Sixteenth Series, Vol. XV No. 7 Wednesday, March 02, 2016

Phalguna 12, 1937 (Saka)

# LOK SABHA DEBATES

## (English Version)

## Seventh Session

## (Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

*(Vol. XV contains Nos.1 to 10)*

## LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

## NEW DELHI

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# LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

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Wednesday, March 02, 2016/Phalguna 12, 1937 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

*... (Interruptions)*

**11.02 hours**

(*At this stage Shrimati V. Sathyabama and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*)

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Go to your seats. This is not proper.

…(*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Go to your seats. I will allow you afterwards, after the Question Hour, but not now. This is not proper. I just do not understand whatever you want to say. Please go to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

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**11.03 hours**

## *ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

**HON. SPEAKER:** Question No. 81, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra.

(Q.81)

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:** Hon. Speaker Madam, the reply given by the Hon. Minister is indeed very comprehensive. Through you, I wish to know from the Hon. Minister whether all the earlier sanctioned proposals have been duly implemented, and if not, what are the reasons for their non-implementation. ...*(Interruptions)* As the Hon. Minister has stated in his reply, one proposal has been sanctioned at Gorakhpur. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how many proposals have been received in total, how many are still pending, and what are the reasons for their pendency. ...*(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND**

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

**MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Madam Speaker, I would like to appeal to the Members who are agitating in the well. They have given a notice. Once you consider it, after the Question Hour is over – let them allow the Question Hour – the Government has no problem discussing it in any manner whatever the Speaker decides. We are willing for a discussion and necessary action also. I only appeal to them because Question Hour is very important. Please go back to your seat and then discuss it …. (*Interruptions*) You have been doing it every day. … (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** I will allow you after Question Hour but not during Question Hour.

… (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** P. Venugopal ji, I will allow you after Question Hour but not now.

… (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Sougata Ray ji, this is not fair.

… (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, you know that the Government is ready for the discussion. I am also ready to allow you to raise your issue after Question Hour. But we will not disrupt the Question Hour.

… (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** After Question Hour, we will see what we can do.

… (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nobody is allowed.

… (*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am not allowing anyone, not even him. You will be given an opportunity after the Question Hour.

. . . *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. P. Venugopal ji, please ask your party members to go back to their seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Hon. Speaker Madam, the Hon. Member has raised a very important question and sought certain information regarding the plant in Haryana. ... *(Interruptions)* Some details in this regard have already been provided. Out of the four States namely Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, Haryana and Punjab, Haryana is the first State where a nuclear plant is going to be established. During the tenure of the present Government, the delay which had occurred earlier has been compensated and the work on this project has commenced. ... *(Interruptions)* By the year 2021, when the work is completed, approximately 1400 megawatt nuclear energy will be generated from this plant and its cost will be around Rs.6.50 per unit. In addition, as the Hon. Member has enquired about other proposals, I would like to bring to his notice and also, through you, Madam, to the notice of the House, that in the *[English]* last two years, under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister and because the Hon. Prime Minister is taking personal interest in the expansion of the nuclear power programme, we have broadly proceeded at three, four levels. First is to set up the new establishments in areas which were

hitherto not covered like Haryana. At the same time, we are also exploring other areas in Haryana itself. In Bhiwandi, there are some problems. For example, we have the water problem in Bhiwandi. *[Translation]* Similarly, in Punjab, in Patiala district, there is an issue relating to defence land. In Uttarakhand, it is in Dehradun district, and in Uttar Pradesh, in Bulandshahr. My point is that, as the Hon. Member has asked, during the last one to one-and-a-half years, plans are being drawn up for setting up nuclear plants in several new States and locations and work is also underway. ... *(Interruptions)* In addition, with regard to the earlier plants where work had come to a halt, as you have indicated, we have made progress there as well. *[English]* For example, the members from Tamil Nadu, particularly, friends from AIDMK, will be glad to know that the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Amma, Jayalalitha ji was repeatedly requesting the Union Government and the present Government promptly responded regarding the Kudankulam Project which had got shut down. The first unit has become functional from the month of January. The second unit is going to be functional in the month of May. *[Translation]* Furthermore, taking an important decision, during the interval between the last Session and the present Session, we have established a 'Hall of Nuclear' at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would also request Hon. Members to kindly visit it because, since the headquarters of Atomic Energy is located in Mumbai, this step has been taken with a view to ensuring greater visibility in the Capital.

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. P. Venugopal ji, I told you that after Question Hour I will allow you to speak. If a proper notice is given and if the House agrees, I have no objection to allow the discussion. But this is not the way.

… (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, please go back to your seats.

… (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** After Question Hour, I will allow you but not now.

… (*Interruptions*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please go back to your seats. If all of you want discussion on any subject, I have no objection in allowing it but just now I will not allow anybody to speak. Please go back to your seats. After the Question Hour only, I will listen to everybody but not now.

… (*Interruptions*)

**11.11 hours**

*(At this stage, Shrimati V. Sathyabama and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.)*

… (*Interruptions*)

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA:** Hon. Speaker Madam, the Hon. Minister has given a very detailed reply, but I would like to state that some foreign NGOs do not wish that India should become self-reliant in this field. Therefore ... *(Interruptions)* are they in any manner creating obstacles in these schemes? ... *(Interruptions)* Does the Government have any such information, and what measures has the Government taken to deal with it?

**11.12 hours**

(*At this stage, Shri Kanti Lal Bhuria and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*)

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Hon. Speaker Madam, through the question raised by the Hon. Member, I would also like to assure other Members that the Government does not function under any kind of

pressure or influence. As far as the Department of Atomic Energy is concerned, under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, during the past one year we have taken several steps through which we can become more self-reliant. ... *(Interruptions)* For example, one major difficulty we used to face in the establishment of new plants was financial, as you have indicated. Therefore, in order to ensure greater participation through joint ventures, the Cabinet has taken a decision. Earlier, within Atomic Energy, we had only two PSUs, namely Nuclear Power Corporation Limited and Bhavini. ... *(Interruptions)* Now, after this amendment, other PSUs associated with the Union Government can also enter into partnership in joint ventures. Their investment will be there, while the technical know-how will be provided by Nuclear Power. With this decision, some PSUs have already made their offers. ... *(Interruptions)* The point is that, instead of depending on foreign resources, we are making efforts to generate resources from within. ... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI:** Hon. Speaker Madam, if any country has to progress, it must be self-reliant in the field of energy. I am deeply grateful to my Government and to our illustrious Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, that a decision has been taken to provide energy to all villages in the country within the coming one thousand days. ...

*(Interruptions)* I consider this to be a very significant decision and I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that, so far as atomic energy is concerned, various misconceptions are being spread about it, citing the incidents of Japan and Chernobyl. I wish to know from the Government that atomic energy is an eco-friendly source of energy and it can also address the energy requirements of the country. ... *(Interruptions)* Can the Government launch a mass movement so that more and more people may accept atomic energy?... *(Interruptions)*

So far as Gujarat is concerned, what is the progress in the atomic power project in South Gujarat? I express my gratitude to you for having given me this opportunity to speak.

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** The Hon. Member has asked a very important question to seek information, and the question has two parts. ... *(Interruptions)* So far as the first part is concerned, it is indeed correct that in the coming time nuclear power will remain a major source of energy for a country like India, and it will fulfil the growing energy needs of the country. ... *(Interruptions)* As you yourself have mentioned, our energy requirements are increasing day by day. With the inspiration of the Hon. Prime Minister, we have set before ourselves a target that after ten years from now our nuclear generation

capacity will become three times the present capacity. At present, it is 4780 megawatt, and ten years from now it will be threefold, that is 13,480 megawatt, so that it can meet the growing energy needs of India.

The second question relates to the perception that nuclear energy causes health hazards or adverse effects. Guided by the Hon. Prime Minister's mantra of 'Zero Defect and Zero Effect', we are working in that direction. You are right that we have also initiated a campaign with the participation of representatives of civil society and NGOs, because at times, the setting up of certain plants faces obstruction owing to the misconception among local people that it would cause health-related harm. Therefore, we endeavour to assure them with logic and data. For example, we explain to them that sixty-one years have passed since the establishment of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, which was set up in the year 1955. Till date, there is no evidence that any scientist working there has suffered from any disease or health problem on account of radiation hazard.

As regards the accidents and incidents that have taken place abroad, you referred to Japan and Hiroshima. For that also, we have adopted safeguards. The Fukushima accident had several causes, one

of them being that it was located in a seismic zone. But most of our plants, such as Kudankulam, are far beyond seismic vulnerability. The point is that these plants have been established while observing all necessary safeguards. I agree with you that public participation is essential so that greater awareness may be spread among the people in this regard.

**SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT:** Hon. Speaker Madam, in order to enhance generation in the energy sector, the Hon. Prime Minister has taken a very significant decision for the production of 175 gigawatt renewable energy, such as solar energy. At present, the menace of global warming has emerged, and if we are to protect ourselves from global warming, it is essential to increase the production of renewable energy. With regard to nuclear power projects, while there are doubts in the minds of local people, many scientists still opine that, in the present situation, nuclear power projects are not beneficial and that there is greater need for the production of renewable energy.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister the possible reasons behind at least eleven scientists at BARC having committed suicide over the past several years. Further, instead of nuclear power projects,

what greater measures are being taken by the Government for the development of renewable power projects, and how successful are you in this endeavour?

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** The Hon. Member's question has two or three parts. One part has already been addressed in the previous reply, namely, that public awareness is required so that no apprehension of health hazards becomes an impediment in the establishment of new plants. As regards the other point raised about eleven such cases of suicides, we have also examined that data. Under a detailed exercise, we analysed in respect of scientists the causes of death, whether natural or unnatural. In those cases where deaths were unnatural, none of them was related in any way to radiation hazard. Some were due to accidents, while others were due to different causes. Even in those cases where deaths occurred on account of cancer, we made an effort to analyse whether remotely or in any manner it was related to radiation hazard, and we found that such cancer-related deaths too were not connected with radiation hazard. Therefore, so far as suicides are concerned, it would not be correct to link them with radiation hazard.

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:** Hon. Speaker Madam, I support the reply given by the Hon. Minister. But, through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that Bihar is a backward State, there is still shortage of electricity there, and it is economically weak. Therefore, would the Hon. Minister kindly consider setting up a nuclear power plant in Bihar?

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Certainly, the Hon. Member will be pleased to know that a site had been identified for the establishment of a nuclear power plant at Rajauli in Nawada district. This was done during the tenure of the present Government itself, in the last 18–19 months. A little delay occurred because there was a problem of water there. The required quantity of water, which is essential, was not adequately available. Discussions on this matter are going on with the State Government. As soon as this is resolved, work will proceed in this regard. It is already included in our plan.

**(Q. 82)**

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:** Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Chief Minister of Maharashtra made a public statement on 20th November, 2015 saying that the State bureaucracy was not co-operating and was posing a hurdle in implementation of policies and schemes. Maharashtra has a great legacy of having outstanding bureaucrats who have not only served in Maharashtra but have served at the Centre as well. This Government talks about 'Minimum Government and Maximum Governance'. … (*Interruptions*) So, by making such statements, it is actually hurting the bureaucrats who have really given a lot of their time. So, is it not a contradiction to what is being said in our State and what the Union Government is saying they would like to do for the bureaucrats?… (*Interruptions*)

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Hon. Speaker Madam, I think it will be neither appropriate for me nor is it a part of my purview to respond to what a certain Chief Minister in a certain State or in a given context has said. But having said that, since the Hon. Member has made a mention of the Prime Minister's 'Minimum Government and

Maximum Governance' mantra, I would like to share with the House that in the last 20 months, we have made a big headway and we are very seriously cautious of the fact that if indeed we have to achieve the Prime Minister's objective of maximum governance, our essential tool of governance is a bureaucrat. ... *(Interruptions)* So, if the tools are not good, the carpenter cannot function, and therefore, the present Government, without being vindictive, without indulging in witch hunting, has taken a number of steps to create a work friendly environment for the bureaucrats, and we have gone one step further to introduce certain safeguards against arbitrary decisions against bureaucrats. ... *(Interruptions)* For example, the suspension procedure has been modified. We now have a more broad based review committee without whose recommendation the suspension order of an officer of all-India service cannot be carried out, and having carried out the suspension order, the Government has to be intimated within 48 hours. ...*(Interruptions)*

Besides that, the transfer policy has been appropriately modified, particularly, in the context of those bureaucrats who have specially abled children. So, in that case we will give them the relaxation to continue staying in certain stations where their children can be well

attended. Similarly, 9,836 vacancies meant for specially abled officers have been filled up.... *(Interruptions)*

And, one more very revolutionary step has been taken, which was not thought of by the earlier Governments. ... *(Interruptions)* We have now introduced the provision of maternity leave even for the surrogate mothers, which is a very forward-looking step. ... *(Interruptions)*So, six months of maternity leave provision is there even for the surrogate mothers. Besides this, beginning from April last year, we have started regular morning and evening Yoga sessions, and the response is very encouraging. ... *(Interruptions)*

The LTC facility has been made much simpler. The idea is to provide ease of governance, transparency of governance and a work friendly environment so that the bureaucrat can function to the best of his ability.... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE:** Madam, I appreciate the reply of the Minister, especially the consideration for the differently-abled as well as women.... *(Interruptions)* What is he doing so that the efficiency of the bureaucracy goes up and the benefits the common man can get so that we can serve them better together? ... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Madam Speaker, I highly appreciate the question put by the Hon. Member. This is indeed also the priority of the Government and under the guidance of the Prime Minister, I believe that if we have to make governance more citizen centric, in today's India, that is, 2016 India, citizen centricity essentially means youth centricity because we have more than 65 percent of the population which is below the age of 35. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, I am glad to share with you that within three months of taking over, this Government abolished the age old practice of getting attestation from gazetted officers, which was a legacy of the British *raj*, and no Government had ever dared to abolish it. ... *(Interruptions)*

Beginning from 1st January this year, we have abolished interviews in Group 'C', 'D' and non-gazetted posts so that youth have a level playing field regardless of their background, regardless of their stream, and they do not have to undergo unnecessary harassment. ... *(Interruptions)*

Three, beginning from 25th of December, that was the Sushasan Divas marking the birthday of Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee Ji, we have introduced the process of simplifying the application forms so that we can have a non-repetitive minimum information form limited only to

a single page. All these measures are directed to make things simpler and easier for the common citizen of this country, particularly the youth of this country. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN:** Hon. Speaker, Madam, India has seen a very big Aircel-Maxis scandal in the UPA Government under the leadership of Congress Party and its allies ...* the DMK Party. Many high officials associated with the then Finance Minister... * and then Minister for Communications, Information and Technology, ... * were involved in illegal appropriation of money and huge loss to the Government exchequer. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, I would like to know from the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, through Hon. Speaker, whether any action has been taken against... *and such officials? Thank you, Madam. ... *(Interruptions)*

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Hon. Speaker, although this question does not fall strictly within the purview of the Department which I am representing through this question, as far as the question of bureaucrats are concerned, we are very strict as far as action against corruption is concerned. On the one hand, we keep in mind that there

* Not recorded.

should not be vindictiveness and on the other, there is zero tolerance against any corruption or malpractice. … *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI HARISH MEENA:** Hon. Speaker Sir, I welcome the measures being taken by the Government. Along with this, I would also like to ask the Hon. Minister whether, in the name of bringing efficiency into the Central Services, there would not be any injustice caused to certain sections? Because I have observed that among the officers at the level of Additional Secretary and above in the Union Government, the representation of the poorer sections is very limited. May I request the Hon. Minister to kindly state how the interests of the backward classes, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and minorities would be safeguarded in the representation of officers at the level of Additional Secretary and above?

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Hon. Speaker Sir, it would indeed be appropriate to state, in general terms, that if there had been such anomalies or disparities, this Government has endeavoured to remove them. For example, our Prevention of Corruption (Amendment) Bill is under consideration of the Standing Committee of Parliament. We have sought to introduce an amendment therein to ensure that the

safeguard available to officers at the level of Additional Secretary and above against prosecution, namely, the requirement of prior sanction, would also be made available to all, so that officers at the lower levels too may have the same protection. As far as the backward classes are concerned, I had stated in reply to the previous question that 9,836 posts have been filled and the process is continuing. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Those who are raising slogans in the Well, I want to make it clear to the whole House that there is a procedure for the Privilege Motion. This procedure is not conducted in the House itself. It is decided by the Speaker's Office. Therefore, whatever notices of Privilege Motion are received are examined in accordance with that procedure. No adjudication is done here. Many of you are new Members, hence I am informing you for your knowledge.

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Hon. Madam, the name of a leader has been referred to in a question. He is not a Member of the House, he is the

former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I request that his name should be deleted from the record.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I apologise. At times, in the din I am unable to hear certain things and therefore some confusion occurs. As per the established procedure, if the name of a person who is not a Member of the House is mentioned here, it does not go on record.

Question No.83, Shri Dharmendra Yadav.

**(Q.83)**

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:** Hon. Speaker Madam, the Hon. Minister of Railways has held a partial discussion with the World Bank regarding the Rail Development Fund. The Minister has laid a written reply on the Table of the House. In that reply, he has not clarified whether any time-frame has been fixed for the constitution of the Rail Development Fund with the World Bank. Within that time-frame, what would be the extent of participation of the World Bank and what would be the participation of Indian Railways? ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please put your question.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:** None of these issues have been replied to in your answer to this question. ... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I would like to tell the Hon. Minister of Railways that you are making new announcements every day. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dharmendra ji, please put your question.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:** You are also talking about running a bullet train. ... *(Interruptions)* But more than 70 per cent of the population of our country still ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dharmendra ji, please put your question.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:** It is connected with the villages, the poor, the farmers ... *(Interruptions)* connected with the poor families ... *(Interruptions)* There has been no progress in their facilities ... *(Interruptions)* There has been no development in their facilities ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record. You ask only a question.

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

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:** By when will these be completed?...*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have only to ask the question, not to make a speech.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI SURESH PRABHU:** Hon. Speaker Madam, the question that has been asked is regarding our discussions with the World Bank for improving different facilities of Railways. ... *(Interruptions)* The concern expressed by our esteemed Member is also our concern. ... *(Interruptions)* In order to expand railway transport as much as possible in the interest of the poor, the farmers and the rural people of our country, and because we do not have sufficient resources available in full measure, we have initiated discussions with the World Bank.

* Not recorded.

... *(Interruptions)* Our talks with them are going on. Once these discussions are concluded, the House will be apprised of the outcome. ... *(Interruptions)* I can say today that we have been in discussions for a long time; we had one even yesterday and these will continue further. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please put the second supplementary. Only the question. Do not digress.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:** Hon. Speaker Madam, it is good if what they are saying materialises. ... *(Interruptions)*

But even in his reply just now, the Hon. Minister of Railways has not clarified what the time-frame is. The Hon. Minister is expressing commitment ... *(Interruptions)* but through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that seventy-three Members of Parliament from Uttar Pradesh have been elected in support of this Government. ... *(Interruptions)* Yet, the Hon. Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh has placed certain demands regarding the problems of Uttar Pradesh. ... *(Interruptions)* Although at this moment you may not provide the Etawah-Mainpuri railway line ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Speaker Madam, my specific question is ... *(Interruptions)* the Etawah-

Mainpuri railway line was announced in the year 1996 ... *(Interruptions)* and it has not been completed till date. ... *(Interruptions)* I want to know specifically by when the Etawah–Mainpuri railway line will be completed. ... *(Interruptions)* Secondly, the railway line from Gajraula, Sambhal, Badaun and Etah to Mainpuri ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Your question is not related to this question.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV:** Hon. Speaker Madam, this fund is meant for development and the question is about this fund. ... *(Interruptions)* I want to know about these schemes, by when will you complete them? ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SURESH PRABHU:** Hon. Speaker Madam, I had already replied to the earlier question raised by the Hon. Member. ... *(Interruptions)* The supplementary question now being asked has no relation to the main question. ... *(Interruptions)* For Uttar Pradesh, we have made the highest ever provision of funds in this Budget. ... *(Interruptions)* Such an allocation for Uttar Pradesh has perhaps never been made before. ... *(Interruptions)* would certainly like to say that

the projects relating to Uttar Pradesh will be completed. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE:** Hon. Speaker Madam, Japan is providing financial assistance for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train, and this announcement was made by the Hon. Minister of Railways in the previous Railway Budget ... *(Interruptions)* In this Railway Budget, the Hon. Minister has announced the Mumbai–Panvel Elevated Train. ... *(Interruptions)* While in Mumbai, seventy-five lakh people travel daily. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether, just as Japan is providing financial assistance for the Mumbai-Ahmedabad Bullet Train, any other country will provide financial assistance for the Mumbai–Panvel Elevated Train. ... *(Interruptions)* By when will the work on the Mumbai–Panvel Elevated Train be completed? ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI SURESH PRABHU:** Madam, this supplementary question is not connected with the main question. However, I would like to inform that under PPP, we will soon invite a global Expression of Interest from across the world. Thereafter, whichever country wishes to cooperate in this project, we shall certainly seek their assistance.

*[English]*

**SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH:** Madam Speaker, when the Hon. Minister talks about modernization of Indian Railways, the use of eco-friendly, clean energy resources should be an integral part of this development.

My question has two parts. What percentage of the Railway Development Fund has been dedicated for developing and implementing such modernization techniques that will make Railways energy efficient as well as environment friendly and how? My second part of the question, which is to be taken up by the Government, is about sharing enhanced knowledge and technology tie-up with developed countries to improve the overall services of the Indian Railways.

**SHRI SURESH PRABHU:** Madam, it is a very important component of our strategy, how to improve the energy efficiency, how to change the energy profile of Railways, how to bring in more renewable energy into the system, and how to optimise the use of energy generally – whether it is diesel, traction power, or electricity. To do all this, we are taking a number of measures, but it is not necessary to be dependent only on the World Bank fund that we are

trying to create. If the World Bank fund can be devoted to this, we will do it, but it is not necessarily confined only to that. This is part of an overall strategy.

As far as integration of high-end technology into the Railways is concerned, it is a continuous endeavour on the part of the Railways. We will continue to do that. This fund also will help us to access different kinds of resources at low cost for the development of the railway network.

**(Q. 84)**

**DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:** Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Finance Minister for the special budgetary allocation he has done for the skill development among youth. It is a very ambitious programme of the Union Government.

In my constituency, Nandurbar, a similar kind of skill training was carried out by the Tribal Ministry for many years. It has been observed that many of the skilled trainees, in spite of getting training of more than two types, have not got jobs, yet. In the rural areas especially, it becomes very difficult for the skilled trainees to approach the desired industry or the company, since they stay in an area which is away from the industrial area.

If the Government establishes a professional employment exchange bureau, it will serve four different purposes. First of all, it will provide appropriate jobs for those who are skilled trainees. Secondly, it will also give the industries the kind of skilled manpower they want. Thirdly, it will give an exact data of how many skilled trainees have got training and how many of them have got jobs and how many of them have not got jobs. Lastly, it will also give an idea to the Government as to which are the skilled trainees with training are in demand and which are not.

Therefore, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry will set up such a kind of a professional employment exchange bureau for the skilled trainees that will be run by the professionals under the Union Government.

**THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD):** It is a very good question.

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Madam Speaker, the question related to the ITIs and the World Bank support to the ITIs. Nonetheless, that has been answered in my reply.

In fact, the Hon. Members also gave certain suggestions in regard to what should be done. It is a very valid point that industry linkage for employment actually has not been taking place in this country. The industry has always been saying that they do not require a workforce with degrees or higher education, but they do require people who can get the skills and join the industry at the entry level. In the absence of industry linkage, a large part of the workforce could not get suitably employed. The industry has always been saying that they require skilled manpower for which a large eco-system has been created.

Speaker Madam, this is why the concept of Sector Skill Councils has come. The Hon. Members asked whether a skill gap study has been done in this country. The National Skill Development Corporation has done the skill gap studies. For example, in the construction sector we require about three crore young people in the next five years; in the retail sector we have mapped and found out that we require 1.6 crore people; in health services we require about 40 lakh people. Similar is the case with automotive, life sciences, and plumbing sectors.

So, many skills which were not professionally being imparted in ITIs have been brought into the framework of skills here. In this

regard we have identified and created more than 1000 job roles for which training has been done across the country under the ecosystem of skill development. The Prime Minister has very categorically said that skilling has to be proliferated to the remotest village and for that this Ministry has been entrusted. That is why we are saying under the new budget which has been tabled, we are going to establish a Model Skills Centre in each and every District vis-à-vis the Parliamentary Constituencies, and once this District Skills Centres are established we would like to establish spokes across the Panchayats and the villages. But it would not be run in one year. It would be a prolonged programme because skill has never been a focus area so far. Many Ministries were doing skills but the convergence which has been created now will assist us in getting a large ecosystem of skills because that target we talk is to train the unorganised workforce which has been there in the system for a long time and the skilling has become the topmost priority of the Prime Minister and the Government.

**DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:** Are a majority of people going abroad not skilled? If so, have the Ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs decided to collaborate on training and certifying jobseekers wishing to emigrate? If so, what are the details thereof?

Have the Ministry and the Ministry of External Affairs also signed a Memorandum of Understanding in this regard? If so, what are the details thereof along with the time by which this will be put in place?

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** This is a very important question, Madam, and I had a consultation with the Minister of External Affairs Shrimati Sushma Swaraj. The figures which have come to us show that a lot of the workforce which migrates to the Middle East and other places is, due to the absence of skills, accused of charges. And I think there are a large number of Indians who are languishing in the jails of some of these countries simply because they were not trained or were not trained enough to be employable in these countries. And they paid huge amounts of money within the country and certain touts took them out where they were not actually employable. As a result, cases were instituted against them. And even drivers who are taken abroad are not skilled enough to drive internationally. As a result this situation has arisen. And the Hon. External Affairs Minister has pointed this out. So, we have established the Domestic Help Sector Skill Council, and other services Sector Skill Councils, and we have already prepared an MoU which has yet to be signed with the Ministry of External Affairs. But since there was a merger in that Ministry and the Ministry of Overseas Affairs was merged with the Ministry of

External Affairs, this process was delayed. But we are in the process to see that all that manpower which goes abroad is certified and skilled by this Ministry so that we can establish an ecosystem of all those people who are going abroad because India alone can become the hub for providing the skilled workforce for the world. We have realised this potential and we are working in that direction.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MOHITE PATIL VIJAYSINH SHANKARRAO:** Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister how many centres have been opened in Maharashtra and how much money has been spent? ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Hon. Speaker Madam, when we speak about skill, it is not as if the work on skill has begun only today. ... *(Interruptions)* In this country, work on skill was being undertaken earlier as well in different Departments. ... *(Interruptions)* We have only sought to provide a proper framework for it. ... *(Interruptions)* Maharashtra, in itself, has been doing commendable work in the field of skill and I would like to compliment the Government of Maharashtra for the excellent progress made there in skill development and ITIs. ... *(Interruptions)* However, there is need to

accelerate it further. ... *(Interruptions)* I have been in regular touch with the Chief Minister of Maharashtra and his Government. ... *(Interruptions)* And in the multi skill centres that will be established across the country or the skill centres that will be established at the constituency level, special attention will be given to Maharashtra. I can assure you that when multi-skill centres are set up across the country, or skill centres are established at the constituency level, Maharashtra will be given special attention. .... *(Interruptions)* I can assure you this. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI KAVITHA KALVAKUNTLA:** Hon. Speaker Madam, the Hon. Minister had mentioned that he would like to open a model skill development centre for each district. ... *(Interruptions)* But I would like to remind him that we already have something called as Nehru Yuva Kendras at district level. In any of the skill development initiatives taken up so far, these Yuva Kendras have not been made a part. Is there any further plan to do it?

Apart from that, in the General Budget 1500 model skill development centres with a budget of Rs 1600 crore were announced.

*... (Interruptions)* I just want to understand if this budget is to upgrade the existing ITIs or are you going to create new infrastructure?

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Madam, there were two questions which Hon. Member has asked. One is about Nehru Yuva Kendra. *... (Interruptions)* There are many organisations and departments in the Government of India which have centres. For example, Nehru Yuva Kendra is under the Ministry of Sports. There are many organisations which actually have the platform where skills can start. *... (Interruptions)* That is why we are trying to get in touch with all these Ministries who have the platform and an organisation which can be used for skilling. For example, there is Krishi Vigyan Kendra. Almost every district in the country has Krishi Vigyan Kendra. But they are not a part of us as far as skilling is concerned. *... (Interruptions)* So, in the agriculture sector, we can use this Krishi Vigyan Kendra to partner to train people, because this Ministry cannot go and create infrastructure any more or in a situation to create infrastructure.

As far as ITIs are concerned, since 2007, there have been a lot of schemes in which to support ITIs especially in the Government sector. *... (Interruptions)*

I can mention all those schemes but in times to come we have taken two major schemes from the World Bank to upgrade these ITIs and that is under consideration. ... *(Interruptions)* The World Bank has approved it. So, for further upgradation of another 500 ITIs, we are trying to raise resources under PPP mode so that all these ITIs which are still left and have not been covered under the World Bank scheme could be considered for further development.... *(Interruptions)* We are also talking about creation of Centres of Excellence in ITIs which will become a hub of training in clusters. So, we have a huge ecosystem both for the ITIs and the skill centres which we are going to establish. ... *(Interruptions)* Under the skill framework, we plan to train about one crore children in next three years and also in ITIs, we have increased the number of seats so that more training in the formal skill sector takes place.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI GOPAL SHETTY:** Hon. Speaker Madam, I thank you for having given me this opportunity. ... *(Interruptions)* The Hon. Minister has given a very detailed reply and he has also stated that Maharashtra has the largest number of centres. ... *(Interruptions)* The maximum amount of funds has also been provided there. ...

*(Interruptions)* However, compared to other States, lesser funds are being allocated to Maharashtra, and the Hon. Minister should pay attention to this aspect as well. … *(Interruptions)*

My second point is that much of such work is also being done in the private sector. ... *(Interruptions)* In my constituency, a centre at Kora is being run by the Government of Maharashtra. ... *(Interruptions)* There, 50 children are studying, while 32 Government officials are working. ... *(Interruptions)* The entire money is being spent only on paying the salaries of the officials. ... *(Interruptions)*

Another matter which I wish to bring to the notice of the Hon. Minister is that extra money is also being taken from the children there. ... *(Interruptions)* That is to say, they are not receiving the benefit of the funds provided by the Government, and on top of that, additional money is being charged from them. ... *(Interruptions)* Will the Hon. Minister undertake an inquiry into this matter and ensure immediate action against such officials in the coming days? ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:** Madam, on the issue he has raised, the work of training is going on under the state government. ... *(Interruptions)* The State Governments pay attention to it themselves.

... *(Interruptions)* The Union Government alone cannot accomplish this mammoth task of sitting at the Centre and completing the skilling work across the country.... *(Interruptions)* Participation of state governments is necessary in this.... *(Interruptions)* If about one case about which the Hon. Members are telling, if they give information, we will find out whether it is the Centre's plan or a state plan. ... *(Interruptions)* We will also tell the state governments to fully cooperate in the coming days to handhold the State Governments to improve the overall ecosystem of skills and to align them with entire ecosystem of National Skill Qualification Framework, we have a World Bank project where we are not only going to partner with the State Governments, but we are also going to partner with Corporates under the CSR to leverage their support to us. Suppose, a Corporate spends Rs 100 crore in skilling, we will leverage them to another Rs 100 crore with the World Bank support. So, we are creating various systems. But even the skill work that is being done in the state governments is not completely subordinate to us, but we support them, handhold them and try to strengthen their systems and institutions. If the Hon. Member give this information, I will definitely provide information about it.

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Q. 85, Shri Ram Prasad Sarmah - not present.

Mr. Minister may lay the answer.

Now, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel.

**(Q. 85)**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL:** Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister an important question. Since I often visit Manipur, I have seen that there are railway projects as well as NHAI works, for instance, the road from Silchar to Moreh in Manipur. Secondly, I wish to bring to your notice that in Arunachal, the people desire that the irrigation projects of Siyang-I and Siyang-II be completed in time, but it is often stated that they are being held up on the pretext of agitations in Assam. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister how such deadlocks, which arise in connection with major projects, will actually be resolved, because all the resources are available there for completing the projects in time. The Government deserves appreciation for having taken railways to that region. The projects which were initiated during the time of Atal ji have been completed today, but what steps will the Hon. Minister take to deal with the deliberate obstructions that are created in their way?

**DR. JITENDRA SINGH:** Hon. Speaker Madam, the Hon. Member has raised a very important question and certainly it is generally accepted that many of our projects in the North-East are facing delays. Since he also visits that region frequently, he has mentioned certain aspects with reference to Arunachal Pradesh. With your permission, I would like to state that whenever a deadlock arises at the social level on some issue, we can attempt to resolve it socially. But sometimes our concern is that despite the best efforts and full attention from the Union Government and our Ministry, and particularly under the present Government when the Hon. Prime Minister himself accords such high priority to the North-East, with all Ministers being vigilant and as many as eight Ministers visiting the region every fifteen days, even then, delays are occurring in projects due to lack of cooperation from the State Governments. This is a greater cause for concern. For example, the Hon. Member who raised this question himself belongs to Assam, and in his State one such project has been delayed. This is an NEC project, known as the Pakke–Seijosa–Itakhola Road, which falls in Tezpur constituency. It is a road project. Out of its total length, 70 kilometres fall in Arunachal Pradesh and 16.16 kilometres in Assam. Now, just see the irony of it. Funds have already been allocated by our Ministry. Out of the total amount earmarked for this

project, we have released Rs.10 crore to Arunachal Pradesh and Rs.5 crore to Assam. Tendering has been completed in Assam but tendering has not yet been undertaken in Arunachal Pradesh. Despite repeated requests by the Union Government, this has not happened. Not only this, if you permit me, I would like to take one more minute. Our new Secretary of the North Eastern Council assumed charge five months ago. I can give you figures which may cause concern and for which we also seek your cooperation. On 16 December, our Secretary held a meeting with the Chief Secretary of Assam. On 30 January, a meeting was held with the Chief Minister of Assam. Three DO letters were written on 24 September 2015, 21 December 2015 and 15 February 2016. A review meeting was also held on 16 December. Even then, no response has been received from there. Our greater concern is that the utilisation certificates should come from the State Governments in time. ... *(Interruptions)* The DPRs should be provided to us in the required format. ... *(Interruptions)* Because of administrative reasons at the State level, greater delays are taking place. ... *(Interruptions)*

**(Q. 86)**

**SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:** Hon. Speaker Madam, the development of the local area by Members of Parliament, which is mainly felt at the local level, or the rules and provisions given to us in writing, I agree with them. ... *(Interruptions)* But when natural calamities occur, or in case of fire when houses are burnt, poor people begin to cry and they feel that since they have cast their vote, the Hon. MP should do something for them. ... *(Interruptions)* In such situations, I would like to know that the expectations they have cannot be fulfilled by us. ... *(Interruptions)* From time to time, we keep thinking how we may help them. ... *(Interruptions)* When a fire has gutted their house, children are left hungry and unclothed on the road. ... *(Interruptions)* We face such situations. ... *(Interruptions)* Will there be any amendment in the rule so that we may extend relief to them? ... *(Interruptions)* In such calamities, can we extend help to the people? ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether, under the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Scheme, in case of sudden natural calamities like flood, drought and fire, immediate assistance can be given to the people from these funds. ... *(Interruptions)* Will this be considered? ... *(Interruptions)* At the same

time, in the present era of inflation, because of the limited availability of funds, we also desire that the amount under MPLADS be enhanced so that the work may be completed. ... *(Interruptions)*

**GENERAL (RETD.) VIJAY KUMAR SINGH:** Hon. Speaker Madam, this question has two parts. ... *(Interruptions)* The first part relates to providing relief for natural calamities. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to inform all Hon. Members that whenever a natural calamity is declared, and whenever we are informed by the two Committees of the House, we write to all Members and tell them that they may provide funds for that purpose. ... *(Interruptions)* But under this Scheme, funds cannot be given for individual purposes. ... *(Interruptions)* This Scheme has been made for works of development and for certain permanent assets. ... *(Interruptions)* If some houses are burnt and such cases do not fall under natural calamity, then there is no provision for them under this Scheme. ... *(Interruptions)*

The second point which the Hon. Member has raised is whether the amount under MPLADS will be increased. In this regard, discussions have been going on for the last three to four years. ... *(Interruptions)* The matter is with the Ministry of Finance. ...

*(Interruptions)* On the day when this amount is increased, all Members will be duly informed. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI:** Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to ask a second question. With the awareness with which our people have exercised their right to vote, they have begun to feel that it is our Government that has been formed in India. ... *(Interruptions)* A ray of hope has arisen among them. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, either the amount under MPLADS should be increased, or a special provision should be made to extend assistance to them in times of calamity, so that we may feel that we have done something for them. ... *(Interruptions)*

**GENERAL (RETD.) VIJAY KUMAR SINGH:** Hon. Speaker Madam, I have already replied to this question. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI LAXMAN GILUWA:** Hon. Speaker Madam, though I have received a reply from the Hon. Minister to my question, ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to mention about the Saranda forest in Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency, which is world famous. ... *(Interruptions)* I represent the Singhbhum Parliamentary Constituency. ... *(Interruptions)* It is a predominantly tribal area. ... *(Interruptions)* In the Saranda forest, wild animals are found in large

numbers. ... *(Interruptions)* When they move out in herds, they devastate entire villages and houses. ... *(Interruptions)*

Through you, I would like to ask the Government whether houses damaged by wild animals, whereby entire villages are ravaged, can be given immediate benefit from the Members of Parliament Local Area Development Fund. Does the Government propose to bring any amendment in this regard? ... *(Interruptions)* As the Hon. Minister has said, funds can be given in cases of natural calamities. Through you, I want to know from the Government whether the houses destroyed by wild animals can also be compensated from this head.

