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Friday, August 08, 2014

Shravana 17, 1936 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Second Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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CONTENTS

Sixteenth Series, Vol IV Second Session, 2014/1936 (Saka)

No. 23, Friday, August 08, 2014/Shravana 17, 1936 (Saka)

SUBJECT

PAGES

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

72nd Anniversary of the Quit India Movement 18

ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

*Starred Question Nos. 441 to 445 19-55

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 446 to 460 56

Unstarred Question Nos. 4279 to 450

* The sign + marked above the name of a Member indicates that the Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by that Member.

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE 57-76

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA 77-79

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

- (i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 75th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2013-14), pertaining to the Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance

Shri Arun Jaitley 80

- (ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 67th to 70th and 75th to 78th Reports of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on Demands for Grants (2013-14), pertaining to Four Departments under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare

Dr. Harsh Vardhan 86

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2946 DATED
10.02.2014 REGARDING DEFENCE CONTRACTS
ALONG WITH REASONS FOR DELAY**

Shri Arun Jaitley

81-85

**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO
STARRED QUESTION NO. 269 DATED 25.07.2014
REGARDING CASES OF MEASLES**

Dr. Harsh Vardhan

87-95

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

96-104

CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF 105-129
URGENT PUBLIC IMPORTANCE

Need to Correct the Price Fixation Mechanism for Sugarcane and other Agricultural Products in the Country

Dr. Satya Pal Singh 105,
108-117

Shrimati Krishna Raj 117-119

Shri Ramvilas Paswan 105-108

120-129

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193 138-194

Need to have stringent legislation to check increasing atrocities against women and children in the country

Dr. Ratna De (Nag) 138-143

Shrimati Poonam Mahajan 144-149

Shri Prem Singh Chandumajra	150-152
Shrimati Anju Bala	153-157
Shri E.T. Mohammad Basheer	158-162
Shri Kaushalendra Kumar	163-166
Shri Dushyant Chautala	167-171
Sadhvi Savitri Bai Phule	172-176
Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher	177-180
Shri Badruddin Ajmal	181-184
Shri Asaduddin Owaisi	185-188
Shri Bhagwant Mann	189-192
Shrimati Poonamben Maadam	193-194

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS -Introduced

(i) Farmers (Right to Assured Minimum Price for
Agricultural Produce) Bill, 2014

By Shri Devji M. Patel 195

(ii) Coconut Growers (Welfare) Bill, 2014

By Shri M. Raghvan 196

(iii) Payment of Compensation to Persons Attacked
by Wild Animals Bill, 2014

By Shri M. Raghvan 198

(iv) High Court of Kerala (Establishment of a
Permanent Bench at Kozhikode) Bill, 2014

By Shri M. Raghvan 199

- (v) Payment of Compensation to Victims of Natural Calamities and Snake Bite Bill, 2014
- By Shri M. Raghvan 200
- (vi) The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2014
- By Dr. Kirit P. Solanki 201
- (vii) Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2014
- By Dr. Kirit P. Solanki 202
- (viii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014
(Insertion of new article 16A, etc.)
- By Dr. Kirit P. Solanki 203
- (ix) Acid (Control) Bill, 2014
- By Dr. Kirit P. Solanki 204

- (x) Government Services (Regulation of
Compassionate Appointments) Bill, 2014
By Shri A. T. Nana Patil 205
- (xi) National Assets (Protection) Bill, 2014
By Shri A. T. Nana Patil 206
- (xii) Agricultural Workers Welfare Bill, 2014
By Shri A. T. Nana Patil 207
- (xiii) Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites
and Remains (Amendment) Bill,
2014 (Amendment of section 20A, etc.)
By Shri A. T. Nana Patil 208
- (xiv) Financial Assistance to the State Governments
(For Protection of Water Bodies) Bill, 2014
By Shri Mullappally Ramachandran 209

- (xv) Labour Force (Demand and Supply Survey) Bill, 2014
- By Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy 210
- (xvi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014
(Amendment of the Eighth Schedule)
- By Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy 211
- (xvii) Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2014
- By Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy 212
- (xviii) Prevention of Cruelty to Cows Bill, 2014
- By Shri Sunil Kumar Singh 213
- (xix) National Commission for Youth Bill, 2014
- By Shri Sunil Kumar Singh 214

(xx) Central Universities (Conditions of Service of Non-Teaching Staff) Bill, 2014

By Shri Jagdambika Pal 215

(xxi) Backward Areas Development Board Bill, 2014

By Shri Jagdambika Pal 216

(xxii) Pre-Examination Coaching Centres Regulatory Authority Bill, 2014

By Shri Jagdambika Pal 217

(xxiii) Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Amendment of the Schedule)

By Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav 218

(xxiv) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order
(Amendment) Bill, 2014 (Amendment of the
Schedule)

By Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav 219

(xxv) Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 2014
(Amendment of article 243A).

By Shri Shailesh Kumar 220

(xxvi) Constitution (Amendment) Bill 2014
(Amendment of article 171)

By Shri Shailesh Kumar 221

(xxvii) Constitution (Amendment) Bill,
2014(Amendment of article 39)

By Shri P.P. Chaudhary 222

**(i) NATIONAL MINIMUM PENSION
(GUARANTEE) BILL, 2014**

Motion to Consider	223
Shri Jagdambika Pal	223-228
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	229-237
Shri Virendra Kashyap	238-241
Shri P.P. Chaudhary	242-246
Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey	247-250
Shrimati Rama Devi	251-254
Shri Anurag Singh Thakur	255-261
Shri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav	262-266
Dr. Mamta Sanghamita	267-268
Shri Hansraj G. Ahir	269-271
Shri Shankar Prasad Datta	272-274
Shri Narendra Singh Tomar	275-285

Shri Nishikant Dubey 286-292

Bill Withdrawn 292

(ii) CENTRAL HIMALAYAN STATES 293-296
DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL BILL, 2014

Motion to Consider 293

Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank 293-296

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi

Dr. M. Thambidurai

Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Friday, August 08, 2014/Shravana 17, 1936 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER in the Chair]

REFERENCE BY THE SPEAKER

72nd Anniversary of the Quit India Movement

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, tomorrow is 9th August, we have a holiday, so I am reading today. Hon. Members, seventy-two years ago on 9 August, 1942, Mahatma Gandhi gave the clarion call of 'Quit India' enthusing the entire Nation to rise in unison for liberating the country from the shackles of British rule.

The 'Quit India' movement, one of the most defining moments in our Independence struggle had given a decisive thrust in India's quest for freedom.

On this occasion, while paying our homage to the Father of the Nation and to all the martyrs who laid down their lives in the freedom struggle, we rededicate ourselves to the high ideals for which they stood, and strive to make India a strong and prosperous nation, it would be most appropriate today.

Now the assembly will stand in silent tribute to all the freedom fighters of the Independence Struggle Army.

11.02 hrs

The Members then stood in the silence for short while.

11.02 hrs.

***ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No.441, Dr. Bhola Singh.

(Q. 441)

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Madam, through the medium of this platform, I wish to inquire from the Hon. Minister of Finance if she has mentioned the establishment of a mission in her financial budget and her address.

I want to know that there is a huge difference between the number of loan application forms received by banks and the number of applications sanctioned. If you look at the response provided, you will see that Allahabad Bank received 4,388 applications and sanctioned loans to 590. Similarly, Andhra Bank received 4,041 applications and sanctioned loans to 634. Bank of Baroda received 27,315 applications, and 1,832 loans were sanctioned. These application forms represent people's hopes and aspirations. The Government has taken a step to

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

bring fragrance into their lives, but keeping the attitude of the banks in mind, I want to ask the Hon. Minister if the Union Government and the Hon. Minister have given any directives to the banks to provide loans in easy instalments to close this gap and prevent these hopes from being dashed?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Hon. Speaker, the annexure being referred to in the answer and the two figures that the Hon. Member has cited have different contexts. For example, in Allahabad Bank, the figure 4,388 refers to the number of applications received, and 590 crore refers to the amount of money in rupees that was given as a loan. So the figure 590 is related to the amount in rupees. Someone might have asked for five lakhs, and someone else might have asked for ten lakhs. Therefore, if you multiply it, the number of applications will increase significantly. A lot of credit is being provided for house construction and housing through various scheduled commercial banks, the National Housing Bank which refinances, and other financing societies. The guidelines for this and the interest rate are decided by the RBI. After that, banks are free to decide their own interest rates, but even then, the Government arranges for grants and money through various means to provide an interest incentive, which is called a subvention.

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Through the Chair, I would like to ask the Government whether, under the action plan for the low-cost housing mission it has announced, it has set state-wise targets. If so, what is the figure for Bihar?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Hon. Speaker, today there are seven crore people, that is, seven crore families, for whom house construction is a goal for the entire country and the Government. These are distributed among the various states of the country. If the Hon. Member writes to me, I will provide him with the figure for Bihar. Of these, 31 per cent are urban. The rest are people from rural areas, and therefore, there is an adequate plan to provide money to people through loans at both levels so that they can build houses.

KUNWAR HARIVANSH SINGH: Madam Speaker, I would like to ask the Minister whether real estate developers have an important role in making affordable houses available to the poor. Madam, the real estate sector is currently going through a period of recession. At such a time, will the Government consider making loans available to real estate developers at low interest rates, giving this sector infrastructure status, and providing tax exemptions, etc.? If so, what are the details, and if not, what are the reasons?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, we are making efforts in various ways for the real estate sector to progress. In this year's budget, the tax exemption on the interest paid on home loans, which was Rs. 1.5 lakh, has been increased to Rs. 2 lakh, to create enthusiasm and an incentive among people to spend their money on home construction. As for making money available to real estate contractors or developers, it depends on the rates that banks or financial institutions decide. Since prices and inflation were rising considerably, the Reserve Bank, which manages this, had set an interest rate that influences the interest rates that banks and financial institutions decide for their loans. However, if inflation comes under control, which seems likely these days, it is natural that the interest rate may also decrease in the coming days.

[English]

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA: Madam, the slum population in Andhra Pradesh has gone up from 70 lakhs in 2001 to more than 85 lakhs in 2013. The Technical Group of the Planning Commission has estimated a shortage of 1.27 million in Andhra Pradesh during the 12th Plan. To ameliorate their living conditions, shelter or providing house at an affordable price is the need of the hour. I compliment the National Housing Bank for its good efforts in this regard. In 2013-14, the then Finance Minister had proposed the Urban Housing Fund and provided Rs. 2000 crore. [The NHB has formulated a full finance scheme to fund and channelise funds into the urban housing sector. My question relates to part 'a' of the main question. Here, the NHB is putting a condition that annual income of individuals should not be more than Rs. 4 lakhs and the cost of dwelling unit should be not more than Rs. 16 lakh. In no city, anyone can get a house for Rs. 16 lakh. So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to why we cannot increase the annual income limit to Rs. 10 lakh and the dwelling unit limit to Rs. 25 lakh.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, these are different schemes under which funds are made available to different people. As far as the National Housing Bank is concerned, it refines various finance

corporations and finance companies which have two different kinds of schemes. One is meant for low cost housing for which the maximum loan amount is of Rs. 10 lakh. Therefore, housing is done up to a particular limit. There is a second category where the size of the dwelling unit is also mentioned and the dwelling unit cost has to be Rs. 16 lakh. Now, these are schemes which cover only these two categories of affordable housing. Now, there are obviously many other schemes on which from HUDCO, from scheduled commercial banks, one can get loans for housing both in urban and rural areas, if one is going to spend more than this amount.

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN: Madam Speaker, I am really happy that our Hon. Finance Minister has explained in detail the measures that the Government is taking for releasing loans for the purpose of housing for urban poor which is one of the very basic necessities of life. Having said that, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the definition of poor as per the Tendulkar Committee Report or the Saxena Committee Report or the latest Rangarajan Committee Report is being made applicable for including urban poor in giving loans from the National Housing Bank and other financial institutions. Apart from that, as we all know, the purpose of the definition of poor, as per those Reports is different. But I want to

know the criteria or norms for defining urban poor in this respect. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Only one supplementary is allowed.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, those definitions or the debate with regard to what constitutes the poor in urban and rural areas deals with subject matter in relation to the Right to Food and various other basic amenities that they are entitled to. Now the question relates to urban housing and loans on urban housing. Therefore, those definitions have no applicability as far as this is concerned. This relates to an entirely different category which probably is economically far stronger than the categories, the Hon. Member has in mind. As I mentioned, these are houses which the NHB finances where the loan limits are up to Rs. 10 lakh and Rs. 16 lakh. Those who have been named by the Tendulkar Committee Report or the other Reports probably still have a long distance to go before they can aspire in this direction.

[Translation]

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Hon. Speaker, my question to the Hon. Minister is whether the National Housing Bank is working on any scheme related to low-income rural housing or is considering such a

scheme in the future. Secondly, what is the determination for the minimum base rate of interest, and what are the interest assistance schemes announced from time to time?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: The Rural Housing Fund is related to people who do not have housing in rural areas. In urban areas, there are separate schemes, and in rural areas, there are different schemes. The schemes of rural areas have a separate relation with this.

Secondly, the loan given in rural areas, which is given money for refinance, has a cap of 2 per cent of its upper limit, cannot be given more than that.

(Q. 442)

[English]

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: Madam Speaker, I asked this question in view of the plight of the poor and economically weaker patients who are suffering from deadly diseases like cancer, kidney problems, heart problems, dengue fever, etc. The poor patients who are living in remote villages have to travel hundreds of kilometres to reach district hospitals for treatment of such diseases. In spite of the efforts being made by the respective State Governments, our district hospitals are not fully equipped to treat such patients. These poor patients cannot afford to go to private hospitals. They are not capable of paying even the minimum hospital expenses. The bitter truth, Madam, is that these poor patients prefer death rather than struggling to travel the distances and pay the minimum expenses.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether this Government has initiated any action to strengthen the district hospitals and to decentralize the healthcare system. The patients who are suffering from these types of diseases can get treatment in hospitals situated in the capital cities. But the patients from small and remote villages cannot even travel the distances. Even to reach a district hospital, they have to travel more than 100 kilometres. So, I urge upon

the Hon. Minister to take some initiatives to strengthen the district hospitals. I would actually request him to strengthen the Taluk hospitals also but at least he should begin by enabling the poor patients to access healthcare instead of preferring death by providing some minimum treatment facilities to them.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the concern of the Hon. Member. For his information, there are various compartments in which the healthcare delivery system is divided. Starting from a sub-centre, primary health centre, community health centre and district hospital are the various levels provided according to the needs of the society and according to the population. In recent years we have relaxed the norms for the difficult areas where the poor people have to travel quite a bit. Now somebody has to be within half-an-hour's distance, and even in that there is a further relaxation of norms.

Under the National Health Mission, of which the National Rural Health Mission is a component, there is a scheme for strengthening the district hospitals for its various facilities. Under this scheme, we have in fact laid down specific norms of what is essential at the level of the primary health centre and what is desirable. For the State Governments also we have made a provision whereby those services

which should essentially be there and those which are desirable up to that level. They can always upgrade that and they can make their own plans. There is a mechanism called the Programme Implementation Plan under which the respective State Governments give their detailed plans.

We help the State Governments through the National Health Mission for upgradation of their various facilities at various levels starting from the sub-centres up to the district hospitals.

I am not elaborating on the various services that are being given at the district hospitals. Apart from that, to ensure that the poor people get the medicines, diagnostic facilities and the basic preventive and promotive aspects of the healthcare delivery system, we are coming out with a National Assurance Mission in which there would be a component of a National Universal Health Insurance. There was a mention about it in the Finance Minister's speech also. You will know about it. In this, we will make sure that every person in this country has access to these health services, plus access to 50 essential drugs which will take care of 95 per cent illnesses, plus basic investigations, plus a package of preventive, promotive and positive health at his or her doorstep.

Apart from this, I have a request to all the Parliamentarians. There are two committees at the level of districts and these hospitals. One is the *Rogi Kalyan Samiti* in which the Member of Parliament is the Chairman of every district hospital's *Rogi Kalyan Samiti*. ... (*Interruptions*) Let me complete. I request you to let me complete. After I complete, if you are not satisfied, you can raise your queries. I am not objecting to your raising queries but you should have adequate information. ... (*Interruptions*) I am saying that you have to be more vigilant. That is what I am trying to inform you. I am trying to inform all of you that there are two committees of which you are the Chairman. ... (*Interruptions*) Please listen to me. My dear friends, please let me complete. If you are not satisfied, you raise your queries.

There are these committees at two levels – one is at the district level and another at the district hospital level. There is the *Rogi Kalyan Samiti* and at the district level, there is a district-level committee. ... (*Interruptions*) You please let me complete. ... (*Interruptions*) If you are not participating in these committees, ask your District Magistrate. Please go and be in touch with the district hospital, you will come to know about it. ... (*Interruptions*) Since a new Parliament has been constituted, we have already written to the State Governments to make sure that these committees are constituted

immediately. They are part of the mechanism. So, at the district level also, the Parliamentarian is the Chairman of the committee. I seek your indulgence in making sure that in your respective districts which you are representing you can go and see how the programme, that is, the National Health Mission is being implemented. You can direct them. You can even give us your feedback.

These are official committees. We have also written to the State Governments to ensure that these committees are part of the institutional mechanism. So, it is not that I am not saying it only here. You please get involved in these committees. You are the Chairman. You have to decide. It has got all the Members who are relevant in that situation.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: My thrust was, keeping the poor patients into consideration, to strengthen the district hospitals by providing maximum financial assistance.

Secondly, Tumkur in Karnataka is the headquarters of my Parliamentary Constituency. Four National Highways are running through that district. The district hospital in Tumkur is over-crowded with poor patients. The Hon. Finance Minister was kind enough to announce and propose an industrial small city in Tumkur. Of course, the Government of Karnataka is taking all measures to provide good

health care to all of us. In spite of that, for example, in the district hospitals, there is absolutely nothing to diagnose dengue fever. They are sending samples to Bengaluru City. There is no chemotherapy treatment for cancer. Sufficient dialysis machines are not provided to treat kidney patients. My request to the Hon. Minister is this. Keeping in view the fact that Tumkur is being announced as industrial small city and keeping the future of that city into consideration, whether any financial assistance or any special package will be given to strengthen the district hospital of Tumkur.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please keep Tumkur in mind.

[English]

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: In reply to your original question, I have said that every State Government can demand from the Union Government, through the Programme Implementation Plan, known as the PIP, for specific upgradation of all the health facilities, which of course, include the district hospitals and also includes your district hospital too. Since the Members of Parliament are the Chairmen of the districts, they could suggest to the respect State Governments, saying that such facilities should be upgraded and if they are put in

the respective Plan, the Union Government will help them to upgrade those facilities.

[Translation]

SHRI NANA PATOLE: Hon. Speaker, the Minister has given a detailed answer here. He has certainly spoken about the Union Government's policy. I am from the state of Maharashtra. He has spoken about the structure of PHCs, rural hospitals, and district hospitals. The reality is that even today, there are no technicians there. District hospitals have machines, but there are no technicians or doctors.

Madam, we have also found the reason behind this. People become doctors and MDs after spending crores of rupees on their education, but they do not work in district hospitals, nor in PHCs, nor in villages. The doctors we produce do not work there. Today, all the hospitals are lying empty.

Through you, I want to ask the Hon. Minister if we would be willing to change the medical education system. The machines are lying idle there, with no technicians. The constant blame game between the Union Government and the state Government is a reality, and because of it, the common person does not.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam, I would like to tell the Hon. Member two or three things, first, he has spoken about the shortage of medical manpower, there is no doubt that there is a shortage of medical manpower in the country, but to further strengthen this, many activities have been planned by the Government, which the Government is implementing in various phases. There are many such places, where we can convert district hospitals into medical colleges. There are 200-bed district hospitals, where, let's say, there is no Government or private medical college already, there is a plan to convert them on a large scale into medical colleges, under which the production of medical manpower can be further improved.

There is a scheme, under which we are working to convert district hospitals, and medical colleges, into super-speciality hospitals, in which we can further improve undergraduate and postgraduate manpower. Along with this, we have made many plans across the country, in which there is a three-year B.Sc. course in community service. Those who get equipped with knowledge in about three years so that they can provide a minimum replacement there. We are also trying to do this in the National Health Mission. We have given the facility to the state Governments under the plan that if they are unable to provide facilities for manpower in ordinary ways, for a specialist in

a district hospital, if they have to pay extra, if they have to give an extra salary, where other people are not reaching, we also support them through the Health Mission for them.

There is a plan to establish AIIMS across the country. Under this plan, we aim to make available new medical manpower production and tertiary care, which are health services, in all our provinces. For this comprehensive plan, the Union Government merely provides support, financial assistance, guidance, and sets norms, but the entire responsibility for implementation lies with the state Governments. We are committed to fully assisting them wherever they seek assistance in implementing these initiatives.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY: Madam, health is a State subject, and naturally, the Government of India has limited scope to provide assistance. The Minister has mentioned certain cases, such as special newborn care units, maternal and child care units, labor rooms, operation theaters, diagnostic labs, and other infrastructure, where the Union Government can offer support. The Hon. Minister has stated that the Union Government allocates Rs. 10 lakh to district hospitals. I question whether Rs. 10 lakh is sufficient and truly beneficial for a State Government in terms of a district hospital. I am curious to know

if these district hospitals can be upgraded nationwide to tertiary or super specialty hospital levels. You have already mentioned the categorization of 10 high-focus States in the country. You 10 have printed it under Category-One Focus States, as you mentioned. And, there are 11 non-high-focus States. I would like to know the criteria behind this categorization. Which States have been considered as high-focus States and which States have been considered as non-high focus States?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: In answer to the first part of the question, let me clarify that for upgradation of all these facilities, as you have mentioned about the neo-natal care units, labour rooms or labs etc., the State Government has to mention what needs to be upgraded. Even if there is construction of 100-bedded new building for maternal and child welfare centre, it has to be mentioned in the Programme Implementation Plan. Rs. 10 lakh is given over and above all those routine activities which are at the disposal of the *Rogi Kalyan Samiti*. This is given for small things which you may not need to mention in the PIP. As I said, if you go and take interest in your district hospital's *Rogi Kalyan Samiti*, you can plan in a better way and can give us a better feedback. That is possible.

Secondly, you have mentioned about upgradation of the district hospitals. We are already in the process of upgrading these district hospitals. Wherever we have got 200-bedded district hospital and adequate land is available within 5-10 kms., there is a scheme which is already functioning, that is where we do not have a medical college or a super speciality tertiary care facility available, we are in the process of converting them into big medical colleges and super speciality hospitals. That is already a part of the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojna, about which I have mentioned earlier also.

[Translation]

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Madam Speaker, through you, I want to ask the Hon. Minister if the Government is considering new, concrete measures to provide better facilities in district hospitals under the National Health Mission scheme. Patients die untimely deaths due to a lack of medicine, beds, oxygen, and blood banks. I personally observe this in Banka, Bihar. Does the Government want to consider any new, concrete measures? The Hon. Minister has discussed many things; you have formed a committee for patients and services, and I am the chairman of it, so please have a letter sent for that. I will work hard on it.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: You have just mentioned the letter, and you will receive my letter as well. Regarding the second point you raised, we are reviewing every single aspect of the National Health Mission in great detail. We have identified 184 districts across the country that genuinely have a lack of health facilities, infrastructure, manpower, or other necessary resources for health delivery, and we are giving these an extra focus. We are also trying to provide 30 per cent more funds there. We are trying to strengthen the implementation process of the National Health Mission by adding further professional inputs to its monitoring. I am once again requesting all of you to personally visit your respective district hospitals in your areas. Give us your feedback. Based on your feedback, we will improve our schemes and enhance health services in your area. We will also formally send you a letter for this very soon. It is not that we have only made an announcement here. An institutional mechanism is already created.

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Madam Speaker, the Minister has put forward several schemes for the improvement of district hospitals. But unfortunately, today all district hospitals are on ventilators. In my constituency of Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg, doctors do not want to come. Sindhudurg is the only district that has been

declared a tourist district. There is a provision for Chandrapur that special allowances are given to doctors who go there. Since Sindhudurg is a tourist district, the state Government provides six extra increments to encourage doctors to come to the hospital there. Along with this, will the Government also make arrangements to give them special allowances?

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Madam Speaker, I think I told you the same thing in the previous question, that in such difficult areas where medical manpower is not available for any reason, where specialists are not reaching, under the National Health Mission, we have provisions for state Governments to give extra salaries. They can also negotiate the salaries and inform the Union Government. There is adequate provision for that. Whatever shortcomings you find in any district hospital or primary healthcare, you have to submit them to the Union Government to get them upgraded under the plan. The plan is passed from here, and money is given to them. Basically, the state Government has to do all this work. Health is a state subject. We can only provide assistance, give money, provide guidance, state the norms, and where necessary, relax the norms. But the basic action for this has to be taken by the state Government. Please pursue this matter

with your state Government. If you need any specific assistance from us in that regard, you can take it. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: There has been a lot of discussion on this topic. You all have also received information. You can go to your respective area and see the district hospital. If not, then ask me directly.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 443)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak - Not present.

Anyway, this topic has been discussed. So, we'll move on to the next question.

(Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Hon. Speaker, will not the question 443 be taken?

HON. SPEAKER: This question is about small investors. There has already been a lot of discussion on this.

Question 444, - Dr. Shashi Tharoor.

(Q.444)

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: Madam Speaker, the relevant Act of Parliament which is the Scheduled Tribes and Other Traditional Forest Dwellers (Recognition of Forest Rights) Act, 2006, gives the forest dwelling Scheduled Tribes and other traditional forest dwellers the right to own, collect, use and dispose of minor forest produce which they have traditionally collected.

Madam, for example, in a State like Kerala the chief occupation of the Kuttanayakan tribal community has always been the collection of honey and the Cholanayakans need forest for their livelihood. They collect forest goods and sell them through cooperative societies.

Now, Minimum Support Price mechanism will give social safety to these gatherers of minor forest produce. They will be able to procure a good price for their goods and protect themselves from the exploitation of local traders. But Kerala gets no MSP because it is only given to States that have actually got areas under the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution. Now this is absolutely illogical because the Fifth Schedule is about administration not about people and it is not about the well being of the forest dwellers.

So, my question to the Hon. Minister is, whether the Government proposes to extend the mechanism for marketing of minor forest produce through Minimum Support Price to States that are excluded from the Fifth Schedule but have significant tribal communities dependent upon forest produce such as Kerala.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Hon. Speaker, I am aware of the concern raised by the respected Member. We have included the PISA State in the fifth schedule. This was the mandate of the cabinet. Right now, we are considering whether MSP should be included in minor forest products in non-PISA states or not. This matter is under consideration and we can take a decision on it.

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR: I thank the Minister for that constructive response.

The current scheme which provides for marketing of the existing minor forest produce through MSP has certain provisions for creating storage facility, modernization of haats and so on. But currently forestry species taken up for plantation generally give preference to commercial species and often ignore the real tribal minor forest

produce which takes more time to grow and so on rather than the commercial species like eucalyptus.

So, can the Minister and the Government take steps to provide for regeneration of minor forest produce introducing a scheme, for example, for the plantation of tamarind or medicinal trees that we have in Kerala in large quantities in various afforestation programmes to give these tribal people and forest dwellers a decent means of livelihood?

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Madam, the responsibility for the pricing and marketing of Minor Forest Produce is ours, while the responsibility for plantation belongs to another Ministry. It would be appropriate if the Hon. Member were to ask the concerned Ministry.

HON. SPEAKER: Please convey the Hon. Member's point to the concerned Ministry.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: Madam Speaker, through you, I want to ask the Hon. Minister whether the MSP he has set for the upliftment of the lives of forest dwellers is sufficient. If it is not sufficient, what is his plan to fix it? In addition to this, can the Hon. Minister create a scheme to identify specific areas in the forest

regions where they reside, where they can increase the cultivation of such produce and work towards it?

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Madam, the Government of India has announced a Minimum Support Price on ten items including tamarind, honey, liquor, gum karaya, karanj seed, sal seed, mahua seed, sal leaves, chironji, etc. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Amla must also be included in this.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Yes. We have declared a Minimum Support Price on these ten items. If the market rate falls below the support price we have announced, then we intervene. We have implemented the MSP system for better prices. What will be the better situation in the future depends on the market, and we will announce the rates after observing it.

SHRI GODAM NAGESH: Hon. Speaker, every year, due to deforestation, the production of Minor Forest Produce is decreasing. Therefore, I want to ask the Hon. Minister what steps the Government is taking to increase MFP and whether the GCC (Girijan Cooperative Corporation) in our state is involved in the marketing of MFP.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: The GCC of Andhra Pradesh is also included in our agency. ... (*Interruptions*) Yes, now it is Telangana.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, now it is Telangana.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JUAL ORAM: So, the Girijan Cooperative Corporation of Telangana is also in our system, but there is one problem there: the lease for the Minor Forest Produce of that state has been given to one organisation, because of which we are unable to implement the MSP there. Regarding this, we are repeatedly writing to the state Government, and we are also requesting the Hon. Member to ask the state Government to free up the Minor Forest Produce so that we can implement the MSP.

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: Hon. Speaker, through you, I need to ask the Minister, but before that, I would like to tell him two things to correct. There are 10 items in the list that has been provided in the answer. Among them, Sal leaves do not sell. Instead, Tendu leaves or Bidi leaves should be there. I do not know which officers have prepared this. Secondly, honey is no longer found in the jungle; now it is found in the villages. His officers should correct this, and if they do not know, they should trade it.

Madam Speaker, he mentioned Jharkhand and said there is a Jharkhand Marketing Cooperative Society there. But to date, the

Jharkhand Marketing Cooperative Society has not purchased a single item. Therefore, I want to know if the Minister can tell us if this organisation has purchased even a single item out of these ten in the last three years.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Madam Speaker, this was implemented only last year. That is, we have started purchasing only from this year. The question of three years ago does not arise at all. ... (*Interruptions*) Secondly, Shri Kariya Ji, for your information, let me tell you... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KARIYA MUNDA: It has been going on for twenty-two years.

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Large seed business is in Odisha, where it is done for crores of rupees, so year seed is also covered in MSP.

[English]

SHRI RAMCHANDRA HANSDAH: Madam Speaker, I want to thank the Government for having recently launched a scheme called Marketing of Minor Forest Produce for Minimum Support Price and development of value chain for MFP.

