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Monday, December 05, 2016

Agrahayana 14, 1938 (Saka)

LOK SABHA DEBATES

(English Version)

Tenth Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXI contains Nos.11 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, December 05, 2016/Agrahayana 14, 1938 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. 261.

... (Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, we have given the notice to discuss demonetisation under the adjournment motion. Additionally, as per your suggestion, we have modified it and given notice to discuss it under Rule 184. When we have agreed to forgo the demand for discussion under Rule 56 and have agreed to discuss under Rule 184, the Government should also forgo the proposal for discussion under Rule 193 and accept the demand for discussion under Rule 184, as we are agreeing to this in the national interest.

Madam, I request you to initiate this discussion under Rule 184. For the past fifteen days, we have been trying in every possible way to start the discussion.

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam, what we have seen in today's List of Business is that the subject of demonetization has been listed for discussion under Rule

193. All the Opposition Parties together made a fervent appeal to you as also the Government for taking up this discussion under Rule 56. Today, the Congress Party has given notice for discussion under Rule 184. My submission is that if the discussion cannot take place under Rule 56 for which I have given notice, I am prepared to withdraw my notice if you accept the discussion under Rule 184. Let this discussion take place. Please do not create pressure for discussion under Rule 193. The Government has brute majority on the floor of the House. I do not know why they are evading discussion and voting. What is wrong in it? It has never been clarified properly.

My fervent appeal would be that let the floor be honoured properly by having voting with your consent and with the consent and support of the Government.

HON. SPEAKER: Jai Prakash ji and Karunakaran ji, both of you want to say the same thing.

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): We are ready to have discussion under Rule 184 instead of Rule 56. Therefore, the Government should concede this.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Madam, Hon. Kharge Ji has called for a

debate, as have hon. Sudip Ji, hon. Karunakaran Ji, and several other parties on this side of the House. In fact, from the very first day of this session, the entire Opposition has been consistently demanding a comprehensive discussion on the issue of economic reforms. Initially, the demand was for a discussion under Rule 56, through an adjournment motion. Subsequently, the request shifted to a discussion under Rule 184. Meanwhile, it is also a fact that you have received notices from various parties seeking a discussion under Rule 193.

I humbly request that this matter not be made a prestige issue and there should be no division of votes. Instead, let the Parliament raise a unanimous voice against black money, corruption, and terrorism....

(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA):

Madam, we are also against black money, but why is the Government avoiding a vote? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: What is the need for a vote in the discussion on black money?

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not disrupt.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTH KUMAR: Madam, hon. Bhartruhari Mahtab Ji of the Biju Janata Dal and hon. Jitendra Reddy Ji of the Telangana Rashtra Samithi have submitted notices requesting a discussion under Rule 193 on the issue of demonetisation, specifically regarding its objective of eliminating black money. From the very first day of this session, we have been proposing that the Question Hour be suspended to facilitate such an important discussion, whether under Rule 193 or even without invoking any specific rule, should you so permit.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: All of you please sit down. There should not be the repetition of the same thing again and again.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, we are not repeating ourselves. This has been going on for 15 days.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Madam, we are not running away from the debate.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I had conveyed this to all hon. Members earlier as well. The parties that have submitted notices for a discussion under Rule 193 are not part of the ruling coalition. Those very parties, having brought their proposals before you, are now asking a pertinent

question, “Do our voices not matter?” *[English]* They have their voices. I have said, let it be. I am ready today and that day also I said I am ready. I'm still willing to set everything aside. If you want just now without any rule.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: The discussion can very well be initiated even without invoking any specific rule. In fact, I am ready this very moment to begin the discussion, if you so desire. Why must we remain bound by procedural formalities when there is broad consensus on the need for deliberation? I urge that the discussion be commenced immediately, without delay....(Interruptions)

11.06 hours

(At this stage, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Shri Anto Antony and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

11.06 ½ hours***ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 261, Shri P. Srinivasa Reddy.

... (Interruptions)

(Q. 261)

SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY: Madam Speaker, the hon. Minister has given a very elaborate reply and I thank him for that ...

(Interruptions)

Oil PSUs are laying their own infrastructure and many stretches are in parallel routes which can be avoided with the help of a strategic plan and thereby the country can save a lot of investment. ...

(Interruptions) I would like to know from the hon. Minister how much percentage of the pipeline infrastructure is commonly used by them in order to facilitate optimum utilisation of existing network which may help in averting the adulteration of the petroleum products? ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: I would like to thank the hon. Member for his kind comments. I would like to assure the hon. Member through you that all the pipelines that have been laid for petroleum products, LPG are inter-operable and inter-usable... *(Interruptions)* In fact, if you see the details of the projects in pipelines, under the Joint Investment Model 9070 kilometres have been identified. Under Product Exchange Basis, 2869 kilometres have been identified and on stand alone only 2941 kilometres have been identified. So, by and large, the approach is that they can all use each other. ... *(Interruptions)* and there is inter company leverage on the elaborate network that we have created and there is no problem that one pipeline only one company can use. We allow inter-operability... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY: Madam, in our country most of the refineries are in landlocked areas which are quite distant from the demand centres which forced us to think about the role of pipelines which is very critical in ensuring reliable supply chain of petroleum products in every nook and corner of the country... *(Interruptions)* So far, the finished products are being transported by road with tankers which is facilitating and providing an ample opportunity for product adulteration... *(Interruptions)*

So, Madam, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to what measures the Government have taken to ensure adulteration free supplies; and also would like to know from the hon. Minister... (*Interruptions*) that in the wake of hon. Prime Minister's ambitious Ujjwala Scheme, the growth in LPG demand is expected to increase at a much steeper rate in the country and such a demand is possible to be met through pipeline supply only... (*Interruptions*) To fulfil the obligation rapid pipeline laying work is necessary. I would like to know whether the Government is allowing private players and FDI in Oil Pipeline network to be laid and maintained... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, I am very happy about the suggestion which the hon. Member has made.

I fully support and endorse the view that pipeline is the most efficient way to transport petroleum and oil products. ... (*Interruptions*) In fact, if one looks at the long term perspective plan, as against pipelines handling 35.9 per cent of the product pipelines in the year 2015-16, by the year 2029-30, it is planned to increase this transportation by pipelines to 62.7 per cent. ... (*Interruptions*) It is almost doubling the percentage of petroleum products being handled by pipelines. You will be happy to know that road transport only accounts for 1.4 per cent of the total petroleum products and going

forward in the next 20 years, it will further reduce to 0.6 per cent. ... *(Interruptions)* So, we are very conscious and we are very happy that he has brought out this point.

As regards private companies, in India, there is complete freedom to invest and bring FDI in petroleum sector. ... *(Interruptions)* Any proposals are considered on the merits of the case. ... *(Interruptions)*
[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Madam Speaker, large-scale pipeline installation projects are being implemented across various states of the country through government-owned oil companies.... *(Interruptions)* In my constituency, this work is being carried out on a significant scale. The largest ONGC plant is located in Uran, which falls within my constituency. My question pertains specifically to the laying of pipelines in the region.... *(Interruptions)* When pipeline laying work is undertaken in the region, agricultural lands belonging to farmers are acquired. However, in many cases, this acquisition is carried out without gaining the trust or consent of the farmers, leading to strong resistance and, ultimately, disruption of the work. As a result, farmers have halted the operations of government-affiliated companies such as H.B.C.L. and Reliance in the area.... *(Interruptions)*

I want to ask the hon. Minister if discussions can be held with the farmers regarding the acquisition of their lands, and if they can be compensated adequately before their lands are taken.... (*Interruptions*) This will provide maximum relief to farmers in the acquisition of their lands. I want to tell you that nothing can be done on those lands, neither houses can be built nor any other work can be done. ... (*Interruptions*)

I want to know if the initiative of the Indian Government to lay pipelines can instill confidence in farmers before doing so? ...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, the Government of India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi, is deeply concerned about the welfare of farmers and is committed to ensuring that they do not suffer any losses.... (*Interruptions*) With regard to the acquisition of farmers' land, some portions are acquired under the provisions of the PMP Act. In such cases, compensation can be granted only in accordance with the PMP Compensation Act. ... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Members will appreciate that Government companies cannot operate outside the legal framework. If they operate outside the legal framework, questions will arise tomorrow about how you determined lesser compensation for some and greater compensation for others....

(Interruptions) Under that provision, if farmers have any issues, the Government is ready to immediately engage in dialogue with them to resolve them.

(Q.262)

SHRI SUBHASH PATEL: Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to you for providing me with the opportunity to speak on such a crucial issue of public importance.... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Minister, I seek to understand the rationale behind the Government's decision to grant licences to private companies such as Reliance, Essar, and Shell for establishing ten thousand petrol pumps, in addition to public sector entities like OMC, NRL, and MRPL. It is important to note, however, that while OMC, NRL, and MRPL have established only a limited number of petrol pumps, companies like Reliance, Shell, and Essar have subsequently shut down the majority of the outlets they had set up.... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to inquire through you, hon. Minister, whether there is any plan by the Government to restart the closed petrol pumps... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, as for the private sector petrol pumps, it is their private decision whether to open or close them. The Indian Government has now ended the subsidy on petroleum products.... *(Interruptions)* Today, petrol and diesel are sold at full price, so in reality, there is no obstacle for the private sector to start their petrol pumps today. However, the Government does not interfere

in this; it is their private decision. ... (*Interruptions*) However, the plans are made concerning the establishment of new petrol pumps by OMCs. It is advertised, and based on the responses received, allocations are made accordingly.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SUBHASH PATEL: Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister through you, how many petrol pumps have been allocated by the Government in the tribal majority districts of the country? ... (*Interruptions*) Is the Government making any positive changes in the rules to open petrol pumps in the tribal majority populated areas, keeping in mind the attention to these areas by the Government and private companies? ... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Minister, can you also tell me if there is any plan to arrange for rural petrol pumps, whether they are located on the national highways, such as installing CCTV cameras? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, it is our Government's commitment to set up petrol pumps in tribal areas.... (*Interruptions*) The petrol pumps set up by OMCs so far have a reservation quota for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. Actions are taken accordingly for their areas.... (*Interruptions*) Decisions are made based on the availability of land, suitable land, and land availability in the right place, ensuring its economic viability.... (*Interruptions*) If

anyone in a tribal area has information that there is a strong need for a petrol pump there and faces any difficulty, the Government is ready to take full action on it.... (*Interruptions*)

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI: Madam, I thank you for allowing me to ask a question.... (*Interruptions*) Through you, I would like to ask the Minister about the reservation provided to Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in their advertisements.... (*Interruptions*) However, there is a condition applied that it will be provided to them based on the availability of land.... (*Interruptions*) I would like to inquire from the Minister, what was the earlier policy where companies used to purchase land themselves and set up petrol pumps on that land.... (*Interruptions*) Will the Government continue that policy? (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Madam, there are significant restrictions on land acquisition in tribal areas.... (*Interruptions*) We want their respect, and land should only be acquired with their consent,... (*Interruptions*) That's why the Government encourages voluntary land donation in exchange for purchasing the land.... (*Interruptions*)

(Q.263)

SHRI CHANDULAL SAHU: Madam, you've allowed me to ask questions. I thank you for that... (*Interruptions*) Education is the backbone of national development, and India has, since ancient times, been a global leader in diverse fields such as science, arts, philosophy, and knowledge systems.... (*Interruptions*) I would like to inquire from the hon. Minister whether our country, India, which has been a leader in the field of knowledge and science, intends to bring any positive reforms in education?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Madam, the efforts of the Government of India under the guidance of Prime Minister Modi have been directed towards making significant improvements in the quality of higher education.... (*Interruptions*) Firstly, the allocation for higher education in the 11th Five-Year Plan has been increased by nearly threefold.... (*Interruptions*) Secondly, we have established a Higher Education Finance Agency to ensure that there is research infrastructure and good infrastructure in higher education, with an allocation of Rs. 20 thousand crores....(*Interruptions*) The assurance of Rs. 1000 crores was given by the Minister of Finance in the budget, and we are going to implement it.... (*Interruptions*) By issuing market bonds and leveraging them, funds will be made available, which will

benefit both sides, facilitating more funds for higher education....