**GENERAL (RETD.) VIJAY KUMAR SINGH:** Madam Speaker, if such a situation is declared a natural calamity by the State Government, then there is a provision for it. But if it is not so declared, then our hands are tied..

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02.03.2016

# *WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos. 87 to 100

Unstarred Question Nos. 921 to 1150

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

**12.00 hours**

## PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, Papers to be laid.

*[Translation]*

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

(1) (I) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014, together with the Audit Report thereon.

(II) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Audited Accounts of the Haj Committee of India, Mumbai, for the year 2013-2014.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4119/16/16]

*... (Interruptions)*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEVELOPMENT OF NORTH EASTERN REGION, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS, DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (DR. JITENDRA SINGH):** Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the All India Services (Discipline and Appeal) (Amendment) Rules, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1001(E) in Gazette of India dated 23rd December, 2015 under sub-section (2) of Section 3 of the All India Services Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4120/16/16]

2) A copy of the Union Public Service Commission (Exemption from Consultation) Amendment Regulations, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 1002(E) in the

Gazette of India dated 23rd December, 2015 under Article 320(5) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4121/16/16]

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):** Madam, on behalf of my colleague Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chandigarh Waqf Council, Chandigarh, for the year 2014-2015.

(2) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Chandigarh Waqf Council, Chandigarh, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4122/16/16]

02.03.2016

*... (Interruptions)*

02.03.2016

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

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Railway Information Systems, 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 Centre for Railway Information Systems, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4123/16/16]

*... (Interruptions)*

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02.03.2016

**12.01hours**

## COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

### 19th Report

**SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA):** Madam, I beg to present the Nineteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Prof. Sougata Ray, Sarvbashri Jay Prakash Narayan Yadav and Anto Antony.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** Madam, there should be some clarification about EPF also. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The matters can be raised during discussion on the General Budget.

Sarvashri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Malikarjun Kharge, K.C. Venugopal, Sarvashri Rajesh Ranjan and Ravneet Singh have also tabled notices 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)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have called the name of Shri Mallikarjun Kharge.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have disallowed it.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** There is no place for them. Shoot them, finish them. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members I have received notices of question of privilege given by Shri N.K. Premachandran, Shri K.C. Venugopal and Mohammad Salim, Prof. Sougata Ray. The matter is under my consideration.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record.

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

* Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Madam Speaker, the issue raised by Shri Sougata Ray is already under the consideration of the Finance Minister. It will be discussed later.. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please go back to your seats now.

**12.04 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Ravneet Singh and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.)*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** What are you talking about? The Hon. Member have raised an issue. I said that it has come to the notice of the Finance Minister.

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

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Prof. Sougata Ray has said something.

**HON. SPEAKER:** You can raise it during Budget discussion. Discussion on Budget will be there and that is why I have disallowed all these things. Please understand it.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The question of privilege is also under my consideration. I have told you that.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ):** You cannot have double standards.

**HON. SPEAKER:** What do you want? Please go back to your seats first. I do not understand. If you all keep standing like this I just cannot understand, what is it?

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):** Madam, an issue was raised by Prof. Sougata Ray and Shri Venkaiahji responded to that. I think the CPF issue has created a fantastic problem throughout the nation and it is to be addressed. Hon. Jaitleyji can primarily address it today.

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):** Let me tell my Hon. colleague that we are seized of the problem and I will address it in the budget discussion. You please do not worry.

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY:** Madam, today some situation has arisen here. What is the reason for that? Decision, discussion and debate but no disruption, this is our policy. But when the Leader of the Opposition, though not officially acknowledged to which we have strong dissent that he should have been made Leader of the Opposition in the meantime which would have served democracy in a better way, was trying to raise some issue. I think he should be allowed to raise it for a while. When the Members from AIADMK were raising some issue, you told them that this will be discussed or will be allowed to raise and they went back. The Indian National Congress with our support also wanted to say something about the Privilege Notice. So, I would request you to allow them to at least point out the issue. The privilege issue cannot be discussed on the floor of the House. That is under your discretion.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Sougata Ray, it is your own Leader who is speaking. I am not interrupting him.

*... (Interruptions)*

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Please listen for a minute. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** What is this? Should I fold my hands?

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am allowing. It is your own Leader who is speaking. I have not interrupted him. And now you speak to the Speaker in this manner.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY:** Mr. Meghwalji was allowed to say something on a privilege notice. Therefore, the Congress Party should also be allowed to, at least, raise this matter. In this way, the democratic functioning will strengthen. After that the matter is under your consideration and you will proceed according to the rules. Therefore, my submission is to let Kharge ji make his submission so that the House also runs smoothly.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now that you have raised the issue, I have not told anyone.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have not said no to anybody. I have said that I will allow it after Question Hour and I always say this.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** In the case of a Privilege issue also, the one whose name comes first, he can only raise it. Afterwards, there is a procedure, as you may say. Even earlier, he had been given the opportunity to raise it.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I said by name that it is under my consideration. Then I sent him a reply. It is under procedure. I am not refusing.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now I will not give an explanation for everybody. Sometimes, it happens that notices come after 10 o'clock and I cannot take them on that day.

*[Translation]*

**SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN (SUPAUL):** Madam, my name has been taken in the House. ... *(Interruptions)* Madam, the Hon. Minister has taken my name. ... *(Interruptions)* Give me a chance to speak for two minutes. ... *(Interruptions)* You allowed the Hon. Minister to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Ranjeeta ji, should I give you time to speak for two minutes?

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN:** Madam Speaker, he insulted me, pointed a finger at me and threatened me. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** All right, you may speak. If that resolves your concern, I am giving you the opportunity to speak.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN:** Hon. Speaker Madam, I want that letter to be read out so that it may be known what exactly I had

written in it ... *(Interruptions)* What wrong have I written in that letter? ... *(Interruptions)* It is not the duty of the HRD Minister to exercise her quota of Kendriya Vidyalayas. ... *(Interruptions)* When we recommend in favour of some poor person, we do so within our district, and otherwise, at the all-India level, through the Minister. ... *(Interruptions)* How could she link this letter with the Vemula incident, and in such a threatening tone she named me? That is the difference between an elected Member and a '…* Member'. Some people have only selected her. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please do not say so.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN:** But she does not know the ground reality, that in order to come to this Lok Sabha, we have to clasp the hands and feet of 20 lakh people. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please sit down.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have stated your point, so now please sit down.

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*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRIMATI RANJEET RANJAN:** We had written that letter only for her official work. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now nothing will go on record. You have raised your matter.

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

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Ranjeeta ji, your Privilege Motion had come late on that day. It is under my consideration.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have given you a chance to speak now.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** It has gone on record. Now, please take your seat. It does not happen like this. It doesn't happen like that. Don't give to everyone, give to each one. Continue the same thing for an hour.

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* Not recorded.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** That is one and the same. If I have to ask everybody, then it is not possible. You give one minute, they get one minute, I will also ask the Parliamentary Affairs Minister to sit together and decide. Stand here and raise slogans against the speaker, don't work as per the procedure, don't do anything. You please decide. I am sorry to say this.

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Madam Speaker, everybody knows that there are set procedures for a Privilege Motion. ... *(Interruptions)* You do not want to hear anyone, then you do whatever you want to do. You do not want to follow any procedure. You want to dictate one side continuously. You do not want others to speak. The Hon. Speaker said it is under her consideration. You do not want to hear even the Hon. Speaker. Do you want to question the Hon. Speaker? That is not fair. The Hon. Speaker is the authority. The Hon. Speaker decides about the admissibility, not individual Members. Please respect the Hon. Speaker.... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Because I had said that I will not allow Question Hour to be disturbed. I have been saying this since the first day, yet

without listening to this you raised slogans against the speaker. Okay, that's what you want, *[English]* I am giving you time till 12.30 and you go on. I will not say anything. You start speaking and I will not say anyone's name. You decide and start speaking. Up to 12.30 p.m. anyone can speak. Shri Kharge you decide who will speak and they will speak.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, Shri K.C. Venugopal. Kharge ji, you please decide as to who will speak after Shri Venugopal.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am expressing grief once again. Whatever you have done today is not good.

*[English]*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA):** Madam Speaker, I have given a notice for Privilege Motion. As per Rule 222 I had given a Privilege Notice. It reads:

> "If the Speaker gives consent under Rule If the Speaker gives consent under Rule 222 and holds that the matter is supposed to be discussed in order shall call the Member concerned who shall rise in his own place and while asking for leave to raise the question of privilege make a short statement."

**HON. SPEAKER:** It says that the Speaker can give consent.

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** Madam, I have given a notice against Shrimati Smriti Irani, the Hon. Minister of Human Resource Development. While replying in the Lok Sabha, she actually misled the House. This is the first thing. She said that no one allowed a doctor near this child to confirm his death. This fact has been disputed by the medical officer of the Hyderabad University herself…. *(Interruptions)* Secondly, the Hon. Minister had quoted a history text book taught in Don Bosco school in Matunga to attack the Opposition. The book was commissioned by the then Minister and is being taught.

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Name will not go on record.

*... (Interruptions)*[*]

[*] Not recorded.

*[English]*

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** This claim was countered by the school authorities. In an interview to `*Indian Express'*, the Principal of the school claimed that the handbook was discontinued in 2001 itself. Then, how was it possible for the then Minister to release that book? This is also a misleading statement. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** There is a difference. All of you should remember.

**SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL:** The Hon. Minister quoted a document from the organisation of `*Mahishasura Martyrdom Day'* and said that *Mahisashur*, a brave self-respecting leader was tricked into a marriage by Aryans. They hired Durga who enticed *Mahisashur* into marriage and killed him after nine nights ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Venugopal now please take your seat. Nothing will go on record now.

… (*Interruptions*)... *

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have to only raise the issue. You are not to make a speech.

Now, Prof. Sougata Ray. You have to raise only the issue and do not take any names.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** Madam Speaker, it has been our custom that when a Minister replies to a debate, he or she should be responsible because the Minister is representative of the Government. When the discussion on Hyderabad and JNU was taking place, the Minister replied like this:

> "Let me read the letter. Let me also read what happened there. Nobody allowed a doctor near this child, to revive this child, to take him to the hospital. Nobody allowed a doctor near him. The police have reported that not one attempt was made to revive this child, not one attempt was made to take him to a doctor. Instead what was done was that his body was used as a political tool, hidden. No police were allowed till 6.30, the next morning."

**HON. SPEAKER:** Prof. Sougata Ray, it is all right. Do not repeat it.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Madam, give me half-a-minute. Please have patience; I am an old man. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Today I do not have any patience.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Madam, it is said that no police were allowed till 6.30 the next morning.

**HON. SPEAKER:** That is your privilege notice and you have given it to me. That is all. Again you are repeating the same point.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Madam, the Chief Medical Officer of the University of Hyderabad, Shrimati Rajashree has said that Hyderabad University's Chief doctor refutes Smriti's statement on Rohith. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** So your privilege motion is there. Again, I am saying that as a very special case, I am allowing you to speak. This should not be the practice. It is all right that you have spoken on your notice on privilege motion. Now Md. Salim may speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** Madam Speaker, I am not going into the contents of the letter. You are authorised and empowered by the rules but as per Rule 233, a Member has the right to move a Privilege Motion. At 4 p.m. on the 29th, I submitted this notice and I seek your permission to mention it. Unfortunately, yesterday, two Members of the Treasury Benches were allowed to mention this but there was some miscommunication, and we were not allowed to speak. Now, we had to fight for one hour just to mention it. You may consider the matter but the point is, fact remains fact and untruth remains untruth

even if it is presented in a highly dramatized form. ... *(Interruptions)* What the Minister for HRD said on that day is totally blatant untruth blaming the students. We have submitted the report given by Rohit Vemula's doctor after examining him and the Minister says that the police and the doctor were not allowed. Will you allow this House to be used to mislead the entire country? ... *(Interruptions)* Is it not the responsibility of the Minister today? ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Premachandran is not present.

... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now the matter is over. It is all right that you have raised it. This practice is also not to be followed in future. Today, fed up with your behaviour, I have allowed you. It is a special case. I am sorry.

... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER):** The reply that has been given is based on the police report, and it is on that basis that it has been furnished. ... *(Interruptions)* They are making such

allegations without basis; such allegations cannot be made. ... *(Interruptions)* What the doctor has stated is correct, and is the Minister speaking untruth? ... *(Interruptions)* They are making false statements and also casting aspersions on you. This is not proper. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Regarding the incident of violence being fanned by the leaders and the Union Minister, I have given a notice of Adjournment Motion. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** It is not Adjournment Motion.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** I have given it. I will just mention it. … *(Interruptions)* I am on my legs.

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** No allegation and no slogan against the Speaker should go on record. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** About what are you speaking? I am sorry. Nothing will go on record. I am not allowing him.

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

* Not recorded.

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Madam, you have not allowed him. That is not there in the agenda. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record. I am not allowed by him.

… *(Interruptions)* …*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You please take your seats.

… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** This is not a matter of privilege.

… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** No, I am sorry.

… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Members, I have received a notice.

… *(Interruptions)*

**12.19 hours**

* Not recorded.

(*At this stage, Shri M.I. Shahnavas and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am sorry. What is this?

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again at 12.30 hours.

**12.20 hours**

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

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02.03.2016

**12.30 hours**

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

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

*... (Interruptions)*

## OBSERVATION BY THE SPEAKER

### Short Duration Discussion

**HON. SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, I have received a notice from Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab for Short Duration Discussion under Rule 193 on the Aircel-Maxis scam. If the House agrees or desires, I may allow the discussion today itself. The subject of discussion will be – Situation arising out of alleged money laundering involving Aircel-Maxis in the wake of recent joint raids by the Enforcement Directorate and Income-Tax Department. If all of you agree, if the House agrees, discussion will be initiated by Shri Mahtab and time fixed for it is only two hours, not more than that.

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*... (Interruptions)*

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** I have a very short Point of Order. Please read Rule 186(3). ... *(Interruptions)* I have given a notice for Point of Order under Rule 186(3) – In order that a motion or discussion may be admissible it shall satisfy the following conditions, namely:— (iii) it shall not refer to the conduct or character of persons except in their public capacity. Now, the motion is against one man who is the son of the former Finance Minister, not holding…. ... *(Interruptions)* Shri Mahtab, you can argue later. Let me complete. You can argue later. … *(Interruptions)* The rule further states that it shall not relate to any matter which is under adjudication by a court of law having jurisdiction in any part of India. So, the Aircel-Maxis matter is being adjudicated in a court of law. And as per court direction, the EB and other Government Departments carried out raids.

Kindly refer to Rule 353 - No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a member against any person unless the member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to

make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply; Provided that the Speaker may at any time accept. Now, the Hon. AIADMK Members stalled the House yesterday demanding, `we want justice'. Fine. They even stalled the House today saying, `we want justice'. Only this morning, Shri B. Mahtab gave his notice to support his statement yesterday after 10 o' clock. ... *(Interruptions)* Sufficient notice was not given.

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am sorry. Prof. Sougata Ray, you have mentioned the rule. Don't take his name. Why are you taking his name?

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I will reply. Please take your seat.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** A Calling Attention notice has been given on this subject. The Point of Order that has been raised also does not apply to that notice. You have not named any individual.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** No. I have gone through your Point of Order regarding discussion under Rule 193. He has raised the Point of Order. It was with regard to allegations against a particular person. No. The subject of discussion under Rule 193 does not refer to any person. So, if the House agrees, I will allow it.

… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I am allowing discussion under Rule 193.

I am allowing Shri Mahtab. Before that, I would like to inform you that the debate on this would be for only two hours. After this, we will take up `Zero Hour' in the evening.

**12.34 hours**

## MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

**HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER:** Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members who have been permitted to raise matters under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally hand over the text of the matter at the Table of the House within twenty minutes.

Only those matters shall be treated as laid for which text of the matter has been received at the Table within the stipulated time. Rest will be treated as lapsed.

*[Translation]*

In what context are you speaking?

*... (Interruptions)*

* Treated as laid on the Table.

02.03.2016

## (i) Need to take measure for the welfare of rose farmers in Rajsamand district, Rajasthan.

**SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE (RAJSAMAND):** I wish to draw the attention of the Union Government towards the farmers engaged in the cultivation of Chaitri roses in the Haldighati region. In Rajsamand district of Rajasthan, the Chaitri rose grown in Haldighati has a distinct uniqueness of its own. Its fragrance is extraordinary and such a fragrance is not found in roses grown anywhere else in the world. The primary reason for this is the soil and climate of Haldighati which impart such beauty and aroma to this flower. From this flower, *gulkand* and rose water are prepared, which not only benefit the farmers of the region but also promote cottage industries and provide employment opportunities locally.

In obtaining this crop of roses, apart from the hard work of the farmers, the weather also plays a significant role. If the winter is severe, the crop is destroyed and in such circumstances, the farmers are left with nothing, resulting in great financial loss. To protect the farmers from such losses, I urge the Union Government to extend its support and patronage.

02.03.2016

## (ii) Need to make amendments in Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan.

**DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):** The Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and the Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan were launched in the years 2001 and 2009 respectively, with the objective of improving the quality of primary and secondary education. Under these schemes, the funds allocated are fully restricted, and no State Government can utilise them at its own discretion. No State can construct more classrooms than those prescribed. Not more than 30 per cent of the total allocated funds can be utilised for building construction, nor can they be used for training the teachers already engaged in teaching, even if it is urgently required. As a result, these schemes have not been fully effective in certain States.

The rules for opening new schools under this scheme are also quite rigid. Though they may be applicable in many States, for Gujarat, certain modifications are required. For example, the provision to open a school every five kilometres is a good step, but in States with lower population density as compared to others, this rule requires modification. In a State like Gujarat, with sparse population,

it is impractical to open a new school every five kilometres. The schools opened under this scheme in Gujarat have a very low number of students, due to which the full benefit of the scheme cannot be realised.

Furthermore, these schemes do not provide financial assistance to the pre-existing schemes of the State Government. Even before the commencement of this scheme, the State Government had recruited one lakh teachers and had made provision for free notebooks and textbooks for students. These aspects have not been incorporated into the present scheme.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to amend these schemes so that quality education can spread in the State and education may reach all.

## (iii) Need to establish polytechnics at Diglipur and Car Nicobar in Andaman and Nicobar Islands parliamentary constituency

*[English]*

**SHRI BISHNU PADA RAY (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS):** There is a need for establishment of polytechnic at Diglipur and Car Nicobar which were sanctioned during 2008-2009.

**(iv) Need to extend financial assistance again for construction of toilets to families who once availed financial help for the purpose.**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI LAXMI NARAYAN YADAV (SAGAR):** A cleanliness campaign is being carried out in the country under which toilets are being constructed in villages. There are more than one crore people in the country who had earlier taken financial assistance ranging from Rs.500 to Rs.1,500 from the Government to construct toilets. Most of those toilets have now broken down, but they are unable to receive assistance again from the Government because, as per the rules, financial help is provided only once for toilet construction and no subsequent assistance is given. Because of this, there is an impediment in the construction of toilets in rural areas of the country.

I urge the Government that those who had earlier received assistance from the Government for toilet construction, if they again request for construction, the Government should extend the prescribed financial support of Rs.12,000 per rural household for toilet construction, so that the cleanliness campaign may be made fully successful.

**(v) Need to impress upon the Government of Uttar Pradesh to disburse fair compensation to farmers distressed due to damage to crops caused by unseasonal rains and hailstorms in the state.**

**SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH BHOLE (AKBARPUR):** I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the plight of the farmers of Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat districts. Like elsewhere, the farmers here too had to face the cruel blow of natural calamity last year. A major portion of their standing crops was destroyed by untimely rains and hailstorm. Immersed in misery and despair, many farmers even lost their lives prematurely. Yet, these farmers are still deprived of the compensation amount due to them. The administrative officers and staff at the tehsil level neither undertook a proper assessment of the damage to the crops nor disbursed the appropriate compensation amount. Even the cheques distributed to some farmers towards compensation were mostly dishonoured. To add insult to injury, the drought in the current crop season has deepened their wounds. But, at the administrative level, far from providing relief, there is not even anyone to listen to them. With canals running dry and Government tube-wells out of order, such dire circumstances

facing the farmers may once again give rise to untoward incidents. Therefore, it is essential that the popular Union Government immediately issue necessary directions to the State Government to disburse the compensation for the destroyed crops and also to make proper arrangements for irrigation of the present Rabi crop. This is also necessary to ensure that the relief funds made available by the Union Government to the State are distributed to the farmers in accordance with rules, and further, that the State Government be directed to conduct an inquiry into the irregularities committed by administrative officers and staff in the allocation of funds and to take punitive action against those found guilty.

**(vi) Need to undertake widening and strengthening of National Highway No. 730 from KM 505 to KM 538 in Maharajganj Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.**

**SHRI PANKAJ CHAUDHARY (MAHARAJGANJ):** In my Parliamentary Constituency Maharajganj (Uttar Pradesh), the administrative and financial sanction for widening and strengthening of the portion of National Highway No. 730 from km 505 to km 538 has been granted by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India. This road has become extremely dilapidated and damaged, causing great difficulty to the citizens in commuting. Even after the completion of the tender process and other formalities for the construction of this road, the work has not yet been commenced. The failure of the concerned authorities to initiate the construction has not only caused grave inconvenience to the public but will also result in escalation of the project cost due to delay. This highway is of great importance.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to issue directions for the early commencement of the widening and strengthening work of the portion of National Highway No. 730 from km 530 to km 538.

**(vii) Need to ensure effective interface between revenue department/officials and farming community for proper implementation of crop insurance scheme.**

**SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHEDIA (BHILWADA):** Discussions are ongoing at both Government and public levels regarding changes in the present form of the Crop Insurance Scheme, because the benefit of the scheme is not reaching the farmers. The Hon. Prime Minister has announced a new format of crop insurance with lower premium and higher guarantee. To ensure that farmers can derive real benefit from crop insurance, it is necessary that the departments of Agriculture and Revenue working at the State level, as well as their field-level staff who are directly in touch with the farmers such as Agriculture Supervisors and Patwaris, should be assigned responsibility and accountability under the scheme. If they are given clear targets and made to deliver results, then outcomes in line with the intentions of the Union Government will be achieved. Other farmer welfare schemes of the Government are also implemented at the grassroots level through these very officials. This is well known, and therefore, for ensuring hundred per cent success of the Crop Insurance Scheme, their services should be effectively utilised.

**(viii) Need to provide funds for expeditious completion of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Jamshedpur Parliamentary Constituency, Jharkhand.**

**SHRI VIDYUT WARAN MAHTO (JAMSHEDPUR):** In my Parliamentary Constituency Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), about 150 rural roads are being constructed under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana by three companies, namely R Rakk and Rudla. However, the works of phases 7, 8 and 9 of these roads remain incomplete and of poor quality. Likewise, almost throughout the Kolhan division, or indeed in the entire State of Jharkhand, the condition of rural roads is the same, with many left incomplete. When I spoke to the officials in this regard, I was informed that the work has come to a halt due to lack of financial funds. I had also raised this matter in the last Lok Sabha Session under Rule 377. Subsequently, an inquiry committee was constituted, which conducted spot inspection and found that the poorest quality work had been carried out. Yet, even after the inquiry report, no action has been taken till now.

Therefore, I urge the Union Government to provide financial funds for completing all the pending road construction works and to take action against the said companies.

## (ix) Need to undertake construction of railway line from Badi Sadri to Neemuch via Chhoti Sadri in Rajasthan.

**SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI (CHITTORGARH):** I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Railway Minister to a very important railway line in my Parliamentary Constituency Chittorgarh. For the construction of the railway line from Badi Sadri to Chhoti Sadri up to Neemuch, the Mewar Railways, Udaipur, had in 1945 sanctioned the construction of a line of about 125 km from Mavli to Neemuch. Within a short span, by 1948, the work of 82 km from Mavli to Badi Sadri was completed. Thereafter, in the past 68 years, no progress as expected was made on this project. At present, the gauge conversion work on the Mavli to Badi Sadri line has commenced. But this line will be of real benefit only when the construction of the line from Mavli–Badi Sadri to Chhoti Sadri and onwards to Neemuch is completed, so that the people of the region may derive its benefit. The survey work for the railway line from Badi Sadri to Chhoti Sadri and Neemuch has already been completed. The construction of this railway line will enable the predominantly tribal population of the region to avail themselves of rail transport, thereby fostering

industrial development. Furthermore, with this railway line, the people of 6-7 Assembly segments and three Lok Sabha constituencies will be benefitted. Since both Neemuch (Madhya Pradesh) and Jodhpur (Rajasthan) have Army cantonments, with the construction of this line, in future, the Indian Army will also have a strategic route available from Neemuch to Jodhpur via Marwar for rapid mobilisation towards the Pakistan border.

Therefore, I urge that the Ministry of Defence extend its cooperation for the construction of this railway line. From the point of view of history and tourism also, the fort here has been included in the list of World Heritage sites and has earned global distinction. Hence, I press for the fulfilment of this important demand of my Parliamentary Constituency to develop this renowned land.

## (x) Need to provide special relaxation under the CRZ notification, 2011 for construction of memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Arabian Sea, Mumbai.

**SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH):** The Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) had on 5 February 2014 submitted a proposal to the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India, seeking special exemption under the CRZ Notification, 2011, for the construction of an international-level memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Arabian Sea at Mumbai. However, this proposal has not yet been approved.

I therefore urge the Hon. Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to grant the special exemption under the CRZ Notification, 2011, for the construction of the international-level memorial of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in the Arabian Sea at Mumbai, and also to empower the Maharashtra Coastal Zone Management Authority (MCZMA) to issue directions to the project proponent/planning authority at the State level for taking forward the project.

## (xi) Need to undertake rivers interlinking project and construct dams in Phulpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

**SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA (PHULPUR):** I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the flood-affected areas of my Parliamentary Constituency Phulpur (Allahabad).

In a vast country like India, due to lack of proper management of flood waters, thousands and lakhs of people are rendered homeless every year and are compelled to lead a nomadic life. The recent floods in Chennai are a living example of this. In this context, I wish to invite the Government's attention to my Constituency Phulpur (Allahabad), which is a riparian region of the Ganga and Yamuna, where every year severe floods occur due to the release of water from Chambal river, Hathni Kund and Haridwar. With the rise in water level of the Ganga and Yamuna, hundreds of villages and urban areas, numerous localities and lakhs of bighas of fertile land come under the grip of floods. In urban areas, prominent places such as Rajapur, Salori, Jhusi, Kareli, Ashok Nagar, Rasoolabad, Daraganj, Bagada, Niwan, Teliyarganj, Gausnagar, Elanganj, Karel Bagh and others are submerged up to the first floor due to flood waters. Similarly, in

riparian areas like Sadiabad, Madoki, Kachar, Mavaiya, Arail and others, there is heavy waterlogging. Rural areas are also not spared, with places such as Niwi, Palikaranpur Dubawal, Jamunipur, Kotwa, Tiwaripur, Leela Kalan, Leela Khurd, Dhokri, Kotwan and others being severely affected by floods. Likewise, in Phaphamau, Kudsar, Shringverpur and other places, serious problems arise due to floods.

I urge the government to:-

1. Expedite the implementation of the inter-linking of rivers project initiated by Hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

2. Construct a dam from Draupadi Ghat to Beligaon in the severely affected area.

3. Construct embankments from Daraganj-Bakshi Dam to Niwi, from Jhusi to Bamrauli, from Fatehpur to Pipri Ghat, and from Chatnag to Dhokri Ghat.

## (xii) Need to provide better health care facilities to the workers of tea gardens in Assam

*[English]*

**SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH):** Assam is the largest tea producer in the country. It is also a major contributor to State's revenue. But unfortunately there are no proper health care facilities for the tea plantation workers who toil very hard day in and day out to make the state prosperous. Poor socio-economic conditions, ignorance due to illiteracy, overcrowded and unhygienic living conditions make the tea garden population vulnerable to diseases and malnutrition. My constituency Dibrugarh is the hub of the tea industry. However, the tea workers are susceptible to occupational health hazards. I, therefore, appeal to the Government to develop specific strategies that include preventive, primitive and curative measures to address the health and nutritional needs of tea plantation workers. Provision of blood banks, ambulances, doctors, para-medical staff, medical equipment and other basic health infrastructure facilities should be made available in the tea estates for the welfare of tea workers in the state.

## (xiii) Need to take necessary action for construction of railway line between Bihta and Aurangabad in Bihar

*[Translation]*

**SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD):** I wish to draw the attention of the Government to the urgent need for commencement of the construction of the Bihta-Aurangabad railway line, so as to connect the extremist-affected region of South Bihar with the State capital, Patna, by rail.

Although the survey for this railway line has already been completed, in every railway budget only a token allocation of a few lakh rupees is made, which is grossly inadequate for any real progress on the project. This railway line will pass through densely populated areas affected by Left Wing Extremism. In some places, there is no railway line within even a distance of 50 kilometres. The extension of rail facilities and the advent of development will prove to be an effective step towards the eradication of extremism. Further, the construction of this railway line will connect the Delhi-Kolkata main line (Mughalsarai-Patna-Asansol) with the Delhi-Kolkata Grand Chord line (Kolkata-Asansol-Dhanbad-Mughalsarai), thereby providing an additional link. This will also promote economic

development in this backward region and open up new avenues of trade.

Therefore, I urge that the survey work of the Bihta-Aurangabad railway line be completed expeditiously, land acquisition be undertaken at the earliest, and construction of the railway line commenced without delay.

**(xiv) Need to include Manipuri language on the currency notes**

*[English]*

**DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR) :** The Eighth Schedule lists languages that the Government of India has the responsibility to develop. The Eighth Schedule to the Constitution originally included 14 languages. Sindhi was included by the 21st Amendment, enacted in 1967. The Seventy-first Amendment of the Constitution of India, officially known as the Constitution (Seventy-first Amendment) Act, 1992, amended the Eighth Schedule to the Constitution so as to include Konkani, Manipuri and Nepali languages, thereby raising the total number of languages listed in the schedule to eighteen. Bodo, Dogri, Santhali and Maithili were included to the Eighth Schedule in 2004 through the 92nd Amendment, raising the total number of languages to 22.

There have been demands for inclusion of Manipuri language on the currency notes of the country. Earlier the language was written in Bengali script. Now, the original script is being used to write the Manipuri language and last year the students of Class X had appeared for their HSLC Examination using the original script.

Hence, I do strongly urge upon the Union Government, the Ministry of Home Affairs in particular to issue an advisory to the Reserve Bank of India to include Manipuri language on the Currency Notes of the country as is being done for other languages.

02.03.2016

## (xv) Need to provide clean drinking water free of arsenic contamination in districts of West Bengal particularly in Murshidabad

**SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR):** Arsenic contamination in 8 districts in West Bengal has already assumed an alarming proportion. It first came to the knowledge of people decades earlier but the State Government failed to take it seriously.

As a result of which the poison has started creeping into the body-system leading to the death of the affected persons let alone other ailments. But due to the ignorance of the people and non-seriousness of the Government, the arsenic contamination has started taking its toll.

Number of arsenic-hit villages in the Murshidabad district in my constituency has turned into a 'No go' area where parents from other villages are reluctant to have any nuptial relations with these affected villages.

Government should organise a massive awareness programme and provide funds for building drinking water facilities which may prevent untimely death of a large number of people.

## (xvi) Need to look into the situation arising out of the recent Government formation in Arunachal Pradesh

**SHRI NINONG ERING (ARUNACHAL EAST):** The Government has talked about "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas" and "Cooperative Federalism". But I am afraid that this is more based on theory rather than prudent practice. What has happened in Arunachal Pradesh in recent days is a big blot on the face of democracy. It's a tight slap on the face of maximum governance and minimum Government. The way in which the treasury party has brought their own party in rule in Arunachal Pradesh defies our faith in this Government and the way they govern looks like maximum interference. The Union Government should also look into the matter of regular tussle between Centre and State in such matters.

## (xvii) Need to remove the restrictions imposed by Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 2010

**SHRI K. N. RAMACHANDRAN (SRIPERUMBUDUR):** I would like to bring the following matter of urgent public importance to Government notice so that hardships caused due to the implementation of the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 2010 are removed immediately.

Lakhs of people in my constituency are being denied their basic amenities even after their housing plans had been duly approved by the competent authorities.

Residential zones are declared as prohibited areas and the authorities prevent repair/renovation within 300 metre-radius of protected monuments. Whenever people apply to get NOC for making even small alterations/modifications, the ASI is preventing the local bodies from issuing NOC by citing this Act. The ASI rules treat these areas at par with Taj Mahal. It is ironic that areas like Sembakkam, Tambaram, Pallavaram, Meenambakkam including the Airport in Chennai are covered by this restriction.

It is pertinent to point out that the Acts, as also the rules and regulations are for the benefit of the people and not to cause undue hardships.

I urge the Government to issue necessary instructions so that the whole of my constituency is removed from the purview of ASI.

## (xviii) Need to roll back the hike in excise duty on petrol and diesel

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR):** Recently, the Union Government has increased the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 1 and Rs. 1.50 respectively. This is the third increase during the last one month alone, by which the Government is going to get an additional revenue of Rs.3,200 crore.

This hike is not going to result in any increase in the retail selling price of these two fuels because this would get adjusted against the reduction because of the slide in international prices.

During the last 13 months alone, the Government has increased the excise duty on petrol and diesel by Rs. 11.77 and Rs. 13.57 respectively. Had the Government not increased this, the consumers would have got petrol and diesel much cheaper. The prices of other commodities, which have seen an increase due to this increase, would also have come down proportionately. But the Government has taken this step with a view to decrease its fiscal deficit, which is not good for the economy as a whole.

So, I request the Government of India to roll back the hike in excise duty on petrol and diesel, as demanded by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu.

02.03.2016

## (xix) Regarding 0.5% cess imposed on Services to fund Swachh Bharat initiative

**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR):** Last month, the Government announced that a Swachh Bharat cess of 0.5% would be imposed on all services where service tax is charged. This cess, meant to fund Swachh Bharat initiatives was implemented on 15th November, 2015.

Inevitably, the burden of this indirect taxation will fall most heavily on the poor. The cost of the cess will not be borne by corporations or businesses, but by citizens availing of any services. The cess amount is fixed, independent of income. The burden of the additional 0.5 % tax will be much heavier for the poor to bear. Services that the Government is actively championing for the rural poor, like mobile and financial services, just became more expensive.

Further, the funds collected through the cess will be held entirely by the Union Government, though much of the work required under Swachh Bharat is the responsibility of State Governments. At the same time, the Government has changed the funding pattern of

Swachh Bharat, cutting its responsibility from at least 75% of the cost to 60%.

If the Government is serious about improving the condition of sanitation and health in India, it must support successful State efforts, such as the successes of West Bengal in reducing open defecation, instead of cutting funding.

## (xx) Need to fight the growing menace of terrorist organisations

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** In recent times Pakistan based militants have stepped up their activities in Jammu and Kashmir. The Army Chief, Gen. Dalbir Singh Suhag has said that Pakistan is giving candid support to terror groups like Jaish E Mohamad and Lashkar E Taiba and urged the international community to isolate nations like Pakistan who harbour terrorists and train them. A reality today is the growing influence of terrorist organisations like IS, AL Shabaab and Bokoharam who found news space on the global front through the use of social media. It was imperative for nations to unite to fight the growing menace by sharing intelligence and adopting common training techniques. The major threat coming from fundamentalist ideologists with the twisted interpretation of religious ideologies that are promoting radical thinking and these needs to be controlled.

02.03.2016

**(xxi) Need to sanction setting up of Industrial Training Institutes and Skill Development Centres in Left Wing Extremism affected districts in Odisha**

**DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH):** Under the centrally sponsored schemes namely Skill Development in the Left Wing Extremism (LWE) affected districts, I would like to request the Government to sanction one ITI and two Skill Development Centres (SDSs) in Bargarh and Jharsuguda districts respectively. In Odisha, we have a total of 19 districts affected by LWE out of which five districts namely Malkangiri, Deogarh, Gajapati, Rayagarh and Sambalpur have been sanctioned ITIs and SDCs. I would like to request to sanction more ITIs and SDCs in the 14 LWE affected districts for bringing local youths into the national mainstream by engaging them in productive work through skill training.

## (xxii) Need to change the name of 'Bombay High Court' as 'Mumbai High Court'.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL):** The Government of Maharashtra had, on 17 February 2005, received a communication regarding the renaming of the “Bombay High Court” as the “Mumbai High Court”. The Ministry of Law and Justice, Government of India, had also informed through its letters that separate legislations would be enacted for renaming the High Courts of Mumbai, Kolkata and Madras. On 4 February 2015, it was further conveyed through a letter that the matter was under consideration of the Union Government.

The Government of Maharashtra has been in continuous correspondence with the Union Government on this matter, the last letter having been sent on 29 December 2015. However, no concrete decision has yet been taken by the Union Government on this subject.

I, therefore, urge the Government to grant early approval to the renaming of the “Bombay High Court” as the “Mumbai High Court”.

02.03.2016

## (xxiii) Need for granting special category status to Andhra Pradesh

*[English]*

**SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO(AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI):** After the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act was enacted by Parliament in 2014, the previous UPA Government had promised to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh for five years to offset losses it would suffer because of the State's bifurcation. All political parties, including the BJP supported special category status to the State. As the House knows, the people of the Seemandhra region vehemently opposed the split.

The BJP was kind enough to demand in Parliament that the Special Category Status be given to Seemandhra for ten to fifteen years. Already there is unrest among the people of Andhra for not getting special category status. If the decision is delayed further, then, it becomes difficult for elected representatives to convince the people. The Central financial assistance to special category States is calculated in such a manner that 90 percent of it is deemed as grant, and the remaining 10 per cent is considered as a loan.