But I am disappointed to find that only 12 items have been included in this scheme. But in Odisha, I want to inform the Hon.

Minister, that there are 62 such non-timber minor forest products which are included in this Minimum Support Price and the Panchayats are given the power to procure them. In some cases even regulated market committees are infringing in this procurement process. So, I would like to know in such cases what steps does the Government proposes to take.

[Translation]

SHRI JUAL ORAM: Madam Speaker, there are many items of Minor Forest Produce. However, the Government of India has taken these ten items on an experimental basis. We have announced the MSP for items where there is a chance of tribals being exploited, or where they are exploited. If they are sold for less than that, many Government agencies will intervene. In Odisha, even the Panchayati Raj institutions have been given the right to free market them, and they also do so, but if the price falls below the MSP, the Government of India's agency takes action.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Next Question, Shri Anto Antony – Not present.
Shrimati Anupriya Patel – Not present.

Now, Shri Dushyant Singh may put his supplementary.

(Q. No. 445)

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH: Madam Speaker, Chinese imports are rising yearly. In 2008-09, there were imports worth Rs. 146,000 crore and it has gone to 52.25 Billions in 2012-13. What is the Government doing to ensure protection of small scale industries especially the sector of electronic goods, machinery, organic chemicals, toy industry, cycle industry, paper and plastic products industry. How are we going to safeguard our industry from the imports that are coming into our country from China which are rising on a yearly basis? How can we take care of our small companies based here?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam Speaker, it is a fact that we have removed all the quantitative restrictions on imports since 2001. However, particularly to protect the small and medium size industries and also to safeguard all manufacturers from India, there are several steps which we take periodically from the Ministry of Commerce first of which is the anti-dumping duty which the DG (Anti-Dumping) initiates when there is an issue. Therefore, at the moment, if we are specifically talking about China, I am able to provide this august House the fact that about 166 products involving imports from China out of a total of 690 cases, involving many other countries also, are under the anti-dumping duty investigation and

action is being taken on them. Of course, that includes products which come from chemical, petrochemical, pharmaceutical areas, steel and other metals, fibres, yarns and also consumer goods.

Besides that, there are safeguard measures which we take when there is a sudden surge in import and that is also well within and in accordance with the WTO Agreement on Safeguards. That is one of the ways in which we protect our industries.

Thirdly, when we are talking about measures which are taken on account of safeguards on health or standards of production, I would like to say that, in the case of toys, when we found hazardous materials in the toys which were being imported, they were also, based on the quality and standards, restricted under our Foreign Trade Policy. Similar is the case with milk and milk products.

Since the original Question is related to bicycles, I would also like to say that basic customs duty has been raised from ten per cent in 2011-12 to 30 per cent in 2012-13. So, essentially, we are trying to protect our small and medium manufacturers.

On the Hon. Member's specific question on electronics, I would like to say that Government has imposed prohibition on the import of mobile handsets without International Mobile Equipment Identity

(IMEI) numbers or with all zeroes IMEI and import of CDMA mobile phones without Electronic Serial Numbers , Mobile Equipment Identifier (MEID) or all zeroes ESN/MEID. So, on particular electronic matters also, action is being taken.

PROF. SUGATA BOSE: Madam, I am surprised to learn from the answer provided on the Table of the House that information about the influx of counterfeit goods is not available with the Ministry. Of course, I understand that the primary responsibility for investigating complaints about manufacturing and trading of counterfeit products rests with the State Police. But if our Ministry is going to promote legitimate trade, surely it needs information about the extent of illegitimate trade being conducted across our borders.

So, will the Minister take steps from now on to gather information from the States about the extent of counterfeit goods being traded across our borders?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: The point raised by the Hon. Member is very well taken. The difficulty in this is that, when a counterfeit good comes into the country, only when the owner of the brand genuinely feels that his products are being imitated and counterfeit goods are getting generated, it is raised as an issue and becomes a cause for investigation. We are in no position to identify

how many such counterfeits are coming. So, the original brand holder is the one who should initiate the process.

However, in the interest of genuine trade about which the Hon. Member raised a concern, we will take his advice, and we will try to see how best we can, if at all, initiate some process.

MADAM SPEAKER: Very good.

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA: It is quite apparent, as my Hon. friend also said, that Chinese exports into India are growing. It is a matter of great concern for our SME industries especially. It is also a fact that China has started new strategy of exporting goods into India through third countries, like Sri Lanka and Bangladesh because we have a differential tax import treaty with a lot of these countries.

For example, if you take the case of bicycles, it is cheaper for China to send the goods into India through Bangladesh or Sri Lanka rather than for them to export it directly to India. The differential tax rate of import duty is 6.5 per cent for goods coming in from Sri Lanka verses the 20 per cent directly coming in from China.

Is the Government aware that these strategies are being deployed by China? How we, as a country, going to thwart these strategies to

ensure that there is parity and the fact that we can allow domestic industries to grow?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: The Member has raised a very important trade-related issue, which leads to distorted practices in trade. I fully appreciate it. Not just bicycles, many other goods also find a route into India through third countries. This is a larger issue on which the Ministry is certainly working. We are seized of the matter. I would not say comprehensively work has been already done. We will certainly initiate every process which is required. ... *(Interruptions)* I am certainly aware that not just in bicycles but in many other products too such a thing is happening. We are certainly working on understanding how best we can countervail these sort of things. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: He has stated generally. You were given an opportunity.

SHRI VEERENDRA KASHYAP: Madam Speaker, there is no doubt that China has completely dominated the Indian market today. Every type of Chinese item is being sold in our country. Some agricultural produce is also being illegally imported into India, with

garlic being the main one. Garlic has medicinal value. Our country's garlic production is nine to ten lakh tonnes per year, whereas in China, it is approximately 14 to 15 lakh tonnes. Chinese garlic is banned in our country because it contains fungus. But Chinese garlic is being brought into India illegally through Bangladesh, Pakistan, and Nepal. I want to ask the Minister whether the Government will impose a ban on this illegal garlic entering our country or not?

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: The Hon. Member and several others have come with delegations giving notes to the Ministry about the concern which he has just expressed, particularly on garlic.

The Ministry is seized of the matter. We will certainly respond to him and to the House about how we are going to handle that issue.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri T. Radhakrishnan.

***SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:** Hon. Madam Speaker. In my Virudhunagar constituency, Sivakasi is known for fire works and crackers. Fireworks are manufactured in this place and sent to different parts of the country. This industry provides livelihood for more than 2 lakh workers. Fireworks are being illegally transported

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

from China to India through land and water-ways. They are brought through Nepal also. There is a substantial loss of revenue to the Union Government besides affecting the lives of workers. Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchithalaivi* Amma had written several letters to the previous Government. But there was no response.

HON. SPEAKER: Time is over.

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN : Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has also written to the Hon. Prime Minister in this regard.

HON. SPEAKER: Time is over. Yes. Minister.

***SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN:** Shall I say in Tamil. Hon. Chief Minister's letter to Hon. Prime Minister has been received. Necessary and rightful action would be taken at an appropriate time.

HON. SPEAKER: Question Hour is over.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 446 to 460

Unstarred Question Nos. 4279 to 450

12.01 hrs

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Now Papers to be laid.

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

(1) A copy of Notification Nos. S.O. 1111(E) to S.O. 1116(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd April, 2014, regarding nominations, names mentioned therein, to Institute Body of six new AIIMS issued under sub-section (3) of Section 6 of the All India Institute of Medical Sciences Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 645/16/14]

(2) A copy of the Revised Dentists (Code of Ethics) Regulations, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. DE-97-2014 in Gazette of India dated 27th June, 2014 under sub-section (4) of Section 20 of the Dentists Act, 1948.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 646/16/14]

- (3) A copy of the Food Safety and Standards (Amendment) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.508(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th July, 2014 under Section 93 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 647/16/14]

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 DEFENCE (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

- (1) Outcome Budget of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 648/16/14]

- (2) Outcome Budget of the National Cadet Corps for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 649/16/14]

- (3) Outcome Budget of the Directorate General Married Accommodation Project for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 650/16/14]

- (4) Outcome Budget of the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 651/16/14]

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) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014 under sub-section (2) of Section 18 of the Securities and Exchange Board of India Act, 1992.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 652/16/14]

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

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2012-2013.

(ii) Annual Report of the Security Printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2012-2013, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 653/16/14]

(3) A copy of the 44th Valuation Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Life Insurance Corporation of India, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 654/16/14]

(4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 655/16/14]

- (5) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Securities and Exchange Board of India, Mumbai, for the year 2012-2013, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 656/16/14]

- (6) A copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 657/16/14]

- (7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (4) of Section 469 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (i) The Companies (Corporate Social Responsibility Policy) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 129(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th February, 2014.
- (ii) The Companies (Specification of definitions details) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 238(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2014.
- (iii) The Companies (Accounts) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 239(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2014.
- (iv) The Companies (Meetings of Board and its Powers) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 240(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2014.
- (v) The Companies (Declaration and Payment of Dividend) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 241(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2014.
- (vi) The Nidhi Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 258(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd April, 2014.
- (vii) The Companies (Miscellaneous) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 253(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014.

- (viii) The Companies (Adjudication of Penalties) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 254(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014.
- (ix) The Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 251(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014.
- (x) The Companies (Issue of Global Depository Receipts) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 252(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014.
- (xi) The Companies (Incorporation) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 250(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014.
- (xii) The Companies (Appointment and Remuneration of Managerial Personnel) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 249(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014.
- (xiii) The Companies (Registration of Charges) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 248(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014.

- (xiv) The Companies (Inspection, Investigation and Inquiry) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 247(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014.
- (xv) The Companies (Audit and Auditors) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 246(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st April, 2014.
- (xvi) The Companies (Management and Administration) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 260(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd April, 2014.
- (xvii) The Companies (Appointment and Qualification of Directors) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 259(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd April, 2014.
- (xviii) The Companies (Authorised to Registered) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 257(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd April, 2014.
- (xix) The Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 256(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd April, 2014.

- (xx) The Companies (Registration of Foreign Companies) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 266(E) in Gazette of India dated 3rd April, 2014.
- (xxi) The Companies (Share Capital and Debentures) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 265(E) in Gazette of India dated 3rd April, 2014.
- (xxii) The Companies (Registration Offices and Fees) Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 268(E) in Gazette of India dated 4th April, 2014.
- (xxiii) The Companies (Registration Offices and Fees) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 297(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th April, 2014.
- (xxiv) The Companies (Acceptance of Deposits) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 386(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th June, 2014.
- (xxv) The Companies (Appointment and Remuneration of Managerial Personnel) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 390(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th June, 2014.

- (xxvi) The Companies (Meetings and Power of Board) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 398(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th June, 2014.
- (xxvii) The Companies (Share Capital and Debentures) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 413(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th June, 2014.
- (xxviii) The Companies (Management and Administration) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 415(E) in Gazette of India dated 23rd June, 2014.
- (xxix) The Companies (Prospectus and Allotment of Securities) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 424(E) in Gazette of India dated 1st July, 2014.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 658/16/14]

(8) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 467 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (i) G.S.R.130(E) published in Gazette of India dated 28th February, 2014 making certain amendments in Schedule VII

of Companies Act, 2013 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No.G.S.R.261(E) dated 2nd April, 2014.

- (ii) G.S.R.237(E) published in Gazette of India dated 31st March, 2014 making certain amendments in Schedule II of Companies Act, 2013.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 659/16/14]

(9) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 470 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (i) The Companies (Removal of Difficulties) Second Order, 2014 published in Notification No. S.O.1177(E) in Gazette of India dated 30th April, 2014 together with a corrigendum thereto published in Notification No. S.O.1406(E) dated 29th May, 2014.
- (ii) The Companies (Removal of Difficulties) Second Order, 2014 published in Notification No. S.O.1428(E) in Gazette of India dated 3rd June, 2014.

- (iii) The Companies (Removal of Difficulties) Third Order, 2014 published in Notification No. S.O.1429(E) in Gazette of India dated 3rd June, 2014.
- (iv) The Companies (Removal of Difficulties) Fourth Order, 2014 published in Notification No. S.O.1460(E) in Gazette of India dated 6th June, 2014.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 660/16/14]

(10) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 458 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (i) S.O.1354(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd May, 2014 regarding delegation of powers under Section 153 and 154 of Companies Act, 2013 to Regional Director, Noida.
- (ii) S.O.1353(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd May, 2014 regarding delegation of powers under Section 458 of Companies Act, 2013 to Registrar of Companies, mentioned therein.
- (iii) S.O.1352(E) published in Gazette of India dated 22nd May, 2014 regarding delegation of powers under Section 458 of

Companies Act, 2013 to Regional Directors, mentioned therein.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 661/16/14]

(11) A copy of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (Appeal to Securities Appellate Tribunal) Rules, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 358(E) in Gazette of India dated 27th May, 2014 under Section 53 of the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority Act, 2013.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 662/16/14]

(12) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 48 of the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999:-

- (i) The Foreign Exchange Management (Export of Goods and Services) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 434(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th July, 2014.

- (ii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Ninth Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 436(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th July, 2014.
- (iii) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Security by a Person Resident Outside India) (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 435(E) in Gazette of India dated 8th July, 2014.
- (iv) The Foreign Exchange Management (Permissible Capital Accounts Transactions) (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 488(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014.
- (v) The Foreign Exchange Management (Transfer or Issue of Any Foreign Security) (Second Amendment) Regulations, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 489(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2014.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 663/16/14]

(13) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 25 of the Coinage Act, 2011:-

- (i) The Coinage of One Hundred Rupees and Five Rupees coins to commemorate the occasion of 175th Birth Anniversary of Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 73(E) in Gazette of India dated 31st January, 2014.
- (ii) The Coinage of Twenty Rupees and Five Rupees Coins to commemorate the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad Rules, 2013 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 686(E) in Gazette of India dated 14th October, 2013.
- (iii) The Coinage of Sixty Rupees and Ten Rupees coins to commemorate the occasion of Diamond Jubilee of Coir Board Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 102(E) in Gazette of India dated 21st February, 2014.
- (iv) The Coinage of Twenty Rupees and Five Rupees Coins to commemorate the occasion of Acharya Tulsi Birth Centenary Rules, 2013 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 782(E) in Gazette of India dated 18th December, 2013.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 664/16/14]

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

- (i) G.S.R.525(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of Front Axle Beam and Steering Knuckle meant for heavy and medium commercial vehicles, originating in, or exported from China PR, for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of the 14th June, 2015, pending outcome of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.
- (ii) G.S.R.526(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of Carbon Black used in rubber applications, originating in, or exported from People's Republic of China, Russia and Thailand for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of the 29th July, 2015, pending outcome of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

(iii)G.S.R.527(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to impose definitive anti-dumping duty on imports of Phosphoric acid of all grades and all concentration (excluding Agriculture of Fertilizer grade), originating in, or exported from Korea(RP) for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of the 21st June, 2015, pending outcome of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

(iv)G.S.R.528(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of Vitamin C, originating in, or exported from People's Republic of China for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of the 15th June, 2015, pending outcome of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 665/16/14]

- (v) G.S.R.529(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to extend the levy of anti-dumping duty on imports of Potassium Carbonate, originating in, or exported from European Union, People's Republic of China, Korea RP and Taiwan for a further period of one year i.e. upto and inclusive of the 9th June, 2015, pending outcome of Sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.
- (vi) G.S.R.541(E) published in Gazette of India dated 25th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy provisional anti-dumping duty on imports of Purified Terephthalic Acid including its variants-Medium Quality Terephthalic Acid and Qualified Terephthalic Acid, originating in, or exported from People's Republic of China, European Union, Korea RP and Thailand for a further period of six months pursuant to the preliminary findings of investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

(vii) G.S.R.535(E) published in Gazette of India dated 24th July, 2014 together with an explanatory memorandum seeking to levy anti-dumping duty on imports of specified Rubber Chemicals, originating in, or exported from People's Republic of China and Korea RP for a further period of five years pursuant to the final findings in sunset review investigations being conducted by the Directorate General of Anti-dumping and Allied duties.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 666/16/14]

(15) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 642 of the Companies Act, 1956:-

- (i) The Investor Education and Protection Fund (awareness and Protection of investors) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 216(E) in Gazette of India dated 27th March, 2014.
- (ii) The Investor Education and Protection Fund (Uploading of information regarding unpaid and unclaimed amounts lying with companies) Amendment Rules, 2014 published in

Notification No. G.S.R. 217(E) in Gazette of India dated 27th March, 2014.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 667/16/14]

(16) A copy of Notification No. G.S.R.262(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd April, 2014, granting of Nidhi status to companies under sub-section (3) of Section 620A of the Companies Act, 1956.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 668/16/14]

(17) A copy of the Customs Baggage Declaration (Amendment) Regulations, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.82(E) in Gazette of India dated 10th February, 2014 under section 159 of the Customs Act, 1962, together with an explanatory memorandum.

[Placed in Library. See No. LT 669/16/14]

12.02 hrs

MESSAGES FROM RAJYA SABHA

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

- (i) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Wednesday, the 30th July, 2014 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs):-

“That this House concurs in the recommendation of the Lok Sabha that a Committee of both the Houses to be called the ‘Committee on Welfare of Other Backward Classes (OBCs)’ be constituted for the purposes set out in the Motion adopted by the Lok Sabha at its sitting held on 22nd July, 2014 and communicated to this House, and resolves that this House do join the said Committee and proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, ten Members from amongst the Members of this House to serve on the said Committee.”

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that in pursuance of the above Motion, the following Members of the Rajya Sabha have been duly elected to the said Committee:

1. Shri Ram Narain Dudi
2. Shri B.K. Hariprasad
3. Shri Ahamed Hassan
4. Shri Narendra Kumar Kashyap
5. Shri Vishambhar Prasad Nishad
6. Shri V. Hanumantha Rao
7. Shrimati Vijila Sathyananth
8. Shri Ashk Ali Tak
9. Shri Ram Nath Thakur
10. Shri Shankarbhai N. Vegad'.

(ii) 'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Tuesday, the 15th July, 2014 adopted the following Motion in regard to the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:-

“That this House resolves that Rajya Sabha do join the Committee of both the Houses on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes for the term ending on the 30th April, 2015, and do proceed to elect, in accordance with the system of proportional representation by means of the single transferable vote, ten Members from among the Members of the House to serve on the said Committee. ”

2. I am further to inform the Lok Sabha that as a result of the election process initiated pursuant to the above Motion, nine Members of Rajya Sabha were duly elected to the said Committee and their names were communicated to the Lok Sabha through a Message dated 28th July, 2014 from the Rajya Sabha. Now the election process to fill up the remaining one vacancy having been completed, Shri Ambeth Rajan, Member, Rajya Sabha has been duly elected to be a Member of the Committee.’.

12.02 ½ hrs**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 75th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2013-14), pertaining to the Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance *

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 75th Report of the Standing Committee on Finance on Demands for Grants (2013-14), pertaining to the Departments of Economic Affairs, Financial Services, Expenditure and Disinvestment, Ministry of Finance.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 670/16/14.

12.02 ¾ hrs**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2946 DATED 10.02.2014 REGARDING DEFENCE CONTRACTS ALONG WITH REASONS FOR DELAY***

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) (i) correcting the reply given on 10th February, 2014 to Unstarred Question No.2946 by Shri Kalikesh N. Singh Deo, Member of Parliament regarding ‘Defence Contracts’ and (ii) the reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

Subsequent to the conclusion of 15th Lok Sabha, it came to notice that in sub-part (a), details of transactions carried out under Life Cycle Cost (LCC) method had been sought. It was observed that one contract, i.e., Basic Trainer Airfract (BTA) has been concluded using Total Cost of Acquisition (TCA) method under the LCC approach. It was therefore proposed to revise the answer and table it in the 2nd

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 671/16/14.

Session of 16th Lok Sabha as there were no Question Days in 1st Session of 16th Lok Sabha.

The statement of correcting reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No.2946 is being tabled in Lok Sabha on the 8th August, 2014.

**STATEMENT BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE
CORRECTING THE REPLY TO PART (A) TO (E) OF THE
LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2946 ASKED BY
SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO, M.P. (LOK SABHA)
REGARDING "DEFENCE CONTRACTS" ON 10.02.2014**

Question	Answer already given	Revised Answer
1	2	3
SHRI KALIKESH N. SINGH DEO	DEFENCE MINISTER (A. K. ANTONY)	
(a) Whether the Government uses Life Cycle Cost. (LCC) method for defence procurement and if so, the details of the transactions carried out under this method;	(a) to (e) The Life Cycle Cost approach is adopted in some defence procurement cases. The model adopted may differ from case to case depending upon technical life of the platform, spares and	(a) to (e) The Life Cycle Cost approach is adopted in some defence procurement cases. The model adopted may differ from case to case

<p>(b) Whether the Government has formulated/ is in the process of formulating a policy on procurement through the LCC method and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor;</p>	<p>maintenance requirements, and other parameters.</p> <p>On the suggestion of the Ministry of Finance, action has been initiated to include the Life Cycle Cost model in Defence Procurement Procedures.</p>	<p>depending upon technical life of the platform, spares and maintenance requirements, and other parameters.</p> <p>So far, only one contract, i.e. supply of Basic Training Aircraft, has been concluded using the Total Cost of Acquisition model under LCC approach.</p>
<p>(c) Whether the Government has sought Finance Ministry's comments on the LCC method and policy being used currently and if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor;</p>		

<p>(d) Whether the Ministry of Defence has accepted comments/objections raised by the Ministry of Finance to the current method of LCC being used and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and</p>		<p>On the suggestion of the Ministry of Finance, action has been initiated to include the Life Cycle Cost model in Defence Procurement Procedures.</p>
<p>(e) Whether the Ministry of Defence proposes to rectify the LCC policy to meet objection of Ministry of Finance and if so, the details thereof and if not, the reason therefor?</p>		

12.03 hrs

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS ... Contd.

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 67th to 70th and 75th to 78th Reports of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on Demands for Grants (2013-14), pertaining to Four Departments under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare*

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): In pursuance of the provisions of direction 73A of the Directions by the Speaker, Lok Sabha, I wish to inform the House the Status of Implementation, indicated in the Statement being laid on the Table of the House, of various recommendations contained in the 67th to 70th and 75th to 78th Reports of the Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on the Demands for Grants for the year 2013-14 in respect of four Departments under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 672/16/14.

12.03 ½ hrs**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO STARRED QUESTION NO. 269 DATED 25.07.2014 REGARDING CASES OF MEASLES***

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. HARSH VARDHAN): In reply to the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.269 for 25th July, 2014, regarding Cases of Measles, inadvertently, few figures shown in Annexure-I, appended to the reply, differ in Hindi and English versions.

The correct reply of the question is annexed.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 673/16/14.

CORRECTED REPLY

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO. 269

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH JULY, 2014

CASES OF MEASLES

***269 SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN:**

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHWAT:

Will the Minister of Health and family welfare be pleased to state:

(a) The number of cases of measles, and attributable deaths reported in the country during each of the last three years and current year, State/UT-wise;

(b) The details of the schemes/ programmes being implemented by the Government to control the aforesaid disease along with the achievements made as a result thereof during the said period;

(c) The funds earmarked, allocated and utilized for the above purpose during the said period, State/UT-wise; and

(d) The further measures taken/proposed to be taken by the Government for eradication of measles in the country?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) to (d) A statement is laid on the Table of the House

**STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. 269* FOR 25TH JULY, 2014**

- (a) The total number of cases of measles and attributable deaths reported in the country, State/UTs wise for the past three years and current year as published by Central Bureau of Health Intelligence (CBHI) is placed at Annexure I.
- (b) The Government of India has committed for elimination of measles in the country by 2020. In this regard, under Universal Immunization Programme, two doses of measles vaccine have been introduced in place of single dose of measles vaccine since 2010. This was preceded by a mass measles vaccination campaign covering children in the age group of 9 months to less than 10 years in 14 States. These States were selected as measles evaluated coverage was less than 80%. These states were Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Bihar, Chattisgarh, Haryana, Gujarat, Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh, Meghalaya, Manipur, Nagaland, Tripura, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan. A total of 119 lakh children were vaccinated during this campaign. Outbreak laboratory surveillance has been introduced in the country.

- (c) Under the UIP, the states are provided for conducting routine immunization including two doses of measles. The funds are used for cold chain maintenance, vaccine delivery, capacity building, strengthening supportive supervision, involvement of ASHA for social mobilization etc. The State/UTs wise allocation and utilization of funds for the last three years is given at annexure II.
- (d) Laboratory supported measles surveillance has been initiated in the country which is generating epidemiological data to guide further course of action in carrying out measles elimination activities.

Annexure -I**State/UT-wise details of reported cases of measles and deaths due to it.**

Sr. No.	State/ Union Territory	2011		2012		2013		2014	
		Case	Death	Case	Death	Case	Death	Case	Death
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	49	0	73	0	16	0	20	0
2	Andhra Pradesh	849	2	234	7	701	1	245	0
3	Arunachal Pradesh	627	1	172	0	44	0	The report has not been made.	The report has not been made.

4	Assam	4692	0	1596	0	1516	0	267	0
5	Bihar	416	0	2772	0	520	1	76	0
6	Chandigarh	16	0	11	0	3	0	0	0
7	Chhattisgarh	98	0	482	0	139	0	70	0
8	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	36	0	44	0	58	0	16	0
9	Daman & Diu	2	0	1	0	1	0	13	0
10	Democratic Socialist Party	1089	10	1485	16	945	4	214	2
11	Goa	19	0	59	0	59	0	18	0
12	Gujarat	683	1	123	0	241	0	556	0
13	Haryana	515	0	422	1	30	0	72	0

14	Himachal Pradesh	573	0	221	0	155	0	25	0
15	Jammu and Kashmir	3269	0	1935	0	1920	0	1011	0
16	Jharkhand	1097	0	270	0	480	0	36	0
17	Karnataka	811	1	1282	0	100	0	253	0
18	Kerala	1553	1	1094	0	1221	0	613	0
19	Lakshadweep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20	Madhya Pradesh	486	0	871	0	249	0	118	0
21	Maharashtra	2528	2	1260	1	1474	1	994	0
22	Manipur	711	0	257	0	429	0	105	0
23	Meghalaya	485	2	125	0	300	0	24	0
24	Mizoram	239	0	165	0	88	0	23	0
25	Nagaland	615	0	164	0	304	0	17	0

26	Odisha	1004	1	1085	0	457	0	213	0
27	Puducherry	32	0	22	0	24	0	10	0
28	Punjab	42	0	2	0	1	0	1	0
29	Rajasthan	326	1	542	0	37	0	89	0
30	Sikkim	740	0	136	0	66	0	13	0
31	Tamil Nadu	2582	3	623	0	323	0	225	0
32	Tripura	670	0	256	0	65	0	22	0
33	Uttar Pradesh	370	1	615	0	476	0	152	0
34	Uttarakhand	38	0	111	0	90	0	166	0
35	West Bengal	6372	30	4079	15	3236	0	986	3
	yoga	3363 4	56	2258 9	40	15768	7	6398	5

12.04 hrs

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

[Translation]

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): Madam, with your permission, I inform you that the following Government business will be taken up during the week commencing on Monday, 11 August, 2014:

1. Consideration and passing of the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2014.
2. Consideration and passing of the following Bills: (a) Apprentices (Amendment) Bill, 2014; (b) Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order (Amendment) Bill, 2014; and (c) Factories (Amendment) Bill, 2014.
3. Consideration and passing of the Labour Laws (Exemption from Furnishing Returns and Maintaining Registers by Certain

Establishments) Amendment Bill, 2011, after it has been passed by the Rajya Sabha.

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Madam Speaker, the following subjects should be included in the agenda for the upcoming week:

1. The Tikamgarh district of Madhya Pradesh has the highest number of ponds. There were approximately 950 of these Chandela-era ponds. However, due to a lack of maintenance and encroachment, only about 450 ponds remain. There is a need for the restoration of all these ponds, which have archaeological importance, under a water conservation scheme.
2. Given the huge presence of domestic and foreign tourists at Orchha, a religious and tourist centre in Madhya Pradesh, there is a need to connect it with the major cities of the country through air services.

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): Hon. Speaker, please add the following two subjects to the agenda for the next week:

1. Bhagalpur city has very high traffic pressure. To decentralise city traffic and maintain normal movement within the city, there is a

need to construct a new bridge for traffic over the national river Ganga from Kahalgaon to Teen Tenga in Bhagalpur.

2. Bhagalpur is famous as a silk city and is a major city in the eastern part of the state of Bihar. People from all over the country come here for the silk trade, but due to the lack of domestic air services for Bhagalpur city, local citizens and others face great difficulty in travelling to other metropolitan cities. Therefore, there is a need to construct an airport to start air services in Bhagalpur.

DR. BHOLA SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Hon. Speaker, Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs has presented the programme of the House for the coming week, and I want to add the following proposals to it:

1. The Kanwar Lake in the Begusarai district of Bihar, which is 15,000 acres, should be declared a "Kisan Vihar".
2. The Government should announce the inclusion of Jaymangalagarh of Begusarai in the "Buddha Circuit".

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Madam Speaker, please be kind enough to include the following subject of public importance for consideration in the agenda for the next week of the current session and allow a discussion on it in the House. Madam, in

various parts of the country, a large number of people from the Kol tribal community live, who are dependent only on forests and farming. They are in abundance in the districts of Chitrakoot, Sonbhadra, Mirzapur, Banda, and Allahabad in Uttar Pradesh. For a long time, the demand to grant Scheduled Tribe status to the Kol community in Uttar Pradesh has been made to the Government of India, but no effective action has been taken so far.

Therefore, through you, I request the Government of India that a discussion be held in the House to include the Kol tribal community in Uttar Pradesh in the list of Scheduled Tribes.

SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH): Hon. Speaker, I request that the following subjects be included in the agenda for the next week:

1. The quality of the roads constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts under my Giridih Parliamentary Constituency is poor. I expect that the quality of the said roads be investigated and necessary action be taken against those responsible.
2. The Jharkhand Government has sent a proposal to the Union Government to make funds available for the upgrade and

development of rural roads. Therefore, I expect the Union Government to quickly release the funds in light of the said proposal and send them to the Jharkhand Government.