(Interruptions) To enhance research and development for quality improvement, numerous initiatives have been undertaken....

(Interruptions) Good foreign professors come here and teach their courses for two weeks.... *(Interruptions)* Last year, 200 professors

came, and this year, 600 professors are expected to come....

(Interruptions) We are going to do this. ... *(Interruptions)* We are making comprehensive efforts for quality improvement....

(Interruptions) The establishment of start-up facilities in the IIT campus, stand-up facilities, incubation parks, and industry-specific requests for research have been fulfilled based on those requests....

(Interruptions)

SHRI CHANDULAL SAHU: Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar used to say that if one has to eat half a loaf of bread, they should do so, but special emphasis should be given to education....*(Interruptions)* I would like to inquire about the current status of our national education mission in comparison with that of developed countries. Furthermore, I seek to know whether the Government of India is considering any significant reforms to align our education system with global standards, so that India may carve out a distinct and hon. position on

the world stage and stand on par with leading nations in the field of education....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: This is a very pertinent question. ... (*Interruptions*) India has immense potential. ... (*Interruptions*) Today, four crore students are pursuing higher education. ... (*Interruptions*) With its qualitative transformations, India's universities are also set to rise in rankings. ... (*Interruptions*) We put in a lot of effort to increase their ranking. ... (*Interruptions*) We have formulated several new schemes. ... (*Interruptions*) This includes the weightage of perception, and work is also being done to improve other institutions. ... (*Interruptions*) Our international ranking should be accurately reflected, and our quality should improve to further enhance it... (*Interruptions*) Today, I am pleased to announce that 34 Indian institutes are ranked among the top 1,000 in the world. ... (*Interruptions*) Continuous efforts are underway to further increase this number and improve their rankings. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI ANIL SHIROLE: Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether the Government has considered undertaking appropriate reforms to strengthen and improve the accreditation

framework for educational institutions....(*Interruptions*) If so, what are the details?

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Madam, there is the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) essentially, which assess and accredit institutions of Higher Education... (*Interruptions*) For management and other courses, there is the National Board of Accreditation (NBA) ... (*Interruptions*) So, what we are doing is that we are improving the quality and methodology of accreditation across the board. But along with that, we have also appealed to IITs and IIMs to become accreditation agencies because there will be choice. We have 46,000 colleges and nearly 800 universities....(*Interruptions*) To complete their accreditation in time, we are increasing the number of agencies so that there will be faster, qualitative and competitive accreditation... (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, the institutes will also have choice, and it will be a competition for the best... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI PREM DAS RAI: Madam Speaker, I congratulate the hon. Minister for a very good and solid reply on Higher Education and how the Government is taking this forward... (*Interruptions*)

My question relates to the North-Eastern States. Now, a Higher Education Financing Agency is being thought of. But all the time, we

know that whenever any kind of Financing Agency comes up, then the North-Eastern States actually do not get the benefits...
(*Interruptions*)

I would like to seek clarification from the Hon. Minister on how he intends to ensure that the Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) functions effectively in the North-Eastern region. Presently, nearly Rs. 1,000 crore is flowing out of the North-East to other States for higher education. We firmly believe that if more higher educational institutions are established within the North-East, the region can move towards self-sufficiency in education and reduce this financial outflow....(*Interruptions*)

SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Madam, the hon. Member, Shri Rai has raised a very valid issue... (*Interruptions*) Let me assure him that we are all focusing on the North-East not only by visiting North-East, but by establishing very good institutes and improving the caliber of those institutes also, which are working there...
(*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

What are they chanting, Modi-Modi? ... (*Interruptions*) Are they chanting Modi-Modi? ... (*Interruptions*) It's good if they start chanting

Modi-Modi, it's a positive thing. ... (*Interruptions*) It's good that you are chanting Modi-Modi.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

Madam, coming to the question, let me assure the hon. Member that we will never neglect the North-East... (*Interruptions*) on the other hand, recently, we have equipped three States... (*Interruptions*) We have given money only to the North Eastern, Eastern hilly States and other hilly States like Jammu & Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and the so called *bimaru* States, which were *bimaru* in earlier regime, now, we want to bring them up.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, that equipped three States scheme will not go to any other States but to all neglected sectors.... (*Interruptions*) So, the North Eastern States, Eastern States, Andaman and Nicobar, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, West Bengal and Odisha are the States on which we are concentrating and North East will get justice. ... (*Interruptions*)

(Q. 264)

[Translation]

SHRI VINOD LAKHAMSHI CHAVDA: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to ask the Minister whether the Government plans to expand and streamline the Employee Provident Fund and the Employee State Insurance Corporation? ... *(Interruptions)* If so, what are the details? ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member has asked about the coverage of EPFO and ESIC.... *(Interruptions)* Regarding these two schemes I would like to say that both the schemes are social security schemes.... *(Interruptions)* The hon. Prime Minister is lending these schemes to all organized and unorganized workers in a phased manner.... *(Interruptions)* In this respect, the wage ceiling in case of ESCI has increased from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 21,000.... *(Interruptions)* A draft notification in this respect has been issued on 6/10/2016. This will bring new 30 lakh IPs under ESIC benefit fold.... *(Interruptions)* I am also happy to inform that approximately 4,50,00,000 construction workers are now getting the ESIC facility in a phased manner.... *(Interruptions)*

The hon. Member has very rightly asked a question regarding EPFO workers.... *(Interruptions)* EPFO proposes an enrolment campaign from 1st January, 2017 to 30th June, 2017. We are also increasing the coverage under EPFO from Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 75,000.... *(Interruptions)* The proposal is there. The Sub-Committee of CBIT has approved and we will discuss about this. ... *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI VINOD LAKHAMSHI CHAVDA: Madam Speaker, I would also like to ask the Minister whether the Government plans to take steps to provide PF and ESIC benefits to workers employed in various sectors such as boards, corporations, factories, and contractors? ... *(Interruptions)* For instance, employees of boards and corporations receive a pension ranging from 500 to 1000 rupees.... *(Interruptions)* Retired employees of the Electricity Board are not provided with the benefits of the insurance scheme. ... *(Interruptions)* Will the Government take any steps forward for such workers and employees? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Madam Speaker, if officials of ESIC or EPFO act against our laborers, I will contemplate on them. ... *(Interruptions)* I will endeavor to inform the hon. Member about the particular issue they have highlighted, after consulting with the

department. ... *(Interruptions)* [English] Contract workers are being brought under EPFO. *(Interruptions)* We are taking steps for the enrolment of contract workers under EPFO and ESIC. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, Chair is ready to help you. You can have discussion.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You do not want any discussion.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12 noon.

11.30 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Twelve of the Clock.

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 265 to 280

Unstarred Question Nos. 2991 to 3220

12.00 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Twelve of the Clock.

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

...(Interruptions)

FELICITATIONS BY THE SPEAKER**Congratulations to Indian Women Cricket Team on winning
Asia Cup Title**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I am sure all of you will join me in extending our felicitations to the Indian women cricket team for winning the Asia Cup title after beating Pakistan in the final at Bangkok, Thailand on 4 December, 2016.

All of them have made us proud.

We congratulate the Indian women cricket team and convey our best wishes to them for their future endeavours also.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, at least, now you allow us to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Sarvashri Rajesh Ranjan, Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Shailesh Kumar alias Bulo Mandai, Maliikarjun Kharge, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, K.C. Venugopal, Jitendra Chaudhary, N.K. Premachandran, Prof. Saugata Roy, Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, Adv. Joice George, Sarvashri P. Karunakaran, Md. Badaruddoza Khan, Sudip Bandyopadhyay, Y.V. Subba Reddy and P.K. Biju on different issues.

The matters though important do not warrant interruption of business of the day. The matters can be raised through other opportunities.

I have, therefore disallowed all the notices of Adjournment Motion.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.03 hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up Papers to be Laid on the Table.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JUAL ORAM):

I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013 –

- (1) Review by the Government of the working of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.
- (2) Annual Report of the National Scheduled Tribes Finance and Development Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5604/16/16]

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): I

beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952

—

- (1) The Employees' Pension (Sixth Amendment) Scheme, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1036(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd November, 2016.
- (2) The Employees' Provident Funds (Fifth Amendment) Scheme, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1035(E) in Gazette of India dated 2nd November, 2016.
- (3) The Employees' Provident Funds (Sixth Amendment) Scheme, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R.1065(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th November, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5605/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): On behalf of

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under subsection (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013 –

(1) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the GAIL (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) Annual Report of the GAIL (India) Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5606/16/16]

(2) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) Annual Report of the Indian Oil Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5607/16/16]

(3) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) Annual Report of the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5608/16/16]

(4) (i) Statement regarding Review by the Government of the working of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) Annual Report of the Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited, Mumbai, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5609/16/16]

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

(1) A copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013--

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the MMTC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) Annual Report of the MMTC Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5610/16/16]

(2) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Design, Ahmedabad, for the year 2015- 2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5611/16/16]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council of India, New Delhi, for the years 2012-2013 to 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5612/16/16]

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Inspection Council of India, New

Delhi, for the years 2012-2013 to 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5612A/16/16]

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Export Inspection Council of India, New Delhi, for the years 2012-2013 to 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5612B/16/16]

[Translation]

SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY (BANASKANTHA): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:- ... (*Interruptions*)

1. (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Credit Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises, Mumbai, for the year 2015-16, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Credit

Guarantee Fund Trust for Micro and Small Enterprises, Mumbai, for the year 2015-16.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5613/16/16]

2. A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

(i) Review by the Government of the working of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-16.

(ii) Annual Report of the National Small Industries Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-16, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5614/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-
...(Interruptions)

- (1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.
- (2) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (3) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5615/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL

(SHRI VISHNU DEO SAI): Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the table:-

- (1) A copy of each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 394 of the Companies Act, 2013:-

- (i) Review by the Government of the working of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015- 2016.
- (ii) Annual Report of the Steel Authority of India Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5616/16/16]

- (2) (i) Review by the Government of the working of the MSTC Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016. ...
(Interruptions)
- (ii) Annual Report of the MSTC Limited, Kolkata, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts and comments of the Comptroller and Auditor General thereon.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5617/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA): Madam Speaker, on behalf of Dr. Mahendra Nath Pandey, I beg to lay on the table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts. ... (*Interruptions*)
 - (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.
- (2) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (1) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5618/16/16]

- (3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, for the year 2015-2016.

- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central University of Gujarat, Gandhinagar, for the year 2015-2016. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5619/16/16]

- (4) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod, for the year 2015-2016.
- (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.
- (iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central University of Kerala, Kasaragod, for the year 2015-2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5620/16/16]

- (5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, for the year 2015-16.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central University of Himachal Pradesh, Shimla, for the year 2015-16.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5621/16/16]

- (6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Council of Historical Research, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5622/16/16]

(8) A copy of Notification No. PU/Aca-1/Amendments/2013-14(Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 15th August, 2014, relating to amendment of the Statutes No. 19 Clause (1) & (2) of Pondicherry University under sub-section (2) of Section 44 of the Pondicherry University Act, 1985.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5623/16/16]

(9) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 44 of the Tezpur University Act,1993:-

(i) Notification No. 91 published in Gazette of India dated 19th March, 2014, relating to amendment of the Statute 2(4) of the Statutes of Tezpur University.

(ii) Notification No. F. 12-2/97/(GA-I)/Vol-V/3659 published in Gazette of India dated 22nd March, 2016, relating to Ordinance No. 21 on emoluments and other terms and conditions of service of the pro Vice Chancellor.

(iii) Notification No. F. 12-2/97/(GA-I)/Vol-V/2687 published in Gazette of India dated 22nd January, 2016, relating to Ordinance No. 29 on Constitution, Power and

Function of the Governing Body, Technical Programmes of Tezpur University.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5624/16/16]

(10) A copy of each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 43 of the Central Universities Act, 2009:-

(i) Notification No. 22 published in Gazette of India dated 3rd June, 2016, amending the Statute No. 11 and 13 of the Central University of South Bihar.

(ii) Notification No.267 published in Gazette of India dated 28th June, 2016, amending the Statutes No. 2(4), 11 and 13 of the Central University of Orissa.

(iii) Notification No.388 published in Gazette of India dated 25th October, 2016, regarding amendment relating to new Statutes amending the Statute No. 5, 11, 13, 41 and 45 of the Central University of Jammu.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5625/16/16]

(11) A copy of the All India Council for Technical Education (Grant of Approvals for Technical Education in Blended Learning Mode) Regulations, 2013 (Hindi and English versions) published in

Notification No. 37-3/Legal/AICTE/2013 in Gazette of India dated 28th June, 2016 under Section 23 read with Section 10 of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987.

(12) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (11) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 5626/16/16]

12.04 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL

25th Report

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): Madam Speaker, I present the Twenty-fifth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in Nineteenth Report of the Committee (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' pertaining to the Ministry of Mines. ... (*Interruptions*)

12.05 hours**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

(i) (a) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 125th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on Demands for Grants (2016-17) (Demand No. 11), pertaining to the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): I beg to lay the following statements (Hindi and English versions) regarding:-

The status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 125th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on Demands for Grants (2016-17) (Demand No. 11), pertaining to the Department of Commerce and Industry.

(b) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 124th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on Action Taken by the Government on observations/recommendations contained in the 119th Report of the Committee

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5627/16/16 and 5628/16/16 respectively.

on 'Rubber Industry in India', pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): I beg to lay the following statement regarding: the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 124th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on Action Taken by the Government on observations/recommendations contained in the 119th Report of the Committee on 'Rubber Industry in India', pertaining to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

12.06 hours

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 232nd Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2016-17), pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism *

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 232nd Report of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture on Demands for Grants (2016-17), pertaining to the Ministry of Tourism.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. L.T. 5629/16/16

12.07 hours

ELECTION TO COMMITTEE

**Council of National Institutes of Technology, Science
Education and Research**

DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI (KANPUR): Hon. Speaker, my point of order is that in Hindi, item number 13 states that Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman will move the motion, yet the English Order Paper states that Shri Prakash Javadekar will do so. Have we, then, adopted a practice whereby one Minister speaks in Hindi and another in English on the same item?... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The numbering must have been incorrect.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, you can give ruling on this. ... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: I will look into it; there must have been an error in the numbering. I will see.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR): I beg to move the following:-

“That in pursuance of clause (j) of sub-section(2) of section 30 of the Council of National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That in pursuance of clause(j) of sub-section(2) of section 30 of the Council of National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research Act, 2007, the members of this House do proceed to elect, in such manner as the Speaker may direct, two members from among themselves to serve as members of the Council of National Institutes of Technology, Science Education and Research, subject to the other provisions of the said Act and the rules made thereunder.”

The motion was adopted.

12.08 hours**SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS**

Re: Impact of demonetisation of 500 and 1000 currency notes

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Hon. Speaker, we have repeatedly urged you to accept the resolution submitted under Rule 184. Earlier, it was conveyed that a discussion under Rule 56 could not be permitted. In response, we collectively sought an alternative course and have now brought the matter forward under Rule 184. This is not a routine issue, it is one of grave national concern. People are not receiving their salaries, pension disbursements have been delayed, citizens are being forced to stand in long queues, and tragically, hundreds have lost their lives while many others have fallen seriously ill. In light of this humanitarian and economic crisis, I once again appeal that this House take up the matter for urgent discussion under Rule 184.... *(Interruptions)* The nation is witnessing a concerning decline in GDP growth. The manufacturing sector is contracting, and according to available reports, nearly four lakh individuals have lost their jobs. All these facts and figures are already before the Government.... *(Interruptions)* Please take this seriously. We want to discuss this matter seriously and inform the

nation about how much damage has been done and how much benefit has been gained. This should be put to a vote.... (*Interruptions*) Why is the Government evading? We are not evading. We are ready for the discussion. The Government has a majority. The people who have been elected are unable to digest their selection. Why are they avoiding voting?

Hon. Speaker, as you said, we heard and understood. You said to bring it by changing the rule, 17 parties collectively brought a motion.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Why are you saying to bring it by changing? I have such a notice with me just now. I do not think so.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We have given you a notice under Rule 184. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You haven't given this notice to me. All notices go to the office.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Whether notices are given to the secretariat or your office, it's the same thing. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA M. SCINDIA (GUNA): Madam, notice has been given under rule 184. We have given the notice....

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Hon. Speaker, I request you to allow this discussion and conduct a vote. ... *(Interruptions)* This is not a matter that will cause the sky to fall or the mountains to crumble....

(Interruptions)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Hon. Speaker, why are these people avoiding voting? ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You all are repeating the same thing over and over again. You are repeating the same thing.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Jithender ji, I will also give you a chance to speak. Every day, you all discuss the same thing.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): Madam Speaker, the question is, who benefits from this debate?

[English] That is the question that is coming up. ... *(Interruptions)*

What I am finding is that under the item, Discussion under Rule 193, the first name is Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab. At least, he is not present today in the House. ... (*Interruptions*)

Secondly, what I am telling you is that ultimately the discussion is not taking place. Who is held responsible? Whose responsibility mainly comes upon to see that how the House runs? Is it to the Government side or to the Opposition Parties? They are in a majority position. It is up to them to see that the House runs properly, and they have their brute majority by which they can easily start the Discussion under Rule 184 for which the Congress Party has submitted notice in consultation with us. I have placed notice for Adjournment Motion which I want to withdraw if the Discussion under Rule 184 starts and voting takes place. ... (*Interruptions*)

So, I will request the Government that let the House be in a normal situation. Let the debate start, and there should be discussion.

[*Translation*]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Madam Speaker, you are the custodian of this House and the hon. guardian of its dignity and procedure. If not before you, then where else can the Opposition place its submissions and raise its concerns?... (*Interruptions*) We are repeatedly appealing to you to allow a debate

on the issue of demonetisation. We are prepared and willing to engage in a meaningful discussion under Rule 184. This rule provides for a structured debate, not necessarily a division, and yet a discussion on such a critical issue has been continuously restricted in this House. We wish to understand how the Union Government is executing this policy, given the severe consequences it has unleashed across the country. At present, people are not receiving their salaries, pensions remain undisbursed, and there has been little consideration for the practical hardships this move has created. From farmers struggling to buy seeds to families unable to conduct weddings, the situation on the ground has become increasingly dire. Tragically, lives are being lost.... *(Interruptions)* One hundred and five deaths have occurred. ... *(Interruptions)* A condolence motion should also be proposed on this. ... *(Interruptions)* What else can be more important than this? ... *(Interruptions)* People are standing in lines at ATMs.... *(Interruptions)* People are dying from heart attacks. ... *(Interruptions)* This is a false promise of the Government. This Government is proving to be false. ... *(Interruptions)* It has been more than twenty days. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHBUBNAGAR): Madam Speaker, we have consistently conveyed our position in all-party

meetings, in the Business Advisory Committee meetings, and in various other forums that the intent of the hon. Prime Minister to curb black money is indeed welcome. On this point, there is consensus among all parties, all 17 of them and across the political spectrum. However, the concern being raised by every party and individual is not about the objective, but about the manner of its implementation. The implementation is a problem. How it is being transformed is the problem. So, what I suggested and what my party thought and also along with Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab when we had a discussion with you and with Shri Ananthkumar Ji, when we, all of us, sat down, we all agreed on the seriousness of the situation. We remarked, metaphorically, that a snake has fallen into our throat, it can neither be swallowed nor spat out, and it will only come out by biting. In such a situation, our collective responsibility is to find a solution to determine how to administer the right medicine and resolve the crisis effectively. Given the widespread suffering being faced by the people, we have proposed a discussion under Rule 193, not to oppose the objective, but to collectively deliberate on the challenges in implementation and explore constructive remedies. ...*(Interruptions)*

Discussion can also take place in this manner.

Madam, we have given you full freedom to conduct discussion under Rule 193, 184, or 56, whichever rule you prefer. But there should be a debate on this. ...(*Interruptions*) It has to be done because the public is facing a lot of problems every day. ... (*Interruptions*) Even within Hyderabad, reports in today's newspapers state that members of the public attempted to attack bankers out of frustration. This is an extremely serious and alarming development. In order to ensure that such incidents of violence do not escalate, and that public anger does not spiral into lawlessness, it is imperative that we, as representatives of the people, come together to deliberate on this matter.... (*Interruptions*) While we are calling for a discussion under Rule 193 and others are seeking it under Rule 184, our position is clear, let the discussion take place in any manner deemed appropriate. What matters most is that this House deliberates on the issue at hand, so that we may offer the Government constructive suggestions on how to move forward effectively. ...(*Interruptions*) Today, we received the statement from the bank that out of 2 Lakh 25 thousand ATMs, only 1 lakh ATMs are operational. ...(*Interruptions*) Today, I saw in The Hindu newspaper - 'Bank Employees Plan Agitation.' Madam Speaker, the prevailing situation in the country is steadily worsening. My earnest suggestion is that a discussion on this matter be initiated

under any appropriate rule, without delay. An immediate and effective solution must be found, as the public is facing immense hardship and suffering at this very moment....(*Interruptions*)

If you permit, I will start the discussion under Rule 193 right away.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: I am ready.