With the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, Seemandhra region has suffered huge financial losses. IT industry, infrastructure industries, educational institutions and public sector undertakings are concentrated only in Telangana State. We have to build up everything from scratch. In spite of financial constraints, our Hon. Chief Minister has embarked on an ambitious programme of building a new capital city, inviting FDIs and creating infrastructure.

There is a demand for grant of special packages for the most backward districts of the Rayalaseema Region and three districts of Uttar Andhra. During the financial year of 2014-15 Andhra Pradesh faced a deficit budget. The Union Government has promised in the A.P. Reorganisation Act that they would take all steps to reduce the deficit budget. The State Finance Minister has expressed an apprehension that the State would continue to be a revenue deficit State even under the 15th Finance Commission. This needs to be looked into.

Therefore, I urge upon the NDA Government to grant Special Category Status to Andhra Pradesh State at the earliest.

## (xxiv) Need to introduce insurance scheme for horticulture and MSP for fruits and vegetables

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR):** I would like to urge the Government to announce Minimum Standard Price for fruits and vegetables periodically. As there is no minimum standard price fixed by the Government for fruits and vegetables, farmers could not get justifiable remuneration and they become highly vulnerable to unscrupulous trade practices of traders and middlemen. Indian farmers get 1/3 of the market price for his products whereas in European countries and many other developed nations farmers get 2/3 of the market price. Recently, farmers destroyed their own cauliflower crops in Yamuna Nagar district of Haryana, as they were getting a meagre amount of Rs.1-2 per kg whereas the same was being sold at Rs.10 in the market. Therefore, I request the government to include horticulture crops in the insurance scheme and announce MSP for fruits and vegetables so as to ensure justifiable remuneration to the farmers.

## (xxv) Need to construct a railway station at Rampur village between Daniyawan and Bihar Sharif in Bihar.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA):** In my Parliamentary Constituency Nalanda, under East Central Railway, provision has been made for a Station/Halt at the 12th kilometre of the newly constructed Daniyawan–Bihar Sharif railway line, in the name of Rampur (Rajswa) village, and the same has also been approved. Around this Station/Halt there are nearly 25 villages with a population of about 35–40 thousand. On the request of the local people, trains have started halting there, but neither a ticket counter has been set up nor a Station/Halt has been constructed, due to which passengers face great difficulties. Land for this purpose has already been acquired, but no construction work has been initiated so far, resulting in widespread resentment and anger among the residents against the Railway administration, which is only natural.

Therefore, in public interest, I urge the Hon. Minister for Railways to take immediate steps for commencing the construction of the Station/Halt in the name of Rampur (Rajswa) village at the 12th kilometre of the Daniyawan-Bihar Sharif railway line under East

Central Railway, on a priority basis, along with the arrangement for a ticket counter, so that the local people may avail themselves of railway facilities. The construction of this Station/Halt will bring considerable benefit to small farmers, vegetable traders and vendors, as it will facilitate the transportation of vegetables and other perishable produce grown in the area to the markets. This will enable them to secure a fair price for their produce, thereby improving the economic condition of farmers and the poor. I hope the Hon. Minister for Railways will take necessary action in this matter at the earliest.

**(xxvi) Need to conduct an inquiry into the alleged hoarding and creation of artificial shortage of pulses leading to steep hike in the prices of pulses.**

**SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK (RAJMAHAL):** I wish to draw the attention of the Government towards the steep rise in the prices of pulses in the country. Last year, due to heavy rains and hailstorms, the pulse crops suffered the maximum damage.

After the crop failure, the Government placed orders for the import of pulses. However, five major brokers in the country purchased entire shiploads of imported pulses and subsequently sold them to dummy companies floated by themselves. The addresses of these dummy companies were shown to be in different States of the country, and these companies hoarded nearly 93,500 tonnes of pulses in warehouses. It has also come to light that on several occasions, the international racket of brokers and commodity operators kept the ships moving in the sea so that the consignments would reach the country only when the shortage of pulses in the market pushed the prices from Rs. 85 to Rs. 200 per kg. As soon as the prices rose, these brokers released the pulses into the market and made huge profits.

I therefore urge the Government to cause a proper inquiry into this incident and take the strictest action against those found guilty, so that such incidents do not recur in future.

## (xxvii) Need to address the issues of agricultural sector

*[English]*

**SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM):** Today Indian Agriculture presents a gloomy picture, with spectrum of drought looming large on the Indian agriculture, falling prices of agricultural products and farmers committing suicides in various states. The era of higher growth in agriculture, higher prices for farm products and higher wages for agriculture, higher prices for farm products and higher wages for agricultural workers has come to an end. The farmers growing food grains and cash crops are in a bad shape. Today, the agricultural sector where almost half of India's workforce is engaged continues to be in doldrums. Farmers are losing patience with each passing day, they are frustrated and as a result trapped by land mafias and builders are selling their land at cheaper rates. Agricultural lands near urban cities and towns are fast turning into non-agricultural land for building multi-storey houses, not for the poor, but for the rich who want to invest the money and do business. There is an urgent need to increase both public and private investment in the agricultural sector. Farmers producing natural rubber especially in Kerala are in total distress due to the prevailing market price trend and are being forced

to shift to other crops. The Union Government should come out with a white paper on Indian agriculture and status of the farming community in order to address the urgent issues faced by them.

02.03.2016

**12.35 hours**

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

## Situation arising out of alleged money-laundering involving Aircel-Maxis in the wake of recent joint raids by Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Department

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Yesterday, I had given a notice of adjournment motion relating to the Aircel-Maxis Scam. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Do you want to say something about discussion under Rule 193?

… (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** That was rejected as per your wisdom. Yesterday, when the AIADMK Members were agitating, to raise the issue in this House, at that time, the Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs stood up and responded by saying, `you give adequate notice for consideration. The Government is

prepared to respond to the issue you want to raise.' Immediately, I gave notice in the Notice Office. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** We have started discussion under Rule 193. After two hours, we would start that.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Investigating Agencies have been investigating the irregularities according to clearance to the Aircel-Maxis deal in 2006 by the Foreign Investment Promotion Board since long back. Recently, the Enforcement Directorate and Investigation Wing of the Income-Tax Department have jointly conducted raids to unearth the wealth generated through unfair means in the Aircel-Maxis Scam. However, all the investigating agencies have been doing preliminary enquiries only since the scam surfaced. No investigating agency has filed a charge sheet in the case so far despite the fact that the scam has been monitored by the Supreme Court of India since 2011. ... *(Interruptions)*

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**12.37 hours**

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

… (*Interruptions*)

Madam, the Supreme Court has been monitoring the Aircel-Maxis scam as part of the 2G scam since 2011. CBI's earlier stand was that the then Telecom Minister had arm-twisted Aircel promoter, … (*Interruptions*) * to sell the Malaysian company, Maxis. But in April, 2012, it was exposed that FIPB clearance to Maxis was a total violation by the then Finance Minister in 2006 March. The deal was worth more than Rs.4000 crore, and as FIPB Chairman, the then Finance Minister had only power to approve deals worth Rs.600 crore. He ought to get CCEA clearance and he did not take up the matter to the CCEA. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Mahtab, if you want to change the seat, you can come near and speak.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** To put across my view, I have to shift my seat. This is the predicament that has dawned on us. This is the saddest part that is happening in this House. … *(Interruptions)*

02.03.2016

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** We had discussed Ayodhya 100 times; we discussed Gujarat umpteen number of times while it was *sub-judice*.. *… (Interruptions)*

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** Madam, in 2014 CBI filed a charge-sheet against Maran and family and it mentioned all the FIPB violations happened from … *(Interruptions)*[*] ... side as FM in 2006. CBI said in its charge-sheet – these are all public documents - said the probe on FIPB violations committed by … *(Interruptions)* [*] was under probe and soon filed a supplementary charge- sheet. *… (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Mahtab, `name' will not go on record. He is not a Member of this House.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** In October, 2012 the esteemed Supreme Court had asked to apprise the probe status of… *(Interruptions)* * violation and … *(Interruptions)*... * was summoned and interrogated by CBI on December 6, 2014 in Delhi.… *(Interruptions)* But somehow, the Joint Director of CBI Shri Ashok

[*] Not recorded

Tewari, IPS, who summoned … *(Interruptions)*...* and recorded his statement was shunted out from CBI within two months to his parent cadre Himachal Pradesh and he is now heading the State Road Transport Corporation. … *(Interruptions)*

Madam, I have certain questions to ask the Government to explain.... *(Interruptions)* I would like to know whether the Singapore-based firm, which is headed by the then ... *(Interruptions)* * had acquired majority shares of a big resort in Sri Lanka, known as Lanka Fortune Residencies.... *(Interruptions)* I would like to ask whether this company owns the prestigious resorts 'The Waterfront', 'Weligama Bay Resort' and Emerald Bay Hotel. ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to know whether this Singapore-based firm routed money *via* Dubai to acquire three farms and vineyards in South Africa identified as Rowey Farm Grabouw, Cape Orchards and Vineyards Private Limited and Zandvliet Enterprises, a wine and stud farm in Ashton. ... *(Interruptions)* I want to know whether the Dubai-based Desert Dunes Properties Limited has also invested in the Singapore-based company Advantage. … *(Interruptions)* I would also like to know whether the Advantage company's Singapore subsidiary had

* Not recorded

entered into joint ventures with the Philippines-based companies to obtain a franchise team of International Premier Tennis League (Aisa). … *(Interruptions)*

I want to know whether the company named Advantage had also had financial transactions with another real estate company in Singapore known as Real Beyond Pvt. Ltd. having three subsidiaries in Malaysia and whether the investigation has unearthed that these transactions led to 16 land purchases in Thailand. … *(Interruptions)* I would like to know whether that company of Singapore has also entered into joint ventures with Gravitas Investments, Match Point International Tennis Events to buy a franchise Tennis team called 'Manila Mavericks' and whether the investigators unearthed that this deal was worth 12 million US dollars and the money was paid in 10 instalments. … *(Interruptions)*

**12.42 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri K.C. Venugopal and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.)*

*… (Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have made one point clear, that the discussion on the President's Address is to be taken up and only two hours have been allotted for the same. After completing this, the discussion on the President's Address will be taken up.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** What is your Point of Order? Please state the Rule number. Under which Rule is it?

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Madam had given me permission to speak, but you are asking me to sit down. Why should I sit down then? ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Kharge ji, under which Rule is it? You must tell them to sit down. It cannot happen that you stand up, create a ruckus, and then start speaking.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Madam, yesterday the Members of AIADMK had surrounded the well from both sides. At that time also this continued.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Sometimes you surround, sometimes others surround. This keeps happening.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** I am very humbly asking you why such injustice is being done to us. Rule 186, which Prof. Sougata Ray has already placed before you, and further Rule 353, both clearly state that the name of a person who is not a Member of this House cannot be mentioned, ... *(Interruptions)* The person who is not a member of this House. *[English]* He is not a Member of this House, against him this discussion is going on and his name is referred to here very often. Secondly, this matter is pending in the court. So, as per law we cannot discuss this matter here. When we have made all these rules and the Government is violating all the rules, this is not proper. This cannot be done. We cannot discuss it here as per rules. … *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Madam Speaker, I was requesting that other Members should sit down so that Khargeji can place his point before the House. …*(Interruptions)* 'That is also his misunderstanding.

I was saying, other Members should sit down so that Kharge*ji* can make his point. Secondly, regarding Rule 186 or Rule 353, I have only

some 16 or 17 years of experience in this Parliament. Ayodhya was discussed at least 50 times. *[Translation]* You sit down. ... *(Interruptions)* Don't get impatient. ... *(Interruptions)* How many times have we discussed about Gujarat. ... *(Interruptions)* It is in adjudication. ... *(Interruptions)* We discussed about Ayodhya.... *(Interruptions)* It is in adjudication. ... *(Interruptions)* There are many cases in court. ... *(Interruptions)* We are discussing all these issues. ... *(Interruptions)* This matter is not in court. ... *(Interruptions)* This matter is only before the Tribunal. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore according to me there is no point of order. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** On the same point of order, I have already given the decision. So, I think, it is not necessary to give it up again and again. There will be no point of order because discussion has started.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Yes, Bhartruhari Mahtab *ji*. Bhartruhari Mahtab *ji*, I request all of you, do not take anybody's name who is not the Member in this House, please.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** I will adhere to that, Madam. … *(Interruptions)* The investment in real estates, engaging in other

business activities is not only confined to London, Dubai, South Africa but also extends to Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, and one more name will be revealed, British Virgin Island which I think some Members are more conversant with, Switzerland, United States, Greece and Spain.... *(Interruptions)*

The information is, ED and the Investigation Wing of the Income Tax Department have raided that company. The investigation team has got the details. This happened. You are saying, it is match fixing. ... *(Interruptions)* I will come to that issue.... (*Interruptions*) I will come to that match fixing issue.... (*Interruptions*)

**12.47 hours**

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

**HON. SPEAKER:** Mahtab *ji*, address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** The investigation team has got all the details. But I would ask the Government, why no FIR has been lodged.... *(Interruptions)* I have some more questions to ask this Government. Why CBI and ED are not filing a charge-sheet on the culprits who have done such a type of money laundering involving

more than 14 countries including the British Virgin Islands. … *(Interruptions)* Are Congress and BJP bargaining with each other? That is the match fixing that we are asking ... *(Interruptions)* Are Congress and BJP doing match fixing here? What type of understanding is being done? The country wants to know, we all want to know what type of understanding is there. … *(Interruptions)* What advantage this company is getting? … *(Interruptions)*

Madam, in how many cases, FIPB clearance has been given by the Government of which the Finance Minister is the Chairman? What is the professional competence of this company which has received this type of clearance? We would like to understand it from this Government.... *(Interruptions)* Up till now, how many such clearances have been given? … *(Interruptions)* Has there been any public servant or his near relative involved in this company who is either in the management or in the Board of Directors? Is he there in the company? Let the Government speak up before the House today. … *(Interruptions)*

These are my points. I would expect that the Minister will respond favourably, correctly to this issue. … *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH):** Madam Speaker, I thank you very much for allowing me to put forth the views on this mega scam and how inaction and delay is causing huge havoc in bringing to book the culprits involved in this scam. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, for the sake of clarity, I think, mentioning the DMK Ministers name is not un-parliamentary. … *(Interruptions)* Their names find a place in all the records of the CBI, the Supreme Court and everywhere. More so, there were two DMK Ministers in-charge of this portfolio. So, for the sake of clarity, you may permit the names of DMK Ministers to go on record. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** According to our rules, we will not allow it.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU:** This NDA Government led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi came to power on the plank of ‘bringing back black money'. During the election campaign, a lot was talked about black money and ending corruption, and bringing to book the corrupt. … *(Interruptions)* The whole country witnessed people's anger over the 2G spectrum scam, the resultant loot of the country and loss to the exchequer. But now, we are pained to see the slow progress

in the cases in respect of 2G and also Aircel-Maxis deal, non-cooperation of officials concerned, the arm-twisting and other tactics being followed, to deny Justice. ... *(Interruptions)*

Madam Speaker, the Aircel-Maxis controversy has its deep roots in the infamous 2G spectrum scam. ... *(Interruptions)* When this case was on, which was monitored by the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court asked the CBI to investigate the then Telecom Minister, belonging to DMK Party. At this point in time, the former DMK Minister had to resign from the Union Cabinet in April 2011. … *(Interruptions)* The Supreme Court is monitoring the Aircel-Maxis scam as part of the 2G scam from 2011.

Before coming to this, let us see, for a moment about the 2G scam.… *(Interruptions)* Whenever we think of any scandal in India, the one that comes to our mind immediately - the biggest one in Indian history - is the 2G scam, which is called the "mother of all scandals". This scam caused the Indian exchequer a loss to the tune of Rs. 1.76 lakh crore. ... *(Interruptions)*

The names associated with this scam are the former DMK Ministers in the UPA Cabinet ... *and there is a need to probe the role

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* Not recorded.

and involvement of the then Finance Minister, at that time and thereafter, till 2014.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Expunge all these things. Not a single name will go on record.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU:** To recapitulate the 2G case details, I would say that it started prior to 2008, when the DMK Minister was in charge of the Telecom Portfolio in the UPA dispensation.... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, in 2008, ... * was the Telecom Minister. For allocating 2G spectrum, the former DMK Minister invited applications from the eligible companies. … *(Interruptions)* The original date fixed for submitting the applications was sometime in September-October that year in 2008. But arbitrarily he changed it to January 2008, to favour only a few known companies, from whom he could derive undue favours and benefits. The then Telecom Minister ... * changed the criteria fixed for this - from 'auction' to 'first-come-first-serve' basis.... *(Interruptions)*

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* Not recorded.

This was questioned by all the authorities concerned at that time, from the Revenue Secretary to the Law Minister, to the Finance Minister and to the Prime Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

Seeing the sudden change in criteria and also the change in the date of inviting applications, etc., the then Law Minister objected and wrote to the Prime Minister. ... *(Interruptions)* He said that the issue should be discussed in the GoM (Group of Ministers) Meeting, since it is being done in violation of the prevalent norms and rules. ... *(Interruptions)*

The then Prime Minister wrote to the Telecom Minister. He, within hours, shot back a reply to the Prime Minister in which he said that it is the prerogative of his Ministry to do so. The TRAI Chairman objected to this. Initially, the then Finance Minister seemed shocked and objected to this.... *(Interruptions)* The meeting of the Telecom Commission was supposed to be held on the 9th January 2008, to discuss this issue of violation and the resultant loss to the Government exchequer. ... *(Interruptions)*

The then Revenue Secretary objected because he felt and expressed an apprehension that as per the valuation at that time, it

would cause huge loss to the exchequer. But …* The then DMK Minister in the UPA Cabinet was stubborn in doing mischief.

Realising that the Commission may go against his wishes, he, that is, … * postponed the meeting to 14th and 15th of January, 2008. In the meanwhile, the DMK Minister-in-charge, fixed the date for finalising the deal as 9th January, 2008. He opened the 'window' for only one hour to enable his favourite to submit the application and closed it immediately. It was also reported that the applicant was made to sit in his Office to enable him to submit the relevant documents immediately. Here is where the violation and foul-play took place. The then Finance Minister, after the initial objection and hesitation, finally agreed to this. This is where we doubt the intentions of the then Finance Minister. … *(Interruptions)*

Thereafter, the money earned in this scam found several routes in many parts of the world, resulting in money being laundered all over. We saw that in routing of Rs. 200 and odd crore to Kalaignar TV owned by the daughter of DMK Chief. A case is on in this respect also, which is also delayed.

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* Not recorded.

Madam, coming to the Aircel Maxis issue, here I will definitely need to mention the name of the Minister. Please permit me to mention it.

**HON. SPEAKER:** It will be expunged. Do not mention any name.

**SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU:** Aircel is a telecom company owned by one, …*. Maxis is a Malaysian company owned by … *. In 2006, Maxis acquired Aircel by buying 74 per cent stakes. … * Aircel complained to the CBI in April 2011 saying that … * had arm twisted him to sell his stakes to Maxis.

In October 2011, CBI filed an FIR against … * for having received Rs.549 crore for favouring Aircel in various deals that were owned by Maxis. The amount was routed through a company owned by … * brothers. It is a known fact that … * controls the Sun TV network.

The moneys then were laundered through various dubious and fake companies in several countries of the world.

I would like to give only a few details which will show how the money-laundering took place.

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* Not recorded.

In June 2007, Enam Securities made the valuation of Sun TV between Rs. 3,500 crore and Rs. 4,000 crore, which is a gross over-valuation because at the same time, the value of Tata Sky, even after rolling out DTH services, was only Rs. 2,500 crore. How could this happen? Madam? … *(Interruptions)*

... * The DMK Minister had cleared various deals and licences for Maxis, thereby enabling the Maxis's sister company, 'Astro', to invest Rs.630 crore in Sun TV, to buy 20 percent of its stakes. This had put the share price of Sun TV at Rs.69.57 while the brother of the Minister, bought the remaining 80 per cent stake at Rs.10 per share.

The FIR also clearly mentioned how the family members of …*, the DMK Minister had counselled or coerced … * into selling his stake of Aircel to Maxis.

The DMK Minister at that time never gave spectrum allocation to … * despite repeated applications. He did not want to make an appointment for a meeting … * too.

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* Not recorded.

**13.00 hours**

He was forced to sell stakes to Maxis and very soon thereafter, Astro invested the money in Sun TV. This is how the valuation of Sun TV was pushed upwards.

One major violation, which is pertinent to note, is that Maxis declared to Malaysian Stock Exchange that it had acquired 99.7 percent shares in Aircel. This is a violation of the Indian law which permits only a maximum of 74 per cent foreign investment in the telecom sector.

It was shown to the Indian authorities that it is acquiring only 74 per cent shares but in Malaysian Stock Exchange, it was shown as 99.7 per cent. How could this happen? Who allowed this to take place? It is a gross violation of the laws of the land.

Madam, in May, 2014, the CBI told the Supreme Court, which is monitoring the probe, that there was a difference of opinion between the CBI Director and the Investigating Officers over filing the charge-sheet against Maran, the DMK Minister at that point of time. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Shri Ventakesh, I have one suggestion. Every now and then, you are taking names. I have already instructed them to

expunge. Why are you taking the name? You say him as an ex-Minister.

… (*Interruptions*)

**SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU:** There were two Ministers at that point of time and both of them were from DMK Party. So, I cannot say as to which I am referring to. So, I have to make it clear that this is the Minister who was involved in it. ... *(Interruptions)*

One of the petitioners told the court that the CBI was sitting on the decision for six months. The court then asked the Enforcement Directorate to continue with the investigation which he was not allowed to earlier by the vested interests in the establishment. The Attorney-General had asked the CBI to go ahead and file a charge-sheet against the DMK Minister and his brother. The AG said that there was enough clinching evidence to proceed against the DMK Minister and his brother. Why were these things happening and who were behind all this? Who was shielding all these persons? Everyone in the corridors of power knew this and everybody kept quiet. People believe that this continues to happen in the present Government. Going by the way the cases are being delayed, the Government is duty bound to clear the doubt and hasten the disposal of the cases. In the

present case, the CBI in the charge-sheet named as accused former Telecom Minister … ...* his brother... * and also four firms Sun TV, Maxis, South Asian Entertainment and Astro, as accused.

They have been charge-sheeted for the offences punishable under Section 120B of IPC, which is a criminal conspiracy and also under relevant provisions of the Prevention of Corruption Act.

The CBI inquired ... * who is the wife of the DMK Minister's brother i.e. ... * that she was holding 82 per cent share in the accused firm Sun Direct TV but as per the documents, each and every decision was taken by her husband that is ... * This was told to the court by the CBI.

The cases are still going on. Due to various reasons, they are being delayed. Why should the cases not be fast-tracked?

Madam, the House needs to record the role of the former Finance Minister in the Aircel-Maxis deal. In 2006, the then Finance Minister cleared the taking over of Aircel-Maxis by dubious ways in violation of several mandatory provisions of the law. It is by now known to every one that the FIPB approval given by the then Finance Minister to the deal was a violation not just of an oversight, not just of an error

* Not recorded.

and nor a mistake. This is also under investigation by the CBI which is also being monitored by the court.

It was mired in controversy. How had the former Finance Minister given FIPB approval to the Aircel-Maxis deal in 2006? As per the extant norms, normally, the Finance Minister is competent to give approval of proposals worth up to Rs.600 crore but the former Finance Minister gave approval worth 800 million US dollars, approximately worth Rs.3,500 crore, which is nearly six times more than the normal limit for approval.... *(Interruptions)*

One cannot think that ...* being a very well read person, would not have given approval, without going into "other aspects". What were the other considerations? ... *(Interruptions)*

Again, for approvals beyond Rs.600, the matter should have rightly been referred to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs. He did not take it to the CCEA. He himself decided it and gave the approval. Why and how did he do that? ... *(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

**13.06 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other Hon. Members left the House.)*

**13.06 ½ hours**

*(At this stage, Shri P. Karunakaran and some other Hon. Members left the House.)*

Another major point needs to be considered by the House. Here is that point.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please conclude.

**SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU:** This is an important point. Madam, 30 per cent holding of Saudi Telecom in Maxis was hushed up during the approval stage in FIPB. The then Finance Minister did not take notice of this because had he taken notice of this, it would have required clearance from IB and the Home Ministry. Hence, he did not take cognizance of this violation and allowed it to go on.

All these things were happening right under the former Finance Minister's nose and with his full knowledge.

In August, 2014, the CBI's charge-sheet mentioned the FIPB violations committed by the former Finance Minister in 2006. The

CBI said that this is also under probe. In October last year, the SC asked the CBI to appraise the 'probe status' on the former Finance Minister's violations. Earlier, the former Finance Minister was also summoned and interrogated by the CBI.

The irony here is that the CBI officer, who summoned ... * and recorded his statement, was shunted out from CBI within two months. Madam, I want this to go on record that the CBI officer, who summoned ... * and recorded his statement, was shunted out within two months.

The company, Advantage Strategic Consultancy, owned by the family of a former Finance Minister, was caught for having a money trail with Aircel promoters.

In December, 2015, ED and IT conducted raids at the company, Advantage Strategic, in Chennai, that is, at the company of the son of the former Finance Minister. The 2G trial court also issued Letter Rogatory to Singapore to trace money laundering in the Aircel-Maxis deal.

The raids of ED and IT unearthed investments and purchase of properties in 14 countries. Most of these transactions were made after

* Not recorded.

the Aircel-Maxis deal, and during the period when the former Finance Minister was a Cabinet Minister. At that point of time the purchases were made.

This is nothing but black money and a case of money laundering. This is a big evidence of illegal assets worth thousands of crores.

Why are the CBI and ED not acting? Who is protecting the corrupt former Finance Minister and his son? The Prime Minister should order CBI and ED to have impartial, transparent inquiry; confiscate their illegal assets and prosecute them immediately without any further delay because all the evidence is on board.

At present court cases are being inordinately delayed. The officials are not cooperating; and they are being arm-twisted.

'Justice delayed is justice denied'. We want early justice in all these cases. The way the cases are being handled presently gives an impression in the minds of the common man that this NDA Government is an extension of UPA-II or UPA-III.

The Government and the Prime Minister must believe and contradict this view. Karti Chidambaram is not a separate individual. He is a member of the Congress Party and an Office-Bearer of

Congress. So, there is no point in saying that his name should not be mentioned.

The DMK Chief came out of the Alliance saying *'Kooda Natpu Kedil Mudiyum'*, meaning is 'unnecessary alliance will result in disaster'. The DMK fought the last election alone. But what happened to the *'Kooda Natpu'* now? He joined the alliance once again.

Madam, in this scenario, a detailed investigation into the shady deals of Aircel-Maxis and the huge disproportionate assets owned by Karti Chidambaram, the former Finance Minister's son has to be order by the Government without any further loss of time since it has definite links with the 2G Scam.

With this, I conclude, Madam.

**HON. SPEAKER:** The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2:15 p.m.

**13.11 hours**

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

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**14.16 hours**

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

(Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Kirit Somaiya.

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Madam, before Dr. Kirit Somaiya makes his submission, I would like to bring on record of the House that earlier also on umpteen number of occasions, when the Presidential Address was discussed by the House, in-between, discussion under Rule 193 has been taken up. I have an example of the 10th Lok Sabha and subsequently also. It happened on January 21, 1985 also. There are a number of other examples also.

Secondly, with regard to issues that are there for adjudication, in this very House and in the other House also, umpteen number of times, I would submit that they have also been discussed. The Ayodhya issue, which is a disputable issue and is before the court, has been

discussed. Gujarat riots have also been discussed umpteen number of times. So, it is not that a new precedent is being set up.

Lastly, I would urge upon all the Members not to make any slogans against the Speaker, questioning the wisdom of the Speaker or the ruling of the Speaker. This is my humble request to all the parties. We have to keep the dignity of the House and the dignity of the Chair also.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** The dignity of the Speaker is the highest and it should be kept, but ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Sougata ji, no one has told you anything.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** There is nothing personal. It is okay.

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02.03.2016

**14.18hours**

## DISCUSSION UNDER RULE 193

**Situation arising out of alleged money-laundering involving Aircel-Maxis in the wake of recent joint raids by Enforcement Directorate and Income Tax Department – Contd.**

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Kirit Somaiya**.**

*[Translation]*

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** Hon. Speaker Madam, the whole country is watching the discussion that is taking place on this subject, to see from which countries and how many companies are being floated. At the very outset, I would like to place some figures. I made an attempt to study this matter and in the process the names of companies and groups spread across 28 countries came up. If we go into the details of the number of companies, till now I could count up to 436 companies. It appeared to me that I should pursue another Ph.D. I had obtained my first Ph.D. from Mumbai University, where my guide was Prof. Devalankar, the Head of Commerce of Mumbai University. This time, if I were to pursue

another Ph.D., I would have to choose Karthik Chidambaram as my guide.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** Madam, should such names be taken?... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:** Sougata Ray ji, if I am to blame, then I cannot take name. *[English]* I have not accused Karthik Chidambaram or anyone. Now you keep listening in detail. It's just the beginning. ... *(Interruptions)* I am ready to make you my guru too. ... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Speaker, I will start with a letter that I received. *[English]* "Dear Dr. Somaiya ji, this is with reference to your letter dated so and so about so and so company. I am enclosing herewith the detailed response received from the Ministry." *[Translation]* I received this letter from the Minister of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India and there is a detailed report along with this letter, I will read two or four observations from it. ... *(Interruptions)* Meghwal ji, I would like your attention. *[English]*I am quoting the Report, which has been sent to me by the Health Minister. It is a report of NRHM - Health Ministry, which says that: "… Huge sums of money have been reported to be embezzled and syphoned off from the Government

treasury …". It has been found that against 37,458 trips by Ambulances in the month of September, the company charged bills for 55,326 trips.

*[Translation]*

The ambulance which is meant to carry and transport patients going by what has been shown should rather be given an award. Another example of fraudulent and abominable billing is that one ambulance has been shown as having carried 243 patients in a single day. This ambulance is alleged to have transported 243 patients from their villages, from their homes, to the hospital. The letter that has come to me is dated 14 January 2013. To remove any doubt in the mind of Shri Sougata Ray, I wish to clarify that this was sent by Shri J. P. Nadda, who was the Minister at that time. … *(Interruptions)* Now, since you have asked, I shall name it. The name is …* and I shall also name the company and its director. …* *(Interruptions)* This is only one instance; there are several such examples. The report which was sent to me by * was, in fact, obtained from the Government of Rajasthan, and subsequently, the CBI has filed complaints against this company. It pains me, Madam Speaker, that while you travel

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

across 28 countries and operate through as many as 437 companies to indulge in scams, the poor villager in India for whose mothers and sisters the ambulance service was originally launched is deprived even of that basic facility because of such frauds. A poor man, a seven-year-old child, lying on the roadside after an accident, did not receive the 108 ambulance service in time, for the simple reason that the company of Shri Karti Chidambaram showed ambulances only on paper. This did not happen in just one State; similar instances have been reported in Rajasthan, Himachal Pradesh, Kerala and several other States. Not only this, there are reports of even graver nature. For example, the arrival time of the ambulance at the site has been shown as earlier than the time of receiving the phone call. This kind of Digital India could not have been envisaged by Shri Narendra Modi; this was the Digital India of the then Government. An individual falls sick, an accident takes place, an incident occurs, a phone call is made, and the records show that the ambulance had already reached the spot before the call itself was received. I shall cite specific entries: Trip No. 85078, dated 3rd September, 2011. The call time recorded is 2:26 a.m., yet the ambulance arrival time is shown as 2:20 a.m. Another case: Trip No. 89659, dated 5th September, 2011. The call time is

recorded at 12:41 p.m. in the afternoon, but the ambulance arrival time is shown as 11:20 a.m., well before the call was even made.

Madam Speaker, it is only now that the CBI has initiated action in this matter. The CBI has commenced investigation, and it is the CBI itself not Shri Arun Jaitley, not Shri Jayant Sinha that has filed the FIR. In that FIR, the CBI has specifically named certain individuals, and I wish to place those names on record before the House. The names cited by the CBI include Shri Sachin Pilot; Shri Karti Chidambaram; Shri Ravi Krishna who, I may inform the House, is the son of the then Union Minister Shri Vayalar Ravi; and Sushri Shweta Mangal, who is the daughter of a senior Congress leader from Rajasthan.

Now, Mahtab Ji, I am coming to the point of why I have started like this. I read out the names of the directors in this company. Now I will read out the names of the shareholders. Among the companies whose names you took in the beginning … *(Interruptions)* the name of one of the investors and shareholders in this is Global Impact Private Limited; Ackman's Fund, it is the same one that you have read during your speech; The names of so many investors you had mentioned included Global Medical Response, Ackman Capital

Market, Ackman Fund. This company is the owner of Chikitsa HealthCare. Just a few days ago, the Enforcement Directorate conducted raids, which we are currently discussing under Section 193. Those companies, which were investigated, whose names were filed in the FIR, are the owners of this medical health care.

I would like to say further, actually Shri Jayant Sinha ji, you people are under an illusion, they are feeling that we have done "Start Up", in reality "Start Up India Campaign" has been done by Karti Chidambaram. Karti Chidambaram is a global personality having investment/business in more than two dozen companies. If you read the names of those companies, I can't pronounce them correctly. What kind of names are there? One name is VanduVliet Enterprises. ... *(Interruptions)* The second name is Velingama, the third name is Aradeva. One name is Staying & Associate. One name is Gravitas Investment Limited. ... *(Interruptions)* Which countries did this gentleman visit - London, Dubai, South Africa, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka and British Virgin Islands. ... *(Interruptions)* Mauritius, France, Manila, USA, Switzerland, Greece, Spain, South Africa, Somerset. ... *(Interruptions)* See type of business. That is why I said that you are aspiring to start Startup India. They have done Make in India and Global India. Look at their nature of

business. You are unnecessarily blaming a person from Tamil Nadu. You should feel proud of him. He has two dozen various types of business enterprises. From ambulance to air ambulance i.e. hiring resorts, restaurants, hotels, investment companies, water fun. I have never drank alcohol till date, he also has a wine firm, it is written in it that it is world famous. It's dazzling. ... *(Interruptions)* There is a stud farm along with a wine farm. Yadav ji, your work is that, the horse farm. ... *(Interruptions)* Properties, Real Estate Development and together, sorry Supriya sister, have created CCD. There is also Café Coffee Day. We can also go for coffee. Event Management Company, Entertainment Company, Telecom Business. ... *(Interruptions)* Then acquiring the tennis league.

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI):** You do not owe me anything. You do not have to be sorry. I have nothing to do with these things. Actually, all rules of Parliament are broken today. It is a shame for democracy. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You continue.

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:** I also know.

*[Translation]*

Madam Speaker, I also know the rule, that is why I requested you to ask a sub-question on the question. Who misquoted the Chief Minister of Maharashtra here in the morning? Who misquoted my Maharashtra Chief Minister this morning? That person is trying to teach me a lesson. Those who are now saying that all the rules are being violated, while asking questions in the morning question hour, Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis ji was misquoted and he tells us.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Well, it happened.

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:** Hon. Madam Speaker, let me come back to Aircel-Maxis. ... *(Interruptions)* Why did they ask me such a question? Is this the way to talk? … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Supriya ji, don't say anything. You should sit down.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Dr. Kirit Somaiyaji, you address the Chair. Don't take anyone's name.

*[Translation]*

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:** Hon. Speaker Madam, I now return to the issue of Aircel-Maxis. As Hon. Mahatab ji has indicated, this concerns the rules and guidelines of the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. ... *(Interruptions)* I would like to ask the Hon. Finance Minister to clarify what exactly the FIPB guidelines were. Was there a ceiling of Rs.600 crore. Could contracts above Rs.600 crore be split into parts to obtain approval. At that time, the Minister concerned, in order to accommodate his associate, violated the FIPB guidelines. Today, when this matter is being discussed in the courts and elsewhere, Parliament wishes to know what the FIPB guidelines were between 2006 and 2014, whether there was a ceiling of Rs. 600 crore, and whether there was any provision to bypass it. For example, even if the transaction was of Rs. 305 crore, it was first presented as Rs. 600 crore to secure approval and later shown as Rs. 305 crore. This is not merely a matter for the courts. We wish to know whether the Minister of the day, whose family members had an interest in the transaction, informed the Prime Minister, the Parliament or the President of India of that interest. If such an interest existed, was it disclosed before the court as well?

Hon. Speaker Madam, I wish to bring up one more point with regard to the Aircel-Maxis deal. As my colleague Shri Venkatesh was referring to the 2G telecom matter, now everybody knows what 2G telecom is. It has been reported in the newspapers, it went to the Supreme Court, and the Supreme Court also commented on it, and even the CAG has said... how layers were created. That is, this is the beneficiary, then there is another beneficiary, the Government extends benefit to one, and then through four layers that benefit goes back to someone in Government. Layers of companies, front companies, shell companies were created. Should not Parliament deliberate on this? ... *(Interruptions)* This is about the nation's money, covering the period from 2006 to 2014. The issue is not confined merely to Aircel-Maxis. Aircel-Maxis is simply where we have been able to reach. The issue is not limited to looting poor patients in the name of medical services and ambulances. The real issue is that we must understand the modus operandi behind these scams. Once we understand the modus operandi, we should also expose the other scams of that period which might have been committed in a similar manner, and the money siphoned off must be recovered. I would urge the Hon. Finance Minister and Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji that the Cabinet should deliberate on this matter. During that period, thousands of crores of rupees were

siphoned off through shell companies and multi-layered structures and sent abroad. The Cabinet must take a decision and the Cabinet must take the Parliament into confidence on this. Whoever may have been involved, whether it was in the 2G scam, the coal scam, the CWG scam, or even the “Jijaji” scam, whoever it may be... *(Interruptions)* there should be no objection in ensuring that those who created such layers of companies, whether to usurp land, grab telephone licences, open fraudulent bank accounts abroad or commit any such frauds, must face a special investigation. As far as the Aircel-Maxis deal and the shell companies are concerned, all those involved must be investigated in a time-bound manner, and the Government must take both Parliament and the people into confidence. That is my earnest request.