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GADCHIROLI-CHIMUR): Madam, it is requested that permission be granted to include the following two subjects under the submission in the agenda for the upcoming week:

1. Regarding the conversion of the narrow-gauge railway line from Nagbhid to Nagpur, which passes through the Chandrapur and Nagpur districts, to a broad-gauge railway line, within the Gadchiroli-Chimur tribal Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra state.
2. Regarding the subject of farmers not having access to water for irrigating their land in the Naxalism-affected Gadchiroli tribal district, which is a tribal-dominated area in the Gadchiroli-Chimur Parliamentary Constituency of Maharashtra state, due to the lack of approval from the Union Government under the Forest Conservation Act for minor and medium irrigation projects.

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Hon. Speaker, I request you to include the following subject in the agenda for the next week.

1. The construction of a flyover bridge over the sewers lane on National Highway No. 4, which goes from Narol, via Vishaka Circle, Juahpura, and Sarkhej to Saurashtra, in Ahmedabad.
2. Financial assistance be given for the development and facilities at the Dr. Ambedkar National Foundation on the Rani Cross Road on the BRTS route.

[English]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Madam Speaker, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Need to expedite, coordinate, streamline various Metro Railway Projects across the country and give momentum; and
2. Steps to improve power situation in the country and measures to streamline power projects in the country.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Madam Speaker, I request that the following matters may be included in the Government Business for the coming week:

1. Discussion on 49 per cent FDI in Defence and 100 per cent in Railways which are against national interest; and
2. The situation in Jute industry due to non-lifting of jute bags by the Government of Punjab that is leading to closure of Jute Mills.

SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI): Madam Speaker, I request that the following items may be included in the next week's agenda:

1. Discussion regarding regularization/abolition of toll tax, collected all over the country; and
2. Discussion regarding need to nationalize/interlink all the rivers of the country.

[Translation]

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): Hon. Speaker, I have been continuously requesting for five days. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Today, let us take one. They will also give you time.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, by then the journey will be over. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It won't happen.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Firstly, they have been homeless for the past 25 years. ... (*Interruptions*) When will the voice of Kashmiri Pandits be heard? They will not be much in number but their voices should be heard. Neither the Government of Jammu and Kashmir nor outside the House listens to them. Will they not be heard inside the House also? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It will be heard. It will be heard inside the House as well. First, let the business that has been taken up for today be completed.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, last time also it was said that a calling attention motion would be given today. ... (*Interruptions*) Madam, will a day and time be fixed for this?

HON. SPEAKER: It will be given. If not, it will be given to you in Zero Hour.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR: Madam, it came up in the BAC for a calling attention motion. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It will be given. I am looking into it. ... (*Interruptions*)

... (*Interruptions*)

12.14 hrs

**CALLING ATTENTION TO THE MATTER OF URGENT
PUBLIC IMPORTANCE**

**Need to correct price fixation mechanism for sugarcane and
other agricultural produces in the country**

[English]

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Madam Speaker, I call the attention of the Minister of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement* thereon:

“Need to correct the price fixation mechanism for sugarcane and other agriculture produces in the country.”

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Hon. Speaker, if I have your permission, I will read it, and if everyone has received the statement, shall I lay it down?

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library. See No. LT 674/16/14.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes, if the Members have received it, you may lay it down. Read it, read it quickly.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Hon. Speaker, as on 31.07.2014, the outstanding amount of sugarcane farmers of the country on sugar mills is Rs. 9,252 crore which is about 16.20% of total amount payable (Rs. 57104 crore) during the current sugar season 2013-14. In the State of Uttar Pradesh Rs. 5741 crore are outstanding against the private and cooperative sugar mills which is 29.61% of total cane price due. The cane price dues mainly pertain to supply of sugarcane in the current season. The dues of previous seasons are generally on account of matters being sub-judice, mills taken under Securitization Act by lender Banks, etc. The dues in the current season have arisen mainly on account of low realization from sale of sugar.

2. The Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966 stipulates payment of cane-price within 14 days of supply, failing which interest at the rate of 15% per annum on amount due for the delayed period beyond 14 days is payable. The powers for enforcing this provision are vested with the State Government/UT Administrations who have necessary field formations. The Union Government advises the State Governments/UT Administrations from time to time to ensure timely

payment of cane dues to the farmers and to take action against the defaulting sugar mills.

3. In order to facilitate clearance of cane price arrears of previous sugar seasons and timely settlement of cane price of current sugar season to sugarcane farmers, the Union Government on 03.01.2014 has notified a Scheme for Extending Financial Assistance to Sugar Undertakings (SEFASU-2014) envisaging interest free loans worth Rs. 6600 crore by banks as additional working capital to sugar mills. Further, the Union Government on 28.02.2014 has notified another scheme allowing incentives for marketing and promotion services for raw sugar production targeted for export market. The funds available under both the Schemes shall be utilized by the sugar mills for making payment to the farmers.

4. Another issue raised is of price fixation mechanism for sugar. Madam, I would like to submit that prices of sugar in the domestic market are determined by market forces and they are not regulated consumer-wise. But to protect the interest of poor person from price rise, the Government has asked the State Governments to buy sugar from open market and supply it through PDS to BPL beneficiaries @ 13.50 per kg. For this purpose, GOI will reimburse to State

Government @ 18.50 per kg. This ensures protection to the poor people against open market price.

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, the Hon. Minister's statement is not at all satisfactory. Through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government, the Hon. Minister and this esteemed House to this, because it is not just an important issue but a very burning, serious and explosive situation. The Hon. Minister has said that more than Rs. 9,000 crore is owed to sugarcane farmers. In Uttar Pradesh, more than Rs. 5,000 crore is owed to farmers and in my Parliamentary Constituency of Baghpat, nearly Rs. 650 crore is owed. The Hon. Minister has said that they cannot pay the money from previous seasons because the matter is sub judice, and the Government can do nothing about it. The Sugar Control Order states that farmers should get 15 per cent interest if payment is not made within 14 days. But this is under the authority of the states, but the states do nothing. This is never shown in the balance sheets of the mill owners that they also have to pay interest to the farmers.

As for the SEFASU scheme, the Government has shown that soft loans have been given to banks for three years, and these were given to the sugar mill owners but nothing to the farmers. This situation is like when a hungry man is found lying on the road, he is admitted to

a hospital, and it is said that all expenses for his treatment will be given, but after the hungry man leaves the hospital, the Government does nothing about what he will eat or do.

My point is that this is not just an issue; the situation is very serious. Through you, I want to say that the condition of farmers inside Uttar Pradesh in my area is very bad. In just one assembly constituency, Chhaprauli, about 280 girls' marriages were cancelled for this reason, and people are unable to pay their children's fees. In just one school, Rs. 27 lakh is outstanding in fees. People are unable to get their medical treatment. People are unable to buy feed for their buffaloes and cows, and we are only making policy decisions here. But until it is implemented, there is no benefit. We give money to the sugar mill owners and forget about it. I also want to draw the attention of the House to this, that the most serious thing is that three days ago, the UP Sugar Mill Association and the Indian Sugar Mill Association held a press conference and they have threatened that this time they will not run the sugar mills in the season. First, the Government should ask the mill owners how much money they invested when they started the mill or when they run the mill. Most of the money that has come is from our financial institutions, it is our banks' money, it is the

public's money, and today they are threatening us that they will not run the mills.

The third thing is that some time ago, some banks filed a writ petition in the Allahabad High Court, including the State Bank, Punjab National Bank, and UP Cooperative Bank, and they have said that the 32 lakh tonnes of sugar stock that the UP Government has accumulated is not being sold. If it is sold, the money will first be given to the banks, and after that, if a little is left, the mill owners will take it. There is no thought for the farmers. The UP Government says that there are no buyers available for the sugar stock we have. The farmers are grateful that a hope had arisen among the people with the arrival of the new Government of India, that it would protect the interests of the farmers, and the Hon. Minister has said that we are giving soft loans. Last year, the Congress Government waived Rs. 19,000 crore for farmers, and there was a discussion about this in the House as well. But that Rs. 19,000 crore did not go to the farmers. Where did this Rs. 19,000 crore go? It went to the banks, it went into the non-performing assets within the banks. But the farmers got nothing. Through you, I want to state that in this country, about six crore farmers and labourers are connected to the sugar industry. The business in UP alone is Rs. 30,000 crore. Our Government wants to

open up employment opportunities, and the mill owners say that they want to close the mills. The unfortunate thing in this country is that mill owners can go to court; their money is the farmers' money, it is the public's money. Banks can go to the courts, but if a farmer wants to go to court for his money for two years, he does not have the money to go.

Madam, through you, I want to raise some very important issues related to this. Has the Government ever fixed the prices of factory products like soap, clothes, and shoes? Then why do we fix the price of sugarcane? Have we ever implemented the Minimum Wages Act or MNREGA for the farm families who work in the fields? Every year a budget is prepared; before the budget is presented, we invite industry groups, we invite ASSOCHAM, we invite FICCI. Have we ever, in the last 67 years, called farmers and asked them what their problems are and what should be done in the budget? We have never asked them this. Raju Shetti ji is not here now. The Agricultural Cost and Price Commission is formed. There was a discussion here on the Dr. Swaminathan Committee. There was a discussion on the Dr. Rangarajan Committee. My submission to the House is this: people who know the problems of farmers and were born into farmer families should be included in these Agricultural Cost and Price Commissions.

How many such people have been appointed to the farmers' commission to date?

We talk about sugar recovery. Recovery is very low in UP. Recovery is 9 per cent in UP, 11 per cent in Maharashtra, and 7 per cent in Kerala. In 67 years, how much money has our Government spent on sugarcane research? The Minister has said that Rs. 6,600 crore will be given to banks as interest-free money. We are ready to give interest-free money for five years. Have we spent Rs. 1,600 crore on sugarcane research? Why haven't we improved the quality of sugarcane to this day? Why haven't we brought in new technology? If the recovery is so high in Maharashtra, why can't it be in UP? In 1975, it was said in Brazil that ethanol is made from sugarcane there. It is blended with petrol or vehicles are run on alcohol. It has been 39 years since then. In 2001, the then Hon. Petroleum Minister, Shri Ram Naik, had said that the Government of India has so far formed four committees, six technical committees. But to this day, there is no coordination between the petrol industry and the sugar industry in this country on how much ethanol to produce. We import crude oil worth Rs. 144 Billion every year. If we produced ethanol, ran vehicles on ethanol, ran vehicles on alcohol, then our dependence on foreign countries would end, and the self-respect of this country would

increase. The sugarcane season is about to begin. In Maharashtra and UP, there are protests every time, there are demonstrations every time to fix the price of sugarcane. The Government prepares five-year plans. Why can't we fix the price five years in advance, so that the farmers know what price they will get next year? It is their choice whether to plant sugarcane or not. Why can't we do this? Why do we do MRP, MRP, SAG? Why don't we fix it 5 years or 2 years in advance? The Hon. Minister and the Minister of Agriculture are sitting here. I had the opportunity to attend a task force of the Agriculture Committee. There were agricultural scientists of this country in it. I said there that it is the misfortune of this country that our agriculture policy, our agriculture education, our research, our development, our fertilisers, all of it is not according to this country. As the foreigners decided, so we did. Why do our farmers commit suicide today? Why do our people die of hunger today? Why does the one who fills others' stomachs remain hungry? The biggest reason for this is that the agricultural policy of our country is made for elite people, it is made for the affluent. There is a book on Indian agriculture called "How the other half dies" by Susan George, which means how half the people die of hunger, one should read it. Madam, just as food cannot be made without salt, it also cannot be made

without sugar. But sugar is not a bulk item. We do not eat it like potatoes and vegetables. Almost 35 per cent of the sugar produced in our country goes to the PDS (Public Distribution System). But 65 per cent goes in bulk, it goes to commercial companies to make cakes, to make pastries, to make biscuits, to make cold drinks. A poor person buys sugar at the price at which these companies buy thousands of quintals of sugar. My point was why can't we have a differential price fixation mechanism for sugar? Why can't we charge a higher price from those who buy thousands of quintals of sugar? It is like in the case of LPG that the one who buys four cylinders will get a subsidised rate and the one who buys more than 12 cylinders will have to pay more. Can we not do something similar for those who buy sugar in bulk for making soft drinks, that higher prices be set for them. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please ask your question.

... *(Interruptions)*

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH: Madam, this is not just an issue, it is a very explosive problem. If these hungry people come onto the roads tomorrow, it will be very difficult. This is not just a question of the farmers' economic problems. It is a question of the social system. It is a question of law and order. Tomorrow, we will not be able to control

it. Therefore, please give me a little more time. ... (*Interruptions*) I was saying that there is a total turnover of Rs. 1.2 lakh crore a year for these companies. I have the complete record of it, so can we not sell their sugar through the Food Corporation of India? I have a suggestion. We have imposed a cess on many things, like the education cess, the petrol cess, and the environment cess, so can we not impose one on sugarcane? Can we not impose one on sugar? If we impose a cess of just five per cent, the Government of India will benefit by Rs. 5,000 crore. We can give that Rs. 5,000 crore to the farmers.

Madam, today we only associate sugarcane with sugar. Why do we not do value addition to sugarcane? Power is made from its bagasse, ethanol will be made from it, alcohol will be made from it, and other things will be made from it. In this way, it will get value addition. When we do value addition, farmers will benefit, and mill owners will benefit.

Madam, I am not against the mill owners. I have no malice towards them, but I was born into a farmer's family, and I have sympathy for them. I have worked for more than 30 years in the field of law and order. I am afraid that in the coming days, a question of law and order may arise, so how will we solve it?

AN HON. MEMBER: Please request that this discussion be held under Rule 193.

HON. SPEAKER: Now his speech is complete.

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH: Finally, I want to say one thing. In Malakpur, inside our Baghpat, there is a Modi Industries, which established this mill. Since the mill was established in 1998, every year, it has never paid the farmers on time. It pays the money after one or two years, and I myself have studied its balance sheets for 2012 and 2013. Rs. 231 crore, did they commit company fraud? Did they take money out of the mill and invest it in other companies?

I would request the Government of India that a case under Section 420 IPC should be filed against them and action should be taken. The unfortunate thing in this country is that in our country, industries get sick, industries become sick, but the industrialist never gets sick, his life of luxury never suffers. They go to BIFR, they go into CDR, but where will the poor farmer go? No one listens to him. There is FICCI for the traders, but there is no forum for the farmers. Only this House can do something for the farmers. This is my request to you.

I have said this before that we should consider this a question of the system, we should not consider it merely an economic question. Hon. Minister, do not assume that the market fixes the price of sugar or that the matter is sub judice, because that will not solve the problem. It will only make the system worse. 65 per cent of the people in this country are still dependent on farming. If they are not our priority, if the poor are not our priority, then where is our priority?

Sir, I thank you for giving me time to speak, and I am grateful to you.

HON. SPEAKER: Srimati Krishna Raj. You should not give a long speech. Please ask only for one clarification each.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHAHJAHANPUR): Madam, through you, I want to say to the Hon. Minister that the total outstanding payment for sugarcane across the country is Rs. 10,925.46 crore. In our Uttar Pradesh, a payment of Rs. 7,000 crore is outstanding. In the year 2011-12, Rs. 107.26 crore; in the year 2012-13 and year 2013-14, Rs. 31.24 crore and Rs. 6,737 crore, respectively. This is the amount of money of sugarcane farmers that is outstanding in our Uttar Pradesh. I have seen that because of this, farmers in Uttar Pradesh have committed suicide and have reached the brink of starvation. I have seen this very pitiable situation.

Through you, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister that the payment of sugarcane farmers in our Uttar Pradesh, along with the rest of the country, should be made as soon as possible. This is our expectation of you.

[English]

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Madam, I wish to put my questions directly and request the Hon. Minister to reply to the same.

The critical issues that plague Indian agriculture, at present, are the knowledge deficit and infrastructure deficit, especially in the rural areas. Problems relating to irrigation infrastructure, market infrastructure and transport infrastructure add significant costs to farmers' operations.

So, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to how he is planning to address this.

Secondly, the CAG has observed in his Report No. 7 of 2013 that while determining the cost of production for each crop, the Commission for Agriculture Costs and Prices followed a set procedure. No specific norm was however followed for arriving and

fixing a Minimum Support Price over the cost of production leading to large year on year variation.

The difference of All India weighted average cost of production and the MSP fixed by the Government of India during the period 2006-07 and 2011-12 varied widely between 29 per cent and 66 per cent in case of wheat and between 14 per cent and 60 per cent in case of paddy.

Cultivation costs vary widely from one region to another. They are usually far higher in States such as Punjab, Haryana and Andhra Pradesh due to higher wages, land value and input costs while they are lower in other States. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to how he is going to reconcile both of these things in fixing the Minimum Support Price.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Madam Speaker, I associate myself with the entire subject raised by Dr. Satyapal Singh. I will conclude my speech by saying just one thing.

In Uttar Pradesh, a nexus of sugar mills, the Government, and bank officials has formed that completely exploits the unorganised farmers. I will not name the mill here. I am naming the bank: Oriental

Bank of Commerce. Mill officials, in collusion with bank officials, fraudulently take out loans at low interest in the names of farmers, using their land documents. This practice has been going on for many years and is often reported in newspapers. They get a loan at a rate of four per cent instead of twelve per cent, and these loans are in the tune of one hundred crore, one hundred and twenty-five crore, one hundred and fifty crore. In this, the names of 100-200 farmers are correct, but the rest of the names are all fake. The bank officials, the sugar mill owners, and the Government, all three are complicit in this. They do not pay the farmers, yet they take loans using the farmers' own land. This should be investigated, and they should be compelled. I will request the Minister to ensure the timely payment of farmers, otherwise, as has been apprehended, the situation is explosive, a very painful situation. This must be resolved.

HON. SPEAKER: Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav Ji, just one or two questions, please don't give a long speech.

SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (MADHUBANI): Madam, I only want to make two points for a solution to this problem. The first thing is that if mill owners do not pay the farmers with interest, the Government should file criminal cases against them and put all the mill owners in jail, just as they put farmers in jail.

Secondly, the Government fixes the price of agricultural products but does not fix the price of factory products. If our prices move at a tortoise's pace and their prices run at a horse's pace, we die while buying industrial goods. Therefore, a National Price Fixation Commission should be established to determine the prices of industrial goods, and no industrial product should be sold in the market for more than one and a half times its cost price, so that farmers can be saved.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Minister of Agriculture, you need to intervene on this.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): Madam, remunerative prices for agriculture produces are ensured under the Government's Price Fixation Policy for agricultural products so as to encourage higher capital investment and production, ensure supply at fair price and safeguard the interest of the consumers. The Government determines the support price of various agriculture produces after due consideration of the recommendations of the Agriculture Cost and Price Commission, the State Governments, related Central Ministries and Departments and other relevant stakeholders. The Agriculture Cost and Price Commission gives due consideration to several important factors while finalizing its

recommendations which include production cost, changes in input prices, parity in input and production cost, the trends in the market prices, demand and supply scenario, inter-crop cost parity, impact on general price level, impact on cost of living, international market price scenario, parity between the prices received and the purchase prices paid by the farmers. All input costs are included in the cost of crop production which includes human labour engaged on wages, oxen labour, mechanical labour, the cost of diesel, electricity for operation of pump sets, cash and general expenditure on the use of material inputs like surcharge on seeds, fertilizers and irrigation besides the rent paid for taking land on lease.

The Agriculture Cost and Price Commission determines minimum support price for 22 crops and fair and remunerative price for sugarcane. The Food and Public Distribution Department announces the fair and remunerative prices of sugarcane. In addition, 22 crops have been included under the Minimum Support Price. These crops include rice, wheat, barley, maize, millet, pigeon pea, mung bean, urad bean, including peanut, soybean, sunflower, sesame, ramtil, cotton, wheat, barley, chickpea, lentil, rapeseed, mustard seed, safflower, linseed, and coconut. The minimum support price confirms the minimum guaranteed price for agricultural produce at a time when

market prices go down from that level. When market prices go beyond the minimum support price fixed then the farmers are free to sell their produce anywhere.

The Hon. Minister of Finance has announced, in this year's Budget, to set up the national markets to ensure payment of remunerative prices to the farmers. We intend to work in this direction in close co-operation with the State Governments.

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Hon. Speaker, his first question is about the farmers outstanding dues. There is no disagreement that when we came to power, the farmers' dues were Rs. 13 thousand crore. The biggest problem is in Uttar Pradesh. In Uttar Pradesh, Rs. 7,261 crore was outstanding. As of 31 July 2014, this has come down to Rs. 5,741 crore. The Government is making whatever efforts are possible. Our job is different from that of the State Government is different. We fix the FRP. Our responsibility is to ensure that the price of the produce of farmers is determined and the Hon. Minister of Agriculture elaborated on how the price is determined. We, along with all our Members who are farmers, have been saying from the beginning that even then the slogan was:

“The price of factory goods should be one and a half times their cost.

The fluctuation in the price of food grains should be within one seer”

This is a policy issue that if the factory owners can fix the price of the product manufactured by them then why can the farmer not fix the price of his produce as per his input cost. But the responsibility of the Union Government, like last year, we had fixed the price at Rs. 210 per quintal and this year the price has been raised to Rs. 220 per quintal. It is the responsibility of the State Government to ensure payment of the sugarcane. After that as I explained in my statement that the State Government has got necessary powers to ensure payment of sugarcane within 14 days. In case the mill owner does not make the payment then he is liable to pay 15 per cent interest thereon. If the mill owner still does not make the payment then the State Government can initiate legal action against him. Ours is a federal structure. The Government of India does whatever is possible, whether it is from this side or that side. From PDS to our system, we give money from here. As opined by an Hon. Member as to why we do not charge more for sugar from the owner of Coca Cola etc. In fact, we do not fix the price of sugar. The price of sugar is controlled by the market. We only fix the price of sugar for poor people covered under BPL. In many States, families belonging to BPL are not

distributed sugar. In states like Bihar, it is not even given, but wherever it is given to BPL families, they are given sugar at a price of Rs. 13.50 per kg and thereon we give a subsidy of Rs. 18.50 per kg. However, the market is opened to everyone be it Coca Cola owner or anyone else for that matter and they can purchase the sugar at the market price and we do not have any role in that.

We have, therefore, decided to give four incentives and in fact these incentives are being given at this point of time. The first incentive relates to the import duty. The current import duty is 15 per cent. We have considered to raise the import duty from current 15 per cent to 40 per cent. But, we are apprehensive that as soon as import duty is hiked to 40 per cent, the price of sugar would increase by 4-5 rupees per kg in the market. This we would be doing for the benefit of farmers but this initiative would finally go against us.

Likewise export incentive is now pegged at Rs. 3300 and we have extended it for the next two months upto September and have also increased it to Rs. 3370.

Madam, just now one of the Hon. Members was making a mention about ethanol. This is a fact that ethanol is blended up to 84 per cent in Brazil and other countries. In our country, the permissible limit is 2 per cent. I have spoken to Hon. Minister of Petroleum and Natural

Gas and he has kindly agreed to it and we are going to allow 10% blending of ethanol in petrol.

The fourth issue relates to providing interest free soft loan. An amount of Rs. 6000 crore has been sanctioned in this regard. The balance amount of Rs. 1000 crore is yet to be distributed. If it is distributed then we could consider it for next two years also. However, it is necessary that this happens first.

As far as sending the mill owners to jail is concerned, this authority rests with the State Governments. All this authority has been given to the state Government. The problem here is that in the developed State like Maharashtra, it is 11 kg per quintal, in Bihar, it is only 7-8 kg per quintal. In certain areas, the mill owners enter into an agreement with farmers for purchasing the entire crop cultivated in a particular field. But what do we have in Uttar Pradesh, Bihar today? In Uttar Pradesh, there is another problem that the farmers keep standing before the gate of the mill carrying their sugarcane crop on the bullock-carts for four days. As a result of which 25% crop is dried up.

There is another matter related to the variety of sugarcane. There was a ban on the high yield variety. Now, necessary action has been taken to lift that ban. That is why we have said that we need to look at

this at every level. We remain apprehensive if the farmers come to the roads or the mill owners go on strike or the production of sugarcane falls then all these multiple effects would trigger steep rise of the prices of sugar. There is a three years cycle about sugarcane crop. Every third year, as the production of sugar are increases, than the prices fall down in the market and the sugarcane growers shift to cultivation of other crops. Thereafter, the production of sugar goes down and the prices of sugar come up in the market. Therefore, this phenomenon has to be balanced which is very important.

We come from a farmer's family, but we also do not want the mill owners to be in a position where they cannot pay. We fix the price of sugarcane at Rs. 210 per quintal while in Uttar Pradesh the same has been fixed at Rs. 290 per quintal but the moot question is that the payment of sugarcane should be ensured at this price by the State Government. In Bihar, the price has been fixed at Rs. 265 per quintal. If the mill owner is to give this, it should be seen whether he is in a position to give it or not. We are, therefore, faced with all these kinds of problem.

We intend to safeguard the interests of farmers as well as those of the mill owners. We will also urge them that when they repeatedly threaten that they will not run the mills, that they will shut them down,

who will ultimately suffer a loss from this? Finally, the country will be at loss. I have spoken to important Ministers of the Cabinet on this issue. Maneka Ji is sitting here, Minister of Agriculture Radha Mohan Babu is sitting here. Along with these people, we called Gadkari Ji, Baliyan Ji, Kalraj Mishra Ji, and all the others to have a discussion so that a solution to the problem could be found. Based on that, three-four formulas have emerged and have also been announced. We told the mill owners that they will get assistance. As pointed out by an Hon. Member that the mill owners take soft loan from the Government but do not give money to the farmers. That would not happen this time. The farmers would directly receive the money in their accounts through banks. They cannot divert the funds; we have firmly told the mill owners that they have to distribute the money to the farmers. Besides, we have told the mill owners that funds would be released to them only after they give a guarantee that they would pay the money to the farmers. I have called a meeting on 14th on this issue. Mill owners and representatives of farmers, ISMA and co-operatives would attend this meeting. We would like that some permanent solution should be found in this meeting and we shall request the State Governments that they should take necessary action under the law

ensuring payment of sugarcane to the farmers within a period of a month or two. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Yesterday, you spoke on it.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): I thank the Hon. Minister, he has explained in great detail. ... (*Interruptions*)

What is the liability of the State Government? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This does not happen, now this topic is over.

Zero Hour - Shri Ramdas Tadas.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have said that, we are looking at it, why do you worry?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS (WARDHA): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs to the context of farmer suicides in Vidarbha, Maharashtra, that the farmers of Vidarbha are burdened with debt. Farmers do not get a fair price for their crop produce, and for many years, their crops have been destroyed due to excessive rainfall and drought. ... (*Interruptions*) Due to this worry and the burden of debt, more than a thousand people are forced to commit suicide every year. In 2006, the then Government ran a loan waiver scheme, at that time the loans that existed were waived in a half-hearted manner, and the remaining amount has doubled in eight years due to interest... (*Interruptions*) Social organisations, public servants, and public representatives of Vidarbha have been constantly protesting and deliberating for a loan waiver, but no fair consideration has been given to this yet. There are irrigation facilities for only four per cent of Vidarbha. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I earnestly request the Hon. Minister to kindly provide a package of Rs. 1,500 crore for a loan waiver for the farmers of Vidarbha, so that the loans of the farmers of the six districts of Vidarbha, namely Wardha, Yavatmal, Amravati,

Buldhana, Akola, and Washim, are waived, enabling them to lead a happy life. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): Madam, will you take up the calling attention motion on Monday or not? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have said that we will look at it next week.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It has not yet been decided when it will be taken up.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I want to draw the attention of the House to this. ... (*Interruptions*) that the menace of the nilgai is widespread in my two districts of Champaran. I want to draw the attention of the House towards it. We also have the Valmiki Nagar Tiger Reserve here. Hundreds of acres of farmers' crops get destroyed in both districts because there is no check on them. The state Government has decided that you can kill them, but for that, you have to take permission from the SDM.

Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I want to say in the House that if a nilgai has entered someone's field, should he protect his field or should he go to the SDM to take permission? After that, he should come and drive it away. ... (*Interruptions*)

Hon. Madam Speaker, therefore, through you, my request will be that by speaking to the Forest Ministry, a special team should be formed that can move these nilgai to the forest. The number of tigers is also decreasing in our area. Farmers should get full compensation so that their livelihood can continue.

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

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey associates himself with the matter raised by Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal Ji.

[English]

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I would like to place before this House a very serious issue with regard to the States of Kerala and Karnataka. The continuous use of endo-sulphan has caused adverse effects on human beings and also on the environment.

In my own district Kasargod, there are about 11 panchayats which are affected. So far, 500 people have already died and 10,000 people are taking treatment. It is true that the nearby areas of Kasargod

like Sullia and adjacent parts of Karnataka have been adversely affected. The Government of Kerala has requested for financial assistance for a special package. It is not possible for the State Government alone to meet the demands because young children, women and others are suffering. The State Government has already made the demand last time. The Union Government has not taken any decision. The Stockholm Convention has already banned endosulfan. The Supreme Court of India has also taken the same decision. Indian Government has also taken the decision. I would like to place before you that in the website it is seen that this poisonous pesticide is included in the list of pesticides. It is highly objectionable. The Government should take note of this. This should not be allowed because it is against the decision taken by the Supreme Court and also the Geneva Convention. With these words, I conclude.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh and Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri P. Karnakaran.

[Translation]

DR. VEERENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I want to draw the attention of the House to the issue of missing and orphaned children.

In the absence of shelter and protection, missing and orphaned children are either forced into trafficking, begging, or become pawns of Naxalites. News of children going missing is published in one newspaper or another every day in the country. About 800 gangs are engaged in the work of child trafficking across the country. On average, one child goes missing from some corner of the country almost every hour.

According to a report by the National Human Rights Commission, around 44,000 children go missing every year in the country, of which only 11,000 are found. Between the years 2009 and 2011, approximately 1,77,660 children went missing, of which only 1,22,190 could be found. About 55,000 children are still missing. Of these, around 64 per cent, or 35,615, are minor girls. Another serious matter is that the number of incidents of children disappearing from hospitals is increasing day by day. Due to the illegal business of child theft and buying and selling, many mothers are left with empty laps and many children's lives are ruined. It is not that laws have not been made to prevent this. Laws have been made, but their implementation is not happening properly. Many times, people go to the police station to file a report, but the police staff posted there do not have

information about these laws, and many times children are not recovered due to the indifference of police personnel.