[*Translation*]

Let's vote on whether the discussion should be held under Rule 193 or Rule 184.

Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH): Madam Speaker, I earnestly request you to take this matter with the seriousness it deserves. I also urge the Hon. Home Minister to treat this issue with utmost urgency and concern. Just recently, two women, carrying Rs. 1,000 notes, were denied acceptance on the grounds that the notes were no longer valid and tragically, they collapsed and died on the spot. These are not isolated incidents. In Uttar Pradesh alone, 16 people have lost their lives so far.... (*Interruptions*) 105 deaths have been reported across the country. What could be more serious than

this? I ask, with all due respect, if such a significant decision had to be taken, what was the difficulty in consulting or calling a meeting of the leaders of the House beforehand? ... (*Interruptions*) We give our suggestions, what was the problem with this? Furtively at eight o'clock at night, ... (*Interruptions*) furtively declared at eight o'clock at night and after declaring it, we put forward our point. Where will we keep the public's voice? ... (*Interruptions*) While on my way to the House today, I saw long queues of people outside the banks. I urge the Government to assess the ground reality, the situation in banks is still extremely difficult. Both farmers and traders have suffered substantial losses. Their relationship is deeply interconnected, the farmer produces, the trader markets the produce, and together they ensure the food supply chain of the entire nation remains intact. In light of this, I ask the Government: What are your thoughts on the plight of farmers? What consideration has been given to their hardship? Their survival is essential not only for the rural economy but for the nation as a whole. ... (*Interruptions*) Many farmers have been unable to sow their crops this season. In several regions, particularly in Uttar Pradesh, farmers could not proceed with sowing due to the unavailability of seeds and fertilisers. This has caused immense distress in the farming community. I urge the Government

to ascertain the gravity of the situation on the ground. If the House is not even allowed to debate such a serious matter, then I must respectfully say that there can be no issue more important or urgent before us today. ... (*Interruptions*) Can demonetisation be dismissed as a minor issue? It is a decision that has affected every household and every citizen across the country. If the intention was simply to exchange currency notes, then the Government ought to have involved the representatives of the people in determining how such a significant exercise should be executed.... (*Interruptions*) That's exactly what I'm saying.... (*Interruptions*) You will see. When you go among the people, you will know. When we go among the people and farmers, we will understand.... (*Interruptions*) This issue is also before you. You will also have to work with the public on this.... (*Interruptions*) Ultimately, you too will have to face the public. This is a matter of great national importance, whom does the Government choose to place its trust in? What credit does it seek to claim, and on whose behalf? Can such a monumental decision like demonetisation be justified merely because one or two wealthy individuals or industrialists endorsed it? Who does not know where the influence lies? These are questions that demand transparency, accountability, and honest answers.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mulayam Singh, please take your seat now. Your point has been noted.

SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: We wish to clarify that we are not attacking anyone, nor is it our intention to make any personal or unwarranted remarks. However, we firmly believe that the decision of demonetisation was taken not on the basis of public opinion or the views of elected representatives, but rather on the advice and influence of a few powerful industrialists in the country. ... *(Interruptions)* We have no desire to attack anyone or to make statements in an inappropriate manner. That is neither our intention nor our approach. What we seek is to express our views responsibly and to give voice to the pain and suffering of the people. We wish to speak about the plight of farmers, labourers, and traders, the very backbone of our economy. The close relationship between the farmer and the trader is undeniable, yet their concerns and perspectives are being completely overlooked. Is it not the responsibility of a democratic government to listen to those who are most affected? Do we lack the experience to understand their hardship? Perhaps the Government is compelled by certain constraints that is another matter altogether. What we are saying is this: they speak often of the poor and the farmers; they express support in words but when it comes to

action, there is a visible gap. We do not merely offer symbolic support, we stand with them in their struggle.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH): Hon. Speaker, at the very outset, I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to the Opposition. I am thankful because, on the issue of demonetisation or note-ban, as it is commonly referred to, no one has questioned the intent of the Government. There appears to be a broad acknowledgment that the objective behind this move was well-intentioned. I wish to place on record my appreciation for that. It is true, however, that concerns have been raised with regard to the manner in which the decision is being implemented. Perhaps the execution has not aligned with the expectations or perspectives of some Hon. Members and that is where their objections lie... *(Interruptions)* I would like to state that, as far as the ruling party is concerned, we are fully prepared to engage in a debate on this issue. We welcome a constructive discussion to understand where the difficulties are arising in the implementation and what obstacles are being encountered?... *(Interruptions)* I want to assure the opposition that whatever difficulties in implementation they bring to light, we will make every possible effort to address them.... *(Interruptions)* Our hon. Prime Minister has made this decision keeping the national

interest in mind.... (*Interruptions*) This decision has been taken with the objective of strengthening the nation's economy and empowering India's financial system. It is a decisive step aimed at putting an end to the parallel economy driven by black money and restoring transparency and accountability in financial transactions.... (*Interruptions*)

Our Prime Minister has made this decision to stop the incidents of terrorism, Maoism, and extremism that were increasing continuously, and to stop the supply of black money and fake currency.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I humbly request the opposition for their cooperation... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: Hon. Speaker, let's conduct discussions under Rule 184.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Let's put aside the discussion about the rules.... (*Interruptions*) See, you all... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: First, listen to the whole matter. Shri Kalyan ji, the whole matter should be heard. Shri Rajnath ji, please complete your statement. Shri Kalyan ji, please have a seat.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Only what Shri Rajnath Singh says will be recorded. I haven't favored anyone else. [*English*] Nothing will go on record, if you speak like this.

Only what Shri Rajnath Singhji speaks will go on record.

...(*Interruptions*)... *

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry.

Shri Rajnath Singh ji, please complete.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kalyan ji, what is the matter? Please sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Hon. Speaker, I respectfully submit that even on the question of which rule the debate should be held under, the Opposition itself remains divided. There is no unanimous opinion among them regarding the appropriate rule for conducting the discussion on this issue.... (*Interruptions*) That is indeed the case, Hon. Speaker. I am merely observing that, as Shri Jithender Reddy

* Not recorded

has rightly pointed out, this is not a matter of which rule the debate should be held under. What we seek is a meaningful discussion. If there are shortcomings in the implementation, we wish to highlight them constructively... (*Interruptions*)

I wish to reassure the House once again that if there are any shortcomings on the part of the Government in the implementation of this decision, we are fully committed to addressing and rectifying them.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I respectfully request you, Madam Speaker, and also urge the hon. Members of the Opposition to kindly leave it to your esteemed discretion to decide under which rule the discussion should be initiated, whether under a specific rule or even without invoking any particular rule. What matters most is that the discussion begins, so that all of us may participate in a constructive and meaningful debate on this important issue.... (*Interruptions*)

Shri Kharge ji, I respectfully request you to kindly take note that the ruling party is fully prepared for the discussion. I urge that the discussion on this important matter now be initiated. Through you, Madam Speaker, I request that Shri Kharge Ji be invited to commence the debate, and that the House may proceed accordingly.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge ji, now please listen to my point for a minute as well. I will listen to your point.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please refrain from such discussions.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Hon. Speaker, I am also echoing the same sentiment. The message from the ranks should not go out. We are not ready for the discussion, this message should not go out.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Its not going.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Are all those who speak for the interests of farmers, and laborers considered traitors to the nation?... (*Interruptions*) those who speak for the interests of farmers...(*Interruptions*) those who speak for the interests of laborers... (*Interruptions*) those who speak for the interests of traders... (*Interruptions*) considered traitors to the nation? ... We want to ask this question...(*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Nobody is saying something like this.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*Translation*]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: We want a resolution to this issue... (*Interruptions*) We seek a compromise.... (*Interruptions*) You should also listen to us.... (*Interruptions*) In 50 days, there will be a loss of Rs. 1,28,000 crores.... (*Interruptions*) Between 8,00,000 to 10,00,000 people are going to be unemployed. ... (*Interruptions*) The entire manufacturing sector has come to a standstill.... (*Interruptions*)

12.26 hours

(At this stage, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Shri Dharmendra Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table)

HON. SPEAKER: Are you initiating the discussion?

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: No, you listen to us.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I am ready to listen to you.

...(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Are you starting the discussion?

...(Interruptions)

12.27 hours

(At this stage, Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Shri Dharmendra Yadav and some other hon. Members went back to their seats)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, they should be informed,... (*Interruptions*) So, you should initiate the discussion under Rule 184...(*Interruptions*) I speak with statistics.... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*) ... *

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: I have patiently listened to the hon. Members for quite some time; now I request that you kindly hear a few words from the Chair. My only submission is this, whether it is the Hon. Members from the Treasury Benches or those from the Opposition, the entire House stands ready for a discussion.

...(Interruptions)

* Not recorded

HON. SPEAKER: Everyone in this House wishes to speak about the joys and sorrows of the common people. I too have been elected by the very same people, and today I have the privilege of sitting in this Chair. I have only one request to make to all of you. A discussion under Rule 193 is already scheduled for today. However, if the entire House genuinely wishes to deliberate on this matter, I assure you of full cooperation from the Chair. I earnestly urge you, please do not let the discussion be derailed over procedural differences regarding which rule should apply.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: In fact, to alleviate the suffering of the public, I am ready.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: If you wish to have a discussion right now, I can permit it even without adhering to the rules.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: If you wish, you may start the discussion.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: When the time for voting comes, we will talk about voting.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Will they also vote on this matter?

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: If you persist, the discussion on people's welfare cannot take place.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: This sends the message that we do not want to have a discussion.

...(Interruptions)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Please, I am requesting all of you.

...(Interruptions)

[*Translation*]

HON. SPEAKER: Now the decision is up to you.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Bidhuri ji, please take your seat.

... (Interruptions)

12.28 hours

(At this stage Shri Kalyan Banerjee, Shri K.C.Venugopal, Shri Dharmendra Yadav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Madam Speaker, I want to express that neither are you listening to us nor are you listening to them regarding which rule the discussion should be conducted under... *(Interruptions)* As you said,... *(Interruptions)* ... you may start the discussion without any rules,... *(Interruptions)* ... I would like to request you for this. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the way.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This implies that you do not want a discussion.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, let's take a recess.

Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

SHRI RAMESH BIDHURI (SOUTH DELHI): Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to you for allowing me to speak on a sensitive issue concerning the welfare of the poor during the recess.... *(Interruptions)* This *Government was in power for 20 years, *(Interruptions)* Plots were allotted to landless people in the year 1983-84. ... *(Interruptions)* Those landless people were never able to get their rightful ownership under this Government.... *(Interruptions)* They lived in Delhi and also held positions in the Union Government.... *(Interruptions)* Those who have been occupying the Government gram sabha land since 1983-84... *(Interruptions)* They have transferred some plots to their relatives. ... *(Interruptions)* In 2011, The hon. Lieutenant Governor issued an order stating that they should have ownership rights. ... *(Interruptions)* These individuals who advocate for the Harijans...*(Interruptions)* My request through you is that by notifying the plots of those people, the Union Government through the Delhi Government provide them ownership rights.... *(Interruptions)* The registry of those people should be validated. ...*(Interruptions)* Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sharad Tripathi, and Shri Kunwar

* Not recorded.

Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Ramesh Bidhuri.

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (KHERI): Madam Speaker, as per Indian cultural traditions, it is customary for people to buy and wear gold and silver jewellery during weddings, festivals, and other auspicious occasions.... (*Interruptions*) Every individual purchases gold and silver jewellery in accordance with their social and economic standing. These ornaments are not merely of cultural or aesthetic value, but also serve as a form of financial security for many households.... (*Interruptions*) A significant portion of our country's population resides in rural areas, where the trade in gold and silver is largely carried out by local jewellers and small-scale businessmen. In these regions, it is common for jewellery to be sold without hallmark certification.... (*Interruptions*) In rural areas, the impurity level in gold jewellery often ranges between 30 to 35 per cent, while in the case of silver, it can be as high as 50 per cent or even more in certain instances.... (*Interruptions*) In the Lok Sabha on 29th November 2016, it was stated in response to a question that hallmarking of jewellery is not mandatory in our country. The hon. Minister of Consumer Affairs further informed the House that, based on investigations, the average level of impurity found in gold jewellery ranges from 11 to 13.5 per

cent. However, this figure represents a national average, and the impurity rate is significantly higher in rural areas as compared to urban regions.... (*Interruptions*) The hon. Minister, in the same reply, stated that the number of hallmarking centres in Gujarat, Kerala, and Tamil Nadu stands at 48, 45, and 54 respectively. However, in Uttar Pradesh, a state with a population of over 22 crore, there are only 16 hallmarking centres..... (*Interruptions*)

Through you, Madam Speaker, I respectfully urge the Government to take note of a matter of serious concern. In our country, people often invest in gold and silver jewellery not only for cultural and ceremonial purposes but also as a form of savings and capital security. However, due to the impurity of these metals, particularly in rural areas, citizens suffer significant economic losses. It is, therefore, imperative that hallmarking of gold and silver jewellery be made mandatory across the country to ensure quality and protect consumers. Furthermore, I specifically request that the number of hallmarking centres in Uttar Pradesh, a state with a population of over 22 crore be significantly increased to meet the growing demand and address regional disparities.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Raghav Lakhanpal, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri

Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sharad Tripathi, and Dr. Kirit P. Solanki are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Ajay Mishra Teni.

...(*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI): Madam Speaker, if even a single unit of God's finest creation, a child remains afflicted by the curse of child labour, then it must compel our collective conscience to act. For in allowing this to persist, we are not only forfeiting countless golden opportunities that lie in the potential of our future generations, but we are also fostering deep-rooted challenges that adversely impact families, society, and the nation at large. By turning a blind eye to such a grave issue, we risk sidelining some of the most critical concerns from the national mainstream.... (*Interruptions*)

I represent a direct parliamentary constituency, and I wish to bring to the attention of this House a matter of grave concern. According to surveys conducted by a reputed NGO and the People's Campaign Council in my constituency, there are approximately 3,000 child labourers currently engaged in various forms of labour. However, it is deeply troubling that the local administration continues to deny these figures and fails to acknowledge the existence of even a single child labourer. This denial not only undermines the data presented by

credible organisations but also delays meaningful intervention in addressing this critical issue....(*Interruptions*) Not just in the Sidhi constituency, but similar situations are likely prevalent in other parts of the country as well.... (*Interruptions*) I firmly believe that it is essential to openly acknowledge these distortions and take sincere steps towards identifying and implementing effective solutions. I wholeheartedly submit that the vicious cycle of child labour must be brought to an end, and comprehensive efforts must be undertaken to ensure the rehabilitation of affected children and their integration into the educational and social mainstream. Only through such collective commitment can we safeguard the rights and future of our children, who are the true foundation of the nation.... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, the education provided to child laborers through child labor schools should be transformed into skill education, assisting them in building a future aligned with their interests.... (*Interruptions*) There is a need to make child labor schools operationally robust and effective on the ground to yield tangible results. Through you, I wish to make a serious plea and request to the House that children are seen scavenging amidst heaps of garbage, waste, and scrap at bus stands, railway stations, and roadsides across various corners of the country.

They are unfortunately engaged in such activities, and this issue needs urgent attention and intervention.... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to reiterate through you the request that the Government of India and the administration bravely acknowledge the presence of child laborers and their distressing conditions, and take bold steps forward in this direction.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sharad Tripathi, and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shrimati Reeti Pathak.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jitendra Chaudhury – Not present.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Hon. Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise a matter of urgent public importance during ‘Zero Hour’. ...(*Interruptions*)

The Government of India had assured in the A.P. Reorganization Act, 2014 that a new Railway Zone would be set up in Andhra Pradesh comprising of three Divisions, namely, Vijayawada, Guntur and

Guntakal, and the Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway. For almost a decade, there has been a demand for a new Railway Zone with Visakhapatnam as its Headquarters, as the present Waltair Division is the highest revenue earner in the East Coast Railway Zone. The total earnings of the Waltair Division is about Rs. 6,280 crore in 2013-14, which is about 50 per cent of the total annual revenue of the East Coast Railway Zone....(*Interruptions*)

Visakhapatnam has a natural advantage of having two major ports. Abundant land bank is readily available near the Visakhapatnam Railway Station. Waltair Division has the biggest Loco Shed and an excellent Coach Maintenance Depot. ... (*Interruptions*)

As we all know, Visakhapatnam is the fastest growing city in Asia having several reputed organizations like Eastern Naval Command, NSTL, BHEL, BARC, HPCL Refinery etc., and the present Waltair Railway Division has all medical, educational, sports infrastructures etc., to meet the requirements of the new Railway Zone. ... (*Interruptions*)

After the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the formation of a new Railway Zone in Andhra Pradesh has become imperative as the Headquarters of the South Central Railway is located at Secunderabad

of Telangana State. It is obvious to integrate the three Divisions of South Central Railway with Waltair Division of the East Coast Railway and give Andhra Pradesh a new Railway Zone to give fillip to its economy. Of course, Visakhapatnam is the ideal choice for locating the Headquarters of the proposed new Railway Zone. ...

(Interruptions)

In view of the natural advantages, I would urge upon the Government to announce the creation of a new Railway Zone with Headquarters at Visakhapatnam without any further delay. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao (Avanthi).

SHRI BAIJAYANT JAY PANDA (KENDRAPARA): Madam, in our country, everyday 59 people die from fire accidents. This is a number which, I would urge my colleagues, in this House to think about. This is the average for the last 15 years. Everyday, on an average, 59 people die from fire accidents in this country whether it is a hospital fire in Odisha or a temple fire in Kerala or so many residential and office buildings which do not have proper safety features. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to point out that the Civil Defence Website of the NDRF of the Home Ministry itself says that there is almost 98 per cent shortage of fire stations in the country. Although this is required to be established by the State Governments and Municipalities, yet it is a national crisis. I would urge the Government and my colleagues here to support the Union Government scheme to fund fire stations. We cannot afford to have this kind of casualty in our country. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Dr. Kirit P. Solanki are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Baijayant Jay Panda.

[Translation]

SHRI RODMAL NAGAR (RAJGARH): Madam, through you, I want to draw the Government's attention towards the strengthening of telecommunications infrastructure in my Parliamentary Constituency of Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh.... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, on one hand, the Government is tirelessly working towards the communication revolution by connecting every corner of the country through Digital India... *(Interruptions)* It is unfortunate that due to the negligence and irresponsible conduct of certain

departmental officials and employees in the Rajgarh Parliamentary Constituency, the functioning of the entire system is being adversely affected.... (*Interruptions*) On the other hand, while other telecom companies are advancing towards 4G services, BSNL is also unable to consistently provide 2G services.... (*Interruptions*) It is often observed that repeated link failures, lack of continuous monitoring of the OFC network, and the absence of a clearly defined timeline following the approval of major infrastructure projects such as highways and other roads, reflect a serious lapse in planning and coordination. In many cases, no advance shifting plan is prepared or executed until the fibre lines are actually damaged, resulting in unnecessary disruption and delays. This highlights the urgent need for better inter-departmental coordination and proactive planning to safeguard critical infrastructure. ...(*Interruptions*) This results in widespread dissatisfaction among farmers, traders, and the general public in the region with the Government's telecommunications system due to the problems they face.... (*Interruptions*)

Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to urge the Hon. Minister of Communications to take concrete steps towards improving infrastructure, establishing accountable and efficient administrative systems, and ensuring the deployment of adequate and

skilled technical personnel for the effective management of communication networks. Such measures are essential to extend the reach of communication facilities to the general public, particularly in underserved areas, and will significantly contribute to the development and connectivity of the region.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Rodmal Nagar.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Madam, I wish to initiate a discussion on a very serious issue in the House.... (*Interruptions*) It was stated that the surgical strike was conducted as a resolute response to terrorism.... (*Interruptions*) However, even after the surgical strike, 31 soldiers have been killed so far.... (*Interruptions*) Incidents of attacks on the military have occurred from Uri to Nagrota, Pampore, and several other places.... (*Interruptions*) It is also continuously reported that efforts are being made to curb terrorism and insurgency.... (*Interruptions*) It is deeply concerning that, for the first time since Independence, we are witnessing repeated terrorist infiltrations into three of our army headquarters, resulting in the tragic loss of brave soldiers. Equally distressing is the recurring discussion surrounding the ageing and deteriorated condition of our

country's MiG fighter jets and helicopters, which have led to a series of avoidable fatalities. Despite these sacrifices, it is most unfortunate that those who lose their lives in such incidents are not accorded the status of martyrs.

I wish to ask the Government a grave and pressing question: how long will terrorists continue to infiltrate our army headquarters and claim the lives of our brave soldiers? This is a matter of national security and deep concern for every citizen of this country. Furthermore, I would like to highlight a serious disparity in the compensation provided to the families of martyrs. In states like Haryana and a few others, the dependents of martyrs receive substantial compensation. However, in Bihar, the families of martyrs are provided no compensation at all.

I urge the Government to provide a substantial compensation amount to the dependents of soldiers who are martyred across the country. Whether a soldier dies in a helicopter, a MiG aircraft, or at the hands of another soldier, all of them should be accorded the status of a martyr. Whether they belong to the BSF or the police force, all of them should be accorded the status of a martyr.

In conclusion, I want to say that memorials should be erected for martyrs in Bihar and they should be provided with a substantial amount. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Dushyant Chautala and Shri Shrirang Appa Barne are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Rajesh Ranjan.

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA (MANDSOUR): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak on a matter of utmost importance to the public. In my parliamentary constituency, why has a dedicated freight corridor track been constructed along the route from Mandsaur, Neemuch, and Javra to Ratlam? After the construction of the dedicated freight corridor track, all formalities have been completed. This dedicated freight corridor track is essential for rail operations between Indore and Ajmer. With the permission of the Railway Board, passenger trains are scheduled to operate on this track from Indore to Javra, Mandsaur, Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, Ajmer, and Udaipur.

Through your hon. Ministry, I appeal to immediately grant permission via the Railway Board to commence the operation of passenger trains on this Q track. This will ensure that passengers from

Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan can avail the facilities of passenger trains. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sudheer Gupta.