With these words, I conclude my speech.

*[English]*

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):** Madam, I rise to speak on the issue of the Aircel-Maxis deal.

First of all I am certainly glad that you allowed all those Members who submitted notices for privilege motion, and would say that it was a very good example that you have set today. I am very much happy to say that to point fingers on different issues at the Chair is not what we can extend our support to.

Madam, a point of order was raised by Prof. Sougata Ray from our party. It appears to us that he wanted to mean it very articulately. I was thinking which issue is more important. Venkaiah Naiduji from the very beginning was in a mood to see that the House runs smoothly. You did your best so that the House runs smoothly. When the Opposition Benches are not present, then players like Kirit Somaiyaji play better, but Bhartruhari Mehtab has to face much more difficulties. But I would say that we want the discussion on the President's Address to be taken up and we want to hear from the Prime Minister because our elections are going to take very shortly. We will have to go back very soon. The election notification will come out tomorrow or the day after.

We are one of the major Opposition parties having 34 Members of Parliament with us. We have also to make our submissions, our ideas, and our views separately and we will make it. According to our observations, keeping the Opposition out from the floor of the House on the issue of debate, if the President's Address had been completed first and then other issues had been taken up, it would have been better. Venkaiah Ji has given some precedent. Bhartruhari Mehtabji was telling me that the issue of Universities was taken up while the President's Address was to be discussed. But that was much more important. This is an issue which was published in a particular newspaper and Hon. Deputy Speaker of the Rajya Sabha also uttered some comments that by projection of a particular newspaper, no issue should be ventilated in the House of Rajya Sabha. We are not actually concerned about the whole issue. We want to make more study as to what are the merits over there, what are the demerits over there. But we think it was not the proper time to take it up when the House was running very smoothly and nicely. I want to tell Kirit ji that you said that Digital India has not happened. I want to tell my party members to speak on the budget, I will not be there at that time. This suit-booted government has definitely started moving forward like a barefoot government. So, I think we are not going to speak on this issue in

detail and we have also decided to walk out on our own as Trinamool Congress Party. … *(Interruptions)*

**14.42 hours**

*(At this stage, Shri Sudip Bandopadhyay and some other Hon. Members left the House.)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** This will not go on record. It is nothing like that. … (*Interruptions*)...*

* Not recorded.

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Please don't insult regional parties. Every issue is being discussed in this House. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** So many topics are there. For some parties, it may be important, for some party it may not be.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Madam, when we have a crusade against corruption, Trinamool Congress Party led by Mamtaji is trying to avoid debate on corruption. It is very surprising.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB:** It involves black money and money laundering and this has very little to do with politics. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** But they don't want to debate.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Every State is important for this country. Tamil Nadu is also important. There are regional parties also. We have to understand that. Simply because one party says that we

should go according to their dictation will not do. Everyone has rights in the House, each party has its own priorities. He thought corruption and money laundering is more important. That is why they raised it and others are supporting it. We should not cast aspersions at others.

**DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM):** Hon. Speaker Madam, I am from Telugu Desam Party. The scams which we are talking about are nothing but scum- scandals, corruption and greed in India has led to syphoning of a lot of money. The official estimate is Rs 20 lakh crore. This is the amount which we collect every year as direct and indirect taxes. This much money is being embezzled every year to outside countries. Whether it is a scam or scandal or corruption or whatever, who is paying a heavy price? Barring from the party lines, barring from the caste lines, corruption has no party, no caste, nothing. Who is suffering a lot because of corruption? It is the poor people.

People have sent us here with a lot of hope. I will discuss about poverty; I will discuss about unemployment; I will discuss about diseases; I will discuss about literacy; I will discuss about infant mortality rate; I will discuss about the mortality rate of mothers; but it is unfortunate that in this august House every year, in every regime,

we are spending a lot of time on corruption, scams and all. People have got fed up with this. Nobody has interest in knowing about these scams. Whenever we go to our constituencies, people ask, 'What have you brought us?' *[Translation]* Sir, have you got any job etc., have you made any arrangements for our food, have you made any medicine to eliminate tuberculosis for our health, did you discuss anything about this. We always say that there is 3G, there is IG, there is DG, it is not known what is happening, no common man in the country is aware of what is happening. When will we discuss these real issues for the country?

*[English]*

In this august House when are we going to spare time for the real issues of the country? That is the day when we really get freedom when we do not discuss scams.

It is high time that economic offences are punished in an exemplary way. There are institutions which deal with economic offences. Whenever an economic offence is proved we leave them with a penalty and imprisonment. I propose that it may be too harsh a measure but let there be one death penalty on one economic offender. This will have a ripple effect. There will be no scandals in future. I

feel personally and so I suggest that let us also propose that there should be some harsh measures to stop these economic offences. The Supreme Court has already said that it is corruption which is making this country weak and poor in the midst of other countries. In poverty, we figure low in the list of all countries; but in corruptibility, we always figure high in the list.

As our *Pradhan Mantri* Modi *sahib* always says, it is high time we should inculcate character; we should have a national character, and we should not encourage any corruption of any sort. Those should be ex-communicated and sent out of the country. If they stay in the country, they should be hanged to death.

Thank you, Madam. Jai Telugu Desam.

**SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI):** Respected Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on today's burning issue, that is the Aircel-Maxis scam.

'Power is for money and money is for power' is the principle of the Congress Party. They suppose that fraud, misappropriation, and scams are their birthright.

In the tenures of UPA-I and UPA-II, several scams had taken place. The 2G spectrum scam involved Rs. 1,76,000 crore; the coal block scam involved Rs. 1.86 lakh crore; the Commonwealth Games scam involved Rs. 80,000 crore; and there were many other scams. All those scams were inland and within the country. Now, today's invention in the Aircel-Maxis scam has come to light because the son of the former Finance Minister misused the power of his father. He has built a huge empire for himself in different parts of the world, making investments in real estate and engaging in other activities, in 14 countries, that is, London, Dubai, South Africa, Philippines, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, British Virgin Islands, France, USA, Switzerland, Spain; altogether 14 countries. All these things are supported by the documents recovered during the joint raids of the Information Director and Investigation Wing of the Income Tax

in the Aircel-Maxis scam. All these investments, transactions, acquisition of the companies, properties abroad were executed by the advantage that came through after the Aircel-Maxis deal in 2006. Indian IT has dispatched all these documents to the Supreme Court.

I urge upon the Hon. Finance Minister, if in real sense he wants to bring back the black money from abroad, he should concentrate on the former Congress Ministers and Leaders. You will definitely get a huge amount. Secondly, I would request the Minister to lodge the FIR against all those culprits involved in this Aircel-Maxis scam at the earliest.

Thank you very much.

**SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR):** Thank you Madam. Out of 140 countries India has been ranked 93rd and 70th in 2012 and 2013 respectively in the anti-money laundering, AML Basel Index 2013. It is estimated that a total of 343 billion dollars have been laundered out of India during the period 2002 up to 2011. Earlier, in 1985 it was estimated that the extent of black money in India was 19 to 21 percent of the then GDP. Going by the same account it must be well over Rs. 18 lakh crore Budget which our Finance Minister presented this year.

Madam, this tainted money or undisclosed income is invested in shell companies floated in Dubai, Singapore and Mauritius. Further, they are re-diverted towards investments in overseas territories like British, Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands where the tax laws are also stringent. Over the years the money is ploughed back into investment in India. Madam, this technology transfer of money across the continent is enabled within a short span of time. However, to trace and retrieve such money the legal process and also diplomatic efforts to link territories in the countries mentioned take ages.

So, whatever has been said regarding so many scams and much was discussed on this money, I really feel that our Government is

going ahead on this and I am anxious to hear our Finance Minister's reply on this, it has already been said that the money has been parked outside the country. That money has to be brought back into the country. Already, as Modi Ji's was canvassing before the elections that it is Rs.15 lakh per person. I do not go that way but I say that that money should come back to the country and with that money our country should flourish and even the poor men should get rich.

Thank you, Madam.

**SHRI MEKAPATI RAJA MOHAN REDDY (NELLORE):** Thank you, Madam, Speaker. After seeing yesterday's Press Reports and after hearing the Hon. Members who spoke now on the subject, I feel it is a very serious matter. It is just like '*Kanche chenu mesindi*', the fencing which has to protect the crop has swallowed the crop. It is a very serious thing. The matter has to be investigated and the facts have to come out. People of the country should know the culprits and stringent action has to be taken against them.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):** Madam, the revelations that have come out recently after raids on the businesses of the former Finance Minister's son are not surprising, because not only the country but the entire world knows how, whenever the Congress leaders came to power, they looted the nation, how scam after scam took place. It was not just one scam, there were scams after scams: coal scam, shipping scams, Commonwealth scam. The country has certainly been shamed. The shame is such as if, for guarding milk, we placed a cat in charge, or as the saying goes, "when the fence itself starts eating the crop, how can the field be saved?" I believe not just one or two countries, but in at least a dozen or more countries, the wealth of our nation has been looted and taken away. We used to wonder: our people work so hard, the soil of this land is so fertile, the climate is so good, yet why is the country becoming poorer? Today, as these facts are coming out, we are beginning to see the truth. Through you, I would like to request the Hon. Finance Minister that the strictest of strict action be taken against such people. When elections came, of course Shri Modi ji's personal image was very strong, people saw him as development-oriented, and they also saw the good work done by the BJP and its allies. That is why people

trusted them. A large section of the country voted believing that if anyone could bring back the looted wealth hidden abroad, it was Modi ji. Therefore, I wish to urge the Hon. Finance Minister that the harshest possible measures must be taken against these people. Even during Vajpayee ji's time, I once said in this House that one must understand the character and the mindset of the Congress Party. Their mentality is like that of a snake. Unless the snake's head is crushed completely, it will keep biting. Similarly, they will keep dividing the people of this country, sometimes in the name of religion, sometimes in the name of region. Now is the time: if these people are dealt with firmly, and the wealth they looted and took abroad is brought back, then I believe that the NDA government will never be unseated in this country, and Congress will never be able to return. We must act with firmness on this. That is my appeal.

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR):** Madam, I thank you for giving me time. Today, under Rule 193, we are discussing a very important subject. During the continuous ten years of Congress rule, we witnessed numerous scams. The Hon. Prime Minister has repeatedly said that the strictest action will be taken. Today, many of our Congress colleagues were saying that this Aircel-Maxis matter is sub judice. But the fact is that raids have just taken place and the case is still under investigation. I would urge the Government to take the strictest possible action immediately, because the matter has not yet become sub judice; it is under investigation, it is under the consideration of the Government, and it is for the Government to act on it. We have a saying: "There may be delay, but there is no darkness." However, as these two years of this Government's tenure have passed, I feel it is becoming a case of not just delay, but gradually darkness too. Those who once said they would bring back black money now, with almost half of the Government's term gone, I would submit that the people of our country are still waiting. They are waiting for those who looted the nation in these scams to be brought to justice and for their stolen wealth to be brought back. If, in this scam, at any point negligence has been shown or undue advantage has been given to anyone, then it becomes our duty to ensure that the

strictest action is taken and that justice is delivered to the citizens of the country. Thank you very much.

**SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA):** Madam, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. If the NDA Government came to power, then a very big contribution to that was the exposure of all these scams. And because of this, the greatest responsibility lies upon our Government and upon us to ensure that these scams are taken to their final conclusion, and that the culprits are brought behind bars.

**15.00hours**

There are two or three reasons behind this whole question that is going on and the Parliament is in an uproar for the last two-three days. A CAG report comes and the CAG says in its report that the Ministry of Finance was aware of the fact that it is not in a position to give FIPB clearances from 25st January,2006. Clearance of Rs. 3514 crore was required and the Minister was in a position to give clearance of only Rs. 600 crore. He approved it without going to the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs, he did not feel the need to take it to the Cabinet. The question is whether this country will be run by law or this country will be run by individuals. You show a person's face and the law will change, it will not happen. First of all, my question is whether this

government is aware that the then Minister of Finance went beyond his limits and gave this approval without taking the cabinet into confidence? The second question is that in the chargesheet filed by the CBI on 29th August, 2014, it had invested Rs. 742 crore in the then Telecom Minister and his family. I am getting to the bottom of how this case developed or how the ruckus is going on. CBI wrote in its charge sheet that *[English]* M/s Global Communication Services Holding Limited, Mauritius had sought a FIBP approval for 800 million USD for which the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs was competent to grant approval. However, the approval was granted by the then Finance Minister. Further investigation is being carried out in the circumstances of said FIBP approval granted by the then Finance Minister. *[Translation]* When CBI itself admitted on August 29, 2014 that they were not competent, then the biggest question is what CBI has been doing for the last two years.

The third question is, why was the raid conducted? Many people feel that this was a raid on private individuals, and they ask why Parliament is discussing private individuals. Time and again I hear our friends raising such points. But let me inform the House that in 2016, an application was moved in the High Court by Advantage Strategic Consulting Private Limited. Whose company this is, the hon. Finance

Minister himself can clarify. In that application, it was stated that in the 2G scam, in the matter of Aircel-Maxis, Aircel Televenture Limited had paid Rs. 26 lakh to Advantage Strategic Consulting Private Limited. The owner of this company of Rs. 26 lakh was the son of the then Finance Minister, or at some point in time was a Director of the company. It is through this channel that the entire investigation is proceeding. What action is the Government taking in this regard?

Apart from this, a CBI team had visited Malaysia. On 22 March, the CBI team met the Attorney General of Malaysia, this was on 22 May, 2013. From 22 May, 2013 until 2016, that is nearly three years, what information has the CBI received from Malaysia? That should also be placed before the House. Further, as Members of Parliament, we often write letters on such issues. Some say these letters are written for vested interests, some allege that they are on behalf of corporate lobbies. But the fact remains that MPs write letters. At that time, when such a letter was written, the FIPB noted: “we may send an interim reply to the MP under intimation to the PMO, stating that this issue has already been brought to the notice of FIPB and FIPB is considering the issue in the course of consideration of the

application.” When an MP had raised this issue, what was the reason that even then the Finance Minister did not act?

My third question is this: regarding the circular issued by the Department of Telecommunications, if there is an FIPB approval involved, the concerned department’s views are to be sought by the FIPB. The Department of Telecom, in their revised comments in 2007, conveyed that they endorsed the views of the NSCS, that telecom is a sensitive sector and foreign ownership must be subjected to the highest level of scrutiny, and further, that such scrutiny should take place prior to granting FIPB approval. In the case of Aircel-Maxis in Malaysia, instead of 74 per cent, the stake went up to 99 per cent. What was the circumstance that, despite the Department of Telecom raising objections, despite their disapproval, this approval was nevertheless granted? Further, RBI’s approval is also necessary in FIPB matters. In its letter, the RBI had stated…

*[English]*

> “Given the nature and magnitude of irregularities, we are of the view that there is a need to have a thorough investigation to assess the complexity of the transaction and to establish the structural foreign holding in the company.”

*[Translation]*

What I have to say is that after so many such violations, in the same manner as the 2003 Cabinet note on the basis of which the 2G scam happened, which was a reason given on the basis of first come first service basis, There is a recommendation of TRAI, when there is violation of telecom, when nothing is being done due to the letter of Member of Parliament, CBI, CAG and RBI are saying, after that when the approval came, is there a reason that till now. The government is not putting the criminals behind bars. The government should tell this country how long they will be behind bars? Black money is a big issue, all the black money has gone out through politicians and bureaucrats, when will it come back to this country? With these words, I conclude my statement. Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA):** Madam Speaker, since the time of Independence, corruption has neither allowed us to sleep, nor to live, nor even to die. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You must fight against it, not die because of it.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:** Anna Hazare ji is still alive, but who knows if in the future another Anna Hazare will emerge. After Anna Hazare ji's movement, in a reply from the Cabinet to a question, it was stated that corruption had increased by 9.8 per cent; it had not decreased. Despite such a massive movement, it went up. The entire nation stands against corruption. My friends talk about black money. In this country, there are only four institutions, who among them is pure as milk? Jayaprakash, Ramakrishna Paramhansa, Kabir, and Nanak are no longer with us ...*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please do not take names. Just make your point.

*... (Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:** Madam Speaker, everyone else was taking names, so I too mentioned them. I will not take anyone's name. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** They are not relevant here.

... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:** Madam Speaker, such "Babas" have come that now there will not be people like Shrikant and Rajesh ji, V. P. Singh, Nehru, or Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Narendra Modi, or Manmohan Singh... *(Interruptions)* That is why I mentioned their names. *(Interruptions)* Should we not even take names in appreciation? *(Interruptions)* Now people like Swami Vivekananda will not come again. *(Interruptions)* I said that such people will no longer be there. *(Interruptions)* Personalities like Vivekananda will not come again, that is what I have said. *(Interruptions)*

My clear submission is that all of us sitting here, if we are truly serious about the issue of corruption because if there is one thing that torments this country the most and weakens our economy, it is corruption. On this count, we are in a position even below Pakistan. I have two or three submissions. We are not saying that scams should not be discussed, but in India, things only remain at the stage of

discussion and are never concluded. Hon. Madam, your Government has been elected to office in this country, and in Delhi too, Arvind Kejriwal's Government came to power on the plank of fighting corruption. Two years have passed since this Government assumed office, and no one is stopping you from uprooting corruption. If Shri Narendra Modi has the full strength, then end this dishonest system in India. That is my first appeal.

My second appeal is that if you truly want to eradicate corruption from the roots, then bring a law under which corruption is treated as a crime greater than Section 302 (murder). Corruption kills millions together, therefore there should be a provision for hanging the corrupt. There should be a provision to hang them. All of us sitting here in the bathhouse, all are naked. …*(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please state your third point.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:** Madam Speaker, in the bathhouse, all are naked. The people say that it is the politicians who are running this system. Is there any politician in Indian politics who contests elections without spending between four crore and one hundred crore rupees, or without spending at least two hundred crore rupees? ...

*(Interruptions)* Leaving aside a few politicians. ... *(Interruptions)* Which politician is there who does not have vast sums of money?... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** That is incorrect.

… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** You have made your point. Please sit down.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA):** If black money is to be unearthed, then first it should be from India's bureaucrats, …* from those who have looted the blood of the poor of society. ... *(Interruptions)* Therefore, the greatest battle must be against politicians. ... *(Interruptions)* Politicians are at the root of the entire system, whether you go to Odisha.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Please sit down. You have made your point.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI RAJESH RANJAN:** In Odisha, 90 per cent of the people have ration cards. ... *(Interruptions)* This is a very big struggle.... *(Interruptions)*

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* Not recorded.

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record.

*… (Interruptions)... **

*[Translation]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Rajesh Ji, please sit down.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** In a rush of emotion, it is not proper to make sweeping statements about the entire world, the whole country, and all politicians. This should not go on record. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** I have said so.

*... (Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Nothing will go on record.

*… (Interruptions)…**

* Not recorded.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR):** Madam Speaker, a debate is underway on corruption. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. SPEAKER:** Not on corruption as a whole, only on a particular issue.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:** Under Rule 193, a debate is being held on the telecom companies' scam. This is not the first such debate; earlier too, discussions have taken place on similar matters. But if by merely holding discussions responsibility is considered discharged, then in my view that is not the way. What is needed is intent. The intent has been lacking. Previous governments were guilty of this, and if the present Government has the power, then it should bring earlier scams to light. As for the Congress, it has become their policy to initiate the debate themselves, speak their piece, and then walk away. ... *(Interruptions)* They have left. Their benches are empty. Later they say they did not know that the BJP Members would speak so effectively, and so on. This is their style. Once the damage is done, they repent afterwards. I belong to a party that emerged from the Anna movement. My party originated from an anti-corruption struggle.

Therefore, whenever such debates arise, it is important that I speak on behalf of my party. Our party has zero tolerance towards corruption. Even in Delhi, we have a government. Those who are guilty must be subject to a high-level inquiry. Those who loot the taxpayers' money, the people's money, whether through 2G, or "Shri G", or whatever the scam may be, nowadays people are confused whether "2G" or "3G" is the name of a scam or a new missile, such is the state of affairs. I would urge, through you, Madam, that there must be a high-level inquiry into this, so that those whose money has been squandered receive justice, and that those guilty are given the strictest possible punishment, so that in future no one dares to indulge in such corruption.

*[English]*

**THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY):** Madam, Speaker, I am extremely grateful to Shir Bhartruhari Mahtab and all other colleagues who have participated in this debate on this very important issue. Shri T.G. Venkatesh Babu has also made a very elaborate presentation. Let me at the very outset clarify and categorically state that as far as this Government is concerned, it is completely and absolutely committed to absolute probity and in any scandal or scam, any person who is found connected or concerned, no one will be spared. We have no holy cows to protect and the Government is going to the root of each one of these cases which has been mentioned. The Hon. Members who initiated the discussion very rightly said that it all started with the infamous 2G case. The extension of the case led to the Aircel-Maxis issue, which has now further led to a third category of cases. Some Members in the passing made an observation as to whether any investigating agency under the present Government is going slow in these matters. This is absolutely incorrect.

As far as the 2G cases are concerned, in all those cases where CBI has come to a *prima facie* opinion that an offence has been committed, charge-sheets have been filed and the trials are going on. The Supreme Court is monitoring those trials. The Supreme Court had appointed an independent prosecutor who conducted those trials. The law will take its own course. I am sure the guilty will have to face justice sooner or later.

The second set of cases about which a comment has been made is the Aircel-Maxis case. Whatever was the stand of the earlier Government, we have not been influenced by that stand at all. The investigative agencies have absolutely freedom to professionally record the entire evidence, and if they come to an opinion that some people are *prima facie* guilty, the investigative agencies are free to take action. It is pursuant to this policy that as far as the CBI is concerned, investigating the Aircel-Maxis case, it has already filed a charge sheet in the court. So, the question is not FIR – the charge sheets have already been filed and the case will now proceed to trial.

As far as the Enforcement Directorate is concerned, it also has powers under Money Laundering Act because if these are proceeds of crime, then, PMLA is attracted. On 8th of January, 2016, a charge

sheet or a complaint was filed in the court by the Enforcement Directorate also. On 27th of February, just about five days ago, the court had already taken cognisance of that charge sheet. Therefore, notices have gone to various accused persons who will now be tried in the Aircel-Maxis case and they will have to face trial. Eventually, it is for the court now to decide. Therefore both in 2G and Aircel-Maxis, CBI and in this case the Enforcement Directorate have taken all action which they could have taken as far as law is concerned.

In the course of investigating these cases, different agencies of the Government obtained some other information also and that relates to the further extension of this investigation. Now, pursuant to this, against several companies, more particularly in Chennai, a series of raids were conducted jointly by the Investigating Department of the Income-Tax and by the Enforcement Directorate. These raids were followed up by raids against other companies also against whom some materials were available so as to cross-verify those information.

I must straightaway at this stage place a particular limitation on myself, and that limitation is on account of two factors.

There is a provision in the Income Tax Act as also in the Prevention of Money Laundering Act under which I cannot make

public the details of the investigation. It is secondly based upon another very important principle that if investigations are at a very crucial stage and the third set of cases has reached a very critical stage, then disclosure of that investigation material publicly may actually prejudice the investigation. I may end up giving the line of investigation and, therefore, give an opportunity to the targets of investigation also to make the evidence itself disappear. I am, therefore, both in law and as a matter of propriety, constrained from placing the details of those investigations. But I can tell this House that as a result of those searches and a series of raids which have been conducted by the Enforcement Directorate and by the Investigative Wing of the Income Tax Department, a lot of incriminating materials have been seized, details of assets held by certain entities in India and abroad have also been obtained. Pursuant to that entire information, witnesses are being recorded, those documents are being analysed, and Letter Rogatories have been sent by the Enforcement Directorate to several countries. As far as the Income Tax Department is concerned, it writes letters under the Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement. That is the procedure they follow. So, all those procedures are being followed.

As far as cases are concerned, some Members wanted to know whether FIRs have been registered. For both the Enforcement Directorate and the Income Tax Department, under their respective Acts, there is no provision of registering an FIR. The Investigative Wing of the Income Tax Department investigates the case, a prosecution notice is issued, a complaint is issued and then assessment proceedings take place simultaneously.

So far as the Enforcement Directorate is concerned, if a case is finally made out under Foreign Exchange Management Act, it will hold adjudication proceedings and if a case is made out under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act for which a case has already been registered, the procedure is that an Enforcement Case Information Report is registered. That is the counterpart of the FIR, which is registered for a PMLA case.

Those cases in the third category have also been registered by the Enforcement Directorate and once, on the basis of this entire incriminating material, the entire investigation is concluded, all I can say is that whatever action has to be taken under different provisions of law, once a violation is detected, these investigations will be taken to their logical conclusion and all facts, including facts in relation to

certain entities which have been named, - I am not consciously using those names because these matters are under investigation – all matters would be investigated fully and logically, if there is a *prima facie* case is made out, then all actions would be taken under each of these three Acts. The three Acts involved in this case are the Income Tax Act, the Foreign Exchange Management Act and the Prevention of Money Laundering Act. Therefore, action, as per law, will be taken. Nobody, – and I underline the word 'nobody', however important he is, - would be spared if he is found to be *prima facie* guilty.

**SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK):** Madam Speaker, I had asked two or three specific questions. In how many cases the FIPB clearances have been given? That answer has not come. What is the professional competence of this company which was provided the clearance when the limitation to the Finance Minister was there which he transgressed? These are not matters of investigation. There are matters of information that can be shared.

**SHRI ARUN JAITLEY:** Madam, I would like to inform the Hon. Member that as far as the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) is concerned, the FIPB meets regularly. It meets under the Chairmanship of the Secretary, Department of Economic Affairs.

These days, for example, a lot of Foreign Direct Investment is coming, many proposals are through the automatic route, some are through the FIPB route and so, these days, the FIPB meets, at times, even twice a month. The recommendations from the FIPB come up to the Finance Minister for approval and the Finance Minister grants approval. So, every month literally I have to grant approvals for a very large number of cases for which recommendations come from the Foreign Investment Promotion Board. If you ask me how many approvals have been given, I can certainly, in the last 10, 15, 20 years, give you the number; it would run into thousands. The issue is not whether FIPB has given a clearance; the issues are whether the FIPB rightly gave a clearance and if in the process of grant of that clearance, any entity has taken any pecuniary benefit. Therefore, as I said earlier, these are matters of a very serious investigation. Investigation is at a very critical stage in these cases. Therefore there are a large number of companies, both domestic and international, which are involved in this investigation. Assets which are domestic and international acquired by them are under investigation. It would not be prudent for me to even give detailed disclosures as far as those investigations are concerned. Once the investigations are concluded and the matters are filed in court, then it will certainly become public.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Thank you.

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**15.27 hours**

## MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS – Contd.

**HON. SPEAKER:** Now, we take up the debate on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address; Shri Thota Narasimham.

**SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM (KAKINADA):** Thank you very much, Madam, for giving me an opportunity. First of all, I sincerely thank the Hon. President of India for delivering his valuable speech in this august House.

**15.28 hours** (DR. P. Venugopal *in the Chair*)

We need to be partners in the growth of our country. The development philosophy envisaged by the Government through the President's speech is '*sabka saath, sabka vikas*'.

Abdul Kalam once posed an interesting question to students, "Who is our enemy?" So many students gave answers such as Pakistan, China, America and so on. But one intelligent girl gave the most appealing and appropriate reply, applauded by Kalam *ji*, "Poverty is our biggest enemy'. Every Indian has to realise this. Our

every move should be in the direction of complete eradication of poverty from our mother India.

Hon. President of India remarked it as a ‘sacred responsibility’ of the Indian Government. We appreciate the term ‘sacred responsibility’ used. Development philosophy of any Government depends on the welfare of the farmers.

I have a pertinent suggestion on poverty. Growth is not the sole objective of economic policy. It is necessary to ensure that the benefits of growth accrue to all sections of society. The poorest of the poor are entitled to the first charge on the nation’s resources. We must ensure that the poor and the deprived are truly empowered to take advantage of opportunities to improve their lives. The perception regarding what constitutes poverty varies over time and across countries. Nevertheless, there is a need to measure poverty. Then only it will be possible to evaluate how the economy is performing in terms of providing a certain minimum standard of living to all its citizens. I request the Union Government to think in the lines of measuring poverty.

Make in India initiative has achieved 39 per cent increase in FDI inflow despite adverse global investment climate. It is not a small

achievement in this adverse global condition. I appreciate the Government for making this programme a success. The Make in India programme aims to transform India into a manufacturing hub. Defence procurement procedure with a focus on indigenously designed, developed and manufactured weapon systems will certainly boost up our Make in India initiative.

The Hon. President declares that the Government's top agenda programmes are financial inclusion, social security, clean India. Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, a financial inclusion scheme helps for eradication of poverty.

The fruits of our development have not yet reached the poorest of the poor. This can be achieved through inclusive growth. Mere giving of scholarships, setting up of a new Venture Capital Fund for SC entrepreneurs cannot serve the purpose. These downtrodden people of the society have to be brought to the mainstream through inclusive growth. Voluntary organisations have to be necessarily involved in this task. Economic development and environmental protection can co-exist. Biodiversity and wildlife protection is often termed as a 'co-benefit' to mitigate climate change. I congratulate the Government,

which played a proactive role in addressing climate change by launching the International Solar Alliance.

The main hurdle for India's development is corruption and red-tapism. Due to the prevalence of both, qualified youth of India are flying to the USA, UK and other countries. Even though they have love and affection towards their motherland, their strengths are not rightly channelized for developing their motherland. I am highly confident that our Prime Minister will best utilise the services of those NRIs for building a vibrant India.

We have also been witnessing agitations for reservation in the country, which are taking violent shapes also. The scientific reason behind demanding reservation by these sections of the society is nothing but backwardness. Shri Venkaiah Naidu ji is the Chairperson of the Committee to study the issues to provide reservations. I also request the Government to take steps for focussed-skill development for these sections. Alternative employment generation schemes have to be developed for these deprived sections in the rural areas. In the long run, these activities lead to sustainable growth and bring prosperity to those sections.

The earlier Governments have politicised everything. Their topmost priority is only their political agenda. They were least bothered about the National Integrity, Sovereignty of our country and development of the people. They brutally cut down the State of Andhra Pradesh. People of Andhra Pradesh taught them a befitting lesson. Not even a single MP or MLA elected from their Party. Even now, neither they have realisation nor repentance. They are living in dreams. God only saved their Party.

Sir, with regard to our State of Andhra Pradesh, I want to reiterate the long pending demand of the people of Andhra Pradesh. Due to unscientific bifurcation of the State of Andhra Pradesh, our State has been facing many hardships. We have a high fiscal deficit. Revenue loss is growing phenomenally. Even though the 14th Finance Commission extended support to the States, that support is not adequate to our State. We are the aftermath of a politically motivated bifurcation. It is the most unkindest cut of. In order to come on the main track, the people of Andhra Pradesh request a big helping hand from the Centre. Our State needs ‘special grants’ and ‘special packages’ from the Centre.

We should not be treated on par with other States. We request a special concern towards the people of our State. We do not have a Capital. We have been running the administration from another State. I request the Union Government to fulfil all the promises made during the time of bifurcation. I request you to grant special status to Andhra Pradesh, special status will enable us to industrially develop the backward districts of our Andhra Pradesh. It will enable us to stand on our legs. It is the need of the hour for the benefit of the people of our State.

We are in the process of constructing Amaravati as a People's Capital to our Andhra Pradesh State. I request generous financial assistance from the Union Government in this regard. Rail, Road and Air Connectivity have become a minimum necessity to any Capital. I request the Hon. Minister for Surface Transport and Hon. Railway Minister to be generous to provide connectivity to our Capital city Amaravati.

Recent cyclone not only drenched Chennai city but most of our districts are severely affected, losses were enumerated and a detailed report was already sent to the Union Government from our Andhra

Pradesh State. I request the Union Government to extend a helping hand in the form of financial assistance.

India ranks world number two in fish production and also the second highest aquaculture country in the world. India with a fishermen population of 14.5 million and a coastal line of 8,118 kilometres can rise to be a major player in the world fisheries. We have a fleet of 2 lakh fishing vessels. Even though we have vast areas, most of our inland water resources are unutilized and untapped. Blue Revolution has to be given the topmost priority in India. The Government of India has already announced 'Blue Revolution-Inland Fisheries'. Andhra Pradesh has the second longest coastline in the country, consisting of 960 kms. after Gujarat. I would request the Union Government to give top priority to Andhra Pradesh State in the area of Blue Revolution and inland fisheries.

I take this opportunity to congratulate our Hon. Railway Minister for allocation of funds to the State of Andhra Pradesh, mostly to my constituency, Kakinada, and this issue is the 50 years long pending issue. Kakinada is the mainland issue. Recently, in the Railway Budget, the Hon. Railway Minister allocated Rs.50 crore to mainland Kakinada and Rs.200 crore to another very long pending demand, that

is, Kotipalli to Narsapurm line in our district. He also sanctioned Rs.200 crore for this. I congratulate the Hon. Railway Minister, on behalf of my Party, Telugu Desam Party.

I take this opportunity to congratulate our Hon. Railway Minister for announcing three dedicated railway freight corridors. Our Hon. Chief Minister made another request. He requested to develop another small line between Vizag and Raipur as a part of the national level freight corridors. This would create a circular railway network in Andhra Pradesh connecting nearly 1,200 kms of coastline to the neighbouring States. This will strongly create connections among Vizag, Vijayawada and other major cities of Andhra Pradesh to Mumbai and Kolkata. This will pave the way to develop Andhra Pradesh as an industrial hub. I would request the Hon. Union Railway Minister to positively consider the request of our Hon. Chief Minister. There is no announcement about Vizag as a Railway Zone. We have great hopes. I would request the Hon. Railway Minister took steps to announce Vizag as a Railway Zone immediately.

Digital India is a prestigious programme started by the Union Government. Our Chief Minister is the first man to encourage innovative technologies. Under the Digital India programme, he

initiated fibre grid connectivity to the nook and corner of Andhra Pradesh. Fibre grid works are going on at a brisk pace in our State. The Government would provide internet, telephone and cable TV connection through fibre line to every household in the State. It would cost per month just Rs.150 per household for these facilities. The laying of 23,000 km. the cable network would be completed by June, 2016. The Government has been spending Rs.333 crore on the project and it will be completed in a record time. As many as 130 lakh families would benefit from the fibre grid project. We are moving ahead, what all we need is the financial support from the Union Government to develop on par with other States of India. I am confident that we will receive the best possible support from the Union Government.

I wholeheartedly thank the Hon. President for delivering his valuable speech. Sir, I also thank you very much for giving me this opportunity.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, those who want to lay their written speeches on Table, they can do so.

*__SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM):__ I support the motion, and am grateful to the Hon. President for delivering such a comprehensive address that touched upon many issues of great importance to our nation.

The Hon. President and the government have laid tremendous focus on developing agriculture. Here, I would like to highlight the example of Sikkim, which under the guidance of our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Pawan Chamling has become a 100% organic state. I would also like to thank Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, declared Sikkim as the first Organic State of India on 18th January this year and addressed the National Conference on Sustainable Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare. I am also thankful to the Prime Minister for his assurance for early resolution of the welfare, development and political demands raised by our Chief Minister at the meeting.

The move to organic agriculture would not only be integral to the health of our people but would also increase the remuneration received by our farmers.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

I am also pleased to hear of the Second Green Revolution being envisioned for the Eastern Region, and it must also be extended to the North East. The benefits of different models, like that of organic agriculture must be evaluated and a suitable model should be incentivised. The North-East region has the potential to kick-start the Evergreen Revolution in India through organic farming. The Government must support the North East region to become the country's biggest source for organic foods and a major exporter for the global organic market. The North Eastern states have very limited cultivable land, therefore an effort should be made to shift farmers to crops that will give higher remuneration.

There is a lot of stress on Cleanliness and Swachh Bharat. Here too, I would like to emphasise the progress made by Sikkim, which I am proud to announce is India's first state to achieve 100% Sanitation coverage. Our capital, Gangtok has also been ranked as one of the cleanest cities of the country.

I am happy to learn that the government has targeted to tackle the growing problem and reduce incidents of Hospital Acquired Infections through the implementation of the Kayakalp system. I would like to draw attention to my private member bill on the issue of

Hospital Acquired Infections that was drafted after a study of best practices across the globe, and could provide guidance on how this problem can be tackled effectively.

The Smart Cities project is also a commendable effort. There is tremendous need for the modernisation and development of mountain cities in the Himalayan Region, and special attention must be paid to the mountain cities. A scheme should be implemented for their development.

A major hurdle to the development of the mountain states is the lack of good all-weather road connectivity. If the roads in the region are developed, all aspects, ranging from remuneration to farmers, development of tourism, development of smart cities and national security will benefit. The construction of good roads in the North Eastern States must be a matter of priority for the government.

A focus area for the government has become renewable energy. It must expand renewable energy potential at an exponential rate to be able to provide power to its 125 crore citizens, while meeting its international obligations made during the COP21 summit in Paris. There is great renewable energy generation potential in the North Eastern States that must be harnessed. Not only will it help power the

nation in a sustainable manner, but would also create jobs, better infrastructure and bring industries to the North Eastern Region.

In consonance with the Hon. President's sentiments, my heart too goes out to those who suffered in disasters like the Chennai floods. There are a growing number of natural disasters in the country. Their intensity is also increasing. A major reason for this increase can be linked to Climate Change. Concerted effort to reduce climate change and limit our CO2 emissions must be a key area of focus to safeguard our future.