Therefore, through you, my request to the Government is that along with increasing the activity of commissions like the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights and the National Human Rights Commission, an initiative should be taken to make a solid policy to stop such incidents involving missing and orphaned children.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rajeev Satav, Shri P.P. Chaudhary associate themselves with the subject of Dr. Virendra Kumar ji.

SHRIMATI KAMLA PATLE (JANJGIR-CHAMPA): Madam, my Parliamentary Constituency of Janjgir-Champa in Chhattisgarh is going to become a power hub. Here, an MOU has been signed with about 29 power companies, with a target of producing twenty-nine thousand nine hundred and thirty-two megawatts of electricity. In addition to this, a four-thousand-megawatt KSK Akaltara and a one-thousand-megawatt Tendubhantha-Marwa Power Plant are under construction.

The power plants under construction are acquiring agricultural land on a large scale and exploiting water sources. They are reneging on the promises made to the affected villagers before starting the construction work. They are not giving farmers fair compensation, rehabilitation, or employment facilities. The villagers and affected farmers of the area are troubled. They have to wander from door to door.

They are being forced to hold protests and demonstrations for their just demands. Because companies are filing police cases against them, the elderly, young men, and women are having to go to jail.

13.00 hrs

My demand from the Government is that, in view of the low irrigated agricultural area in the state, the acquisition of irrigated land for polluting industries in the highly irrigated district of Janjgir-Champa should be banned. The plants under construction should provide compensation and rehabilitation at a fixed rate, a guarantee of jobs for Members of affected families, and the availability of basic amenities in the area. Instructions should be given to withdraw all police cases registered against villagers, especially those from Tendubhantha-Marwa, and to implement the agreements made. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: The remaining subjects of the Zero Hour will be taken up in the evening. The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2 p.m.

13.01 hrs

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

14.02 hrs

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

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

DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Need to have stringent legislation to check increasing atrocities
against women and children in the country– Contd.**

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Item No. 12; discussion under Rule 193. Dr. Ratna De may continue.

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Sir, the issue of violence against women has been receiving increasing concern in recent years. There is a growing recognition that nations cannot achieve their full potential as long as women's right to participate fully in their society is denied. Gender based violence not only violates human rights but also restricts economic growth and undermines development. It can

only be eliminated by addressing discrimination and promoting women's equality and empowerment.

Here, I would like to mention something about my State, West Bengal. My Chief Minister Kumari Mamata Banerjee is trying to empower women with limited resources. For example, she has introduced *Kanyashree* scheme to help the girl child to study. She has taken steps for establishment of women police stations in different districts, set up hostels for girl children and taken steps for 30 per cent reservation for women candidates in Lok Sabha. After consultation with banks, she was able to increase the loans for self-help groups.

The principle of gender equality and women's rights are enshrined in our Constitution. The Constitution not only grants equality to women but also advocates positive discrimination in their favour.

Women constitute nearly half of the country's total population as per the 2011 census. The Delhi gang rape of December 2012 outraged the nation. What irks me most is the people behind this heinous crime are yet to get punishment. Justice delayed is justice denied. We have to see that fast track courts are really fast in dispensing justice. There is a need to plug all loopholes so that we punish the culprits as early as possible. Since then, unfortunately, more and more atrocities against women were reported from different parts of the country,

recent being the Meerut gang rape. What is stopping the Union Government from setting up more special courts or fast track courts to try these atrocities against women? It is of interest to know that the fast track courts were first thought of by the 11th Finance Commission for 2000-05, as an *ad hoc* institution to address the urgent problem of backlog of atrocities.

We cannot take the issue of growing incidents of atrocities against women as a global phenomenon. There is an urgent need to address the problems being faced by women and girls, who are subject to physical and sexual abuse, psychological and economic abuse, and all sorts of assaults also. Widespread and harmful traditional practices including early and forced marriages within the community-setting, feticide and trafficking in women are receiving interesting attention. I say so because these unsavoury developments in their lives at such an early stage would leave an indelible impact as they grow and their attitudes towards life itself changes.

It is disturbing to any right-thinking person to know that in India, every 26 minutes a woman is molested; every 34 minutes, a rape takes place; every 42 minutes, a sexual harassment incident occurs; every 43 minutes, a woman is kidnapped; every 93 minutes, a woman is

burnt to death over dowry, but last not least, one-quarter of the reported rapes involve girls under the age of 16 years.

India has the largest young population – 42 per cent are below the age of 18 years. Of late, sexual harassment of school children has come as a great shock. Bangalore school children plight is gruesome. But this is not an isolated incident. We often come across the exploitation of children in juvenile homes and orphanages. These orphanages and juvenile homes should be monitored with the intention of ensuring safety and security of children. These homes should not become a den for sexual harassment of children. There are no dearth of laws, Acts, procedures, rules and regulations. But the problem is about its implementation. Proper measures should be put in place to see that all the laws and Acts related to women and children should be implemented in letter and spirit and justice is delivered to them in time.

With 62 MPs in this 16th Lok Sabha and with the 73rd and the 74th Amendments to the Constitution of India, women have reservation of seats in the local bodies in Panchayats and Municipalities; and we have been demanding 33 per cent reservation for women. India is surging ahead in every conceivable field and we come across incidents of atrocities against women. This is really a tragedy of the worst kind.

Violence against women and children requires a comprehensive and systemic response by all the stakeholders. Men have a role, especially in preventing violence and this role needs to be further explored and strengthened. Work to end violence against women requires not only a clear demonstration of political commitment but also systemic and sustained action backed by strong, dedicated and permanent institutional mechanism.

The Government should take the responsibility for the systemic collection and publication of data, supporting NGOs, academics or others engaged in such activities. Only legislations and law-enforcement agencies cannot prevent the incidence of violence against women. There is an urgent need for social awakening and changing attitude of the society to give due respect and equal status to women. In this regard, all stakeholders should come forward to forge an alliance to defend the rights of women and children.

At last, I live with the hope of seeing a day and time when women will lead a life of dignity and honour in this great country of ours without having to face any type of atrocity whatsoever and every child enjoys life to the fullest by playing, learning and living with all the love and affection showered on him. This is not going to be a dream. It would become a reality provided we all strive together and everyone

in the society contribute to these cherished goals towards our women and children.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN (NORTH CENTRAL MUMBAI): Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. First of all, I want to thank all the women Members of Parliament who are sitting here, who have spoken their hearts out on this important issue since yesterday. But most importantly, I want to thank Shri Karunakaran Ji, who, being a man, raised the issue of women for discussion under Rule 193, so many thanks to him as well.

Chairperson, Sir, we always say that a woman has many forms. We talk about women as a force. We also say that a woman is a mother. Our culture begins with Bharat Mata and Gau Mata. In this Indian culture, the expectations of women are being ignored somewhere. In India, women are moving forward with great expectation, however, women are being neglected from education and safety point of view and the women are not getting the due respect in the society. When we call a woman "Nari Shakti" (women power), when we call a woman a form of a goddess, as I said last time, a woman appears before you in different forms. Sometimes she takes the form of Annapurna, the goddess of food, by providing nutritious food to help her children progress. So that her children can study and move forward, she takes the form of Maa Saraswati, the goddess of

knowledge, and a woman constantly teaches her children so that society can progress. When someone looks at her or her home with a bad intention, a woman also takes the form of Kali and Chandi. Such is the power of a woman.

Chairperson, Sir, on this subject, I just want to say that the budget was recently passed, and many provisions were made for women, which is another reason I expressed my thanks. I want to thank Minister Shrimati Maneka Gandhi Ji. Ever since she took charge of the Ministry, she has taken action on the atrocities against women and children and worked for their rights every single day for the last 60 days. I am fortunate that I have had the opportunity to work with her on wildlife issues and also to speak on this subject. I will just say that we all know that atrocities are committed against women; we all know this. These atrocities are both mental and physical. We ought to change our mindset, but somewhere this is being neglected. I am a woman from a city and a mother myself. Many issues arise in cities. We read in newspapers that something happened in Meerut today, something happened in Lucknow, something happened in Budaun, and something happened in Bangalore. But we only hear about these few cities, where newspapers are available and people can read them. Just think about the atrocities that are committed against Dalit women,

victims, and women from small communities. When the Hon. Minister took charge of her ministry, she said she wanted to create a grievance cell in that ministry, and I wholeheartedly welcome this. When atrocities are committed against women, it is difficult for a common woman to even reach a police station. If she has to go to a level higher than the police station, how can she speak to a male police officer? Just imagine, when a woman is raped, the expectations for her medical examination are not met in the proper way. For this reason, I also want to give thanks because a provision has been made in the budget to have 33 per cent women police personnel in the country. On this provision, I want to thank the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shrimati Anandiben Patel, for making this provision for 33 per cent of women police personnel. The Hon. Minister has written to all the States Governments to recruit 33 per cent women in the police force.

We all women know what is in our hearts and what we want to do. The female form must be empowered, from 'Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao' (Save the Daughter, Educate the Daughter) to a daughter progressing from birth, excelling in her studies, and moving forward after marriage. We all desire this and have always been talking about it, helping each other, but the most important thing is that when a person is attacked, the National Human Rights Commission stands

with them. However, when a woman is subjected to an atrocity, the expectation is that the National Commission for Women should be able to stand with them in a capable manner, but it is not able to. The National Human Rights Commission has been given autonomy and power, but the National Commission for Women does not have such power. I read about the National Commission for Women, and Rs. 15 crore is spent on it every year. Some women from society are Members of the National Commission for Women. Meetings are held five to six times a year, not much is done, and Rs. 15 crore is spent annually. Today, if some atrocity is committed against me, I can go to the National Commission for Women and talk to them, but there is no restriction on the person who committed the atrocity against me to answer the questions of the Women's Commission. This is a very strange thing. When the Women's Commission was established for the protection of women, it is very necessary to give that Women's Commission power, protection, and autonomy. The Women's Commission has two lakh cases pending so far. We want to help the victim, but we cannot catch the culprit. Rs. 15 crore is spent on the Women's Commission every year, and then you build their buildings, and all the expenses add up to Rs. 30-40 crore, but not a single issue of the Women's Commission is successful. When two or four issues

come up in the media, they are discussed. My only expectation is that the National Commission for Women should first be as empowered as the National Human Rights Commission. I think the Law Minister has also initiated this; the file has reached the Law Ministry, so on behalf of the women of this entire country, I want to request the Hon. Law Minister that this law should be passed soon and the National Commission for Women should be given the same kind of autonomy that the National Human Rights Commission has. When Geeta Ji was speaking on behalf of YSR, she was saying that there is no caste or creed among women. I believe this, and when I myself used to go to ask for votes, I did not tell women whether they were Hindu or Muslim women, Dalit or Brahmin women. I only said that the caste and religion of a woman is just 'woman' and her family. It is very important for us to make provisions to move forward in an empowered way with such women. I would like to say that the National Commission for Women should be empowered on the lines of the National Human Rights Commission. A Grievance Cell should be constituted with its branch offices at taluka and district level to resolve the problems of the women.

Many women here have spoken on various topics. Someone said, "Rani of Jhansi fought like a man," and I always take this as an insult.

The Rani of Jhansi was a woman, so what was the need for her to fight like a man? It is said about her, "Why to be a man for a woman?" I think, to be a man for a woman is a waste of a woman. A woman is capable of protecting herself and her values; she does not need to become like a man. All she needs is equality. As my friend Sushmita Ji said, we only need equality, and when we get equality, we will get everything. When the National Commission for Women gets the power like the National Human Rights Commission because I have heard that it will become political. There are many commissions for caste and religion, but a woman is without caste and religion. When you empower her, when you empower your mother, your sister, then society will improve. When society improves, only then will the India of our dreams, with 'Sabka Vikas, Sabka Saath' (development for all, together with all), move forward. This is all I want to say. I expect from the Hon. Minister that the National Commission for Women should also be empowered like the National Human Rights Commission.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):

Chairperson, Sir, a discussion is being held in this House to make strict laws to stop the atrocities that are being committed against women and children all over the country. I am participating in this discussion on behalf of my party. I believe that this is a country where women are worshipped, as sisters and as mothers. This is the country where Lord Rama himself came to save the honour of Mother Sita Ji. This is the country whose history includes a brave woman like Rani of Jhansi and mothers like Mata Sahib Kaur and Mata Bhaggo. In this country, there was a grandmother like Mata Gujri Ji, who inspired her six and eight-year-old grandsons to be walled up alive.

In a country where women are so worshipped, considered the mothers of society, for whom our gurus and holy men have said, as Guru Nanak Dev Ji said, "So kyun manda aakhiye, jit jammiye rajan," which means 'Why call her bad, from whom kings are born?' I regret that today, such a respected woman is being insulted in this country, and atrocities are being committed against her. This is why we are discussing this in the House. Every day we read newspapers with reports of rape, or of a woman being sexually harassed by her employer in an office.

A discussion is being held here today to stop this kind of humiliating situation. Many suggestions have come up in this discussion: making laws, implementing them strictly, and empowering the Women's Commission. I believe that laws are already in place. But laws are for those who follow them. The people who commit atrocities and crimes—do they not know about these laws? They do. I believe there is a need to make people follow the law, and for that, we need to change the perspective or mindset of our society.

In this country, our culture and civilisation were considered to be such that we would treat someone's sister as our own sister and someone's mother as our own mother. The situation today is before us. The need of the hour is that we should include moral education in our curriculum and impart moral education in our schools. Today, our society is being influenced by western culture which needs to be checked. Unless, we change our mindset and the thinking of the society, unless we associate the young generation with our civilization and culture, and teach them the meaning of our relationships, unless a parent explains to their children, or a sister explains to her brother, I believe no law will be effective. Therefore, it is necessary for the Government of India to include the subject of moral values in textbooks. Besides this, seminars should be organised on this topic.

People should be gathered, their mindset should be changed, and they should be educated.

As far as children are concerned, we are ashamed that there are a large number of child labourers in our country. Atrocities are being committed against children and they are forced to work to supplement economic support and social security needs of the family. There are laws to check this practice but unless laws are implemented properly these atrocities cannot be checked. I believe that children are our future and if we have to take them ahead the Government should make necessary arrangements for their education and health care. This will also free their parents from being forced to make their children work due to poverty. I believe that the Government urgently needs such a law.

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH): Chairperson, Sir, I would like to draw your attention to the sexual crimes committed against women and children in the country. I know that I am not the first Member to stand up and discuss this topic. Many Members have already discussed this subject before me. First of all, I want to say that enough is enough, and on this subject, I will say two lines:

"I should remain silent after being beaten and keep on smiling.

This is the height of cruelty, what more can I say to you?

My soul is wounded, let alone my body.

You think and tell me, how much more should I bear?

How much more should I bear, how much more should I bear?"

Rape of minor or other girls has become the order of the day. A recent incident on the 17th happened in my area of Bilgram Mallawan. Five-year-old girls and their mother were tied up separately, a gun was held to their father's head, the brothers were tied up, and the girls were raped in front of them. This is a shameful incident for which an FIR has not yet been registered. For this, I staged a protest in Hardoi, where I was told that there are orders from the Uttar Pradesh Government that no action will be taken against anyone. What is our administration doing for this kind of incident? I have been given the

opportunity to speak on this subject today. I thank my party very much. Unless such incidents are checked, women security and safety cannot be ensured.

Chairperson, Sir, women are subjected to both mental and physical torture. I was born on the land of Jammu and Kashmir, it is my birthplace, and I was married in Uttar Pradesh. Now that I am married, my rights on the land of Jammu and Kashmir have ended. We are five sisters. I am proud of my father who educated me and helped me reach this far. People write 'Sons' after their showroom name, but when my father opened a showroom, he wrote 'Ravindra Nath and Daughters'. Since we are five sisters, they will give the property to us only. My father said that 'daughter, I have to do something for your name'. But what happened there was that her marriage has happened in Uttar Pradesh, so her right is over. This is a woman's right. When will we get our right? A son and a daughter are equal for the parents but when the daughter get her due right? Today, through the House, I will say that for a father, both a daughter and a son are equal. A daughter also makes a name for the family; earlier they used to say that a son does, but now a daughter also does. This is why I would like to refer to a pertinent point relating to the state of Jammu and Kashmir: if we move out of there, does our right to our

birthplace end? When will we women get our rights and a chance to move forward?

Sir, there is one more thing I want to say in this House. This is a very shameful incident that happened just two months ago in the Sandila area. Nowadays, mobile phones and computers are in vogue, which is a very good thing as we get knowledge, but their misuse is not right. A married woman goes to her parental home. She was somehow lured into a love trap, and an MMS of her was made. After that, the woman was told that if she did not give him a ransom, he would show the MMS everywhere. Using the fear of that MMS, he extorted Rs. 32.50 lakh. The Uttar Pradesh police are doing nothing about this. An FIR was filed, and there are eight cases running against that person, but since he is from Etawah, no action was taken against him. The woman's husband forgave his wife and was ready to support her. He himself pursued the case, but the police did not support him. Just as the serial 'Savdhaan India' is shown on TV nowadays, people are becoming aware. He investigated himself and started following the culprit, wondering why the police were not catching him. It is a matter of astonishment that the victim's husband's car was behind, the opponent's car was in front, and the police car was in the middle. He told the police that they claimed the culprit was absconding, but he

was driving right in front of their car. Were the police protecting this criminal? The police said that he was not the criminal but someone else. The woman's husband put his car in front of the opponent's car and had the criminal caught himself. This is the story of the Uttar Pradesh police. Even after this, the criminal was released on bail and is roaming freely. I want a law to be in place so that such people should not get bail. There should be a stringent law in the country to ensure that the rapist is sent to the gallows within six months of committing crime because the more freedom they get, the more crime increases. My point is that they should be given the maximum punishment. However, there is no punishment greater than the death penalty. We are giving punishment to such people, but how many people have been hanged to death so far? They are roaming freely outside.

I want to share one more incident. A girl was going to learn computers. As incidents of molestation have become common, the girl told her family that she had been molested and that an attempt had been made to rape her. When the father and brother protested, they were attacked. I am talking about an incident in Shivrajpur. All these incidents have happened in Uttar Pradesh within three months. This suggests that such incidents are being encouraged. Both the brother

and father were stabbed with knives. Two months later, as soon as they were able to walk, they came to me. They said that they were not getting justice. I would like to plead with you that they get justice and that such a law be made to stop such incidents.

Sir, I believe that our society is also responsible to an extent for such crimes. There is a section of society wherein rape is not considered to be a heinous crime, and they commit such crimes in this misguided enthusiasm and misunderstanding. There is need to launch an awareness campaign to change such mindset. The Union Government as well as the State Government needs to work together in this direction. The law enforcement machinery and the officers assigned with the responsibility to investigate into such cases need to be streamlined and sensitized respectively. This is my plea, and I would like to say that, "Life is a journey full of thorns, courage is its identity. Everyone walks on a path, but the one who forges their own path is the true human."

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak. My learned friend, Shri P. Karunakaran is actually, through this discussion under Rule 193, knocking at the door of conscience of this nation. I congratulate him for this noble thing. What we have been witnessing yesterday and today in this House is glimpses of kindness to women and children. The lady Members have been actively participating in this discussion. Similarly, the male Members also participate. The discussion was in different languages: Hindi, English and even in the regional languages.

As far as kindness is concerned, it is a different language. Kindness is a language which the deaf can hear and the blind can read. That is what we have been witnessing in the House all through this discussion.

Coming to the facts and figures, I would like to say that the Hon. Members who participated so far, were narrating it in a big way. I do not want to take much time on that. So, what we have to do is this. We are thinking of preventing all these things. As prayed in the Discussion under rule 193, stringent legislations are very much required. I agree

to this view. That is all right. That is very much required. At present also, we are having effective laws. We will have further more to that.

In December, 2011, the Justice Varma Committee was appointed by the Government of India. It submitted a detailed, comprehensive report on this. In the light of that, this Parliament passed the Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 and the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prohibition, Prevention, and Redressal Act, 2013. There are several other laws also. But what exactly is the real position?

I would like to quote one particular Report from the Human Rights in India – Status Report, 2012 prepared for India. It is second universal periodical review at the UN. This Report says:

“Reports indicate that every 60 minutes two women are raped, and every six hours a young married woman is found beaten to death, burnt or driven to suicide. There were at least 2,13,585 cases of crimes against women including 22,172 rape cases, 29,795 cases of kidnapping and abduction, and 8,391 cases of dowry deaths in 2010. 359 women are also targeted on account of their caste, sexuality, disability, and other status. Violence against Dalit women is targeted, 360 atrocities committed against them include:

verbal abuse and sexual epithets, naked parading, pulling out of teeth, tongue and nails, and violence, including murder. ”

So, the figures go on like this.

Let us now examine what exactly is the reason, the root cause for this kind of a thing. There may be several reasons. But I would like to say that the influence of intoxicating liquor is very much as one of the root causes. Everywhere it is like that. Whether it is country-made liquor, foreign liquor or Indian-made Foreign Liquor, these are available in plenty. Also, different types of drugs are available in plenty even in front of schools. I would say that the influence of liquor is an integrated cause for domestic violence. When we talk about drunkards, I would like to say that for a drunkard husband, what is the dignity of his wife. He is not bothered about his pretty children. We can see that nothing is like that. For a lady, for a woman who is beaten by her drunkard husband, where will she go? She can only cry. That is her fate.

We are all talking about different Articles of the Constitution. Why are we not talking about prohibition? Prohibition, of course, is

there in the Directive Principles of the Constitution. So, I urge upon this House to loudly think about prohibition in the country. Unless and until we take some effective measures to control the spread of this, we may not be able to control this evils.

I wish to raise another point here. This is an era of Information, Communication and Technology. My friends were saying that thousands of channels are now in the air. The electronic media is operating in many ways. Satellite connection is there. Mass Media, print media, internet, social media and everything is there. I wish to say with all humbleness that the misuse of the communication technology is up to an extent degrading the dignity of the women in our country.

Image of women in media is projected as a sex symbol. Consumerism is using women as a commodity, and sex object. Up to an extent, it is provoking the budding generation for crime. If anybody watch our TV serials, we will have an impression that our ladies are born for crying only – weeping and crying are going on in all the TV serials. Instead of creating a positive image of women, TV serials have created an impression that our ladies have no soul at all. They have created a very bad impression and very bad image and negative image about our ladies. I am of the opinion that the liberation movement -

whether it is men or women - they should rise up to the occasion and they must fight against atrocities against women and children. Why should India create diminishing image of women? India has given birth to Rani Laxmi Bai, Sarojini Naidu, Sucheta Kriplani, and Shrimati Indira Gandhi. We are proud of such great leaders. We have to be proud of them. Women should think about this; women's organisations should loudly think about this.

In the end, I would like to say about child labourers. I have with me the news report of *The Hindustan Times* of yesterday while it says: Shocking state of Delhi's child workers. We are having lot of laws to prevent child abuse. Report says, "One day rest is the least that we expect from our jobs but 65 per cent of child labourers in the age of five to 14 years do not get a single day's off from work." The Report says that 47 per cent of the children under the age of 14 work for eight to 10 hours a day. This figures goes up to 70 per cent if we consider the children between 15 and 18. This is the deplorable condition of children. This discussion is very useful and thought provoking. I hope the Government would take remedial measures to stop this deplorable condition of children.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Chairperson, today in this House, we are discussing the sensitive issue of the increasing atrocities against women and children in the country. I express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this issue. The concept of the *Sanatan* society, the education given in the family and society right from the birth is that every woman is like a mother, Goddess Laxmi. We automatically respect them. I agree with the opinion of some Hon. Members that the birth of a girl is not a cause for celebration but for mourning. I say that in our area, we celebrate and perform prayers at the birth of a girl. However, there are certain such people in society having wretched thinking and mentality which malign the whole society. We think that a girl, after being educated, will bring honour to her family, and at the same time, she will establish good traditions in her in-laws' house. Thus, a girl brings honour to two families. Today, our party's Government is in power in Bihar. When our leader, Nitish Kumar Ji, became the Chief Minister of Bihar in 2005, he first gave 50 per cent reservation to women from backward, extremely backward, Dalit, and minority communities in panchayats for their empowerment. He took every measure to bring the women in the front row. ... (*Interruptions*) Do not interrupt in this

manner. I have the data. In all the places in this country, except Gujarat, it is in those states where the BJP Government is in power that the highest number of rapes and murders have occurred. ...
(*Interruptions*) I want to say... (*Interruptions*) Please let me speak. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Kaushalendra Kumar.

(*Interruptions*) ... *

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR: I do not want to pay attention to those points, I would definitely say that Bihar is the first State in the country where women have been provided with reservation which has acted as a lesson for the people of the country and taking cue from that lesson reservation has been given today for women across the country. Not only reservation, today a number of schemes are being implemented for girls in Bihar. ... (*Interruptions*) In Bihar, cycle scheme, dress scheme, scholarship scheme started, by running those schemes, our former Chief Minister, Shri Nitish Kumar Ji, today has

* Not recorded.

given a message in the whole country that unless women are educated, women will not progress, the country cannot progress, nor can Bihar progress. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I may have been a little sidetracked. Every parent wants their child to be safe, our child. ... (*Interruptions*) We were all together; now you are doing this. Every parent remains worried until their child returns home. When our girl leaves home to go to school, she faces molestation there; when she goes to college, she faces molestation there. Even if our girl, daughter, or daughter-in-law is going to the office, she is not safe there. In this way, today there is a need to make the laws stricter. I even say that even in marriages that are arranged with the consent of the parents today, a cause for concern has arisen: even after parents get their daughter married, the girl is not safe in her in-laws' home. The girl and her parents do not feel that their daughter is safe there because even after going to her in-laws' home, the people there make various accusations. Sometimes the husband says that our parents arranged this marriage, and we will not keep this girl. It is also said that we had not seen the girl, that the girl is less educated; with such accusations, girls are abandoned and are forced to wander from door to door. Such people should also be identified so that such incidents that are happening later can also be reformed.

Hon. Chairperson, now I want to discuss children. Every year, children are getting lost and the number of girls among these missing children is more. In 2013, 7,181 children went missing, out of which only 45 per cent were found. If we look at the data, the percentage of missing children has only increased. In 2011, 20 per cent of children could not be traced; in 2012, 48 per cent; and in 2013, 45 per cent. Because of all these reasons, now-a-days, the children are falling victims to sexual exploitation as well. Given the shortage of time, I conclude my speech with these words.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Chairperson, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on such an important subject. Today you have given me the opportunity to speak on behalf of my party on the subject of atrocities against women and children. For this, I express my gratitude to you. I also want to bring to your attention that the situation in regard to the cases of atrocities against women and children have been going from bad to worse day by day.

As per the data of the NCRB for the year 2013, crime against women and children in our country has risen by 30 per cent. When we talk about moving forward, but if we delve into primary education, even today six per cent of girls in our country drop out of school before reaching the V grade. When we talk about secondary education, 14 per cent of girls stop their education, and when it comes to college, whether you call it security concerns or family worries, almost 40 per cent of girls stop going to college. Where are we investing today? UNESCO says that we should spend 20 per cent of our GDP on education. Only 3.3 per cent share of our GDP is being spent on education in our country as of now. If you look at the data of our neighbouring countries, whether it is Nepal, Bhutan, or Sri Lanka, those countries invest around 4-5 per cent in education. If we talk

about the BRICS nations, Brazil spends six per cent of its GDP on education, and Russia invests six and a half per cent. We will have to invest. I thank the Government for providing Rs. 200 crore under the campaign “Beti Padhao, Beti Bachao”. We call women the better half of our society. When we talk about the better half, Rs. 200 crore is not enough. More investment is required to ensure their security and their education. The head of our party, Om Prakash Chautala Ji, has this to say: "A daughter will read when she grows." With that mission, he started a scheme in the state of Haryana called the 'Laadli Yojana'. Under that scheme, Rs. 750 would be given in case a daughter was born in someone's home and in case of the second daughter, Rs. 500 would be given as pension. So that parents would not commit the act of killing their daughters. At present, if we talk about the statistics, cases of female foeticide has been growing day by day in our country. The police are having to chase doctors to seize ultrasound machines. The Government will have to pay attention to this. Such evils of society will have to be stopped somewhere. I just appeal to the Government that in the same way Devi Lal Ji had started a campaign in the state of Haryana, where children were given one rupee as an incentive to come to school, in a similar way, we have to create a scheme for our sisters, for our daughters, under which the 40 per cent

of our sisters who leave education before going to college can also be somewhere included in society, educated, and brought to an equal footing in this society.

If we talk about child Against Crimes, cases of child murder have risen by 10 per cent during the year 2012-13. Cases of infanticide have risen by 28 per cent. Cases of rape with children have risen by 20 per cent. Cases of kidnapping of children have risen by 20 per cent. Today, if we talk about the railway station, it is seen in the CCTV cameras there, that sleeping children are picked up. Children are kidnapped from inside the malls. Steps will have to be taken for ensuring security by framing of stringent laws with regard to the cases of human trafficking and forcing children to become beggars. Strict laws against these practices must be enacted to enhance their safety. When it comes to our mothers and sisters, cases of violent crimes have increased by 11 per cent today. 41 per cent of the cases of Crime Against Women have been investigated. If we talk about the cases of human trafficking, then only 3450 cases were registered last year. Coming to our state, in 2004, three and a half hundred rape cases were registered, and this year, 971 rape cases have been registered. Yet, our Chief Minister says that Haryana is number one. A similar incident had taken place inside Haryana, which also resonated inside this

House. Where the names of three MLAs from Haryana came, and they did the work of sexually exploiting 12 years old, 15 years old and 17 years old girls. Today it has been two and a half years. The Government's eyes are closed. Marked up to the CBI inquiry. But so far, the Government has not taken a step forward in that direction. I would like to bring one sentence of Delhi University before you. B.R. Ambedkar College is of Delhi University; there was a teacher in it last year... * She was molested by her principal. I would prefer not to mention the principal's name among you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Individual's name will not go on record.

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: But that teacher went to every corner of the state of Delhi to fight her battle, but on September 29, 2013, when she had completely given up, she committed suicide in front of the Chief Minister's office of this Delhi state. In a hurry, the Congress Government ordered an inquiry, but even after a year, this Government has not been able to conclude that inquiry.

* Not recorded.

I would request this Government to take the responsibility of ensuring justice for that sister. I request the Government to take steps by making strict laws for our mothers and sisters and future of this country i.e. our children to ensure their safety.