[English]

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS (VIJAYAWADA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I have a problem which is long pending in my Vijayawada Parliamentary constituency of Andhra Pradesh. There is a community called the Nayakapod in Vissannapeta Mandal in my constituency. There are nearly 400 families in my constituency belonging to this community. There is no other place in the State where this community is there. Previously the officials used to give them caste and income certificate from Khammam district of the united Andhra Pradesh. But now after the bifurcation of the State, this community is facing a huge problem. I have already written letters to the Government of India and the Prime Minister to resolve the issue. Our State Government has already issued an order in G.O.Ms. No. 58 of Social Welfare Department on 12th May 1997 that they belong to the ST community. Hence, I request the Government of India to include this community in Scheduled Tribes of Andhra Pradesh.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Kesineni Srinivas.

SHRI PRATAPRAO GANPATRAO JADHAV (BULDHANA):

Madam Speaker, I would like to bring to the Government's attention that cotton cultivation is conducted on a large scale in Vidarbha, Northern Maharashtra, and Marathwada. However, most approvals for textile parks have been granted in Western Maharashtra, which has been established there by the Union Government. More than half of them have been cancelled. The textile parks that were opened for a specific purpose have not been fully achieved there. These objectives never fully meet the standards for opening the current textile parks. The cotton purchased at the textile park should be used to produce ready-made garments and transported to the market, enabling employment opportunities in rural areas.

My request in this regard is that priority should be given to establishing textile parks where cotton crops are abundant. This will increase enthusiasm among farmers for cotton production and they will get a better price for the cotton produced by them. In my Buldhana constituency, cotton farming is more prevalent...
(Interruptions) A textile park should also be established in Buldhana

district.... (*Interruptions*) I request the Government through you.
Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shrirang Appa Barne are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Prataprao Jadhav.

... (*Interruptions*)

[*English*]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri E.T. Mohammad Basheer – Not present.

Shri Jayadev Galla.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Thank you Madam. There is no doubt that ‘speed’ is the latest mantra of all the Ministries and more particularly the Indian Railways. Railways are passionately working to have more and more high speed rail corridors in the country and the Mysore-Bengaluru-Chennai is one such corridor for which a feasibility study is being done by Germany. It is welcome that this is the very first high speed corridor proposed in the Southern part of the country. I am given to understand that the study will commence a couple of months from now by Germany’s Transport and Digital Infrastructure Ministry.... (*Interruptions*)

Madam, Amaravati is the new Capital of Andhra Pradesh and its work has already commenced. Woven around the theme of blue of River Krishna and the green of pastoral landscape, the Capital city is spread over 217 sq.km. in Guntur district while the metropolitan Capital region spans 7,420 sq. km. encompassing large parts of both Guntur and Krishna districts. It is going to be the most modern and people's Capital in the country.... *(Interruptions)*

It was reported that the hon. Railway Minister has requested the Government of Germany to include Vijayawada in this corridor for the feasibility study. I welcome this, but, at the same time I urge the hon. Minister that one cannot ignore the Capital city of any State as that becomes the nerve centre of every activity of that State. So, Amaravati being the Capital of Andhra Pradesh cannot be ignored by not including it in the high speed corridor.... *(Interruptions)*

In view of above, I would urge upon the hon. Railway Minister to request the Government of Germany to also include Amaravati in the feasibility study for high speed rail corridor and the corridor be named as Mysore-Bengaluru-Chennai-Amaravati-Vijayawada High Speed Rail Corridor.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Jayadev Galla.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Adv. Joice George – Not present.

Shri S.P. Muddahanume Gowda – Not present.

Shri Shrirang Barne.

[*Translation*]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): Madam, in my constituency, approval was granted for the Metro track from Pimpri-Chinchwad to Pune in the year 2008, but to date, no concrete decision has been made regarding the Metro, and the work remains stagnant....

(*Interruptions*)

Approval has been granted for this Metro track from Pimpri-Chinchwad to Pune, with 15 stations along the way in Pimpri-Chinchwad.... (*Interruptions*) Approval has only been granted to operate the metro train up to a distance of 7.5 kilometers to Pimpri-Chinchwad. ... (*Interruptions*) The population of Pimpri-Chinchwad city is 22 million.... (*Interruptions*) People residing in areas near Pimpri-Chinchwad like Chakan, Dehu Road, Akurdi, and other industrial areas should also have access to it.... (*Interruptions*)

Therefore, through you, I demand from the Ministry that approval be granted for this metro route up to Ambedkar Chowk in Pimpri....

(Interruptions) If it is extended to Bhakti-Shakti Chowk in Nigdi, it will provide relief to all and everyone will benefit from it....

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhanro Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Shrirang Appa Barne.

PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA (UJJAIN): Madam, I thank you for allowing me to speak.... *(Interruptions)* I wish to bring a very sensitive issue before the House today.... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, there exists a significant disparity in the amount of pension received by elderly, widowed, and differently-abled individuals in the country.... *(Interruptions)* In Uttar Pradesh, the pension amount is 300 rupees, in Haryana, it's 1000 rupees, and in Delhi, it ranges from 1000 to 1500 rupees.... *(Interruptions)* There is a disparity in the country.... *(Interruptions)* There is a significant disparity in the pension amounts provided to senior citizens, widows, and persons with disabilities in the country.... *(Interruptions)* This disparity should be eliminated.... *(Interruptions)* To bridge this disparity, it should be integrated with Digital India, ensuring uniform pension across the nation, as they face difficulties in getting registered.... *(Interruptions)* All three categories, whether widows, elderly, or our differently-abled siblings, face a lot of difficulties in

getting registered.... *(Interruptions)* There should be unified registration for them, and certification should be done at the same place.... *(Interruptions)* In Digital India, their registration and all other procedures should be centralized to minimize their inconvenience. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam Speaker, through you, I wish to place a sincere demand before the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment that a uniform pension of at least one thousand rupees per month be provided to widows, senior citizens, and persons with disabilities across the country. ... *(Interruptions)* Thank you very much. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Lakhn Lal Sahu, Shri Ajay Mishra Teni, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Sudheer Gupta, and Shri Alok Sanjar are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Prof. Chintamani Malviya.

SHRI RATNA LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Madam, Through you, I wish to bring to the attention of the hon. Minister of Communications that although India ranks third in the digital revolution after the United States and China. ... *(Interruptions)* In rural India, there is still a need to further expand internet services and establish more networks compared to cities. ... *(Interruptions)* Furthermore, to compete with digital services globally, we need to

increase our internet speed according to expectations. ...
(*Interruptions*) In the current era, where urban internet users constitute 67 percent, there are 11 crore 19 lakh rural internet users in the country. ... (*Interruptions*) Through its digital revolution, India has not only succeeded in saving time and expanding other amenities, but it has also effectively cracked down on corruption. ...
(*Interruptions*) In the country, the online system of ration cards and LPG has exposed millions of fraudulent beneficiaries. ...
(*Interruptions*)

I urge that the information system be strengthened through internet access to avail over 150 services provided through Aadhaar cards in remote rural areas, ensuring maximum benefits. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Alok Sanjar, and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Ratna Lal Kataria.

SHRI SUMEDHANAND SARASWATI (SIKAR): Hon. Speaker, I am grateful to you for allowing me to speak. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to draw your attention to a very important matter. ...
(*Interruptions*) Road widening takes place in our area, resulting in the

construction of four-lane roads. ... (*Interruptions*) Trees are prepared with great effort, but trees that are 50-50 years old are cut down. ... (*Interruptions*) The Ministry of Transport collaborates with companies on MOUs that for every tree cut down, an equal number of trees will be planted. ... (*Interruptions*) I surveyed Rajasthan, in my district, within my parliamentary constituency. ... (*Interruptions*) Companies fulfill formalities, they do not plant trees. ... (*Interruptions*)

I request my hon. Environment Minister and Road Transport Minister to consider adopting a technique used in many countries where instead of cutting down trees, they are uprooted and transplanted elsewhere.... (*Interruptions*) These companies should be held accountable with strict regulations to ensure proper planting and care of trees, thus ensuring environmental protection. ... (*Interruptions*) This is my submission. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Alok Sanjar, and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Sumedhanand Saraswati.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned up to 2.00 p.m.

12.53 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Fourteen of the Clock.

14.00 hours

The Lok Sabha re-assembled at Fourteen of the Clock.

(Shri Arjun Sethi in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377 *

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members may personally handover the text of the matter as per practice.

... (Interruptions)

* Treated as laid on the Table

(i) Need to grow and use mosquito-eating fish and frogs to control vector-borne diseases in the country

[Translation]

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): The the incidence of mosquito-borne diseases such as dengue, chikungunya, encephalitis, and malaria is continuously rising across the country. Although a wide variety of mosquito repellents and insecticidal products are available in the market, the problem persists and, in fact, appears to be worsening. It has also been observed that certain chemical treatments are leading to increased resistance among mosquito populations, making them harder to control. It is, therefore, imperative that we shift our focus from merely repelling or killing mosquitoes to disrupting their breeding cycle. In this regard, scientific studies have pointed to the ecological importance of frogs in controlling mosquito populations. Frogs feed on mosquito larvae and are natural regulators of mosquito breeding. According to experts, just 50 frogs are capable of protecting one acre of rice fields from various pests, and a single frog can eliminate approximately 15 to 16 lakh mosquitoes over the course of its lifetime. A report by the National Institute of Malaria Research notes that, a few decades ago, the export of frog legs to European countries led to a drastic reduction in frog populations.

Although this export was banned in 1972, the ecological imbalance caused by the large-scale decline in frogs had already begun to take effect. As frog populations in water bodies declined, mosquito populations multiplied rapidly, contributing significantly to the rise in mosquito-borne diseases throughout the country.

My request to the Government is to initiate a project for farming frogs and fish that eat mosquitoes and release them in canals, ponds, water bodies, drains, and water sources to combat mosquito-borne diseases. Illegal export of frog legs should also be banned.

**(ii) Need to include Madan Mohan Mandir, Karauli, Rajasthan
in Krishna circuit**

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA (KARAULI-DHOLPUR): I wish to draw the Government's attention towards the Shri Madan Mohan Mandir located in the district headquarters of Karauli in my parliamentary constituency of Karauli-Dholpur.

The Shri Madan Mohan Mandir holds deep reverence and esteem among the devotees of Lord Krishna, much like the venerated Govind Dev Ji Mandir in Jaipur. According to religious belief, undertaking darshan of the Govind Dev Ji Mandir in Jaipur, the Shri Gopinath Ji Mandir, and the Shri Madan Mohan Ji Mandir in Karauli on the same day is considered equivalent to receiving the complete divine vision of Lord Krishna in his entirety.

It was King Gopal Singh of Karauli who respectfully requested and brought the deity of Shri Madan Mohan Ji from the Maharaja of Jaipur to Karauli, where he was ceremoniously installed within the royal palace, marking the foundation of the expansive temple complex that stands to this day. Even today, a large number of devotees of Shri Chaitanya Mahaprabhu, particularly those associated with the spiritual traditions of Bengal, Odisha, and the ISKCON movement

travel from far and wide to Rajasthan with the aspiration of visiting these three revered temples of Shri Krishna in a single day. They consider such a pilgrimage to be deeply auspicious and a matter of great spiritual fortune.