I would also like to highlight the importance of Tourism as an important sector of the economy. Tourism is invaluable in bringing in foreign exchange into India. There is massive potential for tourism development in the country, especially in the North Eastern Region and Sikkim. Sikkim has also moved ahead in this sector creating jobs and infrastructure. It is certainly a bright spot. For a country as great and diverse as India, with historic heritage and unmatched scenic beauty it shouldn't be hard to attract tourists from all over the world, yet we've limited our aspirations to capturing 1% of the global tourism market. The North Eastern states receive only a very small fraction of this, but have huge potential if developed properly.

The key to this is the development of infrastructure, starting with our Airports. The Pakyong Greenfield Airport in Sikkim has continually been delayed due to various reasons. The project has been ongoing since October 2008 and it is yet to reach completion. With such slow pace of progress in the building of such vital infrastructure, the North East can't develop. It is my hope that the government closely monitors the progress of the airport and ensures that it is made operational this year. The government of Sikkim is fully committed to this project and will render any assistance it can to expedite the project. There needs to be a concerted effort and focus on finishing infrastructural projects in the North East, not only for the development of the region, but also from a national security perspective.

Lastly, I would like to raise an issue close to the heart of all Sikkimese people and of utmost importance to the marginalised communities of Sikkim. The issue is of reservation to the Limboo and Tamang communities in the state legislative assembly under the Scheduled Tribe category. Article 332 of the Indian Constitution requires us to provide reservation to Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe communities as per their proportion in the population. It is imperative for their progress and development that such reservation is

provided to the Limboo and Tamang communities in a fast manner, and the Constitution also requires this of us.

Many other tribal communities in Sikkim are also waiting on the sidelines and their aspirations must also be accommodated by declaring them as Scheduled Tribes. Toward this end many applications and reports have been submitted to the Government of India. The Government of Sikkim holds Article 371F of the Constitution to be sacrosanct, and its sanctity must be maintained. Therefore, to fulfil our responsibilities of providing reservation to the Scheduled Tribes of Sikkim while also upholding Article 371F, the number of seats in the Sikkim Legislative Assembly must be increased to 40, out of which 5 seats will be reserved for the Limboo and Tamang communities.

These are long pending demands, and have been communicated to the Hon. Prime Minister by our Hon. Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling on multiple occasions. There has also been a resolution passed unanimously by the Sikkim Legislative Assembly on the issue and the Government of India has been informed of the same. These demands also find support in the Burman Commission Report of 2008, and must be accommodated in a fast tracked manner.

With these words, I would again like to thank the Hon. President for his address to the Joint Session of Parliament.

02.03.2016

***KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR):** Hon. President's speech reflects the positive works of the NDA Government during the last 20 months and the vision of our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modiji.

We are happy that the Address presents a large number of positives in the coming days for the country, mainly on the agriculture, economic and fiscal fronts. Hon. President has mentioned so many achievements of this Government in his Address. In this regard, I would like to emphasize certain aspects. Hon. President has given emphasis over all the best schemes launched by our Union Government in the last 20 months for overall development of every citizen of the country. The fundamental tenet of the Government is "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas". In the address, Hon. President indicated the inclination and measures initiated and taken by the Government ranging from the field of sanitation to smart cities; poverty elimination to creation of wealth; skill development to conquering space; empowering individuals to ensuring quality infrastructure; shortening the gap between have and haves not by making the country a

* Speech was laid on the Table.

manufacturing hub; containing inflation to stimulating economy and promoting cooperative federalism.

Coming to Government's priorities, Swachh Bharat Mission is an innovative programme of this Government. Gandhiji's 150th Birth Anniversary would be celebrated in October, 2019. By that time, we want to achieve a clean and open defecation free India. Swachh Bharat Mission i.e. to keep India clean is a step which will get immense response from all sections of people and this mission is moving in the right direction throughout the country. Every citizen of India feels that we need clean India.

I would like to congratulate the Government on introducing the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, a financial inclusion scheme which helps eradicate poverty. With regard to the launch of Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, I would like to say that the poorest of the poor, who have not even seen the bank till today, have opened accounts in various banks. In all, 21 crore bank accounts have been opened which will benefit the poorest of the poor. Budget 2015-16 announced a low-cost personal accidental cover called Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana to increase the insurance penetration level in the country. This is a good option for those without an insurance cover, but for the

middle class the cover is inadequate. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana will be linked to the bank accounts opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana Scheme. Most of these accounts had zero balance initially. The Government aims to reduce the number of such zero balance accounts by using this and related schemes. The Atal Pension Yojana will be focussed on all citizens in the unorganised sector, who join the National Pension System administered by the Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority and who are not members of any statutory social security scheme. Government is extremely concerned about the old age income security of the working poor and is focussed on encouraging and enabling them to join the National Pension System.

With regard to the Direct Benefit Transfer Programme, I would say that around 42 schemes have come under this programme by which the benefit of developmental programmes reaches the poor without any leakage. DBT covers scholarship to the students, welfare measures to minorities, beedi workers, housing subsidy, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes, pension schemes, LPG subsidy and others.

Marking 68 years of our Independence, Housing for All by 2022 is a laudable scheme. It aims at creating dwelling units for the poorest of the poor. It is a welcome step in the right direction. "Housing for All" (Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana) for urban area will be implemented during 2015-2022 and this scheme will provide Central assistance to implementing agencies through States and UTs for providing houses to all eligible families/beneficiaries by 2022, with an allocation of Rs. 4,25,000 crore. This Scheme providing housing to the poor sections of people under "Housing for All" by the end of 2022 will be a milestone of the Government.

The cash transfer to the LPG consumers is a historic step and one of the programmes which covers millions of people. This type of cash transfer to large numbers of people is nowhere in the world. We are marching towards producing and providing clean energy. PAHAL, the ambitious Scheme of giving cash subsidy on cooking gas directly to consumers has become the world's largest direct benefit transfer. PAHAL, has been modified to exclude the requirement of a unique identification number (Aadhaar) for availing the cash subsidy. Aadhaar is now optional but consumers should have a bank account linked to their LPG connection number. Direct Benefit Transfer has

been extended to 42 Schemes. PAHAL has close to Rs.15 crore beneficiaries.

Digital India, an innovative use of technology, can make enormous difference. I congratulate the Government for preparing India for technology based transformation. The initiatives will not only connect India via the internet but will help in reducing the cost of dissemination of information across our widespread country. In addition to this, it will help us gather information quicker and will lead to quicker decision making. As we know, our country saw decisions moving at a slow rate for the last 10 years. By this programme, the Prime Minister has made sure that this Government and no future Government can ever make excuses for delaying decisions in the face of all information. The Digital India initiative is also likely to create a second wave of digital entrepreneurs from across the country and help put the rural areas on the map by easing the burden of marketing their indigenous products to a larger market.

Our Government has given great impetus to Skill Development. Skill Development is crucial for our economic progress. It helps in creating a highly skilled labour force that can find employment not on the basis of "digging a hole and refilling it but on the basis of their

own merit". It helps a person stand on his own two feet so that he must not depend on the Government. It helps in easing generation of employment and weed out the disguised unemployment plaguing the economy. A roadmap and dedicated policy was much needed and I thank the Prime Minister for taking this visionary step that will bear fruit both immediately and for the future. With a growing youth population, this is exactly what is required for the future generations as well.

While promoting industry, our Government has made sure they have taken enough measures to protect the environment which otherwise gets denigrated in the process. The Government has given a push to solar energy in our country and has aimed to promote 24x7 electrification of the country by 2020. It has planned to create 175 GW of power through renewable energy and this is a brilliant step in creating a sustainable future for future generations. Our cities are right now choking under the weight of pollution and these are the steps in the right direction to create not only a clean environment but also a healthy populace.

'Make in India' programme aims to transform India into a manufacturing hub. If it is successful, job opportunities will grow and

employment can be generated. Building modern amenities and infrastructure in our urban areas through the National Urban Renewal Mission and also Smart Cities Programme are really very good programmes.

The launch of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana is especially laudable and special efforts should be taken to strengthen the impetus for farming. Given the facts that our population increases at least at 2.5 crore per annum, farm yields almost remaining stagnant due to the failure of various States in the country in exploiting available irrigation potential; and dwindling global tradable surplus of foodgrains due to the developed countries converting the lands which they hitherto used for food crops to renewable energy plantations for meeting the emission standards.

In addition to this, our Hon. Prime Minister has launched the My Gov Online platform which is a path breaking innovation. These steps will truly contribute to a vibrant democracy.

H.E. the Hon. President has also given the commitment of the Government to improve the infrastructure for the development of the country by formulating and installing Sagar Mala Project, Green Energy Mission, Clean Energy and Make in India, etc.

I thank Hon. P.M. for his concerns of development as well as his concern for all sections of people residing in different parts of the country. The vision of Modiji will come true and our country will flourish in all sectors and we will be proud of our nation.

Now, I come to the welfare of the people belonging to the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes and weaker sections. Though we have been giving reservations in a focused manner, successive Governments have failed to take these initiatives with conviction. Parliament passed a crucial The Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Amendment Bill, 2015 that provides for stringent action against those involved in crimes against scheduled castes and tribes, wrongfully occupying their land or dedicating such women as a 'devadasi'.

***DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANAGHAT):** The address given by the Hon. President of India in the joint session of Parliament sounds the beating drums of the BJP led government. It failed to satisfy aspirations of common people of India, remained incomplete in true sense, and disappointed the countrymen. The speech does not point out any information on non-implementation of the promises of Shri Narendra Modi before coming to power. There was no mention even of bringing back black money. He said that the government is focused on the welfare of the poor, farmers and jobs for the youth. But, in reality, nothing such activities have been seen. When he said the philosophy of 'per drop, more crop', the Government is not serious about improving Indian agriculture as reflected by budgetary allocation. I could understand that the Government is not keen to help debt states like West Bengal.

But one thing I appreciate. He said "our Parliament reflects the supreme will of the people. Democratic temper calls for debate and discussion, and not disruption or obstruction. I urge all members of the Parliament to discharge their solemn responsibilities in a spirit of cooperation and mutual accommodation."

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

*[Translation]*

*__SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA):__ I wish to place my views during the discussion on the Address by the Hon. President. The Hon. President delivered his Address on 23 February 2016. As per tradition, the debate begins with a Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. This debate encompasses all issues on which our Government has been working, and intends to work, since the President's Address represents the Government's agenda for the year across all sectors.

The Hon. President's Address included all the major issues, whether it be internal security, foreign policy, basic infrastructure, healthcare, education, roads, farmers' concerns, measures to enhance agricultural productivity, or nation-building programmes. In addition, the Address made particular mention of the National Solar Energy Mission, various rail-related schemes, the campaign against corruption, the repatriation of black money stashed abroad, and initiatives to provide ordinary citizens with accessible justice.

It is evident from the Hon. President's Address that the present Government is working in accordance with the philosophy of Integral

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Humanism propounded by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, and guided by the principle of Antyodaya. The Government's focus is especially on "the upliftment of the poor", "the prosperity of farmers" and "employment opportunities for youth". By maximising the utilisation of the nation's resources, the Government is ensuring that the benefits first reach the most deprived sections in order to eradicate poverty and want. The Government has implemented schemes such as the National Food Security initiative, Housing for All, Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and the "Nai Manzil" and "USTTAD" schemes for minorities; all designed to benefit citizens belonging to the weaker sections of society.

Through initiatives such as the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (Crop Insurance Scheme), the Soil Health Card scheme and the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (Agricultural Irrigation Scheme), the Government is working to enhance farmers' incomes. To usher in a second Green Revolution, the Government has established three new agricultural technology institutes and 109 new Krishi Vigyan Kendras (Agricultural Science Centres). A dedicated Kisan Channel has been launched to provide farmers with timely information on policies, pricing and agricultural practices. In order to

ensure farmers secure maximum market value for their produce, a unified electronic market platform has been developed to connect 585 wholesale markets. To encourage indigenous production and efficient use of energy, the New Urea Policy, 2015 has also been notified. The Government is working to fully harness the agricultural potential of the eastern states by ushering in a second Green Revolution. To enhance farmers' incomes through the food processing sector, concessional credit is being made available for designated food parks. In line with the Hon. President's Address, the Union Budget presented on Monday gives shape to the priorities outlined in the Address.

To generate greater employment opportunities in the country, the Government has launched Make in India, Start-Up India, MUDRA and Skill India programmes. Under the MUDRA scheme, loans up to one lakh rupees have been disbursed. Through the *Nai Manzil* scheme, 20,000 students from madrasas have been provided with vocational training. The Make in India programme has led to a 39 per cent increase in foreign direct investment. India's position in the World Bank's latest Ease of Doing Business rankings has also shown improvement. Under the Skill India Mission, 7.6 million people have so far been imparted training.

In his Address, His Excellency the President emphasised the need to make the domestic environment more conducive to investment, while encouraging both public and private investment, as well as domestic and foreign investment, with particular focus on foreign direct investment. At the same time, he underscored the importance of ensuring that farmers receive remunerative prices for their produce.

The country's energy deficit has declined from 4 per cent to 2.3 per cent. The Government has set the target of providing electricity to all villages by 2018. To improve the condition of power distribution companies, the *UDAY* scheme has been launched. Comprehensive reforms have also been implemented in the coal sector, with 70 coal blocks allocated through a transparent process, thereby benefiting the states. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 178,000 villages are to be connected with all-weather roads by March 2019.

On the basis of these initiatives, the nation will continue to progress steadily and attain a sustained growth rate of 9 per cent. Dalits, minorities, farmers and workers will be ensured full participation in this process of development. The central objective of the Government, as reflected in His Excellency the President's Address, is to achieve "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", collective efforts

and inclusive growth, through these programmes, thereby enabling India to secure further advancement and self-reliance.

“Our Parliament reflects the aspirations of the people. In a democratic system, debate and discussion are essential, not disruption. To be a Member of Parliament is not only a matter of pride, but also of great responsibility. The Government is making continuous efforts for the smooth and constructive functioning of Parliament. I appeal to all Members of Parliament to discharge their responsibilities with cooperation and mutual goodwill. Together, let us strive to build a prosperous India." His Excellency’s words reflect the concern that has arisen from the repeated disruption of the House during the past two to three Sessions. The smooth functioning of Parliament is the responsibility not only of the Treasury Benches but equally of the Opposition. The Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has himself emphasised that the Government welcomes criticism, but at the same time meaningful discussion on important issues must also take place. Democracy does not merely mean conducting elections and forming a Government; it equally entails holding constructive deliberations on the nation’s challenges and finding solutions. The country’s problems can and must be resolved through dialogue within this House.

I therefore express my gratitude to His Excellency the President for his Address.

*[English]*

***DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY):** One of the opposition leaders of the Country had summed up the President's Address by stating that "The President's Address covered everything except major issues like price rise, JNU, Jat agitation". This shows the attitude of the Government. It turns a blind eye to the goings on in the country. When Delhi and Hyderabad and then Jat reservations were engulfing the country and disturbing the young minds and old alike, the Address has failed to even cursorily mention it. It is not looking like a design rather than a slip on the part of the Government.

We have issues like misuse of sedition clauses, border issues, Hyderabad incident where a young Dalit scholar committed suicide. Nothing seems to bother the Government of the day about the burning issues that have caught the attention of the whole country in the past couple of months. Added to these issues, the ever being in the vogue issue- the exorbitant hike in the prices of the essential commodities.

As a woman Parliamentarian, I welcome the initiatives of the Government to induct women in all streams of the Armed Forces. I am of the firm opinion and desire that these initiatives would go a long

* Speech was laid on the Table.

way in ensuring the dignity of women in the country. Coming to the foreign policy, I think the Government has failed miserably when it comes to our neighbour be it Nepal or Pakistan or China for that matter. What went wrong with Nepal, which started treating India so badly?

On the other hand, the Government dilly dallies on talking to Pakistan by placing a caveat that Pakistan should stop terrorist activities in our Country and in our borders. On the other hand, it fails to bring Pakistan to convince that terrorists are from Pakistan. So it failed to tackle the situation arising out of cross-border terrorism.

The Government should shift its focus to rural areas from pandering to urban areas and corporations. There is a need to increase spending on the Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGA). Over the years MGNREGA has created assets which have helped to improve rural connectivity, water conservation and drought proofing. It has been proved by the available data that the Scheme has curbed successfully distress migration, increased national standards of households, provided risk resilience to small and marginal farmers and vastly expanded the financial inclusion bet in the rural areas. Hence, the Scheme should be provided with more and

more funds in the ensuing years. Wage payments under the MGNREGA should be expedited. There were reports of delay in payments.

Though the President's Address stated that the Government is making concerted efforts to tackle the menace of black money, what about the promise of the Prime Minister that he would get back the black money stashed in foreign countries and distribute it to the people.

Drought is looming large in many parts of the Country. I would strongly urge the Government to frame a national policy to tackle drought, which has become a recurring feature year after year in a holistic manner.

Handloom sector has been facing a number of problems for the last many years. The plight of the handloom weavers of West Bengal should be looked into and help them in times of distress by way of extending concessional credit to the handloom sector to benefit about 10 lakh weavers.

Our Government in West Bengal under the able leadership of our leader Mamata Banerjee, have done well – be it solving the hill issue for the Maoist crises or satisfying the common people of West Bengal.

No communal incidents took place in West Bengal in the last 4 ½ years.

To buttress this fact, a recent survey at the national level announced in the social media, put Kolkata for the best quality of life. The study was based on more than 100 parameters in 21 selected cities and Kolkata topped the list.

According to the Survey among the three popular Chief Ministers in the Country – our leader Mamata Banerjee is one of them. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

***SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI):** My Excellency President in his Address has said for the development of the country given the pulse of the country's economy.

The principle of development of the government lies in Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas. This will help in the development of the poor and backward sections of the country and they will get full opportunities for their economic and social development. With its special efforts, the government is making intensive efforts for the progress of the poor, prosperity of farmers and providing employment to the youth. Poverty is a curse in the country and the government has made many schemes to free the poor from this curse. The government is fully committed to providing housing and food security to the people deprived of basic facilities of the country. Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana has been started for their social security. It has yielded good results. Under this programme, 21 crore people out of 125 crore people of the country have opened accounts and the work of opening accounts is still going on. Rs 15 crore are in working order in these accounts and Rs 32 thousand crore have also been deposited in them.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

To provide social security to everyone, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana have been started. This will provide opportunities for security of the poor people of the country, financial assistance in case of illness and pension facility in old age. This will provide opportunities for a happy life instead of a bleak future for the poor. The Government is engaged in providing houses to all by 2022. With this, the government is constructing 2 crore houses for urban and rural people to fulfil their dream of home and houses will be built in all 4041 cities of the country within five years. The mission will cover 2011 cities across 27 states. The work of encashing the subsidy which the poor people in the country used to get indirectly from the government is now going on. This is expected to benefit 15 crore people. This will prevent its misuse and will also remove the corruption prevailing in it. The food security scheme started by the government in June 2014 has reached more than Rs. 68 crores, which is a commendable work. L.P.G. The earlier structure of giving subsidy was giving full benefit to the millionaires and the rich class and the rights of the poor were being harmed, but when this government requested the rich class not to take subsidy, then the rich class requested Acceptance and 68 lakh people bought their LPG. Subsidy

has been left out. This has helped the Government to invest this money in the development of the poor. This work of India is being praised a lot in the world. The full credit for which goes to Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Considering the low level of education among the minority section of the country, special attention has been paid to this. For this, the Ministry of Minority Affairs has made a provision of 50 percent of its budget for scholarship of students from minority category and for this it has started schemes named Nai Manzil and Ustad. Under Nai Manzil Yojana, 20 thousand children are being given skill training through madrassas. Along with promoting and spreading the culture of the minority sections of the country, the work of their protection is also being done by this government.

Farmers are the foundation of the country and the provider of food. The government has formed the Ministry of Farmers Welfare and many works are being done for their welfare. The government is contributing in helping the farmers get higher prices for their crops and making them face problems like natural disasters. For this, an Agricultural Crop Insurance Scheme has been started. The financial assistance provided under this scheme has been increased by 50

percent. Through this, the instalments to the farmers will now be of lower value and the assistance received from it will be much more than before. The losses caused by unseasonal rains and floods in the country will also be compensated.

To make their land more fertile, soil health cards will be given to 14 crore landholders by March 2017, which will enable farmers to make their land nutritious and fertile. A large amount of agricultural land in the country is dependent on Lord Indra. To ensure that farmers do not depend on rain water, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has been started. Due to which, work is being done to save every drop of water and apply it to crops and collect the water and use it in irrigation. There are many complaints from farmers about not getting their fair prices. For this, the government has taken the initiative and is creating a National Agricultural Market for the purpose of establishing a Marvet platform by connecting 585 regular wholesale markets to provide better prices to the farmers. With this, One Food Zone, One Country, One Market can be created in India. The outstanding amount of sugarcane of farmers in the country was Rs. 21 thousand crores, which at present has reduced to only Rs. 1 thousand 8 hundred crores. This shows how much work the present government is doing in the interest of farmers. Farmers are not able to get urea

fertiliser in the country; long lines were used to get it and a large quantity of urea was imported. This government has issued notification of new urea policy the year 2015. By working under this policy, the production of urea in the country has increased and its import has decreased.

Farmers in the country should not have to depend on agriculture. For this, the work of the food processing industry, animal husbandry, fish farming and milk production is being increased to provide employment to them in addition to farming. This will create employment and the standard of living of farmers can improve significantly. The government is taking steps for the second green revolution in the eastern regions on the basis of their climate and inaccessible places. 109 agricultural research centres and Kisan Channel are working 24 hours a day in the country and farmers are being given agricultural information and ways to solve their problems.

*[English]*

***SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR):** I express my humble gratitude to the Hon. President of India for addressing the Joint Sitting of the two Houses of Parliament. While the speech was extremely informative and encouraging, I'd like to draw the attention of the President, the government, my fellow Parliamentarians and the public to a few issues that need to be raised and addressed to truly achieve Garibon ki Unnati, Kisano ki Samriddhi and Yuvaon ka Rojgaar.

The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, which envisages financial inclusion and has twenty one crore accounts opened under the scheme, more than 30% of them are at zero balance. Linking these accounts to Aadhar cards and getting beneficiaries to use these accounts are still big challenges for the scheme. The government's Make in India initiative is still lagging in creating employment. 17.5 million people are constantly unemployed in the country. The Prime Minister had promised in 2014 that he would bring back black money within 100 days of assuming power and Rs.15 lakh would be deposited in each Indian's bank account from the money recovered. It has been 20

* Speech was laid on the Table.

months now and the public is still waiting. Total disclosures under the amnesty scheme has been an underwhelming Rs.3,770 crore with a tax revenue of Rs.2262 crore (60 per cent as tax revenues). In 1997 under Congress, when Shri P. Chidambaram unveiled an amnesty scheme, he got a declaration of a magnitude 10 times larger. It clearly shows that the government needs a more sensible amnesty scheme. The Swachh Bharat Mission, which is similar to the UPA government's Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan, seeks to build over 12 crore toilets across India by 2019, but has so far managed to build only 95.23 lakh toilets in rural areas and 4.64 lakh in urban areas. An assessment study conducted by the National Sample Survey Organisation (NSSO) revealed that toilets built in rural areas were lying unused, as the villagers had several issues regarding their use which the government or panchayats have failed to address.

The Integrated Child Development Services Scheme, which provides nutrition and other services to pregnant and lactating mothers, and infants saw a massive 50 per cent cut in allocation last year. 7067 operational projects of ICDS and 13.42 lakh Anganwadi centres are facing closure now. The budget of the Sarva Siksha Abhiyan was cut from Rs.27,758 crore to Rs.22,000 crores last year. While the government has done well on paper by renaming the

'Agriculture Ministry' to 'Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare Ministry, but in reality over the last two years the government has cut down the budget allocation to the agriculture sector. Data from drought hit states show that the government's compensation package for crop damage announced in March 2015 has done very little to prevent farmer suicide. The present government had promised, before elections, that it would increase Minimum Support Prices to farmers by 50% but nothing of the sort has been done so far. The government has decided to phase out Antyodaya Food Security scheme under which ten million of the poorest families get 35 kilos of foodgrains each at Rs.3 per kilo of rice and Rs.2 per kilo of wheat. New cards can no longer be issued under the Antyodaya Anna Yojana. The total number of households which were provided 100 days of wage-employment under the National Rural Employment Guarantee Act has more than halved under the present government. The Supreme Court last year reprimanded the Centre for non-utilisation of Rs.2000 crore Nirbhaya funds, which was earmarked for improving the safety and security of women. Almost 2.45 lakh constructed houses under the 'Housing for All' scheme are lying vacant with no takers. And these are just a few examples of many other schemes and programmes

that need the immediate attention of the government to ensure that the country develops, right from the grassroots.

The President of India quoted Dr. Ambedkar in his address, "Political democracy cannot last unless there lies at the base of it a social democracy". The year started with the tragic incident of the death of a bright Dalit Scholar in the Hyderabad Central University, followed by students of Jawaharlal Nehru University being slapped with sedition charges for exercising their right to free speech. The government needs to set a better example of social inclusiveness and accept the voice of dissent from the people as it is their vote that has put them in power.

***SHRI D. K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL):** The President's Address to the Joint Sitting of the Two Houses of the Parliament had nothing new that addressed the concerns of the country. The President's Address fell short of people's expectation and is a clear disappointment as it has not addressed the issues of intolerance, unemployment, development, price rise, national security, drinking water crisis and several other urgent and important issues.

The NDA Government had swept to power making false promises and said that "Acche Din" would soon come. However, this has been far from reality. For the common man, the rising prices of vegetables, fruits and other essential commodities has added to his burden. The International Prices of crude oil has dropped to all time record lows. The Government has collected huge revenues on oil, yet the Government is not passing on the benefits to the common man. The UPA Government under the leadership of Dr. Manmohan Singh faced oil prices that were at an all time high, but yet managed the unprecedented prices with innovativeness and not overburdening the common man. The NDA Government does not have the willpower to help the common man. I would suggest to the Government to take

* Speech was laid on the Table.

immediate steps to reduce oil prices to its true value and thereby reduce the cost of essentials for the common man.

The President's Address did not mention any definite policies for providing employment to the youth of this country. Thousands of youths are graduating every year hoping to earn a livelihood, but the President's Address holds no promise for them. There was no mention of providing quality education to the youth. Unless we invest in the future of our country, which is our youth, there will be unrest among the youth of the country. There has been no effort by this Government to fill vacancies in Government departments. I urge the Government to come up with a proper framework for providing employment for the unemployed youth of this country.

Under the UPA, the rural people of this country could depend on MGNREGA for employment. Under the NDA, there is discrimination in the allocation of funds. NDA ruled states are being favoured while all other states are being ignored and not given their due. The NDA Government is not functioning as a Federal Government, but as a Government favouring their own.

Agriculture is the backbone of this country. About 70% of our people still depend on agriculture. The President's Address does not

mention anywhere about the welfare of farmers nor does it talk about providing Minimum Support Price (MSP) for agricultural produce. Farmer suicides are on the rise all over the country, yet this sector is not given importance. There appears to be no plan of action on the ground other than basic lip service.

The President's address fails to address the issue of drinking water. The NDA Government is focusing only on Ganga cleaning, but what about the rest of the country where drinking water is becoming a daily nightmare for the common man? Groundwater is depleting and getting contaminated due to pollution, yet the Government is not coming up with any new schemes to provide safe drinking water. In addition, there is no mention of Solid Waste Management in the President's Address. Our cities are overburdened with garbage with no scientific way of disposing garbage. Unless the Government addresses these issues the people of this country will continue to suffer.

The NDA Government swept to power selling the vision of smart cities all over the country. Even after 1 ½ years in Government, the NDA has done little or nothing to fulfil this promise. The Government has identified 20 new cities under the smart cities program and several

places under the Amrut scheme, but on the ground level nothing has happened. Funds have not been released, nor there seems to be any concrete plans to implement the same. When will the promise of smart cities become a reality? Will this remain only as a vision?

There was much fan-fare and huge amounts of money spent to publicise Swachh Bharat. Cess is being collected in the name of Swachh Bharat, but the funds are not utilised towards development. The huge amount of money spent on TV advertisements instead could have been spent on real development work. The common man is not benefitting from the cess collected, but the media barons who helped the NDA come to power are reaping their rewards.

The Government has promised housing for all by 2020. Cement, labour and land costs are going up, but the Government has reduced the funding given to Urban Housing from Rs.4.5 lakhs to Rs.1.5 lakhs and for Rural Housing from Rs. 63,000 to Rs. 32,000 under the Indira Awaas Yojana. The NDA is shifting the burden to the states and reducing their contribution for housing schemes. The common man benefited more under the UPA than they are currently under the NDA. Housing will remain a dream.

The President's Address does not put any emphasis on the road network of the country. There is no clarity on the achievements of this Government regarding National Highways. There is no mention of the number of new National Highways the Government is planning. The tenders, sanctions and proposals are all continuations of the UPA Government, and little has been done by the NDA Government in this direction. Even under the PMGSY scheme there is no action plan for new roads in rural areas. The President's address falls short in the infrastructure development front.

The Government claims financial inclusion of crores of people under the Jan Dhan Scheme. The Jan Dhan is nothing but a continuation of what the UPA had successfully started and implemented. The Government proudly announces it has collected 32 thousand crores under Jan Dhan Scheme. Who is benefitting from this? The hard earned money of labourers and farmers is sitting in Banks. The Government fails to announce how many people have availed Overdrafts, Insurance, Accidental Cover and how many families have actually benefited from this scheme. There is no vision in this Government's approach to solving the common man's problem, but only false promises of financial inclusion.

The President's Address does not address the issue of Social Justice and intolerance that is on the rise in the country. There is no message for the socially deprived people of this country. The burning issues of the country such as the JNU and Hyderabad University have not been addressed in the President's speech at all. The Government is fostering an environment of fear and intolerance instead of protecting the social backward and minorities. Unless the Government changes these situations in the country immediately, there are possibilities of more uprisings and a charged atmosphere. The Government has to focus on spreading harmony instead of spreading fear. The Government has failed completely in addressing these burning issues of the country.

Overall the President's Address to the Joint Sitting of both the Houses of Parliament was lacking in vision or on policy matters. It is disappointing that the NDA Government is not focusing on the assurance it had provided in its manifesto. The people of this country are utterly disappointed with this Government.

*[Translation]*

*__SHRI RODMAL NAGAR (RAJGARH):__ The paramount goal of the Government is to eradicate poverty, so the first right on the resources of the country is that of the poor person. The government has emphasised food security, housing for all and subsidies that go to the needy when they need them most. To provide social security to everyone, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana have been approved. The Government is committed to provide housing to all by the year 2022.

To empower the minorities, two schemes named “New Manzil” and “Ustad” have been started. The prosperity of farmers is the basis of the prosperity of the nation, hence recently it has started a beneficial crop insurance scheme for the farmers, along with it there is a plan to give soil health cards to all the 14 crore landholders of the country by 2017, so that the farmers can get proper treatment. Will help in choosing fertiliser.

Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana will definitely boost irrigation of crops. To provide maximum market price to the farmers,

* Speech was laid on the Table.

work is being done to create an e-mart platform by connecting 585 wholesale markets. With this, India can be made One Food Zone, One Country, One Market. In the field of animal husbandry, India still remains the largest milk producing country with a growth rate of 6.3 percent. The Food Processing Fund was started last year so that cheap loans can be provided to food parks.

Employment of youth through wider employment generation is the paramount goal of the Government. We are creating employment through Make in India, Startup India, Skill India. The aim of the Government is to build an educated, healthy, clean India. In the spirit of Swachh Bharat, more than 4 lakh toilets have been constructed for students in our primary schools. New institutes of excellence have been set up in the field of higher education. The National Institutional Ranking Framework has been started for Higher Education Institutions.

Swachh Bharat Mission has taken the form of a community campaign. With emphasis on producing useful products from waste materials, the government has made policies regarding compulsory purchase of electricity from waste to energy plants, marketing of compost by chemical and fertiliser companies and utilisation of

debris. Stringent amendments are being made in the Anti-Corruption Act so that there is no scope for loopholes in the anti-corruption law.

The Government is committed to the principle of **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam** that is, the whole world is one family. Steps taken to enhance connectivity with our neighbouring countries show a clear glimpse of this principle. We have reached the entire world through both land and sea. The government will not let the oceans come between the relations between India and other countries. We are still at the forefront of the global fight against terrorism. As a result of India's good efforts, concrete steps have been taken for restructuring of the United Nations Security Council.

The main objective of the government is the development of all. Everyone's development is the development of the entire world. Therefore, we must become responsible members of the global community of nations and help all of humanity solve major problems such as terrorism, climate change and financial stability. Let us work with this spirit **"Let us light lamps where there is still darkness."**

***SHRI ALOK SANJAR (BHOPAL):** I support the address proposal given by the Hon. President. This address contains a document outlining the policies and future programs of our government. In this address, the government has shown commitment to fulfil the needs of the poor. Address of His Excellency the President, NDA under the able leadership of the illustrious Prime Minister of the country. This is a picture of the policy prepared by the government. In the address, all the points of all the sectors of the country, be it agriculture, science, medicine or employment sector, have been highlighted. In just one and a half years, the government has established good governance in the country and implemented many schemes and spread enthusiasm and energy among the people. This address contains everything which is going to take the country forward on the path of development.

Hon. Shri Modi ji has given the slogan of "Ek Bharat – Shreshtha Bharat". The country is also extending its support to fulfil the goal of building a better India. All the schemes mentioned in this address are actually the demand of the present time and I can say with confidence that they will be beneficial for the future of India. All these schemes will uplift the farmers, labourers and poor people of India.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay has mentioned the concept of Antyodaya in the philosophy of Integral Humanity, the objective of which is to empower the last person of the society by providing all opportunities to him. All the programs of the present government are based on this principle. The government led by the Prime Minister has made and implemented schemes for education, medical care, employment, electricity, water, housing, women's safety etc.

I thank you for the gifts given to Madhya Pradesh in the Railway Budget. In the series of modern railway stations to be developed, it has been started by giving priority to Habibganj Railway Station of my parliamentary constituency Bhopal and four ROBs have been constructed in the area. I express my gratitude on behalf of the people of Bhopal.

The area I represent is where the world's largest gas tragedy has occurred. I request the government for help. The amount of help given to the gas affected people is less. Bhopal Memorial Hospital needs to be arranged for the gas victims.

It is my good fortune to express my heartfelt gratitude to the illustrious Prime Minister and Chief Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Ji that under their leadership the crop insurance scheme for farmers has

been started in Sehore district of Bhopal parliamentary constituency. This proves that the Modi government in the country and Shivraj ji's government in the state stand strongly with the farmers. The present government is the most friendly government to the farmers. The governments of the country are working by making special schemes keeping in mind the interests of forest dwellers, labourers, farmers and Dalits. Also, Smart Cities is a major program of our government. Smart cities are our need. The government has given four smart city projects in Madhya Pradesh including Bhopal. I heartily congratulate the government.

I hope that the metro work should start as soon as possible to eliminate traffic congestion in my constituency. In the health sector, I also respectfully request the government to make AIIMS Bhopal a well-organised and smoothly functioning hospital of the country.

All the work done by the Hon. Prime Minister in the public interest and national interest in the last one and a half years are commendable. Whatever conference the Hon. Shri Modi has attended at the international level, he has left an indelible mark of India there. This has awakened confidence in the country that this government will realise the vision of a developed, self-respecting India. India's

greatest strength is its rich spiritual and cultural heritage. To make India a proud nation, the government has included development of the poor, proper utilisation of manpower, Swachh Bharat Mission, housing for the poor and service to farmers, progress of daughters and safety of women among its top priorities.

*__SHRI RAJESH CHUDASAMA (JUNAGARH):__ I respect the views expressed by His Excellency the President on the policies and future programmes of the Government. I wish to share a few of my thoughts on the achievements of the Government and the future agenda outlined in the President's Address. At the outset, I would like to thank this Government which, in such a short span of time, has set India firmly upon the path of long-term development. Today, among the people of the country, there exists profound trust and faith in this Government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. This confidence is palpable, and I would like to affirm that the foundation of this Government is so strong that no artificial storms will be able to shake it.

History bears witness that in independent India, never before has a Prime Minister faced such frequent and relentless allegations and attacks from the Opposition as have been levelled against Shri Narendra Modi and his Government. Yet, I can say with conviction that the spirit of service to the nation embodied in this leadership is such that it can endure these accusations with composure and continue upon the path of duty without wavering.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Today, India is not only asserting itself domestically but is also raising its banner of capability at the global stage. Economically, socially, culturally, politically, and internationally, the nation has achieved notable strength and progress. We must not forget that behind this progress lies the Government's farsighted and long-term policies.

The principle of development of our Government 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' is being reflected in real terms today. This government is truly focused on "progress of the poor", "prosperity of farmers", and "employment of youth", as His Excellency the President said.

The guiding principle of our Government, "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas", "Collective Efforts, Inclusive Growth", is today visibly reflected in reality. This Government is truly focused on uplifting the poor, ensuring the prosperity of farmers, and providing employment to youth, as His Excellency the President has rightly said.

It is the result of our Prime Minister's visionary policies that the *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* has emerged as the most successful financial inclusion scheme in the world. It is a matter of pleasant surprise and pride that through this scheme more than 210 million

accounts have been opened for the deprived and the poor, with deposits of nearly Rs. 32,000 crore.

Our government is releasing new ideas and innovative schemes. In which a glimpse of Gandhiji's big dream trusteeship is also visible. The Give It Up campaign is a similar scheme, under which people with higher incomes are giving up their subsidies in favour of those who really need them. It has been praised across the country as a social revolution. Around 62 lakh BPL families have received new subsidised connections.