SADHVI SAVITRI BAI PHULE (BAHRAICH): Sir, I express my gratitude to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. I would like to pay my respects to all the respected Ministers sitting in the House and all the Members present in the House, and say that I have been elected for the first time from Bahraich (Uttar Pradesh). I would like to pay my respect to the great men who have turned slave India into an Independent country. I bow my head to the acts of these great men which made the Indian Constitution based on equality, liberty, fraternity and justice on the basis of which the country is being run through the executive, judiciary and the legislature. I am very happy that the proceedings of the House begin with 'Jana Gana Mana Adhinayaka Jaya He' and 'Vande Mataram'.

Sir, I am very happy that in the country's struggle for independence, women, along with men, also sacrificed themselves and got the country its freedom. Rani Lakshmbai, Jhalkaribai, Uda Devi, Virangana Bai, and not just them, 'she fought like a man, she was the Queen of Jhansi.' The way women sacrificed themselves to free the country, today those women are viewed with contempt. I want to say through a couplet that 'Whenever the garden needed blood, women's necks were also cut along with men's, yet the people of the garden say, this garden is ours, not yours.' When it comes to elections

in the country, from the Gram Panchayat to the country's largest parliament, women have equal participation with men. The women contribute in the formation of the Government, however, with regard to conferring rights to them, the views of the people tend to remain obscure. In such a situation, I want to say that the way incidents are happening with women, from girls of four, six, eight, ten years of age to women of forty, forty-five, fifty years of age, they are raped and murdered, and the Government keeps watching as a silent spectator.

I would like to mention just one month's worth of incidents from Uttar Pradesh, which are on record. On 2 June, a young woman was gang-raped and strangled to death in the Baheri area of Bareilly. On 3 June, a 15-year-old girl was raped and her body was hung from a tree in Misrikh, Sitapur. On 5 June, a teenage girl was raped and then attempts were made to burn her alive in Adda Bazar, Maharajganj. On 5 June, two minor sisters were raped in the Bagwala police station area of Etah. On 6 June, a five-year-old girl was raped in the Fariha police station area of Firozabad. On 8 June, a case of a married woman being drugged and raped came to light in Baraut, Baghpat district. On 8 June, an incident of rape of a girl took place in the Bardah police station area of Azamgarh, and a girl named Pappi Yadav, daughter of Chhote Lal Yadav, was abducted from Parwani Gaudhi, Motipur in

the district of Bahraich. On 12 June, a young woman was raped and murdered, and her body was hung from a tree in the Thakurdara area of Moradabad.

15.00 hrs

On 12 June, a woman was gang-raped and then hung from a tree in Goriya village, Ranipur police station area of Bahraich. On 14 June, a married woman was gang-raped in Bisauli, Budaun. On 14 June, an incident of a father raping his minor daughter took place in Sambhal. On 14 June, a minor girl was raped in the Kubersthan police station area of Kushinagar. On 14 June, a French tourist was raped in Varanasi. On 15 June, a young woman was raped and hung from a tree in Tajpur Rasulpur village, Aligarh. Not only this, but there has also been a recent incident in Meerut. A girl was abducted, gang-raped, and attempts were made to convert her religion. The way incidents are happening in Uttar Pradesh, with the Government in power, where our sisters, girls of six, eight, and ten years of age, are being raped and murdered, and the Government is sitting with its eyes closed. It tries to cover it up.

15.01 hrs

(Shri Hukum Singh *in the Chair*)

I want to say that in Uttar Pradesh, the body is being sold, the nation is being sold, and if the Members present here do not mind, I will say it openly: the shrouds of our mothers and sisters are being sold. The way these incidents are happening in Uttar Pradesh is a living proof of this. Before this, there was the Bahujan Samaj Party Government, and during that Government's tenure, incidents against women were happening continuously. Theft, robbery, rape, murder, and atrocities were happening on a large scale. The public chose the Samajwadi Party Government in Uttar Pradesh as an alternative, and since the Samajwadi Party Government came to power in Uttar Pradesh, incidents have been happening continuously, and the Government keeps watching as a silent spectator. This is not . . . * “If the boys have been wrong, they should not be punished, they should not be hanged,” he said. This is the state of the father of the Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh. A person who is working to boost morale in this way in Uttar Pradesh, that Government has no right to be there.

Sir, I seek the dismissal of the State Government of Uttar Pradesh. The atrocities happening with poor women cannot be stopped until the Uttar Pradesh Government and . . . * Chief Minister step down, and until the Bharatiya Janata Party Government does not come to power

* Not recorded.

in Uttar Pradesh, the protection and security of mothers and sisters cannot be ensured.

With these words, I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You people sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: All the names that have been taken should not have come. It should be removed from the record.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You people sit down. Keep the peace in the House.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, India is the biggest democratic country in the world. Men and women are equal by Constitution, by laws and rules. But, Sir, do the women in India get equal rights or democratic rights in the right way? The answer is, 'no'.

Sir, yesterday we were very much shocked at an anti-women and insensitive statement from a Member of Parliament when he made his speech in this House blaming women by referring their dress code. It is surprising as to how dare a Member of Parliament make such a speech in this House. Does it mean that the victim is responsible for that sexual crime? Can we say that the three-year old with her dress code was responsible for the crime? It is shameful. It is highly condemnable and objectionable. He should apologise in this House and withdraw his comments. That is my request to you.

But this is not the only example. Yes, crimes are increasing. But utterly insensitive and objectionable public pronouncements are also coming from a few male leaders holding important positions including MPs and even Ministers. Can we keep silent on this? That is my humble question.

On July 23rd, in Haryana, when a delegation of teachers met the Principal Secretary and spoke about a demand to include six months maternity leave as part of the mandatory rural area deputation of teachers, what did he say? He said: “Do they conceive with my permission?” Do we not have to condemn this? A remark made by the Minister is this. “Rape is a social crime, which depends on the man and the woman. It is sometimes right and sometimes wrong.” He further added: “It is not possible for any Government to ensure that rape is not committed.” How can a Minister make a statement like this? I do not want to mention any name.... (*Interruptions*) He is a Minister from Madhya Pradesh.

Another point, which I want to make here is this. Sometimes these types of comments come from even the Hon. Judges and courts also. It is very shameful. An elected representative is openly making threats of rape and murders against the women, those who are his political opponents. This is also happening. We are hearing: “You go and rape that woman.” What is happening in our country? We cannot imagine this. We are shocked that such audacious and anti-women statements are coming from an elected Member of your House. If such statements and behaviour come from an elected representative, his punishment

including expulsion from Parliament has to be considered, for which we need to adopt a code of conduct for MPs.

Sir, with your permission, I want to speak a few words in Malayalam.

*Even today, in many parts of India, women are lagging behind men in all respects. Be it any Government who is in power, what are they doing for women? Statements are made by those in power, but in reality nothing happens. Sir, we have had women as President, as Prime Minister, as Speaker, including the present Speaker Smt. Sumitra Mahajanji. The two women Ministers who are sitting in front of me, Smt. Manekaji and Smt. Nirmala Sita Ramanji, they do excel their male counterparts in terms of proficiency and professionalism. There are several other women who do not get any chance to prove their ability. Sir, we have to change this mindset. The mindset of seeing women as a domestic slave, still exists in several parts of our country. Whether it be the administrators, or men in society as a whole, this mindset should change. I want to put two or three demands.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Malayam.

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Fast track women court should be started in every State. In Tamil Nadu Amma Jayalalithaa has already implemented it by setting up Vanitha Women Court. I demand that the Government should pass legislation in Parliament--and I would request the Hon. Minister, Maneka Ji also in this regard—to provide for 33 per cent reservation for women in Parliament.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Shri Badruddin Ajmal to speak.

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Another thing is that legislation has to be passed against honour killing. Verma Commission Report should be implemented immediately.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have called the next speaker. Please conclude.

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Nirbhaya scheme should also be implemented immediately.

[Translation]

SHRI BADRUDDIN AJMAL (DHUBRI): Chairperson Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak on this important subject. First of all, I want to draw the attention of the entire House to one thing and say:

"The angels will also shed tears when they tell you the condition of the world,

If a man is lost in the crowd, it will take ages to find him."

Chairperson, Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of this House, whether it be Members from this side or that side. The subject which we have taken up for discussion relates to our mothers, sisters and daughters. Our daughter is our pride, our mother is our life; her honour and respect are essential in every home. Every religion gives her respect. It has been said in our religion that paradise lies at the feet of a mother, and when a daughter is born, a salutation comes to her from Allah. A message comes to her that she has been granted a place in heaven.

Hon. Chairperson, through you, I want to say in the House that there should be no question of parties here. Our female sisters are sitting here; this is a subject on which we should genuinely feel

ashamed while talking. There should be no barrier of parties, otherwise, it will become a case where to bring down this party, you cause so many rapes in that area, and this party will fall. We should not use this issue as a political weapon. Our mothers and sisters are not safe today in their homes and offices. Yesterday, one of our female MPs, with great sorrow, narrated her own incident. This has become the story of every household. When a mother sends her daughter to school, she works hard and sweats, spends money, and gets her daughter a good job, but when she sends her daughter off, she is not sure if her child will come home in the evening, and if she does come home, will it be with her honour intact, alive, or dead?

Hon. Chairperson, I want to say through you that all of us must be serious about this. Today, this is a Bill for women. Yesterday, when it was being discussed, I was listening. Twenty-one women spoke on it, whereas it is extremely necessary for all sixty-two women to raise their voices against it. There is a demand for 35 per cent, and everyone gives big speeches in elections, but no one comes to the House and honestly passes it. Until our mothers, sisters, and women get protection everywhere, get reservations, and get a place in the police force and the army, if we do not want to give them respect from our hearts, then their honour and safety can never be secured. We all have

to be serious about this matter. The thought should be that this daughter does not belong to someone else, but that in my own house, there is also a daughter, a sister, a mother, and a woman. A poet has said a very good thing: 'My eyes were about to fall on someone, but the thought of my own daughter came, and my heart trembled.' This heart must tremble; we will have to make this heart beat. I would say to those lawyers, and I am sure there are many lawyers sitting here, with an apology, 'Sir, please bring some kind of law that ensures the quick resolution of rape cases.' Earlier, there was only talk of rape, but now there is talk of gang rape because, somewhere, a fear has been created among the boys that they cannot overpower a girl alone, so they all get together and commit gang rape. If a man rapes a woman alone, it does not get so much publicity, but when a gang rape happens, the news reaches the entire world through television. Today, a report came in the Times of India that after the Nirbhaya case, tourism in Delhi reduced by 30 per cent. This is because people are afraid, foreigners are afraid that their mothers and daughters are not safe there. How can we keep our mothers and daughters safe, and on what trust should we send them? This is a very important issue.

Sir, I would like to say that we should set up special fast track courts to try the cases related to women. These cases must be heard

by women magistrates. Our party's position is that these cases should be fought by women lawyers, and the licences of the lawyers who fight on behalf of the guilty should be cancelled if he is found guilty. This is an issue of the honour of mothers and sisters. This is a family issue. This is not a profession. Even after being a professional, we are human beings. We have a beating heart. If an atrocity is committed against our daughter or someone else's daughter, and tears do not fall from my eyes, then I am not a human being.

Sir, my party's demand is that moral values should be included in the education syllabus of this country. Teach them from the very beginning what the culture of our Hindustan is. From the time of our ancestors, in our Hindu religion, they are worshipped in the name of gods and goddesses. Their honour is plundered, and we talk about parties, so our party's demand is also that these kinds of things should be taken seriously. This should be included in their syllabus.

The respect that mothers and sisters have in Hinduism, in Islam, and in all the religions found in India should be taught to them. As long as these things do not come into effect, and as long as we chase after America, our mothers and sisters can never be safe in this country. With this, I conclude my speech with many thanks.

[English]

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Sir, we are discussing under Rule 193 the need to have stringent legislation to check increasing atrocities against women and children in the country. The National Crime Record Bureau's data of 2013 says that every 22 minute a rape case is registered in our country. 33,707 rape cases were registered in 2013 while the conviction rate was only 27.1 per cent. These are registered cases only. I mean, there are many women, who do not come forward to register a case. In our great nation, the cases of crime against women are 3,09,546 whereas the conviction rate is 22.4 per cent only. The crimes against women from 9.2 per cent in 2009 have increased to 11.20 per cent.

Sir, we have passed the Nirbhaya Act. What is needed to be done in this regard? I have a few suggestions. Through you, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards two Sections of the Code of Criminal Procedure, namely, 374 and 389 regarding Appeal from Conviction and Suspension of Conviction, respectively. What happens is that after a conviction is given by a trial court, the accused appeals in the Appellate court. My request to the Government is to bring in a suitable amendment to Sections 374 and 389 that unless and until the High Court decides the appeal – the appeal should be

decided in a reasonable period of time – the accused should neither be given bail nor his conviction be suspended. This is an important step.

What is happening at present? I request the Hon. Minister to find out from the fast track courts, which have been created in Delhi after the Nirbhaya Act, that 90 per cent of the accused have been exonerated. The remaining 10 per cent have appealed in the High Court and are out on bail. My request, through you, to the Government is that this suitable amendment to Sections 374 and 389 be brought as early as possible. Section 309 of CrPC clearly says that chargesheet has to be filed within two months.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government a classic example of a woman, who had gone to the police, said, I was gang-raped by three people and when I was dying, those criminals were laughing at me. There is another woman, who is 55 year old, who said that she was raped and afterwards the rapists were telling her, they could rape her because she could not bear a child.

The third case is about a woman, who had filed a complaint against a tailor and a person who sold grocery in her village. When she made a complaint, she was brought on the road by the father of the accused, a gun was pointed at her temple and warned. He warned,

withdraw your complaint otherwise I would shoot you - This audacity of yours, this courage of yours.

These are all cases which have been reported and in these cases, you know very well, that the Supreme Court has given a security guard each to these seven women. I want the Hon. Minister to take cognizance of these cases of seven women which have been widely reported in the *Outlook* magazine. Will the Hon. Minister be kind enough to please take notice of this and ensure that the culprits in the cases of these seven women, who have come forward very bravely and boldly, get convicted?

We had heard yesterday the Uttar Pradesh ruling party people talking very loudly about what they have done, but in ten months, neither a single arrest has been made in respect of Muzaffarnagar cases nor has a single chargesheet been filed. I want to know this from the Treasury Benches. They talk very loudly. I am not doubting their intentions. But their intentions and loud claims should be followed by practical actions. I would request them to please take cognizance of those seven cases which the *Outlook* magazine has reported about the Muzaffarnagar riot cases.

Before concluding, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government that education needs to be widely imported. More than

the women the men should change. We cannot call ourselves a civilised society when for 50 per cent of the population, these are the numbers and these are the adversities. We cannot call ourselves a great nation, we cannot call ourselves a great civilisation if 50 per cent of our population are feeling insecure and are subjected to crimes like rape.

Lastly, Sir, my request to the Government, through you, is that please control organisations which have affiliations to you and who are using this festival like *rakhi* to promote religious animosity. What is this? You are in the ruling party. You can come to power, but at what cost? This is what the Government has to do. They have to control organisations which in the name of holy festivals are creating divisions, are sending wrong messages.

Sir, NCRB data – I have heard speakers over here – clearly says that in the 51 mega cities, 92 per cent of the rape victims knew the criminals. So, please do not attribute criminal motives to it. I request you once again that the Hon. Minister should take cognizance of it. Even the National Commission for Women has not gone and visited these seven women whose cases have been widely reported in the *Outlook* magazine and the Supreme Court has given them protection. I hope that the Government will rise up to the occasion.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Chairperson, Sir, thank you very much. I want to speak on the subject of women's safety. All in all, many incidents are happening in the country; atrocities are being committed against women. There are more than 500 Government schools in Punjab which do not have toilet facilities. It causes great inconvenience to the girls. The High Schools and the Higher Secondary School are located at the distance of 10 kms. There are no shuttle service or bus service provided by the Government. Girls go to school hanging on the backs of buses or walking. They take rides from strangers, which leads to an increase in incidents of molestation. Due to these reasons the intelligent girls are forced to drop out of their studies by their parents. They say, "We don't want to educate our girls in school. Honour is a bigger deal for us. What is the use of them studying? They are meant for someone else." The problem is that even at their parents' house, they are called an outsider. When they go to their in-laws, they say, 'You are a stranger.' Women have no part in this world. The Hon. MP was asking if you don't have a share in the land of Jammu and Kashmir. In Punjab, there is a positive sign of celebrating the Lohri of girls. Guru Nanak Dev wrote in his teachings: 'So kyun manda aakhiye, jit jamme rajan'—'Why call her

bad, from whom kings are born?' How can you speak badly of those who give birth to kings? It is also written in the holy words, 'Eti maar pai kurlane, tain ki dard na aaya,' which means, 'Such a beating was given that they cried, and you felt no pain.' Women are crying, but the rulers feel no pain or pity. In this situation, on one hand, our country's rockets have gone to Mars. On the other hand, we have dowry harassment and murder in the womb. I don't understand which century we are heading towards. Generally, this happens all over the country. Whenever nurses, doctors, or unemployed people go on strike, male policemen beat up girls. Three or four days ago, a similar incident happened in Punjab, where a girl lost her eye and got 24 stitches. If there is a will, much can be done.

In Punjab, a new Deputy Commissioner took charge in the district Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar. He came up with a unique way. There were fewer girls than boys. He ordered all the doctors in the district to report all the pregnancy cases to the police station. When the case started going to the police station, the police started going to their house and said that your case has come to us. Let me know if there is any problem. After 9 months they crossed checked the number of deliveries and wherever the delivery is not reported they asked the parents about the clinics from which they had got abortion done. Later

on they also arrested some doctors from Amritsar and Gurdaspur. It created fear of law among the people and now, the number of female children is more than male children in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Nagar. If you want to do something, a deputy commissioner can also do it, but will power is needed. I want to take care of you through these things.

I have a small poem in Punjabi. A girl who has not yet been born is talking to her mother. She says:

Come, mother, let's sit and talk about important things.

Rajguru, Sukhdev, and Bhagat Singh were all born from
mothers.

What if I also give birth to some great man, mother?

Don't kill me in the womb, this is my request, mother.

The girl is saying that warriors like Shaheed Bhagat Singh and Rajguru were also born from a mother's womb. She asks her mother not to kill her in the womb, as who knows, she might also give birth to a great warrior. She says she also has the right to come into this world. Even after coming into the world, we are not doing them a favour. We must think that we do not show any favour to the girl child by merely not killing her, saying that we did not kill her but gave birth

to her. We must give them good atmosphere to live in. It happens sometimes that when a girl turns 20-21, we hand her over to those who are greedy for a dowry. It's as if we're saying, "Brother, we couldn't kill her, so you kill her." Such incidents happen. Therefore, they should also get a proper environment to live in.

When we look at the results of matric, higher secondary, BA, and MA, the newspaper says that girls have won the race once again. There is a very important point in this: where do the girls who come first in Plus Two, BA, and MA go afterwards? They are married to some uneducated person or a man who owns land. Their education goes to waste. Even after coming first, they live the same life. We must grant independence to the women. It's not the time to call women 'girls', 'sparrows', or say they are like a 'poor cow' anymore. The era of 'sparrows' and 'cows' is over; now it is time for them to become lionesses.

SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM (JAMNAGAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I express my gratitude to you as well as the Government for allowing a discussion in this House, considering the seriousness of the subject. We have been discussing this issue for the past two days. The best thing is that, rising above party lines and understanding the seriousness of the issue, very good suggestions and concerns have been expressed in this House. Further, not only women but also men have been participating in the discussion seriously. There is a consensus between the views of the male and female Members. When we meet those Members outside, they say that it is a very good subject. We want you women to speak. It is not that we do not want to speak on this subject or are not familiar with its seriousness. But we want this to be a women's subject, so sisters and women should speak more on it. This is a very good thing that has happened in this House, where men, along with women, are participating in this subject with equal seriousness. Sir, there has been a lot of discussion on this subject. For the last two days, experienced and new Members have put forward very good points on this subject. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shrimati Poonamben Maadam, please continue your speech next time because it is 3.30 p.m. now, and we have to take up Private Members' Business.

SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM: Thank you, Sir. I will continue my speech on Monday.

15.30 hrs

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS -Introduced

**(i) FARMERS (RIGHT TO ASSURED MINIMUM PRICE
FOR AGRICULTURAL PRODUCE) BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL (JALORE): Sir, I beg to move that leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide assured minimum price of agricultural produce to farmers by establishing Farmers' Commissions at national and state levels and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide assured minimum price of agricultural produce to farmers by establishing Farmers' Commissions at national and state levels and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

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

15.30 ½ hrs

(ii) COCONUT GROWERS (WELFARE) BILL, 2014*

[English]

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures and other facilities for coconut growers and for matters connected therewith.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for certain welfare measures and other facilities for coconut growers and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.31 hrs

**(iii) PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO PERSONS
ATTACKED BY WILD ANIMALS BILL, 2014***

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of compensation to persons attacked by wild animals and for matters connected therewith.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of compensation to persons attacked by wild animals and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

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

15.31 ½ hrs

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

**(iv) HIGH COURT OF KERALA (ESTABLISHMENT
OF A PERMANENT BENCH AT KOZHIKODE) BILL,
2014***

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of a permanent Bench of the High Court of Kerala at Kozhikode.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

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

15.32 hrs

**(v) PAYMENT OF COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF
NATURAL CALAMITIES AND SNAKE BITE BILL, 2014***

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of compensation to victims of natural calamities and snake bite and for matters connected therewith.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for payment of compensation to victims of natural calamities and snake bite and for matters connected therewith.

The motion was adopted.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

15.33 hrs

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

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

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to amend the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

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

15.34 hrs

(vii) SURROGACY (REGULATION), 2014 *

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of surrogacy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for regulation of surrogacy and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

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

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.35 hrs

**(viii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014
(Insertion of new article 16A, etc.)**

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

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

15.36 hrs

(ix) ACID (CONTROL) BILL, 2014*

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to prevent acid attack on human beings, especially women and girls and to control the sale and distribution of acids and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for control of sale and distribution of acids in order to prevent the acid attacks on human beings particularly women and girls and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

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

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.37 hrs

**(x) GOVERNMENT SERVICES (REGULATION OF
COMPASSIONATE APPOINTMENTS) BILL, 2014***

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of appointments on compassionate grounds in offices under the control of the Union Government and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation of appointments on compassionate grounds in offices under the control of Union Government and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: I introduce **the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

** Introduced in the recommendation of the President

15.38 hrs

(xi) NATIONAL ASSETS (PROTECTION) BILL, 2014*

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the declaration and recognition of national assets and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the declaration and recognition of national assets and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.38 ½ hrs

(xii) AGRICULTURAL WORKERS WELFARE BILL, 2014*

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the welfare of agricultural workers and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.39 hrs

**(xiii) ANCIENT MONUMENTS AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SITES AND REMAINS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014 ***

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Ancient Monuments and Portuguese Sites and Remains Act, 1958.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.40 hrs

**(xiv) FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO THE STATE
GOVERNMENTS (FOR PROTECTION OF WATER BODIES)
BILL, 2014***

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA): Sir,
I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide financial assistance to the State Governments for protection of water bodies.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide financial assistance to the State Governments for protection of water bodies.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN: I introduce the Bill.

15.41 hrs

**(xv) LABOUR FORCE (DEMAND AND SUPPLY
SURVEY) BILL, 2014***

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for conducting yearly demand and supply survey of labour force across various sectors of economy in order to provide demand and supply estimates of employment and bridge the gap between demand and supply of labour force for effective performance of the economy.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for conducting yearly demand and supply survey of labour force across various sectors of economy in order to provide demand and supply estimates of employment and bridge the gap between demand and supply of labour force for effective performance of the economy.”

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I introduce** the Bill.

15.41 ½ hrs

(xvi) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*
(AMENDMENT OF THE EIGHTH SCHEDULE)

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I introduce the Bill.

15.42 hrs

(xvii) ELECTRICITY (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY (SARAN): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Electricity Act, 2003.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Electricity Act, 2003.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.42 ½ hrs

**(xviii) PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO COWS BILL,
2014***

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for effective measures for the prevention of cruelty to cows and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for effective measures for the prevention of cruelty to cows and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.43 hrs

(xix) NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR YOUTH BILL, 2014*

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of National Youth Commission for the overall development of youth and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a National Commission for Youth for their overall development and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.44 hrs

**(xx) CENTRAL UNIVERSITIES (CONDITIONS OF SERVICE
OF NON-TEACHING STAFF) BILL, 2014***

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ) : Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the same conditions of service of non-teaching staff of Central Universities and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for uniform conditions of service for the non-teaching staff of the Central Universities and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.45 hrs

**(xxi) BACKWARD AREAS DEVELOPMENT BOARD BILL,
2014***

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for the overall development of economically backward areas of the country.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted introduce a Bill to provide for the establishment of an autonomous Board for the overall development of economically backward areas of the country.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I introduce** the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

15.46 hrs

**(xxii) PRE-EXAMINATION COACHING CENTRES
REGULATORY AUTHORITY BILL, 2014***

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for constitution of a regulatory authority for regulation of pre-examination coaching centres and for matters connected therewith.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the constitution of a Regulatory Authority for regulation of Pre-Examination Coaching Centres and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.47 hrs

**(xxiii) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED TRIBES) ORDER
(AMENDMENT)BILL, 2014 ***

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order, 1950.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.47 ½ hrs

**(xxiv) CONSTITUTION (SCHEDULED CASTES) ORDER
(AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014***

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution (Scheduled Castes) Order, 1950.”

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.48 hrs

(xxv) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*
(AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 243A).

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAAR (BHAGALUPAR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

15.49 hrs

(xxvi) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2014*
(AMENDMENT OF ARTICLE 171)

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill further to amend the Constitution of India.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR: Sir, I introduce the Bill.

* Published in the Gazette of India , Extraordinary, Part -II. Section 2 dated 08.08.2014

15.50 hrs

(xxvii) CONSTITUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL *

(Amendment of article 39)

[English]

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

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

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

The motion was adopted.

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

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Next, item No. 39. Shri Feroze Varun Gandhi – not present. Item No. 41, Shri Baijayant Panda – not present. Item Nos. 42 and 43, Shri Baijayant Panda – not present.

15.52 hrs

PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS ...Under consideration

(i) NATIONAL MINIMUM PENSION (GUARANTEE)

BILL, 2014

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, the House will take up item No. 44 – further consideration of the National Minimum Pension (Guarantee) Bill. Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal – not present. Shri Jagdambika Pal.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Chairperson, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me time to speak in support of the private Member's Bill presented by the Hon. Nishikant Dubey on July 25. The concept of any welfare state is based on the general principle that any person who has contributed to society throughout their life, in any form, in any circumstance, whether it be in the organized sector, the unorganized sector, the private sector, the Government sector, the state Government, or the Government of India—that person has given their full contribution to society and the country throughout their life. However, after retirement, when a person goes on pension, you will see in general circumstances that the condition of people receiving pensions is often one of destitution. I believe that

Nishikant Ji has presented a very good Bill in the direction of addressing the challenging and difficult lives that these people live in society, and the entire House will support it. A person who has contributed to society during their life has now retired, and it becomes our duty to ensure they live a dignified life. In the context of their contribution to society, they should be able to live with dignity, have access to healthcare, and in their post-retirement life, they should feel that they have a place in the society they contributed to.

The way this has been brought about today, I believe that there is no uniformity in these circumstances. Today old age pension, widow pension and handicapped pension vary from state to state. In some states, the pension is Rs. 200, in some it is Rs. 500, and in Delhi, it is Rs. 1,500. I believe that we should consider this private Member's Bill in the House so that there is uniformity in the pension after retirement across the country, and he has also mentioned this direction. In today's circumstances, he has set the amount at Rs. 5,000 for retired pensioners. I believe that even today, people are dependent on pensioners. If their child becomes disabled or if family circumstances are such that no one in the house has a job, then such families depend on that pension.

Hon. Chairperson, the Rs. 5,000 amount has been set based on today's price indexing, but I would like to suggest to Shri Nishikant Ji that this amount be linked to price indexing in the future. As inflation increases over time, in ten years, if not now, this amount will begin to seem very small. When we first started the pension scheme, we used to give Rs. 200 as an old-age pension, which later became Rs. 500, but today it feels like that amount is very little. This is a very good step, and instead of talking about repeated amendments or introducing a new private Member's Bill, it would be better to bring in uniformity from the very beginning and link it with the price index over time. This would prove to be an effective step for the pensioners of society.

Sir, on 1st May, 2009, the National Pension Scheme was created on the basis of self-reliance. Today, with the National Pension Scheme that has been implemented, the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority still talks about regulating the pension sector. It should also be added that whether they are people from the private sector or the unorganised sector, when a person retires, no matter which sector they retired from, everyone runs their family's livelihood. The people retiring from service from the private sector and unorganized sector do not get pension. This is a big step to at least talk about bringing everyone under its purview, to see how we can be

concerned about the future of people in the private sector and the unorganised sector after their retirement, how they can discharge their duties and how they can bear the responsibility of their family. If we do not give them any security or right, or do not try to bring them under this, I believe that abandoning them after retirement is not right from any point of view. This would be contrary to the concept of any welfare state. Our responsibility does not last only until they are in service. In a civilised society, a person who has discharged their social and professional responsibilities and given their utility to society, who has given their meaningfulness to society and contributed to the people of society, and that contribution is not just for their service but is a contribution to increasing the country's GDP, a contribution to the country's development. If after retirement he feels that he is not getting a pension, he understands that he has become a liability to the country or society, a burden on the same society in which he was useful until yesterday. In such circumstances, this Bill that has been brought is a very reformist step and the entire House will consider it. If the National Pension System is linked with this system, as Shri Nishikant Ji has said, a National Fund Corpus should be created. This concept, that we have to bring uniformity in the unorganised or private sector or other sectors, is essential.

16.00 hrs

A corpus fund for the National Pension Fund will certainly provide security to the people and we will be able to give a guarantee of at least a minimum pension for their future. The objective of this Bill is that when every person in society who has contributed to society reaches a certain age and comes under the category of retirement, society should discharge its responsibilities towards him, society should take care of him. Society should show its sensitivity towards him. It is natural that we cannot express that sensitivity only with words or only with our emotions, but by giving him a pension, we can provide him with support so that his own needs can be met.

