new green revolution is happening in our Bengal. Paddy production is increasing very much in Eastern India, it has to be sustained because it has reached its peak in Punjab. Paddy production can increase significantly in our eastern side. I would like to again thank Shri Raju Shetti for bringing the condition of farmers to the attention of the country through the House. In my opinion, not only Swaminathan Commission but

considering the condition of today's farmers, there should be a new commission and a National Policy of Farmers should be launched from the Government.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): I stand here today to participate in the discussion that has been moved by our colleague Shri Raju Shetty on a specific Resolution which has two parts. One is the operative part and the other is the result which he intends to get. The operative part is that the Government should take effective steps to implement the recommendations of the National Commission on Farmers, also known as Swaminathan Commission. In his speech, Shri Shetty has elaborated as to what are the steps which need to be taken. I am of the opinion that certain steps have already been taken when the Hon. Prime Minister spoke on Vote of Thanks given to the Hon. President of India. Subsequently, in the Budget, certain other declarations have also been made. But he wants to convey that if the Government wants to implement the recommendations in toto, we can overcome the crisis in agriculture sector.

17. 03 hrs

(Shri Arjun Charan Sethi *in the Chair*)

I was trying to understand how far he has identified the crisis in Indian agriculture. He has, of course, with his experience mentioned certain crises that the Indian agriculture is facing but that is not all. We have different types of farmers in our country. There was a time about which my previous speaker Prof. Saugata Ray mentioned. At one point of time, eastern India was the granary of the whole undivided India i. e. including Myanmar, Bangladesh, Pakistan and even to a great extent Afghanistan. Eastern India was providing foodgrains to all parts of the country. It had very little irrigation facility and it was totally dependent on rain. Subsequently, we started Green Revolution. Then, embankments were created, large dams were constructed and the flow of irrigation started and western Uttar Pradesh and Punjab were shown the way. Subsequently Hirakud, Damodar valley and all other projects were started. The focus slowly shifted towards western India, and eastern India was totally neglected. It was only during the previous UPA-II Government the then Hon. Finance Minister who is the present Hon. President of India, made a course correction. Only Rs. 100 crore was provided during his second or third Budget. He said: "Let us focus and bring in a second

Green Revolution and Eastern India should become the laboratory of how we can increase our productivity.” It was not his idea alone. It was Dr. M. S. Swaminathan who was propagating this idea to have the Eastern India, which was the granary of 18th or 19th or even early part of 20th century of this sub-continent, to be the focus. Why not develop our agricultural produce in that area because the Western part of the country has been saturated? I was trying to find this out. It has five volumes. Prof. Roy mentioned about four volumes. The last volume listed a number of suggestions, which came in 2006.

I would say here that we have to reMember two specific dates. I want to confine my deliberations today on that. One is the year of 2004, the period in which these five reports were compiled and then the period of October 2006. It was during these two years in 2004 – I would like the Members to recollect – that the Eastern coast of our country faced severe tsunami including large areas of Tamil Nadu Coast and even Andhra Pradesh. The total livelihood of fishermen was shattered. When we talk of farmers, it is not only the cultivators; fishermen also come under that category. In that

respect, I would say that it started in 2004. In 2006, the Kashmir Valley witnessed the earthquake. There were large areas of our country which also witnessed severe flood. So, in October 2006, there was severe earthquake in Kashmir, flood in Tamil Nadu and other parts of the country witnessed severe floods, acute shortfall of rain and drought-like situation was there in these years.

It is common knowledge that institutional support to small farmers today is very weak. The same is true of post harvest infrastructure. Do we not see paddy being spread on the roads for drying in many places when we travel in our Constituency? What does that signify? That signifies the poverty of our cultivators, of our farmers. Hardly ten per cent of farmers are covered by crop insurance. Farm families are also not covered by health insurance. There is no Agriculture Risk Fund. Both risk mitigation and price stabilization are receiving inadequate policy support. Shri Shetty is a very progressive farmer of our country. He is having one of the most progressive Shetkari Sangathan, the farmers' union of our country which is very vocal to protect the interest of the farmers. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD):

Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The bell is being rung- Hon. Members, there is no quorum in the House.

The House stands adjourned to meet again on 4th August, 2014 at 11.00 a.m.

17. 20 hrs

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the
Clock on Monday, August 4, 2014/Shravana 13,
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)