Many times our government is accused by the opposition of being anti-minority whereas the reality is that we have taken many measures for the welfare of minorities. The government has allocated more than 50 percent of the budget of the Ministry of Minority Affairs for scholarship funds. To empower the minorities, two schemes named ‘Nai Manzil’ and ‘Ustad’ have been started.

Many tactics were also adopted to portray our government as anti-farmer on the issue of land acquisition law. But his tongue got stuck when our government changed the name of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. Several measures have been

initiated for the welfare of farmers. Recently, 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' has been started for the farmers, in which the farmers will have to pay the lowest amount ever in the form of instalment and the government's contribution will be the highest till date. This is happening for the first time that the losses caused due to post-harvest floods and unseasonal rains in the entire country will be compensated. There will be no limit on government subsidy and technology will be used for quick and accurate settlement of claims.

Soil Health Card Scheme is another such scheme, which shows that the government does not talk empty talk but is progressive. Along with saving from the Soil Health Card Scheme, efforts have been made to improve the fertility of the land. Our Government is also constantly striving to provide the highest market price to the farmers and in this series, the Government is working for a unified National Agriculture Market with the objective of establishing a common e-market platform connecting 585 regular wholesale markets. This will make India 'One Food Zone, One Country, One Marvet'. With this, our farmers will get a fair price for their crops and hard work. The arrears of sugarcane, which was more than Rs. 21,000 crore, have come down to Rs.1800 crore from the targeted policy proposals made in the previous year.

Rural development is the top priority of the Government. Grants of more than two lakh crore have been allocated under the 14th Finance Commission in 2015-16 for the next 5 years, especially for the development of Gram Panchayats. Through Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission, efforts are being made to develop the facilities of urban areas in villages also.

For skill development in youth, the Government launched the Skill India Mission. A separate ministry has been formed for this purpose.

The success of 'Make in India' towards indigenous and economic development of the nation is evident. Today, India continues to maintain economic stability even in the turbulent global economy. Gross domestic production has increased and this has made India the most dynamic economy in the world among the major economies. Inflation, fiscal deficit and current account deficit have all declined. India has recorded the highest ever foreign exchange reserves in 2015.

Today, we see the best progress in the country in terms of women empowerment. Recently, our Government has approved the induction of women as Short Service Commission officers and fighter pilots in the Indian Air Force, which is still a pending issue. Apart from this,

several measures have been taken to provide safety and protection to women like a nationwide emergency response system, a central victim compensation fund, a cyber crime prevention and organised crime investigation agency against women and children and an integrated emergency response management system for safety of women in railways.

There is a long list of efforts of the government for the progress of the country. I would like to say in brief that the heights to which the country is reaching today and our government under the leadership of Modi ji have given wings to these aspirations. He is not going to stop making allegations and creating an artificial atmosphere by some selfish groups. The kind of environment that is being tried to be created in the country, we will respond to it with development and progress, not just development but development with the support of all.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now, Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy to lay the BAC Report.

02.03.2016

**15.39 hours**

## BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## 26th Report

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY):** Sir, I present the Twenty-sixth Report of the Business Advisory Committee.

02.03.2016

**15.39 ½ hours**

## MOTION OF THANKS ON THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS— Contd.

*[English]*

**SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, on behalf of my Party, Telangana Rashtra Samithi, let me thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

It truly is a wonderful achievement that we, as a sovereign democratic nation, have entered into our 70th year. There comes a point in our brief history where we must ask ourselves two fundamental questions: (1) How far have we matured as a nation?; and (2) What direction are we moving towards?

Sir, from what we have heard in the President's Address, there is no mention of our diversity.

There is always a great sense of awe in our unique diversity. It is certainly true that there is unity in diversity; and it is our democracy's greatest strength, which must be celebrated.

But at the same time, let us not be ignorant of the importance of being sensitive to and protective of the pluralistic needs of our society, especially to the ideals of diverse and opposing viewpoints.

It gives me immense pride and satisfaction to say that despite the many obstacles faced, lessons learnt, and mistakes made over decades and generations of subsequent Governments, this great nation has endured and survived.

This is a young democracy with much to learn and grow, but we must strive for maturity to learn from our past mistakes, and be prepared to take large steps forward while strengthening the very fabric that holds us together all along the way.

Sir, recent instances of violent agitations combined with mob-justice and disruptive politics, do not bode well for our united long-term growth plan as a nation, which has gone through so much turmoil and suffering. Our struggles and hardships may differ but our aspirations and pride for India are shared ones.

Sir, we are at a delicate crossroads in the evolution of our vibrant, pluralistic and resilient democratic fabric. As leaders of this great nation, we must set the benchmark for all our citizens to follow including our own party hierarchy including workers and volunteers.

Let us not get sidetracked by manufactured agendas or *mala fide* interests and lose sight of the massive tasks that lie ahead.

Sir, justice must be swift for those students that have been oppressed by suppressive responses that have taken place in relation to the events that occurred in JNU as well as the unfortunate death of Rohith Vemula in Hyderabad University, and action must be severe against those found clearly responsible for abusing the law.

We already have a law enforcement machinery in place that is authorised with certain powers and functions. Serious steps must be taken by this Government to strictly ensure that the law of the land is not enforced by ordinary citizens.

Sir, we cannot encourage, condone or excuse this type of 'Judge, Jury and Executioner' mentality to continue in the minds of our people any longer at any cost. What about the rule of law? It is being eroded.

In the spirit of *Sabka Vikas* mentioned in Para 79, this Government must restore faith and balance in the rule of law. This is the true test for this Government and every Government that follows.

Sir, at a time when we are inviting companies to "Make in India", it is deeply regrettable that the law and order situation in Haryana has gone terribly out of control, particularly since it is supposed to be one

of the more business-friendly destinations. We have to learn from our past mistakes, and our actions must speak louder than mere words and slogans.

Sir, coming to the other massive task that lies ahead, in the latest Global Human Development Report, 2015, released by the United Nations Development Programme, India's ranking on Human Development Index (HDI) is an abysmal 130 out of 188 countries. With an HDI value of 0.609 for 2014, India falls well below the average of 0.630 for countries in the medium human development category.

Sir, this Report suggests that India's HDI for 2014 when discounted for inequality falls to a value of 0.435, a loss of 28.6 percent due to inequality in the distribution of each dimension across the population.

Sir, the overriding goal for this Government, as per Para 4, is poverty eradication. However our welfare delivery system is not improving.

We are struggling to provide adequate shelter, education, food, health and infrastructure to all our citizens notwithstanding the leakages and quality of these services provided.

India has a long way to go to provide basic services to all its citizens and a lot of coordination and cooperation with each State Government is needed to improve delivery.

I must commend this Government for taking a noble initiative in introducing crucial guidelines for the protection of good samaritans from harassment in road accident cases as per paragraph 53.

However, Sir, for this initiative to have the intended impact, this protection must come with decisive legislative backing, not just with guidelines.

Only through strong political commitment and legislative backing can we achieve better delivery, eradicate poverty, and improve overall HDI. This is just one example which can help us maximise our goals.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Members of the House the focus and agenda of India's newest State in this regard.

With a focus on "progress through distributive justice" and a sustained improvement in the well-being of its people including economic, social and cultural dimensions, the newly formed State of Telangana is being reinvented in an exclusive manner.

Under the exceptional leadership and vision of our Hon. Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao, over 190 welfare schemes have been launched by the State Government till now.

About Rs. 40,000 crore is being spent exclusively on the welfare sector. The Government has spent Rs. 4,700 crore on pensions under the 'Aasara' Pension Scheme that has benefited 37.65 lakh people including senior citizens, widows, AIDS patients, weavers, beedi workers, in order to protect our most vulnerable sections.

With regard to our commitment on minority welfare, my Government has allocated over Rs. 1,100 crore. My Government has also allocated over Rs. 8,000 crore for SC and Rs. 5,000 crore for ST sub-plan with a focus on improving skill development and employment of SC/ST youth.

The Land Purchase Scheme for landless SC families is a significant welfare scheme to empower landless Dalits in rural areas. The State has allocated Rs. 1,000 crore in the Budget for the year 2015-16.

Three acres of agricultural land is being distributed to landless SC women of which the State has spent Rs. 94 crore in the first year in distributing 2,524 acres of land to 959 Dalits.

Another hallmark initiative of the Telangana Government is the Double Bedroom Housing Programme for rural and urban poor. Already 66,000 such houses are sanctioned across 10 districts at the rate of 400 per assembly constituency as of now.

We have successfully introduced a wing of the Telangana police called “SHE teams” in Hyderabad and Cyberabad which is an all-woman anti-harassment task force. It is now poised to be replicated in all districts of the State.

To improve our State’s health indicators, the ‘Arogya Lakshmi’ scheme has provided nutritional support through Anganwadi Centres to pregnant and lactating women including children below the age of six.

In the past year a total of 18.96 lakh mothers, 5.18 lakh infants and 21.58 lakh pregnant women were covered under this scheme spending Rs. 627.96 crore.

Furthermore, with the reduced scale of Central support to the ICDS programme, our Government has enhanced the Honorarium to Anganwadi Workers from Rs. 4,200 to Rs. 7,000, and also to that of Anganwadi Helpers from Rs. 2,200 to Rs. 4,500 per month.

Honouring the traditions and customs of religious minorities, the State participated in celebrating festivals like Ramzan and Christmas in an inclusive manner. We have celebrated ‘Bonalu’ and ‘Bathukamma’ as State festivals, including the Godavari Pushkaralu across the State. My Government has even given importance to ‘Sammakka Sarakka Jatara’ and has released Rs. 101 crore for the festival in the tribal area of Medaram forest.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please wind up.

**SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY:** I will finish in two minutes.

My Government has allocated and spent Rs. 100 crore under the 'Shaadi Mubarak Scheme' in 2015-16 benefitting over 17,000 Muslim girls. My Government has also allocated Rs. 147 crore under the 'Kalyana Lakshmi' scheme which will benefit nearly 27,000 young brides belonging to the SC community. With an outlay of Rs. 80 crore, the Kalyana Lakshmi programme is likely to benefit over 15,000 tribal brides as well.

We have also allocated Rs. 5,424 crore for R&B roads and Rs. 2,421 crore for Panchayat Raj roads under a major initiative to improve, modernise and strengthen the road connectivity in all the districts of Telangana.

Sir, it was rightly highlighted in paragraph 70 that the country has faced severe drought and floods. One of our biggest concerns is the distress our farmers are facing due to Telangana's proneness to droughts. It is a matter of grave concern.

However, the words used in this paragraph, "immediately forwarding physical and financial resources" are being looked at in relative terms.

The Union Government must acknowledge the time lag that exists between assessment and declaration of droughts by the State Governments, and the deployment of a Central team to evaluate the damage.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude. I have a long list of Members.

**SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY:** Sir, this is for all of us, even for your State, for my State and everybody. I am finishing.

The Telangana Government had declared 231 mandals as drought-hit areas and submitted a final memorandum to the Government of India requesting Rs. 3,064 crore from the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) to undertake relief measures and drought mitigation. But it was only allotted an amount of Rs. 791 crore.

It has been raised by Members of this House in the past but I shall highlight the same again. For those States that have a high proneness to drought and deficient rain, I call upon the Union Government to provide additional financial support from the NDRF in a more flexible manner in order to address this time lag.

Sir, as you are asking me to conclude, I have just two more things. The State Government has taken up 34 major and medium irrigation projects with an outlay of Rs. 1,31,988 crore. And, it plans to spend Rs. 25,000 crore annually on the irrigation sector.

Our visionary leader, KCR has launched two flagship programmes. First is, Mission Kakatiya. It is to revive 45,300 irrigation tanks at an outlay of Rs. 22,500 crore in the next five years, and second is, Mission Bhagiratha which is a water grid project to provide safe drinking water to every household in the State through a network of 1.26 lakh kilometres length of piped water system across 10 districts.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY:** Sir, I have almost finished. Why I am giving is that these are all the flagship programmes which other States have not done. I am telling you so that you all can see these flagship programmes and introduce them in your States. Already in Bihar, in their election manifesto, they have mentioned this Mission Bhagiratha and all that. Uma Bharti ji is very much impressed with the Mission Kakatiya and she is also funding the State for this programme. I am giving the highlights of it just for the information of

all the people. What I am going to say next, I am not saying with pride, but with honour. As a mark of appreciation and encouragement to the inauguration of these ambitious programmes launched by our Hon. Chief Minister, Hon. K. Chandrashekar Rao, the people of Telangana have blessed our party. Whenever elections have been held we have come up with a majority. In Warangal, we came up with 5 lakh majority; in GHMC, we got 99 out of 150 divisions; and in Narayankhed, we came up with 53,000 majority votes. Recently, 3-4 days back, we had elections and there are some reports that we are coming up with 50 seats. This is the response of the people. They are giving their votes to our party like bestowing flowers on us. I request that the Union Government should come up with good flagship programmes in the country.

With these words, I conclude my speech. Thank you.

*__SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA):__ I support the Motion moved by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi ji and seconded by Hon. Minister for Food Processing Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur ji.

His Excellency the President in his address to the Joint Session of the Parliament mentioned the achievements of the government during the previous year and the roadmap for the current year for the Union Government.

At the outset, I would like to mention that agriculture is the mainstay in the Indian economy. Realising the greater importance of the agriculture sector our Hon. Prime Minister has given top priority for the development of agriculture and introduced Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) in the country.

"The major objective of the PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (har khet ko pani), improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance adoption of precision-irrigation and other water-saving technologies (more crop per drop). With an eye on improving farm productivity, the Union Government

* Speech was laid on the Table.

has decided to spend Rs. 50,000 crore over the next four years under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).

It is expected that an additional 6 lakh hectares would be brought under irrigation and 5 lakh hectares will benefit from drip irrigation. Besides this, about 1,300 watershed projects have been marked for completion.

As we are aware that the farmers in our country are in great hardship as Rabi and Kharif crops were damaged due to natural calamities such as drought in some parts of the country and unseasonal rain and hail storms in other parts of the country. According to some reports the unseasonal rains and hailstorms have damaged rabi (winter-sown) crops in 113 lakh hectares of area across 14 states including my state Karnataka. In order to give immediate and adequate relief to the affected farmers our Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has changed the guidelines criteria of 50 per cent crop damage for providing compensation and reduced it to 33 per cent, crop damage. The new guidelines will help more and more farmers get compensation for their crop loss.

Our NDA government has taken another important step to raise the parameters to increase the amount of compensation to 1.5 times

for affected farmers. A total of 50 per cent is increased in the compensation to farmers. Taking such a pro-farmer measure the BJP government realised the responsibility of the Union Government in understanding the problems faced by farmers due to abnormal weather conditions. At this juncture, I would like to suggest that both the Union and State Governments should issue stringent directions to the banks and insurance companies would do their utmost to provide relief to the farmers and to settle claims of farmers on a priority basis.

With regard to voluntary give up LPG subsidy, the Union Government launched the 'Give It Up' movement in Karnataka on 4th April 2015. People of the entire country responded positively to the sincere appeal of the government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji to voluntarily give up their subsidy amount given on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders. The money surrounded under this movement will be utilised to give LPG connection to people in rural areas who are still using firewood for cooking.

Our NDA government has taken a very right step to encourage the youth of the country to become job creators, not job seekers by introducing the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) Yojana or PMMY scheme to fund for setting

up small businesses such as tailoring shops, grocery shops and cosmetic shops etc. All these years they were forced to take loans from the unorganised sector at an exorbitant annual rate of interest, sometimes even 100 per cent. But now the government has given them an opportunity to have access to institutional credit to get loans of up to Rs. 50,000 from banks at much lower rates.

Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has launched three ambitious social security schemes, relating to the insurance and pension sector and intended at widening the process of financial inclusion. They are "Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana" (accident insurance), "Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana" (life insurance) and "Atal Pension Yojana". The schemes target the poor and unorganised sector who are neither covered by any form of insurance nor get pension. Under the accident insurance scheme, a person will be provided cover of Rs. 2,00,000 for an annual premium of Rs. 12. The cover is for accidental death or permanent total disability. The life insurance scheme will offer a renewable one year life cover of Rs. 2,00,000 to all savings bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 50 years, covering death due to any reason, for a premium of Rs. 330 per annum per subscriber. On the other hand, the pension scheme focuses on the unorganised sector and provides

subscribers a fixed minimum pension of Rs. 1000, Rs. 2000 and Rs. 3000, Rs. 4000 or Rs. 5000 per month starting at the age of 60 years, depending on the contribution option exercised on entering at an age between 18 and 40 years. Thus, the period of contribution by any subscriber under APY would be 20 years or more. The benefit of fixed minimum pension enjoys sovereign guarantee.

The Union Government has rightly identified the cause of unemployment and made sincere attempts to create employment opportunities by promoting small enterprises. As per the information, large industries create more employment. A look at the details reveals the reality that only 1.25 crore people find employment in large industries, whereas small enterprises employ 12 crore people in the country. I would also like to suggest the government to take necessary action against the Banks which discourage the youth to give them Collateral Free Loans to set up enterprises.

*[Translation]*

***SHRI JASVANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR (DAHOD):** The picture presented by the Hon. President in his address on the development of the country gives the impression that the real development of the country is now back on track. For this, the respected Prime Minister of the present government, Shri Narendra Modi deserves praise.

This country is a country of farmers, who produce food grains for the people of the country by working in their fields in the scorching heat, in the scorching cold and in the heavy rains, for which the government has started many schemes. In the past, agricultural crops were destroyed due to natural calamities, unseasonal rains, droughts and floods and farmers used to commit suicide. The government has closely understood the problems of the farmers and to provide relief to them, it has given the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme to the country, with this the farmers will have to pay less premium and will get more compensation in case of crop loss, this will provide financial assistance to the farmers of the country. There has been an increase of 50 percent. The government has formed a separate Farmers Welfare

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Department to provide timely assistance to the farmers and save them from troubles and is working closely with the Agriculture Ministry.

Due to excessive use of chemical fertilisers in the country, a decrease in their fertility has been observed. For this, the Government will provide soil health cards to 14 crore holders by March 2017 so that they can make their land nutritious and fertile.Launched Traditional Agricultural Development Scheme to promote organic farming in the country. Eight thousand crore groups have been developed for this. The farmers in the country are still dependent on rain water for farming. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has been prepared to increase the area of irrigation in the country. This will help in facing drought. The government is using every drop of water to collect water and use it for irrigation. For this, the farmers of drought-prone areas are praising this Government. The work of the National Agricultural Market is being done to provide remunerative prices to the farmers for their produce. 585 regular wholesale markets have been added to this. Earlier, the arrears of sugarcane of farmers were more than Rs. 21 thousand crores, but with the policy decision of the Government, this amount came down to Rs. 1 thousand 8 hundred crores. Production of urea has increased in the country. This has prevented the black marketing of urea and also reduced the import

of urea from overseas in the country. In order to promote other sources of income to the farmers besides farming, the government is promoting animal husbandry, milk dairy, food processing and fish farming. This will help in the social and economic development of farmers. To discover new things in agriculture related to the country, the government has established 109 new Krishi Vigyan Kendras and Kisan Channel is running 24 hours every day to provide latest information to the farmers and to solve their problems and to avail the benefits of government schemes. To provide entertainment facilities to farmers, F.M. have been started. FM service has also been started in my parliamentary constituency Dahod. I thank the government for this. Even today, billions of vegetables and fruits are destroyed in the country; they are being saved from destruction and are being processed and used. For this, works like promotion of food parks, cold storage, financial assistance to them in setting up food processing industries are being done. Since this Government came to power, five new food parks and 33 projects under the cold chain scheme have been taken up.

Unless the country develops, the villages of the country will not develop. For this, the Government has given grants of more than two lakh crore under the 14th Finance Commission for development of

Gram Panchayat for 5 years. In this, the youth living in villages will be given skill training and they will be motivated to open small industries. Works like construction of ponds in villages and cleanliness in wards are being encouraged. The shortcomings prevailing in MNREGA in the country have been removed, due to which migration from rural areas has been stopped. Mission Antyodaya has been extended to 2569 extremely backward areas in the country.

The government in the country has worked rapidly in the Skill India Mission, due to which 76 lakh people have been trained in the country last year. In order to build an educated, healthy, clean India in the country, 4 lakh 17 thousand toilets have been constructed for boys and girls in primary schools. At the same time, a system called “Kayakalp” has been developed in hospitals to prevent infection in hospitals. The Indian system of medicine is being promoted along with the English treatment system in the country. Yoga has been promoted in the country. For this, International Yoga Day has been celebrated on 21st June 2015 with great enthusiasm. In the next four years, 2 lakh Anganwadi buildings will be constructed in 2534 most backward blocks in the country. This will provide education and

personal development to the children of the country and malnutrition can be eliminated from the country.

Through the Swachh Bharat Mission, cleanliness and a healthy environment is being prepared in the country by changing the views of the people. Work is being done in the country to recycle waste and waste materials from it to make electricity and manure. Low cost solar energy is being promoted in the country. Subsidies are also being given to poor people for this. E-governance has been given impetus for better governance in villages. Due to this, the land records of the villages have been computerised. This will reduce land disputes and the people working in the village will also be held responsible. This will reduce the bias and corruption in the villages to a great extent. The Smart City project is being implemented soon in the country. For this, 20 cities have been selected in the first phase. Work is being done to increase the production of electricity in the country and increase their capacity. Most of the electricity has been produced in India in 2015. Low power consumption devices have been discovered and LEDs are being used in this area. Use is being encouraged. Subsidy is being given on this also. More than Rs 6 crore LEDs in the country are allocated for bulbs.

Special attention is being paid to cleanliness at railway stations and in trains. Bio-toilets have been installed in the new coaches. The highest ever work has been done in 2015 for electrification of railway lines in the country. Under an agreement with the Government of Japan, work is being done to increase the speed of other rail services in the country through the high speed plan between Mumbai and Ahmedabad.

*__SHRI DEVUSINH CHAUHAN (KHEDA):__ According to the discussion on the government's agenda in the address of His Excellency the President, the aim of our new government is poverty alleviation and development in the health sector and implementation of new schemes, so that a “Healthy India can be built.‘‘ At the same time, we welcome and fully support this idea and plan so that the Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Backward Classes can be uplifted.

In the address of His Excellency the President, the concept of Antyodaya is mentioned in the philosophy of Integral Humanity of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, whose objective is to empower the last person by providing opportunities to him. According to this address of His Excellency the President, all the programs of the government are based on the principle of Antyodaya. This government is focused on the progress of the poor, prosperity of farmers and providing employment to the youth. This government has placed great emphasis on food security, housing for all and subsidies that go to the needy when they need them most. It is a matter of pride that more than 21 crore accounts have been opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, out of which 15 crore accounts are in active condition, in

* Speech was laid on the Table.

which total deposits amount to Rs 32 thousand crores. To provide social security, this government has brought three new schemes - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana, which will provide insurance protection and pension to the hitherto deprived sections of the society.

The government has notified the new Urea Policy 2015, which aims to promote indigenous production and judicious use of energy. This will lead to production of 17 lakh metric tonnes of attributed urea per annum during the next three years. This will stop the illegal use of urea. There has been high production of urea in the year 2015.

This government has completely curbed corruption and has not shown leniency in punishing the corrupt and stringent amendments are also being made in the Anti-Corruption Act.

This Government has undertaken dynamic and comprehensive reforms in the coal sector and has allocated more than 70 coal blocks through a transparent auction system. This will greatly benefit the eastern states in the coming years. Due to great emphasis on increasing coal production, Coal India's coal production has increased by a record 9.8 percent, which is the highest production till date.

This government has succeeded in doing a great courageous thing by implementing a four decades old demand – a historic step in the interest of soldiers – One Rank One Pension Scheme despite the huge financial burden of Rs 1 lakh seven thousand crore per annum. With this, the wishes of the hearts of all the soldiers of the country have been fulfilled.

The aim of the government will be to provide permanent houses and electricity supply facilities to all the families by 2022, which is a very commendable step.

This government is working in a planned manner for the modernization of railways as well as for improving the internal structure. The government has achieved success in gauge conversion of railways, laying of new railway lines, electrification work and works related to capacity increase in railways and keeping in mind the Swachh Bharat Mission, but there is a need to develop railways in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. It seems possible and we have full confidence that our prayer will be accepted.

We are indebted to our freedom fighters and now, the time has come to repay this debt by making the country what they had envisioned and fought for. In the words of Netaji Subhash Chandra

Bose, nationalism is inspired by the highest ideals of mankind, Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram. Let us adopt these ideals for a beautiful future for the country.

*__SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR):__ In 2014, the people of the country had given a historic victory to the Bharatiya Janata Party and the NDA, relying on the leadership of Prime Minister Hon. Modi ji. The public is proud today that the trust placed by them has not gone in vain. Today the prestige and honour of the country has increased not only at the national level but also at the international level and this is only because of the political will of Hon. Modi ji.

In the last few years, the Congress-led U.P.A. The credibility of the country which was damaged due to the working style of the government and corruption, indecision and wrong policies, is now coming back under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji.

We are grateful that Hon. President, while addressing the joint sitting of both the Houses at the beginning of the Budget Session, expressed happiness over the achievements of the Government and said that our Government has prepared a comprehensive action plan in the country to meet the expectations of the common people.

Expressing confidence in the performance of the government, he said that this government is moving towards development by creating a strong and capable India, sticking to its formula of 'Sabka Saath-

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Sabka Vikas' and is committed to providing good governance in the country moving forward on this formula.

Pandit Deendayal's philosophy of integral humanity envisaged Antyodaya, which aimed at empowering him by providing him an opportunity to the last. Today our government is moving forward on the same path. Especially the progress of the poor, prosperity of farmers, employment for the youth and respect for women are the priorities of the government, which is the hallmark of any sensitive government.

During the 68 years of independence in the country, Congress ruled this country for almost 60 years, but today the condition of the poor, backward, youth, villagers and Dalits is pathetic.

Even today, we have discussed this in the same Lok Sabha many times before regarding clean water, sanitation, poverty alleviation and fulfilling the basic amenities of the people. But no major improvement was made in the past.

In the year 2014, NDA came to power at the Center under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji. Government was formed and after that Ganga of development flowed in the entire country. For the first time in the country, the government took the initiative to open bank

accounts for the poor, backward, unemployed, Dalits and villagers under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana.

It is heartening to know that under this scheme, 21 crore people opened their account in the bank for the first time under this scheme and Rs.32 thousand crore are deposited in these accounts. Here the scheme is not limited to just opening an account but becomes a medium of poverty alleviation which provides basic financial services and security to the poor. The government has decided to deposit the subsidies and other financial assistance provided to the poor and neglected people of the country directly into their bank accounts so that their standard of living can be improved.

Our government tried to provide social security through Antyodaya through Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana. On the festival of Rakshabandhan, I also provided insurance to the mothers and sisters of my parliamentary constituency through the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana. It is a matter of social security as well as a matter of respect for the crores of women of the country that the Government of India itself is alert for their safety and security.

For the first time in the country, our Government has launched the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana under the AMRUT scheme, whose main objective is to build about 2 crore houses for slum dwellers, urban poor and economically backward classes and low income groups of the society. This year 4041 people will get the benefit of this scheme. More than 600 crore to 4 lakh 25 thousand houses have been sanctioned.

Direct Benefit Transfers (PAHAL) by the Government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister has become the largest direct cash transfer program of its kind in the world. This has benefited about 15 crore people. Targeted subsidy has ensured delivery of benefits to the needy and has been implemented in other 42 schemes.

On the call of the Prime Minister, a positive change has taken place in the country. I am happy to give up gas subsidies through the "Give It Up" campaign. For the first time in the country, more than 62 lakh people came forward and gave up their subsidy.

To provide education to the youth and empower the minorities, two schemes named "Nai Manzil" and "Ustad" have been started and through these, 20,000 children are undergoing skill training.

A direct proof of the sensitivity of our government is the "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana" for farmers. This is the first time in the country that the government will now compensate the entire problem of the farmers, be it crop loss due to unseasonal rains, drought, floods or other natural disasters, through insurance.

Previous U.P.A. During the tenure of the government, thousands of farmers were forced to commit suicide due to natural crop losses and debt pressure. Today, with the arrival of this government, many dreams seem to be coming true in the hearts of the farmers of the country. Recently, a Kisan Mahasammelan was organised in Sehore district of my state Madhya Pradesh, in which the Prime Minister addressed lakhs of farmers and assured them that the Government of India and the state government are committed to bear the loss of their crops. This is the first time in the 68 years of political history of the country, when the Union Government assured the farmers that this government is their own government.

For the first time, the government has started beneficial schemes like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Soil Health Card for farmers. Soil Health Card holders have been given 79 lakh so far and the target is to provide soil health cards to 14 crore holders by 2017.

This scheme is going to give long-term results. On the one hand, the farmers will consider planting crops according to the soil, on the other hand, the agricultural land in the country will be free from the ill effects of chemical fertilisers.

Many states of the country are facing severe drought. If I talk about my state Madhya Pradesh, the Union Government has shown sensitivity and provided a one-time special package of Rs 2000 crore, so that the state can deal with the drought situation.

We have seen in previous governments that our Chief Minister had to make rounds of Delhi to rescue the state from natural disasters and the result was zero. Farmers had to face problems due to not getting enough urea on time. The Urea Policy 2015 was framed by our Government so that the farmer could get the right benefit and for the first time here also, there was no discontent among the farmers due to urea. Also, during the manufacturing of urea, our government made a provision of adding neem coated to it, due to which this urea cannot be used anywhere other than farming. Due to this, black marketing of urea was almost stopped in the country and the entire country. The supply of urea remains satisfactory.

Our country has the largest youth population in the world, which shows that the development and future of the country lies in their hands. Extensive employment generation for the youth is the paramount goal of our government and through this, integrated initiatives like “Make in India”, “Start up India”, “Mudra”, “Skill India” etc. It has been decided to provide self-employment.

Our government is trying to make lakhs of crores of youth of the country self-reliant through these schemes.

It is a matter of pride for the country that the 'Make in India' initiative has created a favourable global investment environment and India's latest ranking in terms of "Ease of Doing Business" has reached the 12th level. It is a symbol of India's growing standing in the world.

If we want respect for India to increase in the world, and the world's approach towards the people of India change then we have to pay attention to cleanliness. While it has never been an important subject for the previous governments, Shri Modi ji started Swachh Bharat Abhiyan after becoming the Prime Minister and soon afterwards it has taken the form of a widespread community awareness. The general public was already aware about cleanliness,

but after this step of the government, it has taken the form of a big mass awareness everywhere in the country.

The vision of our Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji to connect village with the main roads was launched through the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and by laying a network of roads in the country, today 1 lakh 78 thousand villages are targeted to be connected with pucca road by March 2019 under this scheme.

A big network of National Highways is being laid in the country by Shri Nitin Gadkari, the energetic Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways of our government. During the time of Congress, the construction of National Highway on an average was 2 km per day, which has been brought by our Government up to 14 km per day. About 16805 km of National Highway has been constructed in the last 20 months and 36000 km of rural roads have been constructed. There are many inaccessible and hilly areas of the country where there is still no road transport. Our government is working successfully at such places and trying to connect them with main roads.

After our government came, there was a confidence in the minds of the people in the country that this is the government which will do

something for us. The opposition is repeatedly trying to spread negative thoughts in favour of the government in the country.

In the end, I would just like to say that under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji, our government is continuously working to fulfil the hopes and dreams of 1.25 crore people of the country and will fulfil those dreams and expectations. Along with giving a golden future to the country, our government will also complete the task of increasing the prestige/respect of the country in the entire world.

I support the President's address.

*[English]*

***SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR):** I express my views to support the Motion moved by Shrimati Lekhi to thank the Hon. President for his Address to both the Houses of Parliament. President has rightly said that the real Basant season has started for India under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji. The growth has picked up its momentum and, as the President has rightly observed, we all have to be partners in the growth and development of the country. Proving the observation of the President correct, the Economic Survey tabled three days after his Address indicates that 8-10% growth is possible in 2-5 years, 7-7.5% growth in the next year and the Government will be able to achieve the fiscal deficit target of 3.9% in the current year. So, these figures substantiate the coming of real spring to the country.

Continuing with his visionary initiatives, Rashtrapatiji outlined some of the programmes, policies and plans to achieve the fundamental tenet of this Government - 'Sab Ka Saath Sab Ka Vikas'. He also mentioned that this Government wishes to achieve this fundamental tenet through Garibon ki Unnati, Kisano ki Samriddhi

* Speech was laid on the Table.

and Yuvao ko Rojgaar. So, I urge all sections of this House to be constructive in our approach and let us contribute our mite to propel the growth of this country to unassailable limits and achieve the fundamental tenet.

Motion of Thanks on the President's Address is one instrument available to the Members of Parliament under which they have been given an opportunity to bring to the notice of the government and, through Parliament, to the people of the country various aspects of governance, policies, issues and aspirations of the people which needs to be addressed by the Government.

Taking cue from this instrument, I wish to touch upon some of the issues and request the Government to kindly ponder over them and see that they are addressed appropriately.

Hon. President has rightly quoted Mahatma Gandhi that 'poverty is the worst form of violence' and rightly said that Garibon ki Unnati is one of the main tasks before the Government. There is no doubt that even after nearly seven decades of Independence, the people of this country are still languishing in poverty, screaming for two square meals a day, looking for basic amenities like housing, nutrition, health care, education etc. The Union Government headed by the most

popular leader ever produced by the country, Shri Narendra Modiji, and the people's leader at my State level, Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu Garu, are striving day in and day out to ameliorate the living conditions of the people to give them a decent life. PM Jan Dhan Yojana is one such scheme which aims for financial inclusion. It gives an opportunity to the poor to open a bank account with an overdraft facility of Rs.5000 and also provides Rs.1 lakh insurance with RuPay Debit Card. Till February last, nearly Rs. 200 crores has been given as overdraft by banks. 21 crore accounts have so far been opened under this scheme and Rs. 33,000 crores has been deposited.

The Guinness Book of World Records recognized the achievement made under Jan Dhan Yojana. And out of 21 crore accounts, 13 crore accounts have been opened in rural areas which clearly indicates the objective of inclusive growth. Second scheme the Government introduced as part of Garibon ki Unnati is PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana with less than one rupee per day premium provides a life cover of Rs. 2 lakhs and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana which provides accidental insurance cover to poor at a premium of Rs. 12 per year. Surprising to everyone, so far nearly 12.5 crore policies have been taken as of February, 2016 and true to the objective of the scheme, 52% are from rural areas and 48% are from urban poor. And,

women have particularly shown keen interest in getting these policies. Secondly, GOI aims to provide 2 crore houses by 2022. Here, I thank the Hon. Minister of Urban Development, Shri Venkaiah Naidu Garu, for allocating 2 lakh houses to my State of AP. And, the Government has also started implementing the DBT scheme for Food Security Act. It will directly transfer money into the account of the poor so that they can withdraw that money and buy foodgrains from the open market. This will achieve twin objectives-removes leakages and stops dependence on fair price shops. It also helps in enhancing the nutritional value for the poor.

The second major issue touched upon by the Hon. President is Kisano ki Samriddhi. There is no doubt that we are an agrarian country and more than 65% of people depend on agriculture and allied activities. I only wish to make 1-2 points on this. The first one is : it is good that banks have been able to achieve the agriculture loan target set every year by the Government. The problem is not with regard to loan, but the problem is with regard to rate of interest. Now, the rate of interest is 7% and the Government is giving a 3% interest subsidy if farmers pay loans regularly. With vagaries of nature like drought and floods, farmers are not able to pay their loans regularly. So, there are genuine demands from farmers to make interest 4%. So, I urge the

Government to look into this genuine demand and reduce the interest on farm loans to 4% irrespective of repayment conditions. The second point I wish to make is relating to the recently launched PM Fasal Bima Yojana. The objective is to provide insurance coverage and financial support to the farmers in the event of failure of crop as a result of natural calamities, pests and diseases. Under this new Scheme, farmers will have to pay a uniform premium of 2% for all Kharif crops, 1.5% for all Rabi crops and for commercial and horticultural crops, farmers will have to pay a premium of 5%. The remaining share of the premium, as in previous schemes, will continue to be borne equally by the Centre and the respective state Governments. The Scheme shall be implemented on an 'Area Approach basis' i.e., the village is proposed to be taken as a unit. But, I suggest for consideration of the Government to take 'acre' as a unit so that every farmer is benefitted and this is precisely what is the objective of this scheme and this is the demand of farmers. Our CM of AP has taken various measures for farmers and the most courageous decision is to waive off farm loans and implement it. State has also taken an initiative called Polam Pilustondi (Farm is calling). It aims to integrate technology and agriculture to make it profitable and sustainable.

The third main tenet of this Government is Yuvao ko Rojgaar. As the House is aware, we have a 356 million young population in the age group of 10-24 years. Nearly two-thirds of Indians are under 35; half are under 25. And, by 2020, India will be the youngest country in the world, with a median age of 29 years, compared with a medium age of 37 years in China at that point. India's youth population, often called a "demographic dividend" could potentially make India the biggest consumer market and the biggest labour force in the world. So, we have a rich demographic dividend which experts say has never come and will ever come. The GOI has taken many schemes for youth and creation of a separate Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship is in that direction. We have just 2.2% skill workforce when compared to 68% in the UK; 75% in Germany; 80% in Japan; nearly 50% in China and 96% in Korea. And, even if you look at the apprentices, we have just 2.89 lakhs when compared to China's 2 crore; Germany's 30 lakhs and Japan's 1 crore. And, the top 10 sectors such as building, construction and real estate sector, retail sector, transportation and logistics sector, beauty and wellness sector, tourism and hospitality sector, textile and clothing sector, domestic help sector, etc. are the main sectors where we need skilled people.