Therefore, there can be no disagreement on this Bill and today he said that in the ambit of this Bill, whether it is the Government sector or other sectors, there is a guarantee from the state Government that a pension will be received after retirement but there are many such sectors which do not give any guarantee. Today, those who are in the social sector, the objective of this Bill is to give social security to the people. To provide that social security, we are giving pensions to people in the welfare state on the basis of social welfare and all our schemes of the Government of India. The pension may be an old-age pension after the age of 60, or for widows, whom we give widow's

pension, or we give pension to disabled people, but even in what the Government of India gives, the state Government has a different contribution in its states. Can it not be that there is a guideline from the Union Government across the country, across the centre, that the amount received by an old-age person in Assam should be the same amount in any part of the country, whether it is North-East or South-West, that is, in any part of the country, to any pensioner from any community living from Kanyakumari to Kashmir, whether he is from the private sector or whether he is covered in those schemes of the Government of India in which we are planning to give pension under social security or whether he is from another sector. The biggest objective in this sector is that if this objective is not being fulfilled even after we introduced the National Pension System in the year 2003, then I believe that perhaps after the introduction of this Bill, we should discuss it, if the Government considers it, then a new chapter will certainly be added in the future for pensioners and we can proudly say that from this House we have worked to give a right to all the elderly people of the country for their health, for their education, for their social dignity.

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATLIPUTRA): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you for allowing me to speak on an important Bill which is proposed by Hon. Nishikant Dubey Ji.

16.04 hrs

(Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav *in the Chair*)

In the country, there are organised and unorganised labourers. Organised labourers get many types of facilities. At the Government level, I believe that when they retire after working, a pension is available for their livelihood. But our country, which is a country of farmers and labourers, generally they do not get the guarantee of security.

In this country, there are many poor people who work in fields and on threshing floors. There are crores of labourers who build houses, stitch shoes, work in homes, and pull rickshaws, whose labour we are proud of and on which the country's development depends. I believe that a small number of Government-organised labourers get benefits. But no system or provision has been made for so many people to live a dignified life after retirement. There is no such Bill or law for them with which they can sustain their lives after retirement. This Bill is very important. This is the fourth time I have come to the Lok Sabha, I have been in the Rajya Sabha once, so this is my fifth

time. I believe that such topics have been discussed. From 2004 to 2009, I was a Member of the Lok Sabha, at that time too, a similar discussion took place in the House. At that time, the UPA Government had certainly given some assurance, had talked about bringing some Bill and had also brought a scheme for the labourers. But even now the basic objective is not being fulfilled.

Sir, you are the son of a farmer, the son of a poor man. Everyone has seen how the labourers who work in fields and on threshing floors feed us with their full labour. In our country, 80 to 85 per cent of the people are farmers. It is the farmers and labourers who are running the country but there is no concrete arrangement for them in their old age. You should go and look at their homes, up to a certain age they are able to work, the family is able to make a living, but after a certain age, when their youth fades, old age sets in, their condition is unbearable. I am saying this with great pain because their situation becomes very tragic. They come from poor families, their children are also not ready to take on their burden, and they are left to wander aimlessly. The concept of a joint family is slowly disappearing. Those who gave so much labour to this country, who built the country's system with their hard-earned money, nowadays sons throw their parents out, and they live like beggars. The economic system of a

country depends on the farmers of that country. If a labourer does not work for one day, the whole country will come to a standstill. Please take care of them. The Hon. Minister must feel this pain, he has reached this position after seeing the same pain. The poor labourer who pulls a cart, rickshaw, tempo, works day, noon, night, morning and out of exhaustion, sleeps somewhere on the roadside, in a hut or under the open sky. As long as he is young, he pulls a cart, rickshaw, does labour. A labourer builds grand magnificent houses. This is the system of this country, that the one who builds a house does not have a home for himself. When he becomes old, his youth is gone, you must have seen what his plight is. The Hon. Members who have come to the House, have come to the House after a lot of struggle, they must have seen poverty and destitution. A labourer pulls a cart, sweats profusely but when he reaches old age, no one cares for him. There are no suitable arrangements for him in a hospital, no suitable arrangements for him to live and no suitable arrangements for him to wear clothes. He is left to wander aimlessly.

Our country developing on the basis of the hard work and sweat of those people and the people working in those factories. Today, labourers are working on contract basis. A new trend of outsourcing has developed. Through outsourced contractors, labourers are being

taken in Government departments and Government undertakings today. When we go through various committees, we ask if there are vacancies here, they say, yes we have vacancies, then how do you manage the work, they say that we work through outsourcing. Today, in this very city of Delhi, the contractors are exploiting such labourers. Labourers from Uttar Pradesh and Bihar work here. This light of Delhi, this glitter, this glitter of big cities, you come from Bihar, for the most part, the blood and sweat of Bihari labourers are behind it. You must have seen their pain, you have been a Minister for a long time, an MP, an MLA, you have long experience. What is their life like, who are those people living in slums. After 67 years of India's history, if a person who is an Indian, does not have a home to live in, does not have clean drinking water to drink, has no arrangement for his treatment, has no clothes to wear. Was it for this day that we gained freedom. We all feel ashamed. A large section of India, the labour class, the farmer class, people working in the unorganised sector, who are only being exploited and oppressed, are not even getting proper wages. Will our Government not take care of the lives of the people on whose strength we all are here. Is it not our responsibility, is it not the responsibility of the House. Have we thought about them, have we made any such law, we will have to think about this. The domestic

servant or maid, they are being exploited, what is there for the people who work in homes. Look at child labour, the children of the poor work. The beatings on the stomach are unbearable, the beatings on the back can be endured, but the beatings on the stomach cannot be endured. It is for this stomach that poor parents send their children to work, so that they can get two square meals a day.

You go to Uttar Pradesh, from where Jagdambika Pal Ji belongs. Go to our Bihar, there will be a large number of these children. Children working in small factories, children as carpet weaving labourers, is there no guarantee for them. Is it not our responsibility. Shouldn't there be arrangements for their education. They are the future of the country. There are many laws for the poor children who are engaged in building the country's future, but where are those laws being implemented on the ground. What is happening, children of the poor are still going to work. If someone notices, the Government takes legal action against them and sends the children back to their homes. But the same children, being helpless and without support, are again forced to go to work in another factory if not this one. We have not seen, not understood their pain. If they had two meals a day, if they had the means to study, they are sons of labourers, sons of the poor. If they had a home to live in, perhaps no parent would want their son

to do labour, to wander aimlessly. The time that was meant for them to play and eat, during that time they are doing labour, carrying bricks. I have seen this with my own eyes, this is happening in Bihar and it must be happening in the country too. Child labourers are working in the homes of Ministers, in the homes of chief Ministers, right in front of them. Are eyes closed, what kind of law is this. What is our responsibility. If we are public representatives, if the public has elected us, then surely for the millions of people who are wandering aimlessly, who are poor, are farmers, are labourers, are cart-pullers, are rickshaw-pullers, are tempo-pullers. There is no drinking water for them. Hon. Chairperson, the people of North India run organizations on a large scale. These poor labourers keep on holding demonstrations from time to time to draw the attention of the Government. Their plight, there is a two-tier system, go to five-star hotels. Three kilos of water are flushed to wash away a quarter kilo of urine. Those children, those poor labourers, do not have drinking water. Wow!

We are the citizens and MPs of independent India. Do we not have any responsibility? Can we not guarantee their future? Can we not provide them security? Can we not make some arrangements for their livelihood? That is why such laws are necessary. I believe that the Hon. Prime Minister of the present Government has seen poverty and

destitution. We want to say with pride that the son of a poor person has become the Prime Minister of India. The son of a backward family has become the Prime Minister. In the 66 years of history, perhaps for the first time, the son of a poor tea seller, who has seen pain, who has seen problems, I have faith in this Prime Minister and in the poor people of this country who are in destitution, in poverty, the cart-puller, the rickshaw-puller, the tempo-puller, all those people have given a mandate that Narendra Bhai Modi should become the Prime Minister of this country. I am proud that the NDA Government is committed to fulfilling the dreams of millions of people of the country. Hon. Minister, I am confident that when your reply comes, it will definitely be a positive reply. You will think and act to make this law. Those people who have not seen true freedom after 66 years of independence, that elderly woman, those helpless people who have to wander aimlessly, those labourers and farmers should feel that they too can get support after retirement. The Government gives an amount, gives money, gives pension to fourth-grade employees. In the same way, if a handsome amount is given, then even if their children do not look after them, the father can manage his and his wife's livelihood on his own. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, you conclude your speech.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, I am concluding. I am describing the plight of that poor person, from whom you yourself...

(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is also a time limit.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV: Sir, the time limit is there but it is a private Bill and there is an agony of crores of people. I am conveying their voice to the Government through you. I am concluding. If you don't protect them, who will?

Sir, I will conclude soon. I have brought the voice of the poor people to the Government through you. Even the Hon. Ministers of the Government have come here after rising from the same poverty and struggles. They have come after struggling. I have faith in the present Government. The previous Government only gave a speech. They haven't done anything. After 66 years of independence, Congress party was in power for the most part. If a little attention had been paid, the condition of the Indian labourers would not have been pitiable. But I believe that the present Government under the leadership of Narendra Bhai Modi will do something concrete so that

farmers, labourers, hawkers, rickshaw pullers, tempowalas, midwives working at home and small children will not have to go. There will be no exploitation. With bravery, they will be treated with dignity. They will have homes, they will have clothes, they will have money, I believe this. With this trust, I support this Bill and again draw the attention of the Government through you that you will definitely take any action. With these words, I conclude my statement.

SHRI VEERENDER KASHYAP (SHIMLA): Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the National Minimum Pension Guarantee Bill, 2014, which was introduced by our very active MP, Shri Nishikant Dubey. I want to say that a very important Bill has been introduced by Shri Nishikant Dubey Ji. Today, we all are concerned that the elderly people of our country who contributed to our society in their working age are left with no source of income in their old age. The intention of this Bill is that the Government should provide pension to all these elderly people as a measure of social security.

This Bill is for making provisions for providing a guaranteed minimum pension to all pensioners, including those who have worked in the unorganised and private sectors, and for matters connected therewith. I believe and all of us, who have been elected here as representatives of the people, that today there is a great need that people who are above 60 years of age, whose bodies become weak and who have served society for so many years, must get social security in their old age. But today the opposite is happening, today the problem is that when people get old, especially today's youth, when their parents need them in old age, they move away from them. How do parents raise their children, how do poor parents raise their

children, but in old age they do not get their help. Earlier, the joint family system was prevalent and in a joint family everyone lived together through happiness and sorrow. Today, there is a lack of it in society. Therefore, I also believe that if the Government makes such an effort that all people of 60 years of age... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please wait for a minute and then speak.

I have to inform the Hon. Members that three hours have already been taken on this Bill. Thus, the time allocated for discussion on this Bill is almost over. Since there are still five more Members to participate in the discussion on the Bill, the House will have to extend the time for further discussion on the Bill. If the House agrees, the time for discussion on the Bill should be extended by one hour.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Sir, okay.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you, the time is extended by one hour.

SHRI VEERENDER KASHYAP: Sir, I was saying that the social security that used to exist in our joint families, especially in old age or during times of sorrow and happiness, where the sorrows and joys of every family Member were looked after, has now ended. Therefore, I believe that if the Government makes such an arrangement, so that

they can live in their old age, or especially for those people above the age of 60, if there is a provision for a pension for all our countrymen who are above 60 years of age, it would be much better. I am happy that this Bill has been brought by Nishikant Ji. He has talked about constituting a National Pension Board, this is absolutely correct. If such a board is constituted then all the provisions relating to pension can be implemented by this Board. Through this board, all eligible people who need this kind of social security can be catered to. Such persons who have retired from the unorganized sector or private sector and are of more than 60 years of age should be covered under this scheme. It would be appropriate to pay the difference amount to those pensioners who are receiving less than five thousand rupees per month through this board. In our country, a person whose age is more than 60 years also wants to have love and affection with his grandchildren. But this does not happen, because in old age, when a person does not have four pennies in his pocket, his children, whom the parents have raised, abandon them in old age and prefer to live separately. They do not help their parents in old age. Their present pathetic and disappointing situation can be benefited by this. Our Minister is sitting here, who is very sensitive about this, I just want to say that I fully support this Bill, which has been brought by Nishikant Dubey Ji, and

I am fully confident that our new Government would work for the welfare of the poor and dalits particularly the labourers and deprived sections of our society. I hope this House will pass this Bill brought by Nishikant Dubey Ji, and in the coming days, our elderly and old people, who need a pension, will get its benefit. With this, I support this Bill.

[English]

SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I would thank you for affording me an opportunity to participate in the consideration of the important National Minimum Pension (Guarantee) Bill, 2014. I extend my thanks to Shri Nishikant Dubey for his foresightedness for bringing forward this important Bill before this august House.

We know that in our country the 90 per cent sector is unorganized and only the 10 per cent sector is organized sector where the pension scheme is available. Most of the developing countries have introduced the pension system through “pay-as-you-go” pension plans which are usually not funded. But with the passage of time, a lot of adverse trends have been noticed worldwide in the functioning of pension system. In India too, the developments indicate that the employment systems are becoming informal and the organized sector is shrinking. The number of employees are being gradually reduced. The unorganized sectors having smaller establishment and the neglected pensionable population are deprived of pension protection. Hence, an urgent need of introducing pension reforms in India. The potential in our country is so huge. As I have already stated, only 11 per cent of the working population has been covered under one pension scheme

or the other. According to 1991 census, the Indian labour force comprised 314 million workers of which 15.2 per cent were regular salaried employees, 53 per cent were self-employed and 31.8 per cent were casual/contract labour. Sir, 53 per cent were self-employed; and 31.8 per cent were casual/contract labour. In absolute numbers, as per the same Census, 11.13 million constituted 23 per cent of the total salaried employees and they were employed in Government jobs. Besides this group, there is a segment of employees in the organised, public and private sectors, who are covered by the Employees Pension Scheme, 1995. This leaves a large labour force in the unorganised sector, and a part of the employees in the organised, public and private sectors, outside the scope of any statutory/mandated pension scheme.

I would like to submit that as of now in our country, 70 per cent population are residing in the rural area. In the rural areas, there is no industrialisation and the entire population is working in the unorganised sector and they don't have the benefit of any pension scheme.

As far as urban population is concerned, we see that there are a large number of poor who are doing various works but they don't enjoy the benefit of pension scheme. Now, pension is compared so far as insurance scheme is concerned but it is not helping a lot. Hence,

reforms in the sector are required. In our country, pension is compared with the short term investments of banks and other financial institutions by those who have retired with sufficient funds to invest. So far, in our country the interest rates moved upward for the past so many decades. People therefore expected an era of ever increasing interest rates and preferred short term investments. Only recently, interest rates have experienced a downward trend.

The Report of the Malhotra Committee on Reforms in Insurance Sector, submitted in January, 1994 to the Government of India, has also given the reasons for inadequate development of pension provision in our country. My submission is that the Report of the Malhotra Committee is to be taken into consideration and this important Bill is also required to be looked into.

So far as the proposed pension model in India is concerned, the recent initiative of the Government of India appears to indicate that we may follow the World Bank model for pension reforms in India.

As is well known, most individuals are outside the pension scope in India. Unorganised sector workers have no structured social security system. The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority has submitted a Report on 31st October, 2001 to the Government of India making some timely recommendations for the

pension reforms in the unorganised sector. After a prolonged debate on the above mentioned OASIS Report, a lot of thought have emerged on the pension sector reforms.

The desired progress in India could not be achieved in the matter of retirement schemes despite the fact that tax benefits are available for the premiums/contributions paid. Reforms in the pension area are therefore the need of the hour. In a country where approximately 11 per cent of the working population has so far been covered under different pension schemes and where population growth from 1991 to 2016 is estimated to be at 49 per cent, a socio-economic transformation is absolutely needed. It is also expected that the aged population growth during the period may be 107 per cent. The existing system is under a serious pressure for reform measures. Reforms of the existing formal schemes are also necessary and inevitable due to the rising costs, their poor performance, etc.

At present, in India, the vast majority of the population does not enjoy the benefit of the old age pension. As far as the Government employees are concerned, their pensions are charged on the Consolidated Fund of India.

In view of the above, I fully support the present Bill and I request that this Bill may be passed by this august House. Thank you very much for affording me an opportunity to speak.

[Translation]

DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEY (CHANDAULI): Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important Bill. I would like to thank Shri Nishikant Dubey Ji for presenting such an important Bill in the House. I will not just call it a Bill, I will call it a sacred Bill, because it is for the difficulties of those people who have no one to listen to them.

Sir, when we were in intermediate, we were taught in civics what a Government is, what is the concept of a Government? The meaning of a Government is the establishment of a welfare state. This Bill is in accordance with the concept of a welfare state. For this reason, I fully support this Bill. I want to tell you a scene. When I was the Panchayat Minister in Uttar Pradesh, I saw in many places what the difficulties of the pension holders were, so I called a conference of them. Such troubled people came that, seeing their condition, tears came to all our eyes. Today I want to tell you that the situation of society today, I am not saying this with the intention of condemning or criticising anyone. There are many such sections of society, in whose homes if a pension is received, whether it is a widow, disabled or old-age pension, it is also a misfortune today that the entire amount does not reach on time. There is also so much of a racket at the lower

level that sometimes it is a sad thing that a person dies for 6 months, then becomes alive for 6 months. You will feel what I am saying? Dead for 6 months means that the pension is stopped for 6 months and is given to someone else by declaring them alive, and then for the next 6 months it is issued to him. This is a bad scenario.

The second scenario is, I have seen this many times in my social life that if a little pension comes into someone's house, his daughter-in-law definitely gives him food in the evening because it affects her mind that his pension has a contribution to this food. I have seen in many places that a person who is 60-70 years old, who has no source of income, lives many days and nights on an empty stomach. For this reason, this is a very important Bill for the people of the unorganised sector. While appealing to pass it from this House, I would like to give a small suggestion.

I will not speak for too long. I am a student of Hindi. I am a new Member, so if my words seem inappropriate to anyone, please forgive me. Here, in literature, we have something called a repetition defect. Repeating the same thing again and again is called a repetition defect in poetics. I am trying to avoid that. What is happening today? All companies have been given some arrangement that they should spend two to three per cent of their income on development. In the same

way, the wastage of leftover food in all these five-star hotels, the leftover food that is thrown away, that waste should be stopped.

My second suggestion is that this two per cent should also be imposed on them, so that they also have to think about such unorganised people. Along with this, there are many such centrally sponsored schemes at various levels where there is a lot of wasteful expenditure, if that is stopped, a fund can be created for this purpose somewhere. For this reason, I fully support this Bill.

It is our good fortune that our Hon. Prime Minister has seen that poverty, that hardship himself, and has worked in those areas throughout his life, where such scenarios exist. It is our second good fortune that the Hon. Minister of Labour, who is taking cognisance of these things, is himself a grassroots leader and has endured all these hardships throughout his life. For this reason, the Bill that Shri Nishikant Dubey has brought should be seriously deliberated. Instead of formally treating it as a private Member's Bill, debating it and taking this issue in another direction, it should be seriously considered. I would like to request that it needs to be given the shape of a law. I would say that one of the greatest thinkers of modern India was Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, whose core philosophy is exactly this.

Sir, through you, I would request the Minister to pay attention to what I am saying. Whose core philosophy has been the service of Daridra Narayan. Today, giving financial support to unorganised people through a pension is the true service of Daridra Narayan and will also be a true tribute to Deendayal Upadhyaya ji. For this reason, I would like to suggest that the House pass this pension scheme by the name of 'Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Daridra Narayan Seva Pension Yojana' so that through it, the unorganised people of society can be served better and a true welfare state can be established in the state of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi. With these words, I once again support this Bill of Dubey Ji and thank you for giving me time to speak.

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, today our Hon. Member of Parliament Shri Nishikant Dubey ji has brought the National Minimum Pension Bill, which is an indication of transparency. The way the situation is developing in society, the way the poor are forced to live, if they get some status through a pension, it is a very big thing. We go to the villages. The situation of the elderly is that their children have grown up. When they go out to earn money, no one cares for them. In their old age, their family Members are not ready to feed them. When they tell their situation, it seems that they are filled with a lot of pain. We understand this thing. Due to the lack of uniformity in pensions, today in Bihar, they get a pension of Rs. 200. Somewhere they get Rs. 500 and in Madhya Pradesh, they probably get Rs. 1000. We had hoped that our Government would be formed, our Prime Minister would be elected, he would remove the sorrows of the poor. Since he has seen the poor from very close quarters, their pensions will be increased. We also used to console them. The conditions that exist today, the way the poor are living, no attention has been paid to these people after independence. The distribution of food grains does not reach the poor. Well-off people take it. There is a need to improve this. We have seen the condition of the poor, how they are living in society? What is their livelihood like?

They are yearning for medicine. No one is ready to serve them. If they get a pension in old age, they will get a lot of relief. The weak people, the farmers who farm, the labourers who do labour or build houses and buildings, a lot of work has been done through these people but in old age, there is no one to look after them, so the Government should be concerned about them.

Through you, Hon. Chairperson, I want to request the Minister that after seeing the condition of the elderly, it feels like we must make some arrangements for them. When they fill out forms for pensions, these officials make the forms disappear somewhere. We sign their forms and give them many times. But they do not process them smoothly. We feel a lot of pain seeing the condition of the people living below the poverty line. It feels like what else and what all do we have to do to make them live? Sometimes it feels that even the work of planting saplings given to them by the Government, they have not been paid for it. There are many people who swindle the money of these poor people. I have been elected from Bihar. After seeing the situation in Bihar, it feels that such a situation exists everywhere. Even after independence, no attention has been paid to them. At the time of voting, they take their votes by sweet-talking them. After that, no one is ready to look after them. At the time of pension, officials cut their

rights and share. There should be uniformity in their pension, attention should be paid to the poor. If they get money, even their family Members are ready to give them two meals with respect. The situation that we have seen with our own eyes, our Hon. Member has brought a Bill to change it. This is a very good thing. We think a lot about this, our nights are spent sleepless. It has been said that he whose foot has not suffered a cracked heel, what does he know of another's pain. When I see the condition of the poor, I feel that how to feed them, how do they get medicine, how do they get service in the hospital. Even in hospitals, there are no beds. We write letters for their treatment, but they keep getting dates after dates. The Health Minister is sitting here. We would like to say that increasing the number of beds in hospitals is most important. A poor person comes after borrowing money from someone, but he does not get a place in the hospital. The elderly person becomes most weak and sick. To improve this situation, we will urge the Government. The Government that has been formed is more concerned about the poor. With this hope and expectation, we want those people to get at least a pension of one thousand rupees a month so that they can run their lives well. They will not feel that they have become old. Their children will also serve them. Nowadays, when children become young, they only get busy in

the maintenance of their own children, no one cares for the elderly person. When we go to the village, we see that the person who has worked so hard to raise his children, today there is no one to look after them. We will urge the Government to save them from this situation.

The Bill that the Hon. Member has brought, it seems that it was very necessary. To fulfil it, we are standing and raising our voice today. It is our duty to save them from this situation. We have come to serve the public, so it is also our duty to raise our voice.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): Hon. Chairperson, my colleague and friend, Nishikant Dubey ji has brought the National Minimum Pension Guarantee Bill. This was discussed in the House last week as well and Hon. Members gave their views with great seriousness. Every speaker also praised it. The feeling hidden behind it is such that it can benefit millions of people in the country. What could not be done in the last 67 years, they have brought this with a good thought and feeling for people above 60 years of age in the coming time. First of all, I would like to express my sincere gratitude on my behalf that at least someone thought about the elderly and poor people of this country. I am happy that the Hon. Minister of the department through which this is to be done, Shri Narendra Singh Tomar, is also present here. He himself comes from the grassroots level. He is a big leader and knows the problems of the poor. It is through him that we are trying to give a message to the world in the 16th Lok Sabha, through our voice to the Prime Minister of the country, Hon. Narendra Modi, whom millions of people have chosen and given a strong Government. I hope that whatever suggestions are given here will reach the Prime Minister through the Hon. Minister and some decision will definitely be taken on this issue. After all, why was the National Minimum Pension Guarantee Bill brought? In the

last 67 years, whatever policies were made in the country, they were made in the name of religion, caste, the poor, and the backward.

But one important thing said in this pension Bill is that whether you are from any caste, religion, rich or poor, if you are over 60 years old, you will get a pension of Rs. 5,000 per month. This is the biggest feature of this Bill. That is why I said that it has been thought of above caste, religion etc. A universal pension scheme has been talked about here. After all, why should this be implemented in India? Whatever has happened in India due to the Congress in the last 67 years, has created a huge gap in society today. The rich have become richer and the poor have become poorer. A big divide has been created. Today, if you go to any posh area of Delhi, you will see four security guards sitting outside one house. There are four security guards to protect a rich person, but no one thought about bringing a pension security Bill for a poor person. This has been thought of by our colleague Nishikant Dubey Ji, for this I also express my gratitude to him. He thought about the security of the poor, he thought about their pension. This is a good start. He at least did not stop at one thousand rupees and thought of five thousand rupees, so that a poor person can eat two meals himself and also feed his family two meals.

Sir, for the last many years the dialogue of 'roti, kapda aur makaan' (food, clothes and shelter) was only in films, but the same is going on in Parliament as well. I myself have become a Member of the Lok Sabha for the third time. Now how many times will this be discussed? Will the talk of 'roti, kapda aur makaan' ever end? Will we be limited to just providing basic infrastructure? If you go to the villages, even today there is talk of roads, education, and health.

Hon. Chairperson, you have been in this Parliament for many years. On these issues, even today, the way you spoke about the farmers, a pain was visible in your words at that time. Will we only discuss these things here or will we also take some decision? Today, when a poor person falls ill, his house, land etc. are all sold. The poor person says that he would rather die, but not fall ill. Now what is the problem? If he goes to any hospital, the cost of his treatment alone runs into lakhs of rupees, so everything he owns gets mortgaged. Even if he is from a good family, his name comes into the BPL family. He falls below the poverty line. In this country, 80 per cent of diseases are from water. There is a problem of water in the country and we have not been able to arrange for water till now. If we have not been able to arrange for water in the country, then what else can we do? The most poor people in the whole world are in India. We have not

been able to arrange two meals a day for them. But the Planning Commission sits and decides whether it will be Rs. 27 or Rs. 32. Where are we living? After all, when we are elected so many times, can we not find a solution to this? If Germany and USA can provide social security to their people in 1889 and 1776 respectively, we can also do the same thing for our people in this year of 2014. Should we not give a guarantee of social security? Don't the youth of India go abroad today because they feel their future is safe there? They see immense opportunities there, where their future will be secure and they will also get a good future. Hasn't there been a lack somewhere in us, hasn't there been that lack in our lawmakers? Today, if we think about it, Article 14 of the Constitution says that there should be equality for all, but how is everything being made available equally for all? The children of the poor are not getting good education, not getting good clothes, not getting good food, not getting a good future, so what are all of us 545 people here together able to give them, this question mark also arises on all of us. After all, when this discussion took place 16 times in the Lok Sabha, why was the National Minimum Pension Bill not brought earlier, why was such a provision not made? After all, how much money is needed for this - only Rs. 50,000 crore. Only 50 thousand crore rupee is required for this purpose. By the year

2030, about 20 crore people will be more than 60 years old. They only need to be given Rs. 5,000 per month. We can give Rs. 30,000 crore for MGNREGA, we can give money for National Highways, we can pass a budget of Rs. 18 lakh crore, then we can also give Rs. 50,000 crore for the National Minimum Pension Scheme. For this, only political will is needed. A person who can see the pain of that poor person is needed, a person who can feel his pain is needed. I feel that when the Hon. Minister discusses this in the Cabinet meeting, he will be able to say, keeping the words of our colleagues, that yes, we will give security to the people of this country, because under the leadership of Modi Ji, every poor person, every common person of this country thinks that now his future is secure, but this is secure only when the National Minimum Pension Scheme comes. When every person above 60 years of age gets Rs. 5,000 every year, he will definitely get the benefit of it.

Hon. Chairperson, I want to make one more request. If we have to save these poor people from going into the BPL family, if we give them five thousand rupees a month, then two to two and a half hundred rupees will be deducted and they will get an insurance, so what will happen with this? What will happen with this is that every person in this country will have insurance. When he falls ill, the insurance

company will bear his expenses. Millions of people die in road accidents, millions of people die without treatment, millions of people die before reaching the hospital, millions of people do not get beds. Millions of people die lying on stretchers in the corridors of PGI and AIIMS. When this scheme starts, he will happily get two hundred and fifty rupees deducted, get his insurance done, so his life will also be safe. A young man is saying this today. I am also the president of the Bharatiya Janata Yuva Morcha. Today, instead of asking for something for the youth, I have come to this House to ask for something for our elders. This National Minimum Pension Scheme should be implemented. This Bill should not be finished just by discussing it here. Through you, I want to say to the Hon. Minister Shri Narendra Singh Tomar ji that you should know this pain. You are also from Madhya Pradesh. Your Government there has done very good work. Shri Shivraj ji has done an amazing job for the farmers there. Today, if you want, you can also leave a mark here. You can give a secure future to 200 million people of the country. I want you and the Government to definitely do this work so that the people of the country get its benefit.

Thank you very much. Before concluding my speech, I once again congratulate and express my gratitude to Shri Nishikant Dubey Ji for bringing this Bill.

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Chairperson, the discussion on the Bill related to unorganised labourers, which was initiated by Hon. Shri Nishikant Dubey, is being discussed in the entire House. Honouring labour is the greatest honour for the country. If we do labour, we also have dignity, we have self-respect. If we are employed, we have self-respect. The dignity of labour must be upheld. The farm workers, the rickshaw pullers and those in brick kiln and in the private sector perform back breaking task and work more than the machines. The machine stops, but the human being keeps working, the human being keeps labouring and sweating. The beedi labourer sweats. Today, whether they are mine labourers, labourers who extract minerals, labourers break mountains and stones with their hands. Their hands get wounded, blood flows from their hands and we just sit and watch. Today there are labourers who wield shovels and spades, and there are millions of unorganised labourers in this country. They are in our state of Bihar as well and in other states as well. Poor people are everywhere. A certain mindset has been created, we will have to rise above that mindset.