As the Government of India actively promotes religious tourism through the development of the Shri Krishna Circuit, it would be inappropriate and unjust to exclude the Shri Madan Mohan Ji Temple in Karauli from this already established religious corridor. The inclusion of the Shri Madan Mohan Ji Temple in the Shri Krishna Circuit would not only honour its profound spiritual and historical significance, but also pave the way for the integrated development of other prominent religious sites in the district including Shri Mahavir Ji, Shri Kaila Devi Ji, and Mehendipur Balaji. Such a step would significantly accelerate the religious, cultural, and infrastructural development of the Karauli district and contribute meaningfully to regional tourism and the local economy.

Therefore, I urge the hon. Minister of Tourism and Culture to include the Madan Mohan Ji Temple in Karauli in the Krishna Circuit. This step by the Government will be highly beneficial for the millions of local and visiting devotees of Lord Krishna in the region. This will also accelerate the development of this region.

**(iii) Need to appoint medical staff in the hospital in village
Bakhri in East Champaran district, Bihar**

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): Under Rule 377, I wish to bring to the attention of the Government an important matter concerning my parliamentary constituency. In Bakhti village, under the Patahi block of East Champaran district, the State Government had approved the establishment of an additional health centre several years ago. The construction work including land acquisition and building infrastructure has been completed, and I have also contributed to the development of the facility by constructing a room through the MPLADS fund. However, it is deeply concerning that the said health centre has not been made operational to date, primarily due to the non-appointment of medical officers and essential support staff. Although proposals for the appointment of doctors and other personnel were submitted years ago, the continued delay in staffing reflects a serious lack of attention by the State Government towards public healthcare in this region. The non-functional status of this health facility, despite the region's backwardness and long-standing prevalence of various diseases, has deprived the local population of access to basic healthcare services.

I request the Government to expedite the operationalization of an additional health center in the Bakheri village of the Patnaahi block in the eastern Champaran district, under my parliamentary constituency Sheohar. This is essential for the comprehensive welfare of the public, and appointments of necessary doctors and staff should be made promptly for this purpose.

(iv) Need to promote organ donation in the country

[English]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): India is facing a severe shortage of organ donors. 5 lakh people die every year due to non-availability of organs. Every year around 2.5-3 lakh people need liver and kidney transplants and only 2-3% of the organ requirement is met. Only 0.01% people in India pledge their organs. Of the 1.5 crore people suffering from blindness in India, 25% suffer from corneal blindness, which can often be corrected by a cornea transplant. For the annual requirement of 1 lakh corneas only 10,000 corneas are retrieved of which only 30% are used. The rest are wasted because they are not extracted and preserved properly. India lacks proper logistics to transport organs. Organs being transported over long distances become unfit for transplant when they are not preserved properly. There is a need to spread awareness about organ donation and to dispel myths associated with it. There is also a need to set up more organ banks and logistics to collect and preserve organs.

(v) Need to reimburse the amount of scholarship paid to students belonging to backward classes in Maharashtra

[Translation]

SHRI GOPAL SHETTI (MUMBAI NORTH): The Secretary of the Social Justice and Special Assistance Department of the Maharashtra Government has sent a proposal to the Secretary of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment of the Union Government for the release of the pending reimbursement amount of Rs. 1392.61 crore for the period between 2001-2002 to 2013-2014, towards scholarships for students belonging to the backward classes. Despite sending 29 reminder letters, the Union Government has not yet released this outstanding amount. The allocation of outstanding Central funds for scholarships for the deserving students of State Backward Classes should be ensured at the earliest.

Therefore, I request the hon. Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment to ensure the prompt allocation of central funds for scholarships for eligible students from the backward classes in the state of Maharashtra.

**(vi) Need to regularise the services of Para-teachers in
Jharkhand and also enhance their honorarium including BRP
and CRP teachers in the State**

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): In the country, there are a total of 15 lakh 22 thousand 346 Government schools, out of which the number in Jharkhand is 48,528. The condition of Government schools across the entire country is extremely poor. 52 percent of fifth-grade students are unable to read even the Hindi textbook of the second grade properly. As of March 31, 2016, out of a total approved positions of 51,81,791 teachers at the primary level in the country, 9,07,585 positions (17.51 percent) are vacant. In Jharkhand, out of the approved 1,92,200 positions, 73,793 positions (38.39 percent) are vacant. There is no state in the country where schools with only one teacher do not exist. Out of a total of 6,44,826 (15.91 percent) approved teachers at the secondary level, 102575 positions are vacant in the country's schools. Out of the approved 22604 positions at the secondary level in Jharkhand, 16213 positions are vacant, which accounts for 71.73 percent. There are thousands of schools in the country where there are no teachers, meaning schools without teachers that the Government has never assessed. The number

of Government schools being run with the support of just one teacher exceeds one lakh. In Jharkhand, only one teacher is managing 7391 schools.

Besides teaching students, school teachers have to perform numerous other tasks as well. During elections, teachers have to fulfill electoral duties, leaving aside their teaching responsibilities. Teachers teaching at the rural level are also involved in various surveys, including census, and they have to perform numerous tasks for the panchayat as well. For some time after independence, perhaps it was necessary to do so because, at that time, the number of educated people available was not as much as needed. But now, this is no longer a necessity, and this practice should be discontinued.

I had raised the issue of the shortage of teachers and schools in Jharkhand, as well as the demands of para-teachers, during the Zero Hour in the Monsoon Session of the Lok Sabha on 20th July 2016. Para-teachers in Jharkhand have been working for 14-15 years. Approximately 72000 para-teachers are employed in the state of Jharkhand. In Jharkhand, para-teachers receive a monthly salary of less than 10,000 rupees. In Jharkhand, para-teachers have been on hunger strikes, sit-ins, protests, and indefinite strikes for several months, demanding increased honorarium, regular salary increments,

timely payments, and integration into permanent positions. This has severely impacted the education of children in the state. Courses are not completed on time. The quality of education declines. In Jharkhand, the salaries of para teachers are paid from this fund. Due to the schemes of the Union Government, the State Government does not take decisions on the salaries and other demands of para teachers.

I request the Ministry of Human Resource Development of the Government of India to ensure that the remuneration of para teachers, including B.Ed.-qualified contract teachers, is determined in a manner that is respectful and commensurate with the dignity of the teaching profession. Also, ensure timely payment. In Jharkhand, there are approximately 72000 para-teachers, while the number of vacant positions for teachers exceeds 90000. Therefore, by providing exemptions in the recruitment rules for permanent teachers or by simplifying them, all qualified and trained para-teachers should be adjusted, allowing the vacant teacher positions to be filled and improvements to be made in the state's education system. So that the quality of education can be improved. The Ministry of Human Resource Development should take immediate steps to address the deplorable state of education in Jharkhand.

(vii) Need to upgrade railway stations in Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency as model railway stations

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): The railway announces the development of some railway stations as model stations every year to provide better facilities to the general public and to enhance the infrastructure of railway stations in the country. However, no concrete steps are taken towards the development of those stations. Due to this reason, despite the announcement of building model stations for years, no development is taking place. In my electoral constituency Jalgaon, the announcement to develop some railway stations into model stations has been made for the past five to six years, such as Jalgaon, Chalisgaon, Dharangaon, Pachora, and Amalner stations. However, so far, even the plans for these stations have not been finalized.

I want to draw the attention of the hon. Railway Minister towards this matter and urge him to personally focus on it. I request him to provide immediate directions to the relevant authorities to develop all these railway stations as model stations and assist me in fulfilling the aspirations of the people in my parliamentary constituency.

(viii) Need to provide necessary and adequate resources to trainee Archers of Shivtarai village, Kota Tehsil, Bilaspur in Chhattisgarh

SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR): Under the Bilaspur district of Chhattisgarh state, approximately 65 individuals from the indigenous majority villages of Kota region, including Shiv Tarai, have been honored with state and national awards in archery. Currently, 35-40 boys and girls are undergoing training. Due to the lack of resources, trainees are facing many difficulties. If the Union Government provides training-related resources, then the archers from Shiv Tarai (Kota region) will be able to shine the name of the country at the national and international level through their talent.

I urge the Youth Affairs and Sports Minister, as well as the Tribal Affairs Minister, to take cognizance of the matter and expeditiously allocate necessary resources through both ministries for the talented aspiring athletes from Gram Shiv Tarai, which will be in the national interest.

(ix) Need to set up a 'Rashtriya Sanskritik Ved Shodh Evam Adhyayan Kendra' as well as a branch of Rashtriya Sanskrit Shiksha Sansathan and Banaras Hindu Vishwavidyalaya in Buxar, Bihar

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR): My parliamentary constituency of Buxar, renowned in ancient scriptures as the meditation land of the revered sage Vishwamitra, revered for its rich cultural and spiritual heritage. It has been a center of meditation for ascetics, saints, and sages. This is renowned as the "land of education and initiation" (training ground) from the childhood days of the Lord Rama, where he received training in the presence of Sage Vishwamitra, and where the killing of Tadaka demon occurred by Lord Rama during the Treta Yuga.

Hence, I urge the Union Government to establish a "National Cultural Vedic Research and Study Center" for research and study of our ancient scriptures, Vedas, and other texts. Along with that, there is no branch of the "National Institute of Sanskrit Education" in Bihar, which has branches in all states. Therefore, a center of the "National Institute of Sanskrit Education" should also be established in Buxar, Bihar, which is situated on the border of Uttar Pradesh. In addition to

this, a satellite center of the "Kashi Hindu University" should also be approved here, enabling thousands of students to avail educational facilities.

(x) Need to address the problem of unemployment in the country

SHRI HARISH MEENA (DOUSA): Unemployment among the youth of the country is becoming a major issue, with the unemployment rate consistently reaching new highs. If this situation persists, the problem could take on a highly dangerous form for 65 percent of the youth in the country.

Recently, the President of the World Bank referred to research conducted by the World Bank in our country, stating that 69 percent of jobs in India are at risk due to automation, for which the Government should take steps now.

While Government jobs constitute only 2 percent, the private sector provides approximately 34 percent, and the remaining 9 percent of employment comes from other sectors.

In the employment provided by agriculture, which constitutes 53 percent, no one knows when unforeseen events like untimely rain, hailstorms, or drought may occur. Relying solely on agriculture is becoming increasingly difficult. Every year, thousands of farmers commit suicide or migrate. Observing the situation of agriculture, the youth hesitate to make agriculture a means of employment. The

Government should prioritize agriculture to encourage youth to move towards agriculture.

Industrial development is also essential in the country. Through industrial development, we can become part of developed nations. Governments need to not only emphasize skill development but also reassure the youth that they are committed to providing employment opportunities. Government jobs provide a structured livelihood, which is why most youth aspire for them.

In the country, nearly half the population comprises women, yet women lag significantly behind men. In such a scenario, they should be provided with reservations to bring them forward. So that they too, by gaining employment, can contribute with strength to the construction of a better society and a developed nation.