There is no doubt that the Government is improving skills through the PM Kaushal Yojana, Skill Loan Scheme, Apprenticeships, etc. Also, there is a need to increase the capacity of vocational stream at school level from the existing 2% enrolment when compared to 50% in China and 55% in Japan to, at least, 25% in the coming 2-3 years. But, I suggest for consideration of the Ministry first to map skill requirements of industry and then have industry linkages so that every skilled person, after developing his skills, can get employment. Hon. PM also asked the Ministry to prepare a skill map of the various countries of the world so that our skilled people can be sent to those countries to meet their skill requirements. In a way, he wants to make India a factory for the skill force. It is a great vision which achieves twin objectives of providing skilled people to the world, making inroads as we have done in the service sector and also earning foreign remittances. I welcome the initiative of the Government to set up 7000 new ITIs and create model skill development centres in every Parliamentary Constituency.

I now come to some of the issues pertaining to my State of AP. And, the first one is none other than granting Special Category Status to AP. It was assured on the floor of Parliament and approved by the Cabinet more than two years ago. But, nothing has so far been done

in this regard and the people of AP are waiting for this promise to be fulfilled. The Hon. PM rightly said that justice is delayed to AP. I plead that no further delay in giving justice to AP be made by Hon. PM. The GOI may say that Special Category Status is not the panacea for all ills that the State is facing due to no fault of its own, but people strongly feel that it is the panacea for all ills. When GOI thinks that, in the existing circumstances, it does not carry many benefits, I urge that people of AP would be happy to get whatever benefits that flow through the Special Category Status. So, I request that this should be granted forthwith.

Sagar Mala is one of the pet projects of Shri Vajpayeeji and I am happy that this Government is taking forward this project as it aims to develop its trade relations with Eastern countries. And, the policy has correctly been converted from 'Look East Policy' to 'Act East Policy'. Even in my last year's speech I had mentioned that AP has the largest coast of 974 Kms. on the Eastern side starting from Ichapuram to Sullurpet in the South. With the Government of India's Act East Policy, I strongly feel that AP is an ideal place to start projects on the Eastern side between Visakhapatnam and Kakinada stretch as AP Government has prepared a blueprint as this stretch has so many advantages. It is also working on other stretches down southwards.

After bifurcation, the residuary State of AP is at the most disadvantageous position in view of the huge fiscal costs arising from creation of Telangana State. Now, it requires money for infrastructure, building a capital, to push the manufacturing base, and encouraging the service sector, apart from other things. People of AP anticipated that the 14th Finance Commission would do justice; it did not. People of AP thought that the General Budget would do justice; they were also disappointed. Now, there is only one option to increase the FRBM limit.

Fiscal deficit of undivided AP was 2.32% of GDP in 2012-13 which has gone up to 2.86% in 2013-14. Now, AP cannot go beyond 3% as it is the limit fixed by FRBM Act. Now that it has not got any help either from 14th Finance Commission or Budget and, moreover, AP would be the only state in 2019-20 with revenue deficit, there is no other way for AP to borrow more money. So, I request the Government to permit it to borrow up to a 5% limit so that it can, at least, address some of the important areas of the economy.

Section 94(3) of the AP Reorganisation Act mandates the Government of India to provide special financial support for creation of essential facilities in the new capital of the successor State of AP

such as Raj Bhawan, High Court, Government Secretariat, Legislative Assembly, Legislative Council, and other essential infrastructure. Amaravati in Guntur has been finalised as the new capital and inaugurated by the Hon. PM has also been made. But, so far just Rs.350 crores has been given to construct our capital. This is not sufficient. I request the Hon. PM to provide sufficient funds for construction of the capital. Also, as promised to complete Polavaram before 2018, I request the GOI to take steps and release required funds for early completion of the project which has been the dream of the people of AP for over 7 decades.

There is no doubt that MSME is the most vibrant and dynamic sector in the Indian economy which provides large-scale employment and plays a pivotal role in socio-economic development of the country. To give push to this sector Hon. PM has launched MUDRA Yojana which, Hon. President rightly said, disbursed Rs.1 lakh crores to more than 2.6 crore borrowers. Out of this, 2.07 crore are women entrepreneurs. It is a very good beginning. But, there are some problems which need to be addressed. The first one is that MSME has not been included in the definition of startup India. It is required to boost the 'Make in India' campaign. If MSME is included, then they become eligible for incentives such as fewer compliance conditions,

cheaper credit and tax benefits. Secondly, I also request the Government to consider excluding MSMEs from the proposed Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code as they are presently covered by SARFAESI and SICA Acts. Whatever problems are there in implementing SICA Act should be addressed and resolved.

There is a need to pay more attention to education and health in the country. We are producing graduates, post graduates and engineers. But, if you look at the employability of these students, it is abysmally low. I will give an example. Undivided AP has the highest number of engineering colleges and lakhs of students coming out every year. But, if you look at the percentage of employability of these students, it is miniscule. It means, there is a lack of quality in education and this is resulting in them applying for even a clerk's job! So, rather than focusing on quantity, I submit to focus on quality. Coming to health, we have eliminated leprosy more than a decade ago. But, after a decade 140 districts are still suffering from leprosy cases and 13 districts are reporting leprosy every year.

Then, we have problems with organ donation. In our country where 2 lakh people need a kidney and 1 lakh people need a liver every year, only 2-3% of the demand for new organs is met every year.

Even if you look at the deceased donation rate, it is 0.05-0.08 per million population. The situation is not so encouraging either when it comes to other organs such as heart, lungs, pancreas, etc. So, this is leading to a competition for organs which severely tests the principles of transparency and distributive justice. So, some of the issues relating to health such as mentioned above should also be addressed by the Government. GOI has recently inaugurated AIIMS at Guntur and assured that it would be completed in 2 years. I request the Government to allocate sufficient funds and complete it in a time bound manner.

These are some of the issues I wish to touch upon and request the Government of India to look into them, address them to make the country a developed one under the leadership of Shri Modiji.

With these words, I once again thank the Hon. President supports the Motion moved by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi. Thank you.

02.03.2016

*[Translation]*

***SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT):** While expressing my views in the ongoing discussion on passing the motion of thanks on the address of His Excellency the President, I would like to say that in the beginning of his address, in the second paragraph, the President has mentioned - " Last year, while addressing the joint meeting, I had given an outline of the vision of my government, which aims to build an India that will move forward with full confidence in the future. Such a strong and visionary India which will provide all the opportunities for development to the people, which have been provisioned in the Constitution. This principle of development lies in 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' and that is the basic principle of my government.''

This Government under the leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is running at a fast pace with full loyalty, determination, authenticity and hard work as per the above statement of the President and according to the principle of "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas". Through rigorous penance of more than 18 hours a day without stopping, without taking breaks, the Prime Minister has given

* Speech was laid on the Table.

unprecedented momentum to the work of reconstruction of the country. Shri Narendra Modi ji has infused new enthusiasm and confidence in the national life by ending the inertia prevailing in various fields of political, social, economic etc. of the country. The achievements of this government during the last two-year term alone are amazing.

According to the concept of 'Antyodaya' of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, it is very important to reach the benefits of the schemes to the last beneficiary of the poor section without any hindrance to eradicate poverty in the country. More than 21 crore accounts opened under the "Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana" have become a means of providing the benefits of the schemes to the poor in a transparent manner. At the same time, through these accounts, there is a sense of pride and pride in being included in the mainstream of nation building. Poor citizens visiting banks for the first time have also gained confidence. 'Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana', with an annual premium of only Rs. 12, is a wonderful scheme to provide security cover to the poor. Social security has been provided to every poor person of the country by expanding the above security cover through “Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana” and “Atal Pension Yojana”. To provide relief to this “last person”, the Prime Minister

called for “Give it Up” and the people of the country also accepted it. As a result, more than 62 lakh LPG consumers have given up their subsidy and 50 lakh BPL families have received subsidised gas connections. This is a remarkable example of public participation in the national resolution of “Antyodaya”.

Villages and farmers are the priority of this Government. Changes have been made in the rules for calculating compensation in case of natural disaster in the interest of farmers, the amount of compensation has been increased and care has also been taken to reach this compensation directly to the farmers. To provide relief to sugarcane farmers, sugar mills have been encouraged to produce ethanol. Arrangements have been made to add 10 percent ethanol to diesel and interest subvention of Rs. 6600 crore has also been made available to the state governments.

Besides, three farmer friendly schemes like “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana”, “Soil Health Card” scheme and “Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana” will extensively benefit the farmers across the country. Apart from this, the government has taken many such steps in this short period that will remove the difficulties of the villages and the farmers and they will become prosperous.

The Prime Minister has always said that India is a country of youth. These youth are the charioteers of India's progress. More than 10 crore of these youth are unemployed. If they get employment, their self-confidence will increase, the income of their families will increase and the gross resources of the country will increase. From this point of view, the results of “Skill India”, “Make in India” and “Mudra” schemes etc. implemented by Shri Narendra Modi's government have now started coming.

The achievements of this government in expanding infrastructure are astonishing. Be it roads, railways, housing or electricity – everywhere work is seen being done on time. The crisis of credibility has ended due to corruption free administration. The confidence of investors in the country and abroad has been reestablished. A 39 per cent increase in foreign investment is a testimony to this trust. The economy has started coming back on track and we have achieved a growth rate of more than 7 percent. Various global economic organisations are also continuously reaffirming these facts.

This government under the miraculous leadership of Shri Narendra Modi has increased the prestige of India in the country and the world. This government under the miraculous leadership of Shri

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Narendra Modi has increased the prestige of India in the country and the world.

***SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO (JAMSHEDPUR):** According to the discussion on the government's agenda in the address of His Excellency the President, the aim of our new government is poverty alleviation and development in the health sector and implementation of new schemes, so that "Healthy India can be built.". At the same time, we welcome and fully support this idea and plan so that the Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Backward Classes can be uplifted.

In the address of His Excellency the President, the concept of Antyodaya is mentioned in the philosophy of Integral Humanity of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, whose objective is to empower the last person by providing opportunities to him. According to this address of His Excellency the President, all the programs of the government are based on the principle of Antyodaya. This government is focused on the progress of the poor, prosperity of farmers and providing employment to the youth. This government has placed great emphasis on food security, housing for all and subsidies that go to the needy when they need them most. It is a matter of pride that more than 21 crore accounts have been opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Yojana, out of which 15 crore accounts are in active condition, in which total deposits amount to Rs 32 thousand crores. To provide social security, this government has brought three new schemes - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana, which will provide insurance protection and pension to the hitherto deprived sections of the society.

The government has notified the new Urea Policy 2015, which aims to promote indigenous production and judicious use of energy. This will lead to production of 17 lakh metric tonnes of attributed urea per annum during the next three years. This will stop the illegal use of urea. There has been high production of urea in the year 2015.

This government has completely curbed corruption and has not shown leniency in punishing the corrupt and stringent amendments are also being made in the Anti-Corruption Act.

This Government has undertaken dynamic and comprehensive reforms in the coal sector and has allocated more than 70 coal blocks through a transparent auction system. This will greatly benefit the eastern states in the coming years. Due to great emphasis on increasing coal production, Coal India's coal production has increased by a record 9.8 percent, which is the highest production till date.

Despite the four decades old demand – one lakh seven thousand crores per annum – this Government has succeeded in doing a great brave job by implementing a historic step in the interest of soldiers – One Rank One Pension scheme. With this, the wishes of the hearts of all the soldiers of the country have been fulfilled.

The aim of the government will be to provide permanent houses and electricity supply facilities to all the families by the year 2022, which is a very commendable step.

This government is working in a planned manner for the modernization of railways as well as for improving the internal structure. The government has achieved success in gauge conversion of railways, laying of new railway lines, electrification work and works related to capacity increase in railways and keeping in mind the Swachh Bharat Mission.

*__SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA):__ I present my thanks on the Address of His Excellency the President.

Our government is working for the poor, farmers and youth. We want development to reach even the poorest of the poor. Gandhiji had said that poverty is the most dreadful form of violence. Therefore we want to eradicate poverty from its roots. We are committed to the progress of the poor and for the prosperity of the farmers. I appreciate that.

For the first time, two cities of India - Jaipur and Varanasi - have been considered as Creative City Network by UNESCO. UNESCO has taken only 47 cities in 33 countries for Creative City Network from all over the world. Jaipur has been selected for handicraft and folk art and Varanasi has been selected for music. It is a matter of pride for us.

Our Government is committed to create an environment of cooperation to combat cross-border terrorism. The Government is determined to deal with every challenge concerning the security of the country strictly. As a result of our desire the U.N. Has passed a resolution to define terrorism and unite the world against it.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has done a great job in protecting the national interest. India's attitudes and concerns have been effectively placed under international events.

Coming to the foreign direct investment, we have removed a moratorium in the field of tea plantations. In the defence sector, its limit has been increased from 26 per cent to 49 per cent. Prime Minister Modi's FDI I.e., the concept of First Development India is being implemented.

In this short period of 20 months, India has overtaken big powers like China, USA, UK, Germany, Japan and has become the fastest growing economy in the world. Inflation is also under control and the current account deficit is also being controlled. The Foreign Direct Investment has increased by 39 per cent, which is the highest ever in this country. Moody's, World Bank, IMF. Appreciating the rapid development taking place in India, has also called upon everyone to invest in India. Under this we have left China also behind.

There has been an unprecedented increase of 32 percent in the national brand value. It has been decided to increase the additional funds from 32 percent to 42 percent, which was not the case in any

previous government. This is commendable and shows that transparency and honesty are such qualities.

Bank investment has increased by 39 per cent. It is a matter of pride that India has reached 12th position in the latest ranking of World Bank in terms of "Ease of Doing Business".

Start Up India and Stand Up India schemes which have been launched recently focus on risk free employment generation activities with the support of administration through a single window clearance system. Skill development of our human resource is an important area, where a lot of work is being done. The government has allocated more than Rs. 7000 crore for developing smart cities. This Government has also taken some serious steps for making all-inclusive development for the needy. I appreciate that Ahmedabad and Surat are the two cities in Gujarat. I thank the Union Government for this.

8,000 km of highways have been constructed in the last 20 months. This has increased by 125 percent compared to the previous government. Under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, construction of 7200 km long highways has been completed and 12,900 km long. It has been decided to construct the longest highway project, which is a record so far. The Modi government has launched

a comprehensive Bharatmala scheme for the development of highways. A project of Rs.12,000 crore has been started for all roads connecting Char Dham. Under Green Highways Policy 2015, a pilot project has been launched to convert green highways and diesel buses into electric buses.

Railway broad gauge conversion has increased by 65 per cent. Solar energy has also doubled in these 20 months. Coal India has grown at 9.1 per cent. This is the highest increase so far in the coal sector.

Today, accounts of 21 crore families have been opened in the country, in which Rs 32,000 crore have been deposited. There has been a plan to provide insurance security to the poor. Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Suraksha Bima Yojana provides one rupee for one day. New gas connections have been given to 50 lakh BPL families at absolutely zero cost in 20 months. This is a major world record under financial inclusion and social security.

10 thousand crore rupees have been sanctioned for one rank-one pension of the youth protecting our Mother India. This is a gift to our soldiers.

In the last one year, 4 lakh 18 thousand toilets were built in more than two lakh schools and the construction of these toilets will provide convenience to about 14 crore children.

Under the Skill India Initiative launched by the Government for 65% of the youth of this country, 76 lakh youth have been trained in the last one year.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Bank Yojana has been launched and through this Mudra Bank, children, youth and teenagers can get loans ranging from Rs 50 thousand to Rs 10 lakh without giving any guarantor.

The Pahal scheme has been launched through targeted subsidies to the needy, in which 15 crore people have been benefited and fair treatment has been done towards the underprivileged by creating the largest direct cash transfer program of its kind in the world.

Under the Prime Minister's new concept 'Give it Up' campaign, 62 lakh families have purchased their LPG. Subsidy has been given up and under this 'Give Bank' program 50 lakh B.P.L. Families have got new subsidised connections. Due to which their health has improved and pollution has reduced.

Within 20 months, two new IITs, 6 new IIMs, one new Indian Institute of Education and Research and one new IIT have been started for the youth of our country. It has also been started.

Today 24 x7 Kisan Channel has been dedicated to farmers where they are being told about new technologies about farming and new methods of farming.

Till date, only 23 percent of the farmers were insured. Now the government has got every farmer insured in the coming one to one and a half years.

Our government has kept Rs 1,000 crore only so that water can be supplied to the farmers' fields in a targeted manner. Today, due to the visionary steps of the Prime Minister, milk production in our country has increased and along with it, fisheries have also increased.

The prosperity of farmers is the basis of the prosperity of the nation, keeping this mantra in mind, the Ministry of Agriculture has been renamed as Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare and to protect the interests of farmers, for the first time in India, the Prime Minister has given relief in natural disasters. Crop insurance scheme has been started, it is the new thinking of the Modi government for the farmers.

The previous Government had built 37 cold storage in 4 years, but we have further created 37 cold storage in just 20 months. In just 20 months, we have constructed 11,000 km of rural roads. LED efficiency which was 1 percent in the past, has been brought to 12 percent today.

The UPA government had committed a coal scam, under which the Modi government had earned more than Rs 1 lakh crore by allocating more than 70 coal blocks through a transparent auction and giving it to the states for development. Coal India has set an example of good governance by increasing its coal production record by 9.8 per cent. By conducting such a transparent auction in the 2G spectrum, a new policy has been introduced in communication transmission.

Women have been included in combat areas for the first time in the armed forces. Women, who are a force, have been respected by associating them with the armed force.

Keeping in mind the ideal of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam of our Indian culture, we have signed land border agreements and peaceful agreements with neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh, Bhutan. Parliament has been gifted to the people of Afghanistan as part of peace and prosperity. The participation of 54 nations in the

India-Africa Summit has fostered a feeling of brotherhood and strengthened cultural and commercial relations.

New schemes of Imprint India and Teach in India have been started in the higher education sector. Under Swasth Bharat, February 2016 successfully hosted the 12th South Asian Games in Guwahati and Shillong and India bagged the top spot with more than 300 gold medals.

The Modi government expanded the scope of the tiger project, which increased the number of tigers by 30 per cent. Participation of disabled people has been ensured under Jal Kranti, Namami Gange, Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan.

Interviews for junior posts have been discontinued. India has recorded the highest ever foreign exchange reserves in 2015. In its capacity under ‘Operation Rahat’, India has taken concrete steps to protect Indians in international situations.

BRICS, G-20, W. TO, East Asia Summit, ASEAN and SCO. Such regional and international groups have also been provided with a new perspective. India has also taken concrete steps for the restructuring of the United Nations Security Council. Today the eyes of the world are on India and because of our hardworking and visionary Prime

Minister Modi ji, India is again getting a respectable status across the world. It appears that India is gaining prestige on international platforms and India's voice is being heard.

I approve of this address of the President.

*__SHRIMATI RAKSHATAI KHADSE (RAVER):__ I support the Motion of Thanks moved by Hon. Member Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi on the Address of Hon. President of India on 23th February 2016. This year, His Excellency the President, along with celebrating the 125th year of Babasaheb Ambedkar in the country, "26 November", the day the Constitution was adopted, is being celebrated as "Constitution Day", which is being celebrated as "Constitution Day" to help citizens understand the values of the Constitution more deeply. We have appreciated that the country is moving forward, realising both the basic mantras of unity of India and respect for Indians, with pride in the excellent Constitution we have got. The Government is focusing on building all programmes on the principle of ultimate goal of advancement of the poor, prosperity of farmers and employment to youth with the concept of Antyodaya in the philosophy of Integral Humanity. In order to reach the poor and the last person in the last year, the government is hopeful of providing basic services and security to the poor and needy with the opening of an account in the bank under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. Along with this scheme, insurance and pension, which till now could not reach the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

deprived sections of the society, the government implemented Atal Pension Yojana along with two insurance schemes, which seems to be enthusiastically welcomed across the country.

The prosperity of the farmers is the basis of the prosperity of this nation, to realise this, not only the name of the Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperation was changed to the Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare and for the welfare of the farmers, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana was started, in which the farmers. The insurance premium will have to be paid at the lowest amount till date and the loss caused due to post-harvest floods and unseasonal rains will also be compensated by the insurance company. Provision for such a system has been made and there is also a provision for prompt and accurate settlement of all such claims. An increase of 50 per cent in assistance to farmers affected by natural calamities and relaxation of terms of provision therein will directly benefit the farmers.

It is the priority of this government to bring many programs and schemes in an effort to make every effort for the progress of the farmers, in which under the Soil Health Card Scheme, the farmer can keep a record of the nutrient status of his land and can choose the

appropriate fertiliser and its correct application. Using it in quantity will also improve the crop production capacity of the land, which will benefit agricultural products. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana for the importance of every drop of water for more crops and its use as per need, new policies for the benefit of farmers, launch of 24 × 7 Kisan Channel for information on prices and other agriculture related information is also commendable. In the new urea policy, manufacturing of Neem based urea across the country will also help in improving the fertiliser capacity of the farmers and ban on illegal use of urea will also help in preventing misuse of urea subsidy. Its direct result will be beneficial to the farmers. National Agricultural Market for a common e-mart platform linking wholesale markets to ensure maximum market value for farmers' crops, thereby making India One Food Zone, One Country, One Mart, giving farmers a fair price for their crops and hard work. The creation of a meeting arrangement shows the priority of the government towards the farmers. For the social and economic development of the country, Blue Revolution has been started in the fields of animal husbandry, dairy production and fisheries which are mostly related to farmers.

By starting rural development groups in Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission, basic infrastructure facilities will be

available in rural areas. Providing employment to the youth is the foremost goal of the government. For this, arrangements have been made for self-employment creation through Make in India, Skill India, Mudra, Startup India. To promote the micro, small and medium enterprises which provide employment at every level, to allocate more funds for the Prime Minister's Mudra Yojana, to establish the Udyog Aadhaar portal to facilitate online registration, to promote the growth of industries in rural areas. Decision to establish rural livelihood and technology business incubator, creation of Start Up Village Entrepreneurship Program to empower the livelihood of rural artisans and weavers, etc. Special schemes are earmarked for an upgradation fund to strengthen the textile industry which provides a large amount of employment and training of 76 lakh people since last year during Skill India.

The creation of many new institutions in the field of higher education and providing a one-stop platform for applying for all scholarships is welcome. The first International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm all over the world on June 21, 2015, highlighting India's ancient tradition once again. Many countries around the world are demanding from India the teachers of yoga for the education of yoga, which will be a new step for employment.

The installed solar power capacity doubled from last year with an effort to provide a fixed capacity of up to 175 GW, which is available today for more than 5000 MW and at an affordable rate. More than 6 crore LED bulbs have been distributed under the National LED Programme for distribution to people at cheaper rates of LED bulbs today. Nearly 10 per cent growth in coal production which is India's highest ever production. Assam Gas Wrecker Project, which will provide employment to more than one lakh persons. Ambitious measures to improve cleanliness standards at railway stations and trains, including the Samman Project, provision of bio-toilets in all new railway coaches. An important agreement has been signed with the Government of Japan to implement the concept of Mumbai-Ahmedabad High Speed Rail Corridor as soon as possible 7200 km with the construction of a long highway 12900 km. The decision has been taken to construct the long highway project. An important decision of Green Highway Policy has been taken. Concrete steps have been taken on the new civil aviation policy to increase connectivity of small cities. Due to which air passenger traffic will increase. All the post offices of the country have got I.T. Modernization, computerization and financial inclusion through

Postal Payment Bank of India, which will promote benefits and convenience to the rural areas.

Paying special attention to the policy of indigenously designing, developing and manufacturing defence equipment, taking important decisions to make our armed forces the most capable and state-of-the-art in the world, and women, who are the strength of this country, should be appointed to all departments of the Indian Army. Taking the decision to include him as an officer is commendable.

My constituency Raver is famous for banana cultivation. Banana is cultivated traditionally here and 34 per cent of India's banana production is from this Raver area of mine. With the construction of Banana Food Park to make the farmers here more prosperous and happy, the coming new young generation of farmers of this area will try to further increase banana farming. Therefore, I demand that a banana food park be constructed in any part of my constituency and I hope that these farmer brothers and sisters of mine also have some share in the progress of India. The residents of this area of mine are rendering various services to this country and because of them, the young power coming forward should get a chance to serve this country and they should be highly educated, that is why IIM is being

established in this area. Or I.I.T. And I demand to build a similar educational institution.

This remarkable working system of the government is discussed among every Indian, young men and women, due to which, with the principle of 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas', the glorious country will move ahead in the world with full confidence in the future through development and progress. This we believe. Let us all come together and individually work with our hearts, minds and money to make India clean and beautiful for the progress of this country.

*__DR. MAHENDRA NATH PANDEYA (CHANDAULI):__ The way His Excellency the President has mentioned Pt. Deendayal Upadhyay's principle "Antyodaya" in his address, it becomes clear that the NDA government led by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. The government wants to bring even the last person into the mainstream through development. A living example of which is the 21 crore accounts opened by the common people under the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana. It is the faith of the great people of the country towards Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji that the great people of the country have deposited Rs 32 thousand crore in the exchequer of the country in the account of zero balance. In his address, His Excellency the President has mentioned the government's vision of “upliftment of the poor”, “prosperity of farmers” and “employment to the youth”. Certainly, we can say whether it is open accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana or Atal Pension Yojana of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Suraksha Bima Yojana under which Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima is being given only Rs.1 per month 12 per annum. All these schemes are becoming evidence for the progress of the poor.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

As far as the farmers are concerned, our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has always said that the welfare of the country is not possible till the farmers of the country are prosperous. Our government has taken very beneficial decisions in the interest of farmers, be it Kisan Bima Yojana or Soil Health Card or reducing the limit of assessed loss due to crop disaster from 50 to 33 percent. For the first time in the country, “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana” has been launched with the aim of providing water to every farm. Today, it is the result of the government's transparent work that the supply of fertiliser in the country has been ensured. Now even in the general budget it has been proposed that the subsidy on fertilisers will go directly into the accounts of the farmers. For the first time under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji, the government has implemented an ambitious scheme like skill development in the country with emphasis on the personal sector. Many schemes have been brought to provide employment to the youth and make them self-employed, prominent among which are “Make in India”, “Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana”, “Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana” etc. Our government has started “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana” with the aim of providing affordable houses to everyone by 2022. By 2018, our government has named “Pt. Under Deendayal Gram Jyoti Yojana, a target has been set

to provide 24-hour electricity to all the villages. Under the PAHAL scheme, 15 crore LPG holders are getting the benefit of subsidy directly in their accounts. In compliance with the encouragement of Hon. Modi ji, 62 lakh families have started their LPG cylinders under the "Give it Up" campaign. Subsidies are abandoned. The President mentioned the important schemes for the minority community “Nai Manzil” and “Ustad” run by our government, under which skill training is being given in 20,000 madrassas.

It was the inspiration of Hon. Prime Minister that in recognition of Indian culture, last year, the whole world celebrated International Yoga Day on June 22.

Today, it is the result of the encouragement of Hon. Modi ji that an environment has been created towards cleanliness in the country under the “Cleanliness Campaign” and people are actively participating in it.

All such other schemes which are being run by the Government of India under the able leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been mentioned by His Excellency the President in his address.

I express my gratitude by supporting all the schemes mentioned in the address of His Excellency the President and the policies inspired by the development vision of the Government of India and “Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas”.

*__SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU):__ According to the discussion on the government's agenda in the address of His Excellency the President, the aim of our new government is poverty alleviation and development in the health sector and implementation of new schemes, so that a “Healthy India can be built.‘‘ At the same time, we welcome and fully support this idea and plan so that the Scheduled Castes, Tribes and Backward Classes can be uplifted.

In the address of His Excellency the President, the concept of Antyodaya is mentioned in the philosophy of Integral Humanity of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay, whose objective is to empower the last person by providing opportunities to him. According to this address of His Excellency the President, all the programs of the government are based on the principle of Antyodaya. This government is focused on the progress of the poor, prosperity of farmers and providing employment to the youth. This government has placed great emphasis on food security, housing for all and subsidies that go to the needy when they need them most. It is a matter of pride that more than 21 crore accounts have been opened under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, out of which 15 crore accounts are in active condition, in

* Speech was laid on the Table.

which total deposits amount to Rs 32 thousand crores. To provide social security, this government has brought three new schemes - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana, which will provide insurance protection and pension to the hitherto deprived sections of the society.

This Government has formulated the New Urea Policy 2015 which aims to promote the right use of indigenous production and energy. This will lead to production of 17 lakh metric tonnes of attributed urea per annum during the next three years. This will stop the illegal use of urea. There has been high production of urea in the year 2015.

This Government has undertaken dynamic and comprehensive reforms in the coal sector and has allocated more than 70 coal blocks through a transparent auction system. This will greatly benefit the eastern states in the coming years. Due to great emphasis on increasing coal production, Coal India's coal production has increased by a record 9.8 percent, which is the highest production till date.

Despite a four decades old demand - a huge financial burden of Rs 1 lakh seven thousand crore per annum - this government has succeeded in doing a great courageous thing by implementing a

historic step in the interest of soldiers - One Rank One Pension Scheme. With this, the wishes of the hearts of all the soldiers of the country have been fulfilled.

The aim of the government will be to provide permanent houses and electricity supply facilities to all the families by 2022, which is a very commendable step.

This government is working in a planned manner for the modernization of railways as well as for improving the internal structure. The government has achieved success in gauge conversion of railways, laying of new railway lines, electrification work and works related to capacity increase in railways and keeping in mind the Swachh Bharat Mission, but there is a need to develop railways in the Saurashtra region of Gujarat. It seems possible and we have full confidence that our prayer will be accepted.

We are indebted to our freedom fighters and now, the time has come to repay this debt by making the country what they had envisioned and fought for. In the words of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, nationalism is inspired by the highest ideals of mankind, Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram. Let us adopt these ideals for a beautiful future of the country.

*[English]*

***SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM):** It is with great pride and honour that I express my views on the Motion of Thanks to the President's Address to the Joint sitting of Parliament. In this period of global economic turmoil, if there is one market which has withheld its fortress, then it is India. People all around the world are in awe of the performance of the government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi Ji. It is on this high note that I would like to focus on some of the areas that the President covered in his speech.

The macroeconomic situation of this country is in excellent shape. Credit must be given to the government where it is due. It is a truly remarkable achievement to get the fiscal deficit under control. To top this off, the country also had the highest foreign exchange reserves in the previous year. In spite of the efforts of the government to simplify tax laws in India and to introduce the globally acclaimed GST system, it is regrettable that the non-cooperation of the opposition has ensured that the Bill is not passed to this date. One of the main problems that India today faces is the problem of bad loans. This is stressing out the banks and the lending has been affected as a result, which is having

* Speech was laid on the Table.

an impact on growth. The Indradhanush scheme to revitalise the public sector banks is a path breaking scheme as it will ensure that the credit flow in the economy kick starts again.

Even in the 21st century, it is regrettable that a sizable number of people are still in poverty. Poverty eradication has been the focus of all the previous governments but little visible progress has been made on that front. It is here that I would like to commend the achievements of the present administration. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana has ensured that the non-existent habit of savings is now enshrined in each and every Indian's mind. One reason why every Indian wants a government job is because of job security; another primary reason is also that it ensures you get money even after retirement to help you sustain. The Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, (ii) Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, and (iii) Atal Pension Yojana pension schemes launched by the government has ensured that this benefit is now accessible for the entire population. I am sure that these concrete efforts of the government will bear fruit in helping pull millions of Indians out of poverty.

I represent people who mainly depend on farming and fishing for a livelihood. It is heartening to see that the government has taken the

concern of the farming sector seriously. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is groundbreaking. The availability of a crop insurance scheme will prevent thousands of farmers from falling into the prey of loan sharks and will also prevent them from committing suicides. The efforts taken by this government to infuse technology in the farming sector by means of setting up an eMarket for the produce will ensure that the farmers will get direct access to the buyers and thereby get a fair price. I have no doubt that the upliftment of the farmers is absolutely necessary if we want to progress together as a nation. Our stomachs can be content but our hearts can never be content even if one farmer of this great nation is in distress.

A large chunk of my constituency is rural. It is therefore important for me and the people that I represent that the government focuses on the development of these rural areas. It is here that I feel the government has not let down the ambitions of the people. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has ensured that every corner in this country is accessible. It is important to provide road connectivity to people because the roads don't just make travelling easy, the roads also bring with it industries, markets and subsequent development. I am happy to see that the government has reaffirmed its commitment to connect every hook and corner of this country, and doing this is the

greatest tribute we can give to our former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The next important issue that I would like to focus on is something that I can relate to personally. 21st century India belongs to the youth. India has the highest demographic dividend in the world and we have to play it to our advantage. The youth of India do not want to seek employment anymore. They are employment providers. The startup India campaign launched by our Hon. Prime Minister will ensure that the world now turns to India to wait for groundbreaking innovation. The Prime Minister's move has ensured that we can now proudly say move over Silicon Valley and Israel, here comes India. The main problem that the workforce in India face is that they don't possess the necessary skill set required. The Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana will ensure that the Indian workforce is skilled and is ready to take on the world.

While all of these are remarkable achievements of the government, I still feel there is one area where the government can do better. My home state of Andhra Pradesh is now going through testing times. The unscientific separation of the state has ensured that a once revenue surplus state has become a revenue deficit one. In spite of the

difficulties at hand, our Chief Minister Shri Chandra Babu Naidu garu is doing an exemplary job and single handedly transforming the state by bringing in investment. I hoped that the President had given some sort of a roadmap that his government has in mind to ensure the development of Andhra Pradesh. The people of Andhra Pradesh were hopeful that the Hon. President would lay out the plan of the government to give Special category status to Andhra Pradesh, or at least give a financial package to backward regions of Andhra Pradesh. Another demand of the state that the Hon. President did not clarify the status of granting a special railway zone to the state of Andhra Pradesh. Time and again, we are being compared with other states and as a result we are losing out considerably. It is important to understand that we cannot be compared with any other state as our situation is truly unique. I would like to request the government to supply additional funds to the state of Andhra Pradesh to ensure that the aspirations of the people of the state can be fulfilled.

I am confident that the government of India under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister will ensure that India becomes the focal point of world growth. I am sure the hopes and aspirations of 125 crore Indians will be fulfilled.

*[Translation]*

***SHRI A. T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON):** I support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address introduced in the Lok Sabha by my colleague Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi. As everyone knows, His Excellency the President's address to both the Houses of Parliament is an account of the work done by the Government in the previous year and also outlines the work to be done in the coming year.

All the promises made by our government to the public at the time of elections are being fulfilled one by one. Our government is continuously working for the upliftment of the poor and especially the people living below the poverty line. The financial inclusion of more than 21 crore poor people has been made possible through the Jan Dhan Yojana of the Prime Minister. Our government's Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana will definitely be successful in ensuring social security to the general public.

Our government has promised that by 2022, everyone will be provided with a house. As a first step in this direction, the government has provided an amount of Rs. 24,000 crore for construction of

* Speech was laid on the Table.

4,25,000 houses in 2011 cities of 27 States for poor families. Similarly, under the Prime Minister's 'Give It Up' scheme, 62 lakh intelligent citizens of the country can buy their LPG. They have come forward to give up subsidies and as a result, it has become possible to provide clean fuel to the same number of poor families.

Our government is working for the upliftment of all sections of the country. Under the ‘Ustad’ and ‘New Manzil’ schemes of the Ministry of Minority Affairs, 20,000 students studying in madrassas are currently getting skill training in various fields which will help them earn their livelihood. Similarly, a number of schemes have been implemented especially for the farmers. The government has launched a new crop insurance scheme, Pradhan Mantri Irrigation Scheme and the Second Green Revolution in the North-Eastern regions. This will help in transforming our farmers in no time. The government has decided that by 2018, electricity will be provided in all the villages of the country and the government is working fast in this direction.

On this occasion, I would like to draw the government's attention to the following problems of my Jalgaon parliamentary constituency and request that they should be considered sympathetically and appropriate and prompt action should be taken to solve them: -

02.03.2016

1. Three irrigation projects of Jalgaon district in Maharashtra are pending with the Central Water Commission for a long time. Need for early approval and release of necessary funds for their implementation.

2. A state-of-the-art airport has been constructed in Maharashtra by renovation two-three years ago and Rs. 12 crores are being spent per month on its maintenance. But till now domestic flights have not been started from here to Mumbai and Delhi due to which government money is being wasted. I request to start domestic flight and cargo services from here to Delhi and Mumbai at the earliest.

3. The stretch of National Highway 211 between Dhulegaon and Chalisgaon in Maharashtra has been badly damaged and the general public is suffering. That is why this portion needs to be repaired and widened at the earliest.

4. Similarly, part of National Highway 6 in Jalgaon city of Maharashtra has become badly dilapidated and the general public is suffering. Therefore, this part needs to be repaired and widened as soon as possible.

5. A 100-bed Naturopathy Hospital should be set up in Jalgaon, Maharashtra in view of the aspirations of the general public.

6. A proposal has been submitted to the Central Water Commission to remove the huge amount of silt deposited in the Jamda and Dahigaon Jai Sanchay areas of the almost 50 years old Girna Dam and Irrigation System in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, to increase the water storage capacity and to construct embankments. It is pending from time, which needs to be approved soon and necessary funds should be released for its implementation.

7. A river linking project proposal for linking river Girna in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra to Bori, Anjani, Tituor and Mahashwa tributaries through channels is pending with Central Water Commission for a long time, which needs early approval and release of necessary funds for its implementation.

8. A Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Institute needs to be set up to cater to the needs of the local people in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra.

9. Jalgaon in Maharashtra produces large quantities of banana, mango and orange fruits. A food processing training centre needs to be set up to impart training to small entrepreneurs for their processing.

10. There is a need to establish a local office of Khadi and Village Industries Institute in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra.