17.00 hrs

Dignity of labour should be recognized. Along with this, how will we satisfy their hunger? When their age passes, there is no

arrangement for a pension for them, there are no facilities for them. When their children become adults and leave them, they walk with outstretched hands.

17.01 hrs

(Shri Arjun Charan Sethi *in the Chair*)

When they fall ill, they do not get medicine. When they die prematurely, their children are not educated, they do not get clothes to wear. Workers in the unorganised sectors are always in tears. Tears have been flowing for thousands of years, even after so many years of independence, tears are still flowing. It is our duty to wipe the tears of the human being who is walking with the help of crutches, who is poor, who is an unorganised labourer, and to bring them into the mainstream, that is why we have to give them a pension under the pension scheme. The poor still drink water from the pond and the river. Therefore, the dignity of manual labour should be upheld. A hungry person becomes a slave mentally. We will have to look at this slavery of the mind and we will have to give a special opportunity to the human being who is hungry in his stomach, this is what Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia used to say. The flowing tears have to be stopped, the slavery of the mind has to be ended and the dignity of the hand and labour has to be restored by us. Therefore, this step is necessary to end

the hunger of the unorganised labourer. When the unorganised labourer reaches his age, sometimes it also happens that he does not even have money for his shroud. This is the picture of my India, this is poverty, this is destitution, this is the problem of unorganised labourers, so today everyone has to think that whatever human beings are in India, who get old, after that age they should get a pension, their livelihood should run. They do not get a house, they keep looking at the sky, they face thousands of problems. We proudly say that we live in the House and where does our servant live, he lives in the out-house, he lives in the servant quarter. It is our responsibility to break the tradition of servant quarters. Do not call it a servant quarter, call it a quarter. When there is a discussion on unorganised labourers, it is our responsibility to honour and give dignity to the unorganised labourer.

"As long as a human being is hungry, there will be a storm on earth."

This revolution will continue. This revolution will stop only when the unorganised labourers get respect, get two meals, and get the right to live with dignity. This is the responsibility of all of us. This is not a question of any party or person, as to who is how revolutionary, it is our responsibility to be sensitive towards unorganised labourers.

Therefore, today we have to think about this. Today there are two Indias, one India is that which dies while eating, they have no problem. They have immense wealth, they die while eating. The other India is that which dies with outstretched hands, they do not get food. Everything will remain on this earth. That is why it has been said:

'Wealth, worldly goods and treasures will remain in the world. The human being who comes with outstretched hands, will go with outstretched hands.'

Give respect to the unorganised labourers, this is the responsibility of all of us, we cannot shirk from this responsibility. That is why we should seriously consider the draft of the Bill which has been presented here by my friend, Hon. Member Shri Nishikant Dubey Ji. The Hon. Member comes from that area, his area and mine are the same. There are tribals who collect wood in the forest, there are Dalits, there are poor people, who have been tortured and distressed for thousands of years, so the social mindset is such that people are exploited, there is injustice with the labourers in brick kilns, with those who collect wood, with agricultural labourers, with rickshaw and cart pullers.

That is why today we are seriously considering this and there should be justice, a stream of justice should flow in the country, so that the poor can get respect. As long as they are insulted, the country will not be better. That is why we are fighting for them. Let us move the backward forward and give a little less to those who have moved forward. It was with this in mind that it was said, special facilities, special opportunities. Empower the labourers, give them dignity and make a provision for a pension for them when they get old. This is our duty and the Government should consider this.

This Government says that good days are coming, so I want to say that we should not discuss this, but we should discuss that the labourers get respect, get equal wages, so that they can live with dignity. Our constitution also gives everyone the right to live with dignity.

With this much said, I conclude my speech.

[English]

DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA (BARDHMAN DURGAPUR):

Respected Chairman, Sir, I am very thankful that you have given me a chance to speak. First of all, I must salute my friend, Shri Dube ji, as he has come forward with such a pertinent Bill. We know that in our country more than 90 per cent of workers are in unorganized sector. They have neither the status of workers with fixed wages nor pension when they would be no more in workable condition.

We discussed in the morning about our women folk, who are about 50 per cent of our population, who are in a wretched condition. The same is the case of mass population of labourers, who are in such a wretched condition that we cannot explain in words. That is why I think that this Bill should be properly discussed in the Cabinet and passed in this term only.

First of all, I would say that we have to give status to these workers. We know that there are many sectors where unorganized labourers are employed. My learned friend has explained everything in this regard. In our State of West Bengal we have a large number of unorganized labourers such as handloom workers, *jari* workers, rickshaw pullers, field labourers, mine labourers, coal field labourers, *bidi* workers and many others.

In case of women, who are working as *bidi* workers, I want to say that their condition is still very bad. The male *bidi* workers are getting more wages than what their female counterparts are getting. I do not know the reason for it. But, this is a fact. I also want to say something about the workers who make envelopes. In Bengali we call them *thonga* people. Most of them are our women workers. Their condition is similar to that of female *bidi* workers.

People often ask where from this pension would come. I have a few suggestions in this regard. The employers, under whom these workers are employed, should maintain a register and keep a proper record of them. They should also produce this register as and when demanded by the Government authorities. The employers should also be charged with some sort of a tax. This way, the Government can collect some money for the pension of these workers.

Some of my friends, including Shri Anurag Thakur, said about the insurance. That should also be included in this Bill so that from there, that money can come. But I also agree with all other speakers that this Bill, the National Minimum Pension (Guarantee) Bill, should be passed and all those who are 60 and above should get some pension. This will also help in reducing the old-aged beggars in the villages and in the streets of the town.

[Translation]

DR. HANSRAJ GANGARAM AHIR (CHANDRAPUR): Hon. Chairperson, I support the good Bill that Hon. Nishikant Dubey Ji has introduced, which mentions the pension scheme that should be available to pensioners in the country.

Sir, in private, unorganized sector and some in public sector large number of workers are engaged who receive very little pension. The mention of workers in coal mines and beedi workers has also been made here. Even in SAIL contract workers who contribute towards Provident Fund do not get the benefit of pension. We receive complaints from labourers working in the unorganised sector who are not getting a pension.

I will tell you about the labourers of coal mines that when Coal India was nationalised in the country, before that this work was in the private sector and after 1973, the labourers working in this sector get very little pension. There are many such labourers in my constituency who get a pension of Rs. 100, Rs. 150 or Rs. 200. After nationalisation, their tenure was very short and due to this, they get a very low pension. When the Coal Mines Pension Scheme was made in 1998, they got a low pension due to their short tenure and less PF deduction. The same thing applies to EPF, for example, the labourers

working in SAIL get a pension of Rs. 300-400 in their hands. The companies deduct the PF of the contract labourers but do not give them their account number and when the contract of 3 years or 4 years is completed, these labourers working in the unorganised form do not even know about the pension. In this way, there is corruption in this, so this Bill which has come should also consider the fact that after the PF of the contract labourers is deducted, they should get some pension. With the Provident Commissioner, there is about Rs. 11,000 crore which has no owner. I know that Rs. 11,000 crore is lying in CMPS and similarly, contract labourers who have been deprived of pension after their work is stopped, through this Bill, I would like to say to you that this Bill is very much needed.

The Government should consider the Bill that has been introduced on this very important subject. The number of contract labourers in coal mines is more than three hundred thousand. They work, their PF is deducted, but they do not get a pension. Similarly, in SAIL a Public Sector Undertaking there are thousands of workers and the number of such workers is very large in private companies. Because of this, the Government will have to take a decision to give a pension to millions of labourer brothers working in the unorganised sector. Fortunately, the resolution that has been introduced mentions EPF-1995. I would

say that it should be increased from one thousand to at least five thousand and it should not be linked to only EPF but also to CMPF. The number of contract labourers whose PF is deducted in the country should be counted and everyone should be covered. The workers who lose their livelihood after 60 could lead a comfortable life in their old-age if they are given pension. I request the Government to give it due importance and consider it. I would like to say to Nishikant Ji that he has thought very deeply about this and the Minister should consider this Bill seriously and introduce it as a Government Bill.

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST): Hon. Chairperson, The entire working class in Tripura is employed in the unorganized sector. There are no major industries in Tripura. In the medium sector a total of 1000 workers are employed. Apart from this, there are about 6 lakh workers in our State, all of whom are in the unorganised sector. We have this information that there are 40 crore workers in the unorganised sector in India. Out of all the workers, 93 per cent of workers are in the unorganised sector and only seven per cent are in the organised sector. Today, the Bill which has been brought by our friends and our colleague, I would request everyone that this is a private Member's Bill, this Bill has been brought to draw the attention of the Government, my request would be that had the Government been serious, this Bill instead of being a Private Member's Bill would have been introduced by the Government.

[English]

If we sincerely want to do something for the unorganised workers, then a Government Bill must be brought in this House, and for that all the Members of this House should support it.

[Translation]

Our unorganised workers, Sir, you are aware that our friends have informed us that the workers in the unorganized sector work in misery. The maid servants who work in 2-3 homes earn not more than Rs. 400-500 per house which comes to Rs. 1000-1500 per month with which they have to look after their entire family. Similar is the case of our construction workers, beedi workers and rickshaw pullers, everyone has to work in this difficulty. They do not get a salary of more than 2-3 thousand in a month. So if there is a family of 4-5 people, how will it run? When they turn 60-65 and do not have the strength to work, how does their family run? There is no one to bring food and drink to their house, so it is necessary for the country to do something for the person who has worked for 60 years. I as well as my party fully support the Bill introduced here. Our party works for this very cause all over the country. I used to work in the Centre of Indian Trade Unions and when the UPA Government was there, only one thousand crore rupees were kept for the entire 40 crore people, so we said that a person will get only 25 rupees a year from this one thousand crore rupees. For this, we request the NDA Government that the Bill that Dubey Ji has brought here today, should be converted into a Government Bill and brought here and then, on passing it, the demand of five thousand rupees, which our friend Shri Anurag Singh

Thakur had made, so that everyone gets a pension and for our 40 crore unorganised workers, I would also like to say that such an act should be made in which there can be a complete arrangement for the security and pension of all the unorganised workers. With this, I conclude my speech.

THE MINISTER OF MINES, MINISTER OF STEEL, AND THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): Hon. Chairperson, today the discussion is on the Private Member's Bill, the National Minimum Pension Bill 2014, presented by Shri Nishikant Dubey ji. In addition to Nishikant ji, Shri Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury, Shri Prahlad Patel ji, Shri Saugata Roy ji, Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab ji, Shrimati Kavitha Kalvakuntla ji, Shri Mullappally Ramachandran ji, Shri Hukum Singh ji, Shri Varaprasad Rao ji, Shri Arjun Meghwal ji, Shri Jagdambika Pal ji, Shri Ram Kripal Yadav ji, Virendra Kashyap ji, Shri P.P. Chaudhary ji, Shri Mahendra Nath Pandey ji, Shrimati Rama Devi ji, Shri Anurag Thakur ji, Shri Jay prakash Narayan Yadav ji, Shri Hansraj ji and all the Hon. Members have expressed their views on this Bill. When this Bill was introduced, I attentively heard the speech of Nishikant Dubey Ji and also tried to understand his sentiments. Undoubtedly, before presenting the Bill, Nishikant Ji had studied the labour sector from a broad perspective and prepared the Bill with great effort and brought it before the Parliament. The Bill brings out the problems of the workers and the poors, their pain, their emotion and also gives a solution, which he has expressed through his words here.

All the senior Members express their views on this Bill according to their experience. The labour sector is an important and broad sector of the country. In this sector, there are both organised and unorganised workers. There are several rules and laws, pension schemes and various facilities for the workers in the organized sector. As far as unorganized sector workers are concerned, this issue is very extensive and involves a large number of people. The number is large, so there is a big concern. Whether it's the agricultural sector, domestic workers sector, construction sector, or the sector of hand-pulled rickshaw drivers, unorganized workers are engaged in every sector. We also have the problems of the migrant workers who face numerous problems. People migrate from one place to another for wages. They also face many problems. Hon. Members stated with great responsibility that 66 years have passed since independence, and in these 66 years, a poor man did not receive the justice that he should have. I have no hesitation in accepting that even after such a long period of our independence, there are several major problems including that of the workers, the poor and the farmers which need to be solved.

Sir, generally when I think about this aspect, I feel that despite the passage of time since independence, there has been a lack of balanced

and comprehensive thinking in terms of resolving the country's problems, making laws, giving directions, promoting and protecting development, employment, encouraging and protecting agriculture, establishing large factories, and promoting small industries. Due to this, a big imbalance has arisen in the country today. In our country there is a class which earns Rs.50 lakh per month and another which lives on Rs. 500 per month. This is a huge imbalance which needs to be rectified. It is the Government's responsibility to ensure social security, social respect and economic security to this class. From this perspective, I am not saying that nothing has been done Governments have introduced legislation in different times and have also made efforts to move forward in this direction. However, when we consider unorganized workers, it is clear that various organisations, whether it's the NSSO's figures or those from trade unions, consistently indicate a large number. Some sources cite around 43 crore, others 47 crore, while some state 37 crore unorganized workers. Being a Minister, I can say with full responsibility that as of now we do not have any accurate data regarding the unorganized workers. The clear cut procedure that should have been adopted in this regard has not been done. If the process isn't established, the figures aren't known; if the figures aren't known, we don't know our command area; if we don't

know our command area, we can't have a comprehensive view on it. When there is a lack of comprehensive understanding, how can plans be made to address their problems? There is a plan, there are some funding in the plan. We think it will be applicable to 47 crore people. But if the scheme's scope is not Rs. 47 crores, and the budget is not Rs. 47 crores, then how will Rs. 47 crores benefit from the scheme? It clearly shows me the inadequacy, and therefore, I believe that today we need to establish a process in this extensive sector. Through this process, we can determine who the impoverished labourers are in the unorganized sector, whose concerns, safety, and economic protection we are all considering. When I was discussing Nishikant Ji's Bill in the department, I attempted to inquire from various perspectives. Generally, there are certain survey figures available, and based on those survey figures, it becomes apparent how many labourers we have here. But that is a survey. A rough estimate can be made based on sample surveys, financial resources can be arranged if needed, but identification and recognition of the average person cannot be achieved. Therefore, I believe that the Government's primary concern should be to identify the labourers working in the unorganized sector, and in that regard, the Government will make efforts. I want to assure all of you of this opportunity.

Another point I want to mention is that during the previous NDA regime it was felt that laws should be framed for those engaged in unorganized construction sector to provide funds to them. At that time, Hon. Vajpayee Ji expressed concern about creating laws, establishing funds, and making plans specifically for construction workers. It was done at that time and they are now reaping its benefits. Similarly various state Governments form boards for those engaged in various sectors to identify the workers and to make plan for their welfare, and strive to address their issues by marking their identification through these schemes. I am pleased to note that until 2014, Nishikant Ji in the Bill has demanded that pension should be Rs.5000 per month. All the Members also supported Nishikant ji's Bill. Now, when all Members are supporting it and I alone oppose it, it doesn't seem appropriate to me either. But I want to say with this that we are sitting in 2014, in 1947 the country became independent. In 2014, it was ensured that on the day the budget was presented in Parliament, the Minister of Finance stated in his speech that the minimum pension in this country will be one thousand rupees. In view of the fact that it is only in 2014 we are in a position to provide Rs.1000 month pension in the organized sector, we can very well imagine how much time it will take to provide a pension of Rs.5000

per month. This is the situation at present for which a tentative provision of Rs.250 crore has been made in the Budget. Therefore, I want to thank Hon. Modi ji and also thank Hon. Mr. Jaitley for accepting the proposal of the Ministry of the Labour in this regard. Its notification has been processed through our department, and in a few days, the notification will be issued. In the coming days a notification in this regard increasing the wage of the workers would be issued to include the workers earning upto Rs.15000. Certainly, this decision was definitely made during his speech as well. It is a matter of giving respect to the workers and the poor. I would like to say something to all of you on this occasion. I too have been a worker generally involved in the poor and labour sectors. Generally, there has been a mistake in India whenever the issue of giving respect arises. Governments and politicians have always tried to measure that respect in terms of money.

If we want to give respect to a poor person, it cannot be achieved by giving money alone. If we want to show respect to a worker, it cannot be done merely by providing pension. Pension can be given and treated. Giving pension, it can be given bread. But due to pension, he cannot get respect. There are many people in this country who have sacrificed for their nation, who have fought and died for their country,

and who have done all sorts of work that deserve respect and honour. They are given pension as a form of respect. I want to tell all of you, we all work in our respective districts. If on the days of 15th August and 26th January we fulfil the formality of respect by just offering a coconut, and that is considered as respect, then I have nothing more to say. But I think respect cannot be broken by money. In his first speech, our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi Ji, mentioned that while we have been saying "Satyamev Jayate" for a long time, now we should adopt and follow the slogan "Shrammev Jayate" meaning victory through hard work. When Narendra Modi Ji mentioned "Shrammev Jayate," it definitely reflects the Government's stance and shows its direction towards moving forward with this principle of victory through hard work. If we want to show respect to a worker, it won't come just from an honour pension, nor merely from increasing their wages. He should also get a pension. He should also get salary. He should also get allowances. Its benefits should also be safe. However, until wealthy individuals learn to respect poor workers within their families, their communities, and their neighbourhoods, these workers will not receive the respect they deserve. If we want to respect a poor labourer, if we want to honour a worker, and certainly if we want to uphold the slogan "Shrammev Jayate", then it is

necessary that we also address the domestic help in our homes with respect, call our driver who tirelessly navigates us through long journeys risking his life all day, 'ji', and when we dine, we should invite them to dine with us. The day we give equal respect to our domestic workers and labourers in our homes, on that day, this Hindustan will provide them with everything they need, and they will receive all kinds of respect.

As far as pension schemes are concerned, there are certainly not one but many pension schemes in this country for workers as well, through which pensions are given. Retired people get a pension. Disabled people get a pension. Widow sisters get a pension. Children get a pension. Orphans get a pension. Disabled people get a pension. Nominees get a pension. A Swavalamban Yojana has also come now, in which the talk of a pension has also started. If people want to save, the Minister of Finance had said that day that he will put one thousand rupees in the person's account and the person should save one thousand rupees or more in that account. When his working age is completed, the fund that will be created at that time will be used to ensure his pension. In the same way, there are many schemes in the unorganised sectors as well, through which a lot of work is done for the welfare of the people of this sector. Whether it is the Aam Aadmi

Bima Yojana, Janani Suraksha Yojana, Rashtriya Parivar Labh Yojana and the Labour Department's RSBY (Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana), this is a very ambitious scheme. Under this scheme, the Government works to ensure the treatment of every worker up to thirty thousand rupees. Our effort is to expand and widen the scope of this scheme, so that more and more people are covered in this scheme and more and more people can take advantage of it. We have also tried to work from this point of view. Whether they are beedi workers or workers working in mines, separate types of laws have also been made for them. Through them, the Government of India is trying to give them social, economic and medical security.

Along with this, I also want to say among all of you on this occasion that the unorganised sector worker is very vast. I believe that when the Government brought the law in the year 2008, the Government must have also made efforts for it and the Government made efforts. Those efforts should have been made through both the Union Government and the state Government, they might have happened, but I consider all the efforts made till date to be inadequate and I feel that there is a need to increase those efforts.

A large number of such unorganised workers work in the agricultural sector, there is also a large number in the construction

sector, who are not identified today. There are a large number of cart and rickshaw pullers and a large number of small domestic workers, who cannot be identified. Our Bhartruhari Mahtab ji was mentioning a pension scheme in Kerala. I saw that it started in the year 2009. 15 thousand people benefited from it. It is a good scheme. Definitely, there are such schemes in other states, there is one in Chhattisgarh also, we also give pensions in Madhya Pradesh. There will be such schemes in other provinces as well, of which I am not aware. Provinces are free for this, looking at their own economic condition, they can make a scheme in this direction. But I do not deny that a poor labourer should have social security, his medical care should be there and he should get social dignity. From this point of view, we all need to make a collective effort.

Hon. Chairperson, through you, I want to request all the Members of Parliament that all of us work in our respective constituencies with great vitality. In our constituencies, there are around 16 to 22-25 lakh voters and a large number of them are also from the unorganised sector. We all should also contribute to this and if the people of the unorganised sector are identified, then certainly a great work will be done. When a big mirror will be visible and the Government, when it sees its face in the mirror and when it feels that it has to do something

for such a large sector, the Government will be inclined in that direction. I completely respect the sentiments of Shri Nishikant Dubey ji who has brought this Private Member's Bill, but today I want to make this request to him because when the Government creates any pension scheme, being a federal Government in a democracy, it is committed towards the state Governments, it is committed towards the trade unions, and the people who work in the industrial sector, their contribution is also in this pension scheme. There is a need to talk about this at all levels, there is a need for consensus on this at all levels. I do not think that if we just pass a Bill and because of it, contributions will start coming, money will start coming and a pension scheme will start. We all will have to do the processes that are there in a democracy. Therefore, I definitely respect the sentiment of his Bill today and Hon. Chairpersonn, through you, I want to request Nishikant Ji to withdraw the Bill.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, thank you. I would like to thank all the political parties and 19 people who participated in this discussion, Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury Saheb, Prahlad Singh Patel Saheb, Saugata Roy Saheb, Bhartruhari Mahtab Saheb, K. Kavitha Ji, Mullappally Ramachandran Saheb, Hukmdev Narayan Yadav Ji, Shri Varaprasad Rao Velagapalli, Jagdambika Pal Ji, Ram Kripal Yadav Ji, Virendra Kashyap Ji, P.P. Singh Saheb and many others. I express my gratitude to Chaudhary ji, Mahendra Nath Pandey ji, Rama Devi ji, our brothers Anurag Singh Thakur Saheb, Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav ji, Dr. Sanghmita ji, Hansraj Gangaram Ahir Saheb and Shankar Prasad ji, to all of them and especially to the Hon. Class, religion, sect, reservation, communalism above all this was this Bill. For this, my request was that the Government acknowledge this matter. The Government has said it will look into it.

When the discussion on this Bill started, I received many letters, which made me feel that these things still exist in the country. I would like to read some of those letters here. A letter came from the Cine Star Association. We see their glamour, this is a big world, people are desperate to get their autographs. Their letter is: "Who does not know the name of Dadasaheb Phalke. His struggle and madness for films gave birth to the Indian film industry. We also give awards every year

in his name. It is because of this madness for his art that we are able to celebrate the hundred-year history of cinema today. But the truth is that despite all the efforts of the people of the industry, the Maharashtra Government could not provide even a house to his family. There is another such example, A.K. Hangal Sahib, who proved his talent in countless films, that brilliant artist died struggling in the terrible darkness at the last turn of his life." This is a long story, I just wanted to read these two-four lines. Coincidentally, the Hon. Minister is also the Minister of Mines, he is also the Minister of SAIL, and Hansraj Ahir Sahib talked about the miners and the steel industry. Shri V.N. Sharma Sahib has been the Chairman of the Employee Union of Steel Authority.

[English]

His letter is:- "We congratulate you on introducing a forward-looking National Minimum Pension Guarantee Bill, 2014 for the retired persons from unorganized and private sectors in the on-going Session of Parliament.

We represent more than one lakh retired employees of SAIL and their spouses, who are facing miserable conditions in the twilight of their lives, simply because the Government of India could not formulate a policy for them due to basic changes in post-retirement

benefit policy for Central PSU employees, and the SAIL retirees who are grouped as pre-2007 and post-2007 category retirees.” He says that this is the situation of the people- “They joined pre-2007 service, in the early 1950s and 1960s, and they are now in their 70s and 80s. There cannot be two opinions that the strong foundation laid by these pioneers in the formative years of 1950s and 1960s, and the commitment, hard work and contribution made by these retirees under very hard times, contributed to make SAIL, the pride of the nation.”

[Translation]

But today they are struggling for their pension, fighting for it, we are not able to formulate a plan for them. This was the reason that for the 90-93 per cent of the people, whose situation is still the same, I would like to read some lines from Premchand ji's Eidgah, where Hamid is a grandson, his parents have died and he lives with his grandmother. His grandmother's name is Amina. I would like to read some of her lines here: "Amina's heart is aching. The village children are going with their respective fathers. Who is Hamid's father except Amina? Because there is no one and the grandmother is old. How can she let him go to the fair alone? What if the child gets lost in that crowd? No, Amina, why should she let him go? She will pick him up in her lap every little while, but who will cook the sewaiyan? She wants to go

with him, but there is no one to take her with him. If she had money, she would collect all the ingredients on her way back and make them quickly. Here it will take hours to collect things, and there is no guarantee of begging, that day she sewed clothes for Fahiman, got eight annas, she was saving that eight-anna piece like an honest trust for this Eid, but yesterday the milkmaid was persistent, so what could she do. Nothing for Hamid, just two paise worth of milk is needed, so now only two annas are left in total, three paise in Hamid's pocket, five in Amina's purse, this is all they have and it is the festival of Eid. Only Allah can help. The laundress, hairdresser, sweeper and bangle seller will all come, everyone wants sewaiyan. A little bit, nobody is blind, with what face will she steal and why should she hide her face, it's a festival that comes once a year."

Even today the situation in the village is no different from the story of Eidgah. This was the reason that I brought this Bill for farmers, agriculture, agricultural labourers, for those who graze cows and buffaloes, for handicraft artisans, carpet weavers, blacksmiths, potters, goldsmiths, fishermen, for people working in the leather industry, for people who collect tendu leaves, for beedi and brick kiln labourers, for stone labourers, for construction workers who build houses, for migrant labourers and for those working in the khandsari

industry and for private people. I felt that after 67 years of independence, just as the Members of all political parties, whether it was Bhartruhari Mahtab Sahib or anyone else, said that the village economy used to be self-dependent, he was giving a speech from above the dais. Just as Hansraj Ahir Sahib and our friend Anurag Singh Thakur Sahib said, they have become ready to talk about the elderly today after talking about the youth, because in this country 18 crore, 20 crore people are going to be old by 2030, the Government needs to think something for them. In this way, when we come continuously, the way we give speeches, "Our togetherness is for a moment or two, we are here today, we will be gone tomorrow, whether we remain tomorrow or not." This kind of casual talk keeps happening, speeches keep happening, things keep happening. We keep giving assurances, but there is no means to fulfil them. I feel that today the time has come, Narendra Singh Tomar Sahib, you have said a very good thing. You are also talking about the village, the poor, the farmer, the labourer. I am talking about those 90 per cent of the people. Since Narendra Modi Sahib has also come from the village, he has become the Prime Minister of this country after selling tea. For the first time, people have felt that a poor man has become the Prime Minister of this country. A poor man is thinking about the poor. The

hopes that we have raised in this country, this Bill was for all those 90 per cent of the people.

My request to you today is that if you can accept my suggestion or if the Government can bring this Bill as its own Government Bill, I will be happy and I will feel that as a Member of Parliament, we have fulfilled our duty. All of us brothers have done such a great job at least in the 16th Lok Sabha. If you bring it, I withdraw my Bill, with the belief that tomorrow you will bring this entire Bill as a Government Bill and will initiate a new light in this country for the village, the poor, the farmer and the labourer.

With these words, Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Thank you very much for insisting on your Bill.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That leave be granted to withdraw the Bill to provide for payment of guaranteed minimum pension to all pensioners including those who have worked in unorganized and private sector in the country and for matters connected therewith.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Sir, I withdraw the Bill.

**(ii) CENTRAL HIMALAYAN STATES DEVELOPMENT
COUNCIL BILL, 2014**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House will now take up the next Item in the Agenda for discussion. Before I call Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal to move the Motion for consideration of his Bill, namely the Central Himalayan States Development Council Bill, 2014, the time for discussion of this Bill has to be allotted by the House. If the House agrees, two hours may be allotted for discussion of the Bill.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: So, two hours are allotted for discussion of this Bill.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):
Chairperson, Sir, I beg to move-

"That the Bill to provide for the establishment of a Council known as the Central Himalayan States Development Council for the preparation and monitoring of implementation of development plans and schemes for balanced and all round development of the hill States falling

in the Central Himalayan Region and for matters connected therewith, be taken into consideration."

Respected Chairperson, Sir, a long discussion has taken place in this House on the subject of creating a separate ministry for the Himalayan states. Seventeen to eighteen Hon. Members from 15 states have expressed their views on this. My request, through you, is that until the Government decide to form a separate ministry there should be council to formulate a policy for the Himalayan States and to strike a balance between the Center and the States because the policy of the hilly states will be completely different in all the spheres, whether it is the forest policy, the agricultural policy, the industrial policy, the mining policy, the mineral policy, the education policy, or the tourism policy.

Sir, you will agree that the geographical and strategic challenges of this Himalayan belt spread over a periphery of 2500 kms. are quite different and important for the country. This region is extremely important not only for the country but for the entire world, from a strategic, social, cultural, economic, environmental, and spiritual perspective, no matter how far we consider it. This is the region that gives life. It is a life-giving region. We are fortunate that we can invite the entire world to this region, which is called 'Heaven on Earth.'

Hundreds of Switzerland are contained within this region. Whether it is a matter of tourism policy or forest policy, forests are life itself, and I believe that this entire region is a school for the entire world from an environmental point of view. More than sixty per cent of the forest area is in this Himalayan belt. While they provide oxygen and life-giving air, these streams of water flowing from the Himalayas give water and life to the whole of Asia. So, shouldn't the water policy there be different? The water policy there should be different, and the forest policy there should be different. What is happening currently? The forest policy being made is for the entire country, and the water policy being made is for the entire country.

We know that it is a very different area. Its geographical and strategic challenges are very important for the entire country. Therefore, through you, I would like to urge that this region, which has the potential to generate thousands of megawatts of electricity, is still lost in the anonymity of darkness. It has the capacity for thousands of megawatts. I believe that if we look at Assam, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Nagaland, Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Jammu and Kashmir, they produce thousands of megawatts of electricity, and thousands of hydroelectric projects are still in the pipeline. There should be separate energy policy for this

region. At the very least, the region that gives energy should not be in darkness itself. But the situation today is that the villages there are in darkness.

Regarding water, I want to say that the region that gives water to the whole of Asia still has thirsty villages. They are forced to fetch water from a distance of three, four, or five kilometres. Half of the women's time is spent fetching wood and water. Due to both the Forest Act of 1980 and the Wildlife Protection Act, the livelihoods of those who were in the business of medicinal herbs or in wood-based work have been destroyed, and their villages are being uprooted.