In conclusion, I would urge the Government to provide as many opportunities as possible to the youth for better employment prospects.

(xi) Need to set up a separate Ministry for Fisheries and Fishermen Welfare

SHRI AJAY NISHAD (MUZAFFARPUR): As we approach the 68th year of independence, it's disheartening to note that traditional fishing communities, with a population of over five crores spread across various parts of the country, continue to lag socially and educationally. Additionally, they are economically quite weak. For promoting fisheries and improving the economic and social status of fishermen, the Department of Fisheries in the Ministry of Agriculture of the Government of India is a key department. Despite this, the fishing community remains deprived of the benefits and facilities, which are usually availed by the general farmers. It has been observed that during natural disasters, bank loans are waived off for agricultural sectors as well as other farmholders, poultry farms, etc. Unfortunately, the fishing community continues to be neglected in this regard.

I would like to draw the Government's attention to the dire situation of the fishing community and demand the establishment of a separate ministry for Fisheries and Fishermen's Welfare in the Indian Government. Additionally, there is an urgent need for the establishment of a national-level bank for their economic development.

**(xii) Need to provide financial support to the artisans of
Balaramapuram in Kerala**

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): The town of Balaramapuram, in Kerala is well known throughout the country for quality textiles and crafts produced there. This is a source of pride to the local community and to me, personally, as their representative in Parliament.

However the community needs a comprehensive financial package that would provide loan waivers to alleviate the burden of debt, to overhaul infrastructure, to improve working conditions for the artisans through the inclusion of Balaramapuram in the Mega Cluster initiative. The urgent financial and technical support the scheme offers, coupled with the immense potential benefit to SMEs through training with assistance from the Ministry of Human Resource Development is the best way to ensure that next generation of artisans improve their livelihoods.

I, therefore, urge the Government to urgently provide the immediate loan waiver support and to include Balaramapuram as part of the Mega Cluster Scheme.

(xiii) Need to evolve a strategy to curb pollution level

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA):

The capital city of Delhi continues to be one of the most polluted cities in the world. Recent studies show that because of this high pollution, normal life of citizens has become impossible. Pollution causes chronic and fatal diseases such as asthma, pulmonary diseases, acute eye and ear infection and is said to even lead to cancer. Healthcare experts have warned about the grave consequences of this high level of pollution. Cities in Kerala like Kochi and Kozhikode as also several major cities across the country have also of late become highly polluted. I urge upon the Union Government to address the issue on war footing and convene a meeting of stakeholders including State Governments to evolve a strategy to save the environment.

(xiv) Need to set up a Sanskrit University at Khanakul in Arambag Parliamentary Constituency of West Bengal

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): The foundation of Indian culture is based on the Sanskrit language. There is a misconception that it is only a language for chanting mantras in temples which is less than 5%. More than 95% of the Sanskrit literature deals with philosophy, law, science, literature, grammar, phonetics etc. Sanskrit was the language of our scientists in ancient India.

From Raja Ram Mohan Roy to Mahatma Gandhi everyone was inspired by the language. As the birth place of Raja Ram Mohan Roy is in my Arambagh Parliamentary constituency in Khanakul, I urge the Ministry of Human Resource Development to establish a Sanskrit University there.

(xv) Regarding rising level of air pollution in the Country

SHRI DINESH TRIVEDI (BARRACKPUR): Rising level of air pollution is one of the most pressing public health disasters of our time. We are suffering from a state of air-emergency. Actions cannot be geared towards desperate short-term rewards.

Countries like China that have had similar problems have taken various steps to control the rising pollution. China has instituted a broad, regionally coordinated system of air pollution monitoring, installed high-tech pollution abatement equipment on a majority of its power plants, as well as devised means to restrict car ownership in major cities. It has also developed a network of 1,500 air quality-monitoring stations in over 900 cities (India has only 39 such stations covering 23 cities). 95% of China's power plants have pollution filters and it is 10% in India.

I urge upon the Government to come up with time-targeted plans, comprehensive schemes and invest in ensuring basic human right of access to clean air.

(xvi) Need to permit diversion of forest land to State Government PSUs in lieu of afforestation in twice the degraded land as applicable to Central PSUs

SHRI NAGENDRA KUMAR PRADHAN (SAMBALPUR): The Union Government has allowed compensatory afforestation in twice the area of degraded forest lands for diversion of forest lands for non forest purposes for the project of Union Government Undertakings. However, this dispensation has not been allowed for the project of State Government undertakings. The OMC is facing difficulties in identifying vegetation-free non forest land for compensatory afforestation, which is affecting its mining operations. Union Government has not conceded to the request of the State Government to allow compensatory afforestation in twice the degraded forest land for State PSUs as allowed for Central PSUs.

**(xvii) Need to provide rehabilitation package to farmers of
Nhava and Sheva villages affected by Jawahar Lal Nehru Port
Trust, Mumbai.**

[Translation]

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): I would like to bring the Government's attention to the issue of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust. The Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust is a very beneficial port operated by the Government of India.

CIDCO acquired land from the village of Nava Seva to build the JNPT and promised to compensate the villagers by providing them with 23 hectares of land for village development. Local farmers were also assured that 12.5 percent of the total acquired land would be returned to them.

After hon. Narendra Modi became the Prime Minister, his first programme was held at the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, where he handed over land return letters to five local farmers. However, it is now stated by the district collector that these letters were incorrect, and no land is being given to the local farmers in any way. This has led to agitation by affected people and local farmers for their rights regarding the project.

Therefore, I urge the Government to take concrete steps on these issues and fulfill the promises made by immediately providing 23 hectares of land and 12.5 percent of the acquired land to the displaced farmers in both these villages.

(xviii) Need to review the Employees' Pension Scheme, 1995

[English]

SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY (KHAMMAM): The retired employees of Public and Private Sector Undertakings organizations covered by Employees Provident Fund Pension Scheme - 1995 are facing severe hardships due to non-revision of EPF pension for the last 17 years.

In fact, pension is basically a social security to ensure a steady income to the retired employees to lead rest of their life peacefully as they are no longer in a position to earn income. The Government Employees covered under GPF are getting a pension equivalent to 50% of their last drawn basic pay + DA benefits every 6 months time.

In case of employees working in Public & Private sector undertakings, only a meager amount of pension ranging from Rs.100/- to Rs. 1800/- p.m. has been provided depending on their service rendered under Employees Pension Scheme 1995 from 16/11/1995 onwards and it has not been revised for the past 17 years.

EPF authorities are considering the service from 16.11.1995 and calculating the pension ignoring the past service. Due to which the EPS 1995 pensioners are losing 50% of pension amount as against Rs. 5250 p.m. maximum. Further, I would like to draw the attention of the august

House that the Government is kind enough to pay pension to old age people around Rs. 500/- p.m. and freedom fighters and others too, more than Rs. 10,000/- p.m. but, whereas the employees who worked for more than 30-40 years are being paid only Rs. 100/- to Rs. 2,000/- p.m. depending on their service. Because of this, there is widespread resentment among retired employees against EPS Act, 1995.

Earlier, the committee of EPF had fixed a maximum pension of Rs. 3250/- in the year 1995. The same was not revised for last 17 years and there is a demand to revise it every 5 years with a minimum pension to be fixed at Rs 10,000/- p.m. without any limitation to maximum pension.

The revision of pension & payment of DA is to be done as and when the pay of Union Government Employees is revised apart from medical facility of Rs. 2,00,000/- is to be provided to all the employees of EPS, 1995. Pension contribution is also to be raised by Rs. 20,000/- p.m. to get increased pension.

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to consider the issue of revision of pension to EPS 1995 pensioners on humanitarian grounds.

**(xix) Regarding proposed speciality health services in
Lakshadweep**

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): In the field of health, Lakshadweep Administration has proposed to outsource speciality services at IGH Kavaratti, GH Minicoy CHC Andrott and CHC Amini. A detailed proposal with financial remarks to exchequer has been submitted to the Ministry for kind consideration.

It is, therefore, requested that the proposal put forward by UTL Administration for PPP agreement on the said healthcare units may kindly be considered.

(xx) Need to give recognition to four-year integrated B.A., B.Ed./B.Sc., B.Ed. programme of Central University of South Bihar by National Council of Teacher Education.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): I want to discuss the issues related to the students studying in the B.A.-B.Ed. and B.Sc.-B.Ed. (4-year integrated program) at the Department of Education, Central University of South Bihar (Session 2014-17 and 2015-18).

After the establishment of the Central University of South Bihar, a curriculum was started in this university under which many students enrolled in various courses, including B.A.-B.Ed. and B.Sc.-B.Ed. (4-year Integrated Course) and after many days of studies, students came to know that B.A.-B.Ed. and B.Sc.-B.Ed. (4-year-old Integrated Course) have not received recognition from the National Council for Teacher Education, resulting in the future of thousands of students studying in this course hanging in balance and only oral assurances from the university. In such circumstances, students who are deeply engaged in their studies are falling victim to mental depression, and they are unable to fulfill the expectations of their parents and society. The situation of many educational institutions in the country is similar, such as Indira Gandhi National Tribal University, Cuttack,

Indian Institute of Teacher Education, Gujarat, Dr. Hari Singh Gour University, Sagar, and students of Jharkhand Central University are also struggling with similar issues. Students are in despair due to such situations, and their future appears uncertain.

Therefore, I demand that the Government carefully consider and approve the ongoing courses in all the aforementioned institutions recognized by the National Council for Teacher Education (NCTE) so that the future of students can be brightened.

[English]

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to submit that for the last two weeks, the Members are requesting that there should be a debate on demonetization of currency... *(Interruptions)* the crusade against corruption; crusade against black money and crusade against everything and therefore, I would request you to commence the debate under Rule 193... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down. As the hon. Minister has requested, the debate should start now.

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, I would request you to kindly start the debate... *(Interruptions)*

14.02 hours**DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193****Demonetisation of currency notes to weed out black money**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab – Not present

Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Hon. Chairperson Sir, the intention of the hon. Prime Minister for curbing black money, corruption, fake money and terrorism in the country is welcome... *(Interruptions)*

14.03 hours

(At this stage, Shri K. C. Venugopal, Shri N.K. Premachandran and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Sir, the hon. Chief Minister of Telengana State, Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao on Monday has fully endorsed the demonetization policy implemented by the Centre and extended his whole-hearted support to it ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing except, what Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy, will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)*

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: However, he appealed to the hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to work towards eradicating the evil of black economy in toto and in all its forms. ... (*Interruptions*) He also urged the hon. Prime Minister to take measures to mitigate the sufferings of the people in general and informal, unorganized and agriculture sector in particular and provide some exemptions to the common man to withstand the hardships caused by the demonetization and non-availability of enough of currency in small denominations... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, the way they are obstructing my dear friend's speech is not at all appreciated.... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Sir, please bring the House to order. Only then the discussion can start.... (*Interruptions*) Sir, I request you to bring the House to order.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet again on Tuesday, the 6th December, 2016, at 11 a.m.

* Not recorded

14.06 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on
Tuesday, December 6, 2016 / Agrahayana 15, 1938 (Saka).*

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