18.00 hrs

Medicinal herbs are being smuggled into China. Smugglers are still active, but my 'keeda-jadi' and 'sanjeevani' herbs have the power to cure even incurable diseases.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, you can continue your speech next time.

Hon. Members, it is now 6 o'clock and to take up 'Zero Hour', we may extend the time of the House by half an hour.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House will now take up 'Zero Hour'.

[Translation]

SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (DHANBAD): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance during Zero Hour in the House. The Central Pollution Control Board has placed an indefinite ban on setting up any new industries or on production expansion and the installation of new machinery in old industries in four regions of my Parliamentary Constituency, Dhanbad. This is a matter of great sadness for the entrepreneurs and workers of the Dhanbad district. It is from these industries that everyone earns their livelihood and supports their families. Due to the closure of industries in the regions of the Dhanbad district, the economic condition of the workers has become very pathetic and sad. I urge the Union Minister of Environment and Forests to lift the indefinite ban on setting up any new industries or on production expansion and the installation of new machinery in old industries in my Parliamentary Constituency of Dhanbad so that all the entrepreneurs and workers of my constituency can get relief and employment.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR): Hon. Chairperson, thank you. When I was speaking in this House two days

ago about ending the darkness in the homes of our people living on the remote Pakistan border, the people sitting opposite me were making such a loud noise, driven by their ambition, that I had to speak in a very loud voice, which was probably against the dignity of the House. I would like to apologise to both the House and the Chair.

Hon. Chairperson, the Government of India launched a project in 2005 for the development of infrastructure projects in small and medium-sized cities. Through that scheme, a provision was made to provide sewerage and drinking water facilities in small cities. To improve the sewerage system in the city of Jodhpur, from where I have been elected, the Government of Rajasthan, through its statutory committee, prepared and sent a project proposal of Rs. 607 crore to the Union Government in November 2013. The Government of India approved that project in December. In that project, since the Union Government gives an 80 per cent grant under this scheme, the state Government has to give a 10 per cent grant, and the remaining 10 per cent has to be raised by the local body through its own means. The local body of Jodhpur has already allocated its share of the funds at its level. The state Government has also given its funds. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What is your demand?

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT: I would like to draw the attention of the Government and the House, through you, to the fact that the first instalment of the Union Government's sanctioned share, amounting to Rs. 184 crore, has been approved. This should be released immediately so that the sewerage system and the wastewater drainage system in my city can be repaired.

The Government of India's vision is that work should be done in the small towns of the country in line with the spirit of the 'Nirmal Bharat' campaign. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.P. Chaudhary associates himself with the issues raised during the zero hour by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, through you, I am trying to draw the Government's attention to the hundreds of villages on our borders from which there is a rapid and continuous migration. The matter of concern is that these villages are like the sentinels of the nation, and if migration happens, it will become a national crisis. The people living in these areas, who used to herd sheep, have seen their livelihoods gradually weaken. As a result, those who are financially capable have migrated, and those who have nothing in their hands are forced to migrate. The entire region is becoming empty due to the decline of traditional

woollen sheep and goat herding, whatever the reasons may be, whether it is the Forest Act or poor Government policies. I believe that our traditional cottage industries are being destroyed. They should be protected. They should be linked with medicinal herbs. The 'keeda jadi' (caterpillar fungus) found in that area costs Rs. 6 to Rs. 8 lakh per kilogram. The Government should formalize the cultivation of 'sanjeevani' and 'keeda jadi' and link it with the people of those areas to strengthen their economy. This will serve two purposes: they will become strong, and the borders will also be protected.

Therefore, through you, I want to demand that whether it is the Nepal border or the Tibet-India border, trade and transportation should be opened in these border areas. In 2004, former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee signed an agreement with the Chinese Prime Minister, and in 2006, the Nathu La pass was opened for trade. I also want to demand that these border areas be opened for traffic and trade so that they can effectively play their part in the country's progress and avoid migration.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Hon. Chairperson, it is my good fortune that you are sitting here today. When I took my oath for the first time, you were also sitting here as Chairperson. I feel it is my good fortune that today I want to say something very important in

your presence during Zero Hour. The National Rural Drinking Water Programme is very important for the villages of India. This programme has different rules, categories, and criteria. For example, there is a 60 per cent criterion for rural areas. The funds that the Union Government gives to the states are reflected in that criterion. In addition to rural areas, there are other criteria, such as a separate criterion for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This is very important because drinking water is a very significant problem in rural areas.

There are many private tea gardens in Assam and West Bengal where lakhs of workers work. There are about 350,000 tea garden workers in Assam and about 1 million in West Bengal. The main problem for these tea garden workers is drinking water. When the election came, the slogan of "Modi Tea" was raised, and many workers from the tea gardens of Assam gave their support to this Government. Now, the time for slogans is over, and the time for work has begun.

Through you, I would like to request the Government to create a special criterion for tea garden workers in Union Government schemes such as the National Rural Drinking Water Programme, the National Rural Health Mission, and MNREGA. This would bring a

very significant change in the lives of the tea garden workers. Even after 67 years of India's independence, these people live in a very pitiable condition. Their plight brings tears to all our eyes. Therefore, we should work on their fundamental problem of drinking water and create a special criterion. This is my request to the Government through you.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kumari Sushmita Dev and Shri Radhey Shyam Biswas are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Gaurav Gogoi.

SHRI RADHEY SHYAM BISWAS (KARIMGANJ): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Government that the proposed mega block for gauge conversion from Lumding to Badarpur will start from October 1st 2014. So, the only option for all kinds of traffic including carriers of essential commodities will be Badarpur to Jowai via Sonapur and Badarpur to Churaibari via Karimganj NH 8. This will put heavy pressure of traffic on this damaged highway which will create various kinds of problem in that area.

Earlier it was said by the Department that the gauge conversion of the Lumding – Silchar section will be completed by March 2014, but in a newspaper, namely Samayik Prasangha it was published with the reference of the Hon. Railway Minister that the gauge conversion will be completed by March 2016. This created confusion among the people because this national project has already been delayed by 16 years and further delay will cause inconvenience.

Under these circumstances, my humble request to the Government is that the mega block should be started but before that the Government has to clarify when it will be completed. If it is delayed, then the damaged road has to be repaired or the incomplete road has to be completed. Otherwise, people of Barak Valley of Assam and other States like Tripura, Mizoram and Manipur will face severe communication problem and for will face food crisis. Moreover, it will bring the area to the halt and the people of these areas will remain disconnected from the rest of the nation.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kumari Sushmita Dev and Shri Gaurav Gogoi are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Radhey Shyam Biswas.

DR. K. GOPAL (NAGAPATTINAM): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you. The matter is regarding the need to increase the speed of

implementation of the pending railway projects in my constituency, Nagapattinam. There is a major railway line from Tiruvarur to Karaikudi. The running of trains was stopped in 2006 for broad gauge conversion. Up to 2006, the metre gauge trains were running successfully. After that, this route came under broad gauge conversion. After 2006 the tender was called for. The amount sanctioned every year is less than Rs. 10 crore. Because of this amount, the work execution is very slow.

Now, the work has to start from Karaikudi to Tiruvarur. I urge that the conversion process should take place from Tiruvarur itself. In a similar way, the gauge conversion from Thiruthuraipundi to Agasthiapalli near Vedaranyam line is in process for the last thirty years. They have completed only the culverts along the railway line.

I urge upon the Minister of Railways to start the gauge conversion work from Agasthiapalli to Thiruthuraipundi immediately because it will help the salt production in our State, Tamil Nadu, which is in second place. So, the conversion should take place immediately. Long distance trains should cater to the people who are living in and around the line, who have to travel more than 720 miles.

Another long pending work is at level crossing level 48 at Nagapattinam and Karaikal line near Akkaraipatti area. The

Akkaraipettai area is a sea-food export zone in my constituency. The export process is on continuously 24 x 7. The gate is almost closed. So, the vans and lorries are stranded both sides in long queues. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have to raise only one issue during the 'Zero Hour' and not so many issues. What is your demand?

DR. K. GOPAL: For the convenience of the people, the State Government and the Union Government agreed to construct the over-bridge. The Union Government should sanction the amount and also give permission for the early completion of the over-bridge.

SHRI TARIQ HAMEED KARRA (SRINAGAR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, taking advantage of the 'Zero Hour', I would like to highlight a very grave situation perpetrated by the Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India on thousands of poor students hailing from the State of Jammu and Kashmir. The unilateral and arbitrary order passed by the Ministry to withhold the fee amount sanctioned for around 5000 such poor students studying in various colleges in the country under the Prime Minister's Special Scholarship Scheme has jeopardized their career.

Sir, you would be remembering that the year 2010 witnessed the worst kind of unrest amongst the youth of the Valley when the State Government in the Chair did not hesitate in brutally gunning down 126 unarmed young boys. And in order to evaluate and ascertain the causes and reasons thereof, an Expert Committee was constituted by the then Prime Minister on 18th August, 2010, which recommended opening of new educational vistas within the country by providing the poor students admission in professional and technical courses in different colleges of the country. The Ministry of Human Resource Development was made the nodal Ministry.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the objective of this Scheme was to provide tuition fees, hostel fees, cost of books and other incidental charges to students belonging to poor families in the trouble-torn areas of Kashmir who, after passing Class-XII or equivalent examination, secure admission in Government colleges and institutions and other select institutions outside the State.

The Scheme was launched with much fanfare in 2011. In the first year, only 38 students availed of the benefits. But in 2012-13, the optimum limit went to 5000. This unilateral withholding of fee amount has caused returning home by quite a number of students. In other cases, parents in an effort to save the career of their children are

applying for loans on higher interest rates. Quite a few of them have even sold their ancestral properties.

As such, it is demanded that the Ministry of Human Resource Development may take the call and release the withheld fees for such students as per the stated policy so as to save the career of thousands of poor students.

SHRI P. NAGARAJAN (COIMBATORE): Sir, with the blessings of our Leader *Puratchithalavi Amma*, I raise this important issue.

Sir, Coimbatore is my constituency. Coimbatore is a major manufacturing centre in the country and also showing rapid growth in economic activities. It is the second largest city in Tamil Nadu which is called the Manchester of South India. Coimbatore Junction alone yields Rs. 1095 million in a year which is the second highest revenue in Southern Railway.

Sir, my Coimbatore constituency has been totally neglected and even a single project has not been announced for this area in the Railway Budget.

A lot of people from all over the country come to Coimbatore for their business activity and at present the facility at Coimbatore Railway Station is not enough to meet the passengers' demand. The

following projects/trains may be introduced for the development of Coimbatore City. So, I request the Hon. Railway Minister through this House to give top priority to complete the following projects:

First, it is the expansion of Coimbatore Railway Station Platform. Sir, the NTC Mill situated adjacent to Coimbatore Junction has been closed due to some problems and all the machineries and tools have been disposed of. Now, the land is lying vacant and unused. So, the land may be acquired by the Railways to augment the infrastructure facilities for the passengers.

There is no train in the evening from Mettupalayam to Coimbatore. An additional run of passenger train running from Mettupalayam and Coimbatore between 2000 hours and 2030 hours would help. Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I have the names of some Members who want to raise the issues. If they agree, I will give them two minutes and they can address within that time. Then, I am agreeable to allow them.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

***SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):**

Thank you Hon. Chairperson, Sir, we all know that if we forget our past history, our existence will be at stake. A nation can grow, can prosper only when it remains aware of its history and also imparts correct historical knowledge to its future generations. Our country was under British imperial rule and people had revolted against the colonial rule through different ways and means. Any opposition to British rule was referred to as terrorism or militancy by the English rulers. Today we are independent. So if today we identify our revolutionaries and freedom fighters as terrorists, it would be shameful. It would be extremely insulting for those who sacrificed their precious lives for the independence of the country. Sir, we can see in many states, including West Bengal that the freedom fighters and martyrs are being sought to be maligned and a wrong signal is being sent to the new generations. You must have heard of Khudiram Bose, Baghajatin, Masterda Surja Sen. Elegy is sang for Khudiram Bose even today; people pay rich tribute to this great soul. Unfortunately, the text books of class VIII depict this revolutionary as a terrorist and the students are made to learn incorrect history in West Bengal. This is gross misrepresentation of facts which threatens our

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Bengali.

history and culture. Thus I would urge upon the Ministry of HRD through you Sir to consult the State Governments and find a way out to encourage all to teach correct historical facts to the students. People of Bengal are agonised to know that Khudiram Bose is being termed as a terrorist. Thus I request the Union Government to immediately take corrective measures in this regard. With these words, I conclude my speech.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM KRIPAL YADAV (PATLIPUTRA): Hon. Chairperson, I express my gratitude to you for allowing me to raise a very important matter of public importance.

Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Government of India to the fact that this year, due to the negligence of the Bihar Government, police officers and personnel from Bihar will be deprived of the President's Medal on Independence Day. I would like to inform you that the recommendations for the President's Award were sent very late from Bihar. The deadline for this was 15 May, but they sent the recommendations much after that. It is said that Bihar has a Government of "good governance," which does not have the time to honour its brave police officers and personnel. While police personnel from other parts of the country will be honoured with the President's Award, the brave police officers and personnel of Bihar, who have done good work by risking their lives, will be deprived of the President's Award this time.

Sir, my request to the Union Minister of Home Affairs, through you, is that, by overlooking their negligence and relaxing the rules, they should grant approval for the President's Award to the police officers and personnel of Bihar. They are brave officers of our country

whose morale is breaking, and this would boost their morale. There is still time, as the awards are given on 15 August.

Sir, this is a very important matter. I request that the Union Government pay attention to this and grant its approval to honour the police officers and personnel of Bihar with the President's Award.

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Sir, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav during Zero Hour.

PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA (UJJAIN): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on an important subject. Ujjain, which is in Madhya Pradesh, is my Parliamentary Constituency and a major centre for soybeans. This time, however, a disaster has struck the farmers of Ujjain, and it is not a natural one but one created by human greed. Due to a collusion between the Agriculture Department, the Marketing Federation, and cooperative and private seed-producing institutions, substandard seeds have been distributed to farmers. Because of this, 60 per cent of the farmers' crops in Ujjain have been ruined and have not germinated. Some farmers have even lost 100 per cent of their crops. Due to these fake seeds, the farmers of Ujjain have been ruined.

The racket of substandard seeds is not only prevalent in the Ujjain district and division but has also spread to some districts of Indore. Some FIRs have also been filed in this regard. Through you, I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Agriculture and state that additional central assistance should be provided to the farmers of the division who have suffered from substandard and fake seeds. I also request that a high-level committee be formed to investigate the matter in the Ujjain division and take action against the responsible officers so that those who crush and loot the dreams of farmers can be punished. Additionally, an effective law should also be made in this regard.

SHRI HUKMDEO NARAYAN YADAV (MADHUBANI): Hon. Chairperson, the Mithilanchal region, from which I come, is severely affected by drought in Madhubani and Darbhanga. The only means of irrigation is the Western Kosi Canal, which could have helped them cultivate their crops. A large number of siphons in this canal are broken, and the sluice gates have been built in the wrong place, due to which water is unable to reach the fields. The canal's alignment is incorrect, and it needs to be rectified. The sluice gates should be built correctly, and new siphons should be built in place of the broken ones. All the canals in Madhubani and Darbhanga should be supplied with

sufficient water so that the farmers there can benefit. Therefore, our demand to the Union Minister of Water Resources is to complete the canals as soon as possible and also to send a special team from the Government of India to review all the work on the Western Kosi Canal and prepare a new estimate.

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI): Hon. Chairperson, my Parliamentary Constituency, Sidhi, which falls in the Vindhya region, includes the industrial area of Singrauli, known as the 'Mini Coal Capital.' Being an industrial city, people from many states of the country come here for employment, and there are also large-scale factories in the surrounding districts. The population there is also substantial. Considering the population, proper health services and facilities are not available to the permanent and temporary residents of this area; there is a lack of them. Since there is no good hospital nearby, people in need have to travel 300 kilometres for even minor and serious medical treatment. My Sidhi Lok Sabha constituency is the central point for all these places. Through you, I urge the Union Minister of Health to make a quick decision in the public interest to construct a modern, 1,000-bed hospital on the lines of AIIMS here.

SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, news has come in that due to heavy floods in the Hadauti region of Rajasthan, an

estimated 15 to 20 people have died in accidents. Not only this, but all transportation routes have also been closed. People are unable to get basic necessities such as vegetables, milk, and other food items. The railway and road routes are also closed. The fields are completely filled with water. The situation is worsening due to continuous rain. My demand to the Union Government is that under the National Disaster Management, those who have died, those whose houses have collapsed, and those whose fields have been destroyed should be given assistance. In the Kota, Bundi, Baran, and Jhalawar divisions, three feet of water is still standing today, the electricity is cut off, and children are starving. The situation there is getting worse. Therefore, the central and state Governments should immediately improve the situation, provide assistance under the National Disaster Fund, and a disaster team should also be sent there to make arrangements for rescuing the flood-affected people.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time of the House is extended by another half-an-hour to accommodate the Hon. Members who want to speak.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH): Hon. Chairperson, when we study the prosperity and development of any country, we first focus on the education received by its citizens and that country's education system. The conclusion is always the same: where there is more knowledge, there is more development. Even after 67 years of independent India, our country has not been able to reach the height of development that we all had hoped for. The root cause of this has been our education system. Even today, there are no proper arrangements for the education of women in our society. The population is fifty per cent, but the social responsibility is one hundred per cent, which is not possible without women's empowerment. My only point is that women should receive as much education as possible. My Lok Sabha constituency has five assembly constituencies, which are deprived of the schools and colleges that women should have.

My Lok Sabha constituency of Misrikh has four tehsils: Misrikh, Sandila, Bilgram, and Bilhaur, but none of them has a women's college or a Kendriya Vidyalaya. I want to bring this extremely serious problem of education to the Government's attention through the House and demand that, in the public interest, Government

women's colleges and Kendriya Vidyalayas be established at the tehsil level in my Lok Sabha constituency.

[English]

SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA (KOPPAL):

Respected Chairman, Sir, thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to raise an important matter of national interest. I would like to request for establishment of Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) at Koppal.

India is a nation having prospects in agriculture. About 70 per cent of Indian population resides in villages. The main occupation of people residing in the villages is agriculture and allied services. Food security and food safety is one of the foremost concerns of our country. We have made remarkable provisions in the Budget of the Fiscal 2014-15. An amount of Rs. 100 crore is set aside for Agro-tech Infrastructure Fund.

In this context, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Science and Technology, and the Minister of Agriculture towards establishing a Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) at Koppal, Karnataka. My constituency, Koppal is a huge producer of rice, maize, cotton, pomegranate, grapes,

mangoes and several other agricultural products. Pomegranate is cultivated in an area of 14,649 hectares in Karnataka with an annual production of 1.46 lakh tonnes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: What is your demand?

SHRI KARADI SANGANNA AMARAPPA: My demand is to establish the Central Food Technological Research Institute (CFTRI) at Koppal.

Koppal stands at second place in the field of agricultural production among all the districts in the State of Karnataka. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJVIR SINGH (ETA): Hon. Chairperson, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on an issue of public importance.

Hon. Chairperson, Sir, my constituency of Etah includes two districts, Etah and Kasganj. There is a place in Kasganj which is very important and is known as Shukar Kshetra. Millions of people believe that one of the incarnations of Lord Vishnu, Lord Varaha, appeared in this very region. There is a very large temple of Lord Varaha here. Millions of people come to visit every year. A month-long fair is held

here, but there are no facilities of any kind. Through you, my demand is that this Shukar Kshetra, this temple of Lord Varaha, be recognized as a tourist destination, and that funds be allocated for the completion and beautification of the bathing ghats and other facilities. This is my demand through you. Thank you.

SHRI ASHOK MAHADEORAO NETE (GARHCHIROLI-CHIMUR): Thank you very much, Hon. Chairperson, Sir, for allowing me to speak.

Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of this Government to my Parliamentary Constituency of Gadchiroli-Chimur in Maharashtra, which is a Scheduled Tribe region. It is one of the most backward, tribal-dominated, and extremely Naxal-affected areas in the country. I want to attract the Government's attention towards this region.

Sir, the Gadchiroli-Chimur region of Maharashtra state is an extremely backward area affected by Naxalism. It is an underdeveloped, tribal-dominated region. Many youths in this area are breaking away from the national mainstream and joining anti-social organizations, proving to be a hindrance to development.

Sir, here, the farmers, traders, educated, uneducated, poor, and rich are all living in fear and feel insecure. The problems of this tribal-dominated area, which is affected by Naxalism, can be solved to a great extent by developing it and providing employment to the unemployed youths.

Sir, I would also like to inform you that this area has immense resources in the form of water and forests, along with granite, dolomite, diamonds, emeralds, manganese, iron, and coal. However, this region is still extremely backward. A major reason for this is the poor railway network in this area. If this region is connected by a railway network or if small and large industries based on the available natural resources are established, it will not only lead to the development of this tribal area but also provide employment opportunities to the people badly affected by Naxalism. My demand is that the sanctioned Warsha-Gadchiroli railway line and the Nagbhir-Chandrapur single line be converted to a broad gauge, sanctioned, and started.

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to draw the Government's attention to the following important subjects.

The condition of National Highways, including NH 80 and NH 84, in various districts of Bihar, such as Bhagalpur and Buxar, is dilapidated. Due to the poor state of the roads, accidents are occurring almost every day. Hundreds of people have been injured, and dozens have also lost their lives. There is a great deal of difficulty in commuting. At the same time, due to the collapse of the Champanala bridge on NH 80 in Bhagalpur, the damage to the bridge on the Bhaina river near Kahalgaon, and the collapse of the bridge on the interstate Bhagalpur-Deoghar main road (near Baijani village), traffic has come to a complete standstill from all sides. Life has become difficult for lakhs of people. The lakhs of 'Kanwariya' pilgrims from India and abroad are facing great hardship, especially on the occasion of the world-famous 'Shravani Mela'.

Due to the damage to the Ganga bridge in Buxar and the Rajendra Setu bridge in Mokama, Bihar, the traffic system has collapsed. The movement of large vehicles from several eastern states, including Uttar Pradesh, has been completely obstructed. As a result, the burden of vehicles on the Gandhi Setu and Vikramshila Setu bridges in Patna and Bhagalpur has increased, and the condition of both bridges is also deteriorating, which could lead to a major disaster at any time. Due to the damage to the roads and bridges at the aforementioned places,

employment and business have been badly affected due to the chaotic traffic. The prices of food items, fruits, vegetables, milk, etc., have risen because they are not available in the cities. Employment and business have been badly affected.

Therefore, through you, I appeal to the Minister of Transport in the Union Government to expedite the repair of deteriorated NH roads and the construction of all damaged bridges in Bihar, along with their special maintenance. This will enable the restoration and strengthening of interstate highway traffic conditions in these regions of the state.

[English]

***SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR):** Hon. Chairman Sir, I wish to raise an important issue in this House. I came to know from the newspapers that the Union Government is planning to develop 200 low cost airports in Tier II and Tier III towns across the country in next 20 years. The Government has identified 50 districts in the first phase of the Project. An airport should be set up in my Thanjavur constituency. Because of this, even the people of adjoining districts like

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil

Sivagangai, Nagappatinam, Thiruvarur, etc would also be benefitted. I have already written to the Civil Aviation Minister in this regard. There is an airport in Thanjavur under the control of Indian Air Force and this airport should be improved with commercial connectivity. I therefore request to setup a low cost airport in Thanjavur.

Moreover, there is heavy traffic between Thanjavur and Nagapattinam in National highway (NH-67). The demand for widening and strengthening of this National highway in the Thanjavur-Nagapattinam stretch has gained momentum. People in large number go on pilgrimage to Velankanni temple and NagoorDargah. I have also written to Minister for Highways and Road Transport in this regard. I, therefore, urge to speed up the expansion and up-gradation work in this National Highway (NH 67).

[Translation]

SHRI SATISH KUMAR GAUTAM (ALIGARH): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour. I want to talk about my Parliamentary Constituency of Aligarh, Uttar Pradesh. The Aligarh Junction railway station, which provides the facility for trains to arrive and depart, is a two-line station. A third line is connected for a distance of one kilometre up to

Maharawal. Due to a goods shed being located in the middle, the third line is not able to connect to Aligarh Junction. If the goods shed is established at Maharawal station, Aligarh will be connected to the third line. The work of laying the lines to create the goods shed at this station has already been completed; only one kilometre of line remains to be laid, due to which the railway station is not able to get the full benefit of this investment. Due to this work not being completed, hundreds of thousands of passengers are facing inconvenience, which they would otherwise not have to face. Through you, I request the Union Government to kindly issue the necessary instructions to expedite the relocation of the goods shed to Maharawal station in my Parliamentary Constituency of Aligarh.

[English]

KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I am raising an urgent matter of public importance.

Endosulfan, which is a dangerous agrichemical pesticide, has poisoned thousands of Indian people over the last five decades. In Karnataka and Kerala, aerial spray of Endosulfan began in 1980s as a measure to control 'T' mosquito bug in cashew nut plantation. But the

use of Endosulfan has caused physical and mental ailments amongst thousands of children and adults.

Long-term exposure of this pesticide has caused high incidence of central nervous system disorders like cerebral palsy, cancers, body deformations, reproductive disorders, miscarriages, skin problems, infertility, mental retardation and depression. The killer pesticide has been found in food, soil, air and body tissues in almost all parts of our country. High level of pesticide has been found in human blood and breast milk in Karnataka and Kerala.

Recently, in Kasargod, Kerala, parents committed suicide after killing their 15 year old son, an Endosulfan victim. More than 7,000 people have been affected with Endosulfan in Karnataka alone and around 10,000 people have been affected with Endosulfan in Kasargod.

So, on humanitarian grounds, more than 17,000 victims are in need of support, help and financial assistance from the Union Government.

Hence I would request the Union Government especially the Minister of Health to set up a corpus amount for the relief and rehabilitation of these victims, to provide medical facilities for the

affected people, and to issue Antyodaya Ration Cards to the affected families. There is also a need of medical examination of genetic defects.

[Translation]

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Hon. Chairperson, my Parliamentary Constituency is 15 kilometres away from Delhi. But development is 1,500 kilometres away, which is like 'darkness under the lamp.' Here, the roads are broken, and the trains are more than a hundred years old. Only passenger trains run here. There is a lot of unemployment here. There is no engineering college, medical college, or skill development institute here, which is why crime is increasing significantly. If a fire breaks out in a neighbour's house, we also suffer damage; we get singed. If there is trouble there, Delhi will also suffer damage, and a burden will be placed on Delhi. Through you, I would like to request the Minister of Urban Development that among the 100 Smart Cities being built in the country, one Smart City should be created between Baghpat and Baraut. Baghpat is 32 kilometres and Baraut is only 35 kilometres away from here. There is very good drinking water and a clean environment here. It is on the banks of the Yamuna. This will also benefit Delhi.

[English]

***SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI):** Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I wish to raise an important issue in this House. Even after 67 years of Independence, in my Tiruvannamalai Constituency there is a village without road connectivity. Ariyakunjur in Chengam Taluk of Tiruvannamalai District has no road connectivity. This village is totally out of connectivity. People belonging to Scheduled Castes live in this village. Chinnakalathambadi is a place at a distance of 2 kms from Ariyakunjur and on the other side Arattavadi village in 2 km distance. Road facilities should be provided to these villages. Hon'ble Chief Minister Puratchithalaiviamma provides adequate funds on the basis of demands of People's representatives for providing road connectivity. Since the land on which road has to be laid belongs to Forest Department, there is difficulty in providing road connectivity. People particularly those belonging to Schedule Castes are affected without road facilities. I urge through this House that Union Government should grant permission to provide road facilities in the land owned by Forest department. Jamnamathur village is at a distance of 120 kms from Chengam town. This can be reduced upto 33 kms by way of laying road between Panrev and Palaganur for a stretch of 6 kms in

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

forest land. Union Government should grant permission for laying of road in the forest land. This can provide road connectivity to Kallathur, Oorkavundalur, Palamarathur, Melsilambadi and PuliurPanchayats. If Union Government grants permission the State Government led by Hon'bleAmmu would ensure the construction of roads in these areas. I, therefore, urge that for laying of village roads in forest land between Ariyakunjur and Chinnkalathambadi; Ariyakunjur and Arattavadi and Panrev and Palakanur, Union Government should come forward to grant permission.

[Translation]

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAUR): Hon. Chairperson, first of all, I am sincerely grateful to you for giving me time to speak during Zero Hour. I come from Nagaur, Rajasthan, and Nagaur has a very significant problem, about which I want to appeal to the Government through you.

The population of this district is 3.2 million, and the population of Nagaur city is 140,000. Since independence, you will find a soldier in every house there. Despite this, no Kendriya Vidyalaya (Central School) has been opened there. A year ago, the Union Government gave in-principle approval to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya. The Government of Rajasthan has allotted 15 acres of land for the Central School, but it has still not been implemented. I request that until a building is constructed there, the Rajasthan Government is ready to provide a school building, and all other facilities and children are ready. However, a formal order needs to be issued from here.

Therefore, Hon. Chairperson, through you, I would like to request the Union HRD Minister to start this Kendriya Vidyalaya from this very session so that the children and the people of the district can benefit from it. Thank you.

SHRI BHOLA SINGH (BULANDSHAHR): Hon. Chairperson, through you, I want to inform the Union Government about my Parliamentary Constituency, Bulandshahr. My Lok Sabha constituency, Bulandshahr, is only 70 kilometres away from Delhi and is a part of the NCR (National Capital Region) under the NCR Planning Board. However, despite being a part of the NCR and so close to Delhi, it is equally backward in terms of development. The Bulandshahr district provides a large quantity of milk, fruits, vegetables, and grains to the capital city, Delhi, but it is just as underdeveloped. There are no good roads in Bulandshahr; all the roads are broken, and there is no rail service for commuting between Bulandshahr and Delhi, even though thousands of people travel back and forth from here. No development work that falls under the NCR has been carried out in the Bulandshahr Lok Sabha constituency.

Therefore, through you, I request the Union Government to provide all the facilities that are being given to Ghaziabad, Faridabad, and Gurgaon under the NCR region, to also be provided to Bulandshahr.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet on Monday, the 11th August, 2014 at 11 a.m.

18.54 hrs

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Monday, August 11, 2014/Shravana 20, 1936 (Saka).

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