11. There are about 200 spinning mills in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. A spinning mill cluster needs to be established to ensure availability of all necessary facilities to these mills at one place.

With these words, I congratulate our Government for the significant work undertaken during the last year and support the amicable resolution moved by my colleague, Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi.

*[English]*

***DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR):** I would like to mention some issues which we have to give special emphasis.

Elaborating on the focus of the Government's 'development for all' beyond just the economic advancements that dominate headlines, the country must ensure that the poor and deprived were truly empowered to take advantage of opportunities to improve their lives.

The Government is focused on poverty eradication, farmer's prosperity and massive employment generation. The overriding goal for my government is poverty eradication, he said adding the poorest of the poor were entitled to the first charge on the nation's resources.

Under the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, he was proud to say that it was the world's most successful financial inclusion programme. Under the programme, out of over 21 crore accounts opened, 15 crore accounts are operational with an aggregate deposit of over Rs.32,000 crore. The programme has gone beyond mere opening of bank accounts to becoming a platform for poverty

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

eradication by offering basic financial services and security to the poor.

To universalize social security, the government has launched three new insurance and pension schemes which afford insurance to hitherto uncovered sections of society.

Targeted subsidies ensure that benefits reach the deserving. Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) has so far been extended to 42 schemes funded by the government.

PAHAL has become the largest direct cash transfer programme of its kind in the world, with nearly 15 crore beneficiaries. Since June 2014, the food security coverage has more than doubled to cover over 68 crore persons.

The 'Give-It -Up' campaign in tandem with the Give-Back programmes has released subsidised fresh connections to 50 lakh below-poverty-line families.

More than 62 lakh LPG consumers have voluntarily surrendered their LPG subsidy under the campaign. The highest number of new cooking gas connections to the rural poor were distributed in 2015.

The President said the Government has fostered competitive cooperation among various states to enhance' Ease of Doing

Business'. State governments were being encouraged and supported to simplify procedures, introduce e-enabled processes and invest in infrastructure to improve the investment climate.

A series of reforms have been initiated to help convert job seekers into job creators. My government has launched the Start-Up India campaign which would deepen, expand and support the innovation, eco system in the country.

By March 2019, under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, 1.78 lakh habitations will be connected with all-weather roads.

India is a haven of stability in an increasingly turbulent global economy. GDP growth has increased, making India the world's fastest growing economy among large economics. Inflation, fiscal deficit and current account deficit have all decreased. India recorded the highest -ever foreign exchange reserves in 2015.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ):** Chairperson Sir, first of all I thank you that after waiting a long time we have got this opportunity. There were some disruptions as well. When the President addressed our joint session, people had a lot of expectations that at least last year, before this government came, some vision was talked about, some direction was talked about. But we regret that this time there is no direction or vision in the speech. The regrettable thing is that the press releases issued by the Press Information Bureau throughout the year are considered a compendium of it. Consider this as a compendium of the press releases issued by the Press Information Bureau throughout the year. The press information bureau's compendium of government handouts and press releases for the last one year states that our government has done these things. When Shrimati Lekhi ji initiated the motion of thanks on the address or a Minister even supported it, then when one of our senior Ministers intervened, he could not rise above the press handout. They started counting the same. It seems that elections are ahead and the way the tempting slogan was given, of good days, of bringing black money, of removing unemployment, now he is not making that promise. Right now the question is to keep their manifesto for 2014 elections in front

and count that in two years we have made one, two, three, four etc. assessments. His speech is nothing more than the compilation of monikers. At the time of elections, some slogans, some words, some monikers are given and its effect is diminishing returns. They are not giving that kind of return anymore. The second thing is that the situation is as it is today, when we are starting the new year and His Excellency the President addressed the joint session, then the whole country and the whole world was watching. At that time we cannot turn our eyes away from the real situation of the country. What have we seen? When we sat in this session,

**16.00 hours**

You imposed sedition charges in Gujarat, you imposed sedition charges in JNU. What happened in Hyderabad Central University? We are not saying that this happened because of your government, Dalit students have been suffering for the last many years, similarly in our country, they are not able to go very high in the society, still those who break the glass ceiling and go up. We should think about why they are forced to give up their lives. You look at the data from 2007 to 2011. It is not that you are being slandered, but will you turn away from the truth to protect yourself? Minister Madam said here

that whatever M.P. We write a letter, we send it directly, like a post bag or a mailbox, both are one. The letter given by Hanumantha Rao ji was that why Dalits are being killed, why are they committing suicide, look into this. The letter of the Minister who was sitting on ABVP, on lies, was that why are they not committing suicide, force them to do so. They both became one. That letter took four months for the entire army of officers in the Ministry of Under Secretary, Joint Secretary, Secretary, Human Resources Minister to decide what action should be taken against him. You pushed him to the brink. After the death of Rohit Vemula, when it came in front of the whole country, such issues have happened before also and then an attempt was made to suppress it. There was no need to blow so much out of proportion to the JNU case. It was done very thoughtfully. You want to turn away from the truth by giving slogans of nationalism and patriotism. In this country, debates about nationalism, debates about nationalism, debates about communalism, debates about patriotism took place in the last 200 years, when the freedom struggle was being fought against the British. At the time, you didn't participate. Now you are trying to complete that backlog. What is nationalism? Who is nationalist and who is not? When this country was under British rule, those who were fighting for freedom, whether through violence or non-violence, took

part in that debate. The Sangh Parivar who did not participate in it are now thinking that we will interfere in it. Somewhere in Gujarat, in his last speech, Sardar Patel mentioned that a huge statue of him would be built in China. Iron was collected from all over the country, I am talking about your love for your country. ... *(Interruptions)* I am talking about love of the country, and that was given to China. Now they are saying that they will put up high flags, they will put up 27 feet flags, there is no objection, there is pride, pride of the nation, there is an ban, it is ban, but I do not know whom China or Germany will order to make its pole. ... *(Interruptions)* Today some channels and some leaders in our country will spread patriotism by sponsoring FDI, ... *(Interruptions)* Bhagat Singh, Ashfaqulla Khan, Chandra Shekhar Azad, Khudiram... *(Interruptions)* Go to the Cellular Jail, go there, there is a list.… *(Interruptions)* Who has sacrificed in this country, whether it is United Pradesh, whether it is Madhya Pradesh, whether it is Uttar Pradesh, whether it is Punjab, whether it is Bengal. Where were you? ... *(Interruptions)* Show a single name. ... *(Interruptions)* Even today when there is talk of science dependence in this country... *(Interruptions)* The question is of scientific temperament. The question is of rational thinking. The question is of reasoning. That is being sought to be demolished. We are not seeing in our neighbouring

country Pakistan what is happening there, we are not seeing in our neighbouring country Bangladesh, bloggers are being killed there in the name of religion. In Pakistan, we saw how students were killed from Peshawar to Bacha Khan University. If the spirit of running the country is created by mixing politics with religion, then the federal structure in this country, the parliamentary democracy that we have created after independence, and the constitution that we have made will collapse. The question is the rule of law. There is a difference between rules and rulers. We want rule of law, what are you saying by changing it a bit that this country will not be run by rules, it will be run by rulers. Even if it is with the baton of the police commissioner. We are seeing this in this House, rules are being flouted. Will the rulers decide what rights the opposition party will have in the House in a parliamentary democracy? ... *(Interruptions)* The Constitution is an absolute authority. ... *(Interruptions)* We will have to follow the rules. ... *(Interruptions)* This is a big deal. You have to follow the rules.

We saw what happened in Patiala House Court. This government had said in the President's address last year - Maximum governance, minimum government. What we saw was that when students gathered in JNU, there was maximum government, and when students and

journalists were attacked for hooliganism by the Sangh Parivar by wearing black coats in Patiala House, then minimum government. Then there is no government. Where the government was needed, the government has failed. Today, where the university has autonomy, joint governance and its own rules, there was no need for the government to take any action. There is the HRD Ministry and Delhi Police … *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please do not disturb him. Let him conclude.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** Sir, we have just begun, I have just begun.… *(Interruptions)* I know that it is not palatable to them.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please do not disturb the Hon. Member.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** I know that it is not palatable to you, but allow me to speak. … *(Interruptions)* That is democracy. … *(Interruptions) [Translation]* If it becomes too much, then after six

months you will also charge us with sedition like you have charged Sitaram Yechury. We are not afraid of it.

... *(Interruptions)*

Man does not think anything after death, man does not say anything after death. A man dies if he thinks nothing and says nothing. Today in our country you are trying to create such a situation that people cannot think freely and cannot speak with freedom. When martial law takes place, people get up and raise their voice while standing. Even in our country, when democratic traditions were attacked ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please do not disturb the Hon. Member.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** Sir, what is this? … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kindly allow the Hon. Member to speak.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** Sir, I am addressing you. … *(Interruptions)* It is an abuse of the Chair. I am addressing the Chair.

… *(Interruptions) [Translation]* He does not have a black coat, but has a black heart. ... *(Interruptions)*

We have just seen how seriously it was said in this House. That’s also the right thing. The treasury benches said the right thing. When our soldiers unfortunately died in Siachen due to natural calamity, he kept fighting, but he died. We saw at that time our soldiers were killed in a military attack in Kashmir. But in the President's address, you are trying to awaken the love of the country by taking the name of the dead in a military attack. Young military officer, but there is no mention of him. Even in the condolence motion when we sat in the House, we did not mention our soldiers who were killed in Jammu and Kashmir. So do soldiers sacrifice their lives just to increase votes in elections or will their deaths be used to defame the opposition in the name of nationalism by giving slogans of patriotism? And when they were protesting at Jantar Mantar for One Rank One Pension, at midnight on 15th August, you sent the same Delhi Police, used batons on them and chased them away, broke their camp, broke their protest. At that time, you did not remember the country's army and its sacrifice? If democracy is attacked, not only the students but every part will be attacked. We are happy that this time the role of MNREGA was given some attention in the budget. The Prime

Minister who was shouting and showing 56 inches in this House that he has to dig a hole, he has to dig a hole, it seems that today he himself is lying in that hole and is hunting MNREGA. I congratulate for this, which is a matter of 100 days of employment for the poor. In the same way you will also attain the truth, but it will take some time, wait a little.

There is a frightening situation among the youth across the country about unemployment. Unemployment is a great problem, but the Government has utterly failed. Those passions of the youth had been stopped, but now what we see is that they are still giving different types of slogans like they were giving in the elections. But the government has washed its hands of the responsibility of providing employment to the unemployed and that is why I think the anger of the youth is increasing.

The problems of the workers and farmers are increasing in this country. Whatever be the expenditure in the President's address or in the budget, there will be a detailed discussion on the budget, but the problem of farmers, the problem of farming, the suicides of farmers, not getting the price for their crops, it will be discussed in detail. The government has not been able to show any direction in this regard.

I think this is the biggest challenge that this Government has.... *(Interruptions)* One thing is that the government has said about corruption in paragraph 41, last year also it was said that we will not tolerate corruption, "punishing those who are found guilty of corruption". I have come after getting elected from Bengal. In the matter of the cheat fund and Ponzi scheme, I want to say that crores of rupees of lakhs of people were looted through it. It happened in North-East India and elsewhere also. But today, for their political convenience, to make political compromises, whether it is SEBI, CBI or ED, they are misusing it for their own benefit. Where the culprits are being caught, you are not allowing them to work, you are creating obstacles, the money that should have been returned to the people is not being returned. Isn't this the government's responsibility? Look at what your responsibility is. What promise did you make to the people? Even today you are saying that you are concerned about corruption. *[English]* Why are you not allowing your own agencies to do their duty? … *(Interruptions)* I am not yielding.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude now.

*… (Interruptions)*

**SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR):** I appreciate this idea. But this has been happening for the last 25 years and those things also should be investigated properly…. *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** When I said about chit funds and corruption, Sudeep ji stood up. I did not say TMC. … *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, please conclude because I have a long list of speakers.

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** Whenever we talk about chit funds, they think something is wrong. This is unfortunate. … *(Interruptions)* I am telling the government. What is your problem?

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Nothing will go on record.

… *(Interruptions) ...**

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** I am requesting the members of the Treasury Bench that the government has run a very good program

* Not recorded.

related to LED. Community-verified icon. In it the government has said that “Over six crore LED bulbs have already been distributed.” You put your hand on your chest and say, many members go from village to village, go to their parliamentary constituency, how many out of six crore LED bulbs are seen there. ... *(Interruptions)* These are paper figures.... *(Interruptions)* I am saying with a claim.... *(Interruptions)* Otherwise, it is biassed. ... *(Interruptions)* Here they are saying that nothing has been found, there they are saying that it has been found, it has been found. ... *(Interruptions)* Why is the government showing favouritism? ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI A. P. JITHENDRA REDDY:** In Hyderabad yesterday evening, two bulbs were given to every household. ... *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** How did they get six crore bulbs?... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (RAIBAREILLY):** It was done only in Hyderabad, but what about the rest or what about the other region, the whole of Andhra Pradesh?

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** You have already distributed it!

**SHRI A. P. JITHENDER REDDY:** Yesterday, we initiated this step.

**SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM:** Their claim is that they have already distributed six crore LED bulbs. I appreciate what you have distributed yesterday. But where were these six crore LED bulbs distributed? I am just asking that question. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

I have the President's address from last year and this year. There has been a change in the first three paragraphs. Not only Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji but this time he has also taken refuge in Gandhi ji. That's a good thing. A little wisdom is moving forward but about Jan Dhan Yojana, I want to say. To prove how the government's claims are false, I am quoting from these two speeches. Last year the government said that close to 100 per cent with a record of 13.2 crore new bank accounts. You will know the statistics. This time the government is saying Rs. 21 crore. If 13 crore had become 100 percent then where did 21 crore come from, or last year the President was wrongly told that 13 crore to 100 percent? What are you claiming? We have always heard such speeches in the election field.... *(Interruptions)* But what is the reality? I am talking about the Human

Development Index. There is talk about the Human Resources Ministry. Our country is not respected in the world by seeing that we have become FDI friendly. What is the status of our human resource development? How is the health of women and children?

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude now, your time is over.

… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I have a long list of Members. All Members want to speak.

… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Varaprasad Rao.

… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

*[Translation]*

**MOHAMMAD SALIM:** I am talking about human development.... *(Interruptions)* What is the condition of educational institutions? The government is shirking its responsibility and that is most dangerous and deadly.... *(Interruptions)* On the other hand, he is in a position to mislead the youth, on the one hand nationalism, communalism on the

other, the Minister of State for Human Resources of the Centre goes to Agra and gives speeches. ... *(Interruptions)* They are abusing in the name of Muslims. Here the government repeatedly says that he is a fringe element, a mistake has been made.... *(Interruptions)* In this way intolerance is being increased.... *(Interruptions)* I understand that there has been a discussion in this House against this intolerance. However, the government has failed.... *(Interruptions)*

*__SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT (JHUNJHNU):__ I am confident that all members know one thing that the country is on the path of progress.

I am happy that all the schemes run by our government are on the principle of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'. The reason is very clear - Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, who has seen, felt and lived all aspects of the society very closely.

Take a look at any of the schemes of the present government, you will definitely get to see three things - 1. The progress of the poor, 2. Prosperity of farmers, and 3. Development of the youth.

The key to the success of the present government is that if the country has to be developed then it has to be ensured that the government reaches every citizen of the country, who is at the lowest level of the society. In the past, if the Union Government used to send Rs. 10, only Rs. 3 would reach the poor, but today, if the Government sends Rs.10, the poor are getting full Rs.10 and that too directly into his bank account without any hassle.

I thank the Government for the initiative taken by the present Government to provide social security to every citizen of the country.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

The government has plans to provide protection to all the three pension schemes - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana - for which social security was like a beautiful dream.

India's progress has always depended on the progress of farmers and our government has understood this very well. The Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana for farmers is a living example of this. The government's biggest contribution is to provide crop insurance at low premium rates to farmers. The scheme, for the first time, includes national coverage of crop losses due to floods and unseasonal rains, prompt delivery of government subsidies and use of technology for quick and accurate settlement of claims. The amount of assistance to farmers affected by natural disasters has also been increased by 50 percent and the eligibility criteria for this have also been relaxed.

Farmer welfare schemes like distribution of Soil Health Cards to farmers, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Integrated National Agricultural Market for setting up of a common e-commerce platform to interconnect 585 regulated wholesale markets have infused a new energy among the farmers. The launch of 24 × 7 Kisan Channel for the purpose of providing information on policy initiatives, prices and

other agriculture related topics for the benefit of farmers is also a part of this series.

I am happy to say today that with targeted policy interventions in the last year, the arrears of sugarcane have come down from Rs. 21,000 crore to Rs. 720 crore.

Schemes like 'Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao' campaign, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill Development, Make in India, Jan-Dhan Yojana, Startup India, Stand Up India, Digital India have connected the Indian people with development. I am confident that in the coming times, through these schemes, India will be successful in creating its own identity at the international level.

Previous governments never paid attention to middle class traders. I am happy to say that the Hon. Prime Minister understood the pain of the middle class traders of the country and brought the Mudra Bank Scheme, which will help the middle class traders to grow their business.

I thank Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for introducing Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana with a target of providing 24 hours electricity to all citizens living in villages. I am happy to

inform you that in the coming three years, electricity will reach about 18,500 villages under this scheme.

02.03.2016

*[English]*

***SHRIMATI V. SATHYABAMA (TIRUPPUR):** I express my indebtedness and sincere thanks to our beloved Leader Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA for giving me this great opportunity to express my views on the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

Education, Employment, Enterprises, Energy, Economy are the Five Es on which the Nation is built . Besides the 5Es, the Urban Infrastructure and Digital India are the limbs of the society which facilitates forward movement of the country.

It is heartening that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been revamped to ensure the efficient disbursements of wages, increased transparency and creation of productive assets. The Government has begun the exercise to correct the skew in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme with wage distribution of Rs.37,000 crores in this fiscal year among States and to ensure better targeting on MGNREGA funding.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Tamil Nadu under the dynamic leadership of Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA is one of the most productive states in the country to utilise the Rural employment scheme. The Government had already identified 5.37 crore households, which can be described as the landless households deriving major part of their income from manual casual labour that could be potential targets of MGNREGA.

The Government's mission of skilling India has gained momentum and during the last year about 76 lakh people have been trained. The skill training is successful in Tamil Nadu which stands first in producing the largest number of engineering graduates and skilled persons suitable for employment in Multinational companies.

Education is the eye of the society. A country without proper education is like a person with a blurred vision. The Government aims to create an educated, healthy and clean India. It is a laudable effort of this Government that over four lakh seventeen thousand functional toilets for girls and boys have been constructed. Our beloved leader Puratchi Talaivi AMMA has focused exclusively for the development of education in the State and has been taking sighted initiatives for the welfare of students in the state. AMMA's scheme of provision of priceless laptops for students is first of its kind in the country. I wish

the Union Government will take a leaf out of AMMA's many innovative, inclusive schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu. Because of AMMA's far-sighted schemes, Tamil Nadu has become the Education Capital of the country attracting students from across the country and globe.

The skilling India initiative will have to achieve much more than what it could so far. With only 2.3 per cent of the total workforce in India having undergone formal skill training as compared to 68 per cent in the UK and 52 per cent in the US, the quantum of the challenge is still high. Most important being, taking advantage of the demographic dividend, which is both- the biggest opportunity and the biggest concern-for the country.

On the demand side, a skill gap study was conducted by National Skill Development Council (NSDC) in 2014, which indicates that there is an additional net requirement of 119.2 million skilled manpower in 24 key sectors by 2022. It is observed that today the total workforce in the country is estimated at 487.4 million, of which approximately 51 per cent is in the non-farm sector.

The biggest challenge is availability of good quality trained trainers. There are more than 10,000 ITIs in the country, employing

large numbers of trainers but their knowledge and skills do not match industry requirements of today.

In India, and globally, there is an enormous gap between the skills needed by the industry and what academia is producing, resulting in a deep fracture in the talent supply chain. By 2020, almost 60 per cent of India's population of 1.3 billion will be in the working age group of 15-59 years, if adequately skilled this demographic divide could make India a global HR powerhouse. Apart from mere fund allocations from the private sector, proper hand holding from the private sector is what will boost the new phase of skilling.

Be it from the training perspective or from job opportunity perspective, skill council heads also say that higher private participation will be the key. I am happy to see this government has given impetus to research through the launch of IMPRINT India whereby scientific goalposts have been identified in 10 fields of research ranging from Defence to Sustainable Living.

I welcome the move by the Government to enable increased interaction between foreign faculty and our students. Under the aegis of GIAN, the government has invited 400 foreign academicians to *'Teach in India'*. I wish to record here about the innovative Rural

student study in abroad program implemented by Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA which enables the students from rural and poor background. It is really the need of the hour that students get to know about the details of the higher education and scholarship schemes and facility to apply online on a single window platform. In this regard, the launch of the National Institutional Ranking Framework for higher educational Institutions and The National Scholarship Portal which provides a one-stop platform for applications of all scholarships is laudable.

Safety and security of the Nation is most important and cannot be compromised even for a second. We are happy that this Government is fully committed to firmly deal with all challenges concerning the security of the country. Terrorism is a global threat and strong counter-terrorism measures are necessary worldwide to eradicate it completely. Firm and effective steps will be taken to deal with any situation arising out of cross-border terrorism. We are indebted to those who inspire by their selfless service and their supreme sacrifice in the line of duty. Acknowledgement must not hinge on ceremony or noble gestures of gratitude alone. Adequate financial support and compensation benefits including job opportunities should be extended

to the family of the defence personnel who lost their invaluable life while fighting our enemies and while protecting the Nation.

There has been significant improvement in the overall security situation in the country. As the Hon. President rightly said, this has been made possible through sustained efforts and measures taken by the intelligence agencies and security forces in collaboration with the State Governments. I wish to record here that Tamil Nadu under the dynamic leadership of Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA has become the most peaceful state in the country.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: The world is one family. The Government should be committed to this principle and its expression is most resonant in the steps we have taken in reaching out to our neighbours. Last year, the Government adopted the historic Land Boundary Agreement with Bangladesh, leading to the peaceful exchange of disputed territories between our two countries. The signing of the Motor Vehicles Agreement between Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and Nepal will provide seamless connectivity and further strengthen ties. The Government opened our skies, became a key transit hub and essential enabler so that assistance from other countries could reach Nepal in its hour of need.

But when we look back in our history, I am very sad to say that we have lost strategically important Katchatheevu to Sri Lanka thereby doing gross injustice to the people of our country, particularly the poor fishermen community in Tamil Nadu. We lost the most crucial piece of land without any proper amendment made in the Indian Parliament. Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA has been fighting in and out to retrieve Katchatheevu back to our people and I wish the Union Government should take appropriate steps to get back Katchatheevu to brighten the life of millions of Fishermen community living in Tamil Nadu.

The Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA's innovative and far-sighted Tamil Nadu vision 2023 has envisaged all round progress and developments of the State. The setting up world-class infrastructure for electronics manufacturing across the country remains a priority for any Government. The country recorded the highest ever software exports during 2015. Tamil Nadu's contribution is second to none.

India is a haven of stability in an increasingly turbulent global economy. GDP growth has increased making India the world's fastest growing economy among large economies. Inflation, fiscal deficit and

current account deficit have all decreased. India recorded the highest ever foreign exchange reserves in 2015. We must not forget the contributions from the productive States like Tamil Nadu in our GDP growth. Our Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA has devised several development projects which will make Tamil Nadu the Number one state in the country and contribute substantially for the overall development of the country.

*[Translation]*

*__DR. BHARTIBEN D. SHYAL (BHAVNAGAR):__ According to this address of His Excellency the President, the principle given by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi ji, “Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas” seems to be true. The government's vision, plans and determination to implement them, providing education to all, medical care, housing, electricity, water, roads, communication and employment, strengthening the law and order system, many schemes are being implemented for the safety of women. A commitment has been made to provide housing to all by the year 2022. The government has started three schemes for social security, “Pradhanmantri Suraksha Bima Yojana”, “Pradhanmantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana” and “Atal Pension Yojana” for the welfare of the deprived people of the society.

'Swachhta Abhiyan' started by Hon. Prime Minister has become a public campaign. Skill Development Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Shiksha Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Sadak Gram Yojana, the objective of our government is to work for

* Speech was laid on the Table.

the progress of the poor, prosperity of farmers and employment to the youth.

Today people are looking at the Hon. Prime Minister with great hope and confidence. A day will come when our country will be seen standing at the height of development.

Jan Dhan Yojana is the most successful financial scheme in the world. Our government has taken the country towards development by starting schemes like Skill India, Make in India, Startup India, Urban Mission. I support the address of His Excellency the President.

*[English]*

***SHRI P. KUMAR (TIRUCHIRAPPALLI):** I deem it a privilege to express my views on the discussion on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address that he delivered to the Members of both the Houses of Parliament, on 23rd February 2016.

At the outset, I would like to say that there is nothing significant in the President's Address; it is a regular and routine Address, or a ritual Address, mentioning the achievements of the Government during the last one year. Though the Address mentions poverty eradication, farmer's poverty and employment generation, there is nothing concrete on the ground to prove these points.

The Address in Para 5 mentions that the Government is pledged to achieve its goal by having financial inclusion and social security, and that the Govt. had introduced the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, through which there is an aggregate deposit of over Rs. 32,000 crore. I want to know how this money is going to be utilised to eradicate poverty and for the security of the poor?

At para 8, it talks about Direct Benefit Transfer which has been extended to 42 schemes funded by the Government It further says that

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

it ensured coverage of food security to over 68 crore persons. But I want to ask the Government how the Government intends to cover all the poor and BPL families.

When the President stated about the farmers' welfare and the low premium rates for insurance, the Government has not stated anything about how it wished to tackle the increasing number of farmers' suicide in the country. When there is no water for irrigation and the agricultural lands are shrinking, what are the efforts that the Government is taking to ensure adequate water and ensure that the farmers do not leave their profession? This is the bigger challenge for the Indian economy, more than anything else. The Government has to concentrate more on this aspect, on the ground, rather than e-governance on every aspect of the economy.

When the Government talks about the Second Green Revolution in para 18, does the Govt. take into account the scarcity of water for agricultural purposes? May I ask the Govt. whether it is serious about interlinking the rivers of the country, which will ensure availability of water throughout the year and in all places of the country?

Many of the practical difficulties of the common men do not find a mention in the President's Address.

The excise duties on petrol and diesel are being increased frequently. People have a feeling that the price of diesel and petrol are not in comparison with the international price of crude. Their prices do not commensurate with the international prices. As the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Hon. Amma demanded, there should be a review of the pricing policy of petrol and diesel, and that the increase in the excise duty on petrol and diesel should be rolled back. At the same time, I also recognize that only a few days back, there was a reduction of Rs.3 in the price of petrol and an increase of Rs. 1.50 in the price of diesel. But there has to be a review of the Pricing Policy.

Fishermen issue does not seem to end. Every now and then, the Sri Lankan Navy is capturing the fishermen from Tamil Nadu, taking them to Sri Lanka and harassing them. Apart from capturing them, their lifeline, that is their fishing implements like boats, nets, etc. are being taken away and destroyed; they are not even returned, even after many persuasion, the fishermen are released from Sri Lanka. The Government has to find a permanent solution to this problem.

As far as we are concerned, the permanent solution lies in the retrieval of Kachchatheevu Islet. The Agreements signed in 1972 and 1974 are constitutionally illegal; they were not ratified by this

Parliament. This issue has been taken up by the Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu with the Supreme court, challenging their constitutional validity. The Government of India should also see fairness in those agreements and respond accordingly in the Supreme Court. Only then, can there be a solution to the woes of the fishermen of Tamil Nadu.

In the education sector, the situation is poor; and the less said about this, the better it is. There are no quality teachers available, either at the level of school or at the level of college. The Government has to ponder over this and do the needful for the education of the children of India.

In the case of the textile industry, many textile industries are being closed. Sufficient funds must be allocated to revive them.

This Government came to power on the plank of bringing back black-money and ending corruption, and also taking action against corrupt. But what do we see now? The cases with regard to the 2G spectrum scam and Aircel-Maxis are lingering for quite long. It is a fact that the authorities in power are arm-twisting the officials, not to go ahead with prosecution. Even though the CBI and ED are having foolproof evidence, the cases do not proceed further. The Government

should ensure that the corrupt are punished and justice is delivered immediately.

Even though the President mentioned about the unprecedented floods that submerged Chennai in Para 70, the Government has not sanctioned sufficient funds for rehabilitation, as was demanded by the Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu. I request the Government to sanction the money immediately for undertaking rehabilitation measures.

With a request to the Government to ensure taking sufficient action on all these, I thank the President for his address and conclusion.

*[Translation]*

***SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SANT KABIR NAGAR):** Expressing my support for the address given by the President, I would like to say that the government not only gave the slogan of Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas but also made it the basis of real progress. And because of this, today India has started being looked upon with respect in the world and the best example of this is that India has reached 12th position in the list of easy places to do business. I am saying this not as a political activist but on the basis of the World Bank report and even today the entire emphasis of our government is to provide housing and food security to the people, on which work should be done vigorously.

For a long time in our country, lack of efficiency was becoming the biggest obstacle in providing employment to the people. To overcome this, the government started the skill development program by taking a huge mega project as a mission. Today its results are beginning to emerge and people are getting the opportunity for skill development under the Skill India Programme, so it will definitely be successful in providing employment in the future.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

It becomes clear from the address of the President that rural development is one of the main priorities of our government and as a result of this, we have achieved record production in the field of animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries in 2015 and farming and farmers are our priorities. We are at the top because we know very well that the country will develop only when farms and farmers progress because the role of farmers in the important development of the country cannot be denied.

Showing seriousness towards health, our government has adopted a holistic approach and has emphasised Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani Siddha and Homoeopathy treatment methods and has made meaningful efforts to ensure that these are ancient. The experiments to keep people's health good through the methods should also reach the people and people can also take advantage of these methods.

Corruption has been a big issue for us since the beginning and our government is determined to eliminate it. Whatever necessary steps are being taken for this, they are being taken strictly. Our government is committed that corruption of any kind will not be accepted under any circumstances and we will make every possible effort to stop it.

As far as power generation is concerned, the seriousness of our government on it becomes clear from the fact that in the year 2015, our government has set the record of highest ever power generation. And now we will be successful in realising the dream of lighting the house.

*[English]*

**SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI):** Sir, I thank the Chair for giving me this opportunity. I have been mentioning for the last two years that 60 per cent of India's population depends on agriculture and more than 40 per cent live below the poverty lines. We have been saying that the focus should shift away from the infrastructure and corporate to the poor and the villages. I am happy at least now that better sense has prevailed. This Budget speech particularly has been focused on poverty eradication, farmers' prosperity and massive employment. We are extremely happy. I hope that the Government will take it forward ultimately to benefit the poorest of the poor.

Let me also appreciate some of the schemes of the Government honestly. We neither belong to that side nor to this side. To mention the successful schemes, there are 42 schemes which are extremely laudable. For example, the Direct Benefit Transfer is extremely laudable. Secondly, the LPG give it up scheme is also equally good. The Prime Minister *Fasal Bima Yojana* will set a good trend to protect the farmers. The ease of doing business has generally improved the investment environment in India. I myself have seen the effect of

Ganges cleaning operation. It is really good. What I had seen ten years back and what I have now seen, there is definitely a lot of improvement as far as the cleanliness of Ganges is concerned. I still have a doubt, just as my senior colleague Shri Salim has mentioned. In my constituency, I have toured as many as 1000 villages. Yet, the LED bulbs should reach the villages. Maybe the Government should ensure that it will reach the poorest of the poor.

There is talk of a new concept of inclusive growth. We have been talking about that. The present Government is now seriously taking it up. What I get surprised by is that every time they mention the number of accounts opened and the amount deposited. But, nowhere they have mentioned as to how many account holders have generally benefited out of this *Jan Dhan Yojana*. Nowhere the Government has ever mentioned that so many account holders under *Jan Dhan Yojana* have been benefited. So, the focus may be given to this as to how many account holders are benefited under the scheme.

We have been talking about social democracy every time. It is good. We have been talking about it for the last 70 years. We have political democracy. Thanks to Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar. But it is far away to reach social democracy. Unless we clearly establish a road

map as to how to bring up the poorest of the poor to the levels of others where the gap between the rich and the poor is bridged, I do not think we will ever reach social democracy. We all know that about 80 per cent of the people just eat 20 percent of the revenue of the country and the 20 percent of the people eat 80 percent of the revenue. The Government should consider that and bridge the gap very quickly.

Every time it is mentioned about Gandhi's words. I feel poverty is the worst form of violence. Still, lots of villages have tremendous poverty. I have been mentioning that. I do not think that the poorest of the poor particularly the SCs and STs who are living in the villages are benefited commensurately.

We also have mentioned that the poorest are entitled to the first charge on the nation’s resources. If anybody could really apply that, he should read the sentence and read the whole of the speech, I do not think there is any match between these two. There is a total mismatch between this statement and reality.

About *Sabka Saath sabka vikas,* it is still not clear from the speech. It has been mentioned that *Sabka Saath sabka vikas* are for the whole world. That is what the speech says. Unless we really focus

on the country, I do not think that this slogan will be applicable to the country like ours.

As regards food security, we have surplus food. We do not deny that but food security to the poorest of the poor is not ensured. In several States, we see in the newspapers very clearly mentioned, the civil supply system is inadequate, 40 percent of the people still do not have ration cards. Therefore, there is a huge gap between what we are saying and what is seen on the ground. What we are saying may be right, all ration card holders may be getting food. But 40 per cent of the people do not have ration cards. That may be rectified. Unless that is done, poverty can never be eradicated.

Again the Government has repeatedly been talking about ‘house for all’ particularly by 2022. But where is the roadmap? Almost two years are over and this Government is left with three years and the last year in any case would be the election year. Where is the road map? I do not see even a village in my Constituency getting one house.

We have been talking about farmers’ prosperity but we have not considered three aspects. We have been talking about remunerative prices for paddy and other crops. But what about perishable items like tomatoes and onions? Unless some mechanism is evolved to protect

the interests of growers of perishable commodities, I do not think the interests of the farmers are adequately protected.

We have been talking about the price stabilisation scheme. We do not see it anywhere. Nowhere price stabilisation has been done. For example, we see in the newspapers that in capital they are selling onions at Rs.1 per kg while the actual production cost is Rs.15 per kg. Where will they go? We have been talking about prosperity of the farmers, farmers' welfare and all that. Unless there is a match between our talk and our deeds, this will not serve any purpose.

We have been very proudly talking about Swachh Bharat but many villages do not have individual household latrines. Furthermore, in the SC/ST habitations where individual household latrines have been constructed in the last one year, money is yet to be released.

As regards MNREGS, the Hon. Finance Minister has been saying with pride that the highest ever allocation has been made. I do not think the present system is doing what the MNREGS has been created for. Productive assets are not being created any more now. Individual assets are not being created under the scheme at all now. If the poorest of the poor, SCs and STs do not have permanent productive assets, they will never come up and social democracy can never be achieved.

I have seen in several Mandals of my Constituency. They are supposed to provide employment for 150 days to whoever asks for it, particularly those who have the White Cards. Not even 35 per cent of the cardholders have been provided with 100 per cent employment. There is a huge gap. I do not think anybody is really getting into the nitty-gritty of the issues of the poorest of the poor. What we talk about is fine. I will give you the details. There is a lot of gap. Forty per cent of those who are asking for employment of 150 days in a year are not being given that.

We have mentioned about eradication of corruption and punishing the corrupt. Shri Salim has also mentioned it. Two years have passed since this Government came to power. There has been no visible change barring the news of the Aircel-Maxis deal appearing in the newspapers and our discussing it in the House. There is no specific step taken in the last two years for eradication of corruption or punishing the corrupt. Therefore, there is a mismatch between what we are saying there and what we are doing.

The same is the case with the black money. Good we have passed an Act as far as foreign money is concerned. But I do not think there

is any specific Act recently passed to curtail the black money within the country.

As regards Non Performing Assets, it is really unfortunate that the richest are enjoying NPAs of more than a lakh crore rupees while the poor people are not able to get the minimum amount of money. And there has been no specific action in the last two years in this regard. Forget about earlier, I was not a Member then. Tangible action to recover the NPAs and to bring to book the people who are committing fraud on the nation has not been taken.

Therefore, unless this is done and economic offences are controlled, I don't think we will ever achieve this social democracy. There is a Smart City scheme. Very recently, only 20, that is only 20 per cent, has been announced. I wish the Government would act faster. Many cities like Tirupati are looking forward to it. We must see the progress in the cities the Government has announced. So, the programme of Smart Cities should also be taken up very quickly.

Similarly, there are inland waterways. As far as my constituency is concerned, at least one inland waterway scheme, the Buckingham Canal, has been announced. We don't see even a tangible action. No

tenders have been called. Nothing has been done. So, that also has to be taken up on priority.

Another very important thing is the women's entry in the armed forces. We are happy that women are also being bought at par with men in all aspects, particularly in piloting and all that. But I personally feel sorry that when you get into history, whenever a war takes place, the soldiers are caught by the enemy and taken as prisoners. In the past, particularly during the Japanese war and the Chinese war, women had been very badly treated. So, that has to be kept in mind when women are being taken into the combat and infantry forces because they should not be misused and should not be used as slaves. This is exactly what the IS is doing now. Whenever a woman is caught, she is sexually abused. So, that aspect needs to be considered.

The last point is the special status for Andhra Pradesh for which we have been repeatedly asking. In fact, our leader Jagan Mohan Reddy has gone on fast-unto-death also. Both the Houses have also agreed to give the special status to Andhra Pradesh. It is extremely unfortunate that nothing has been done to Andhra Pradesh. Since we are left with no Rajdhani and we also have a deficit budget of nearly Rs. 20,000 crore, the Union Government should come to our rescue

and declare as soon as possible, not a special package, but a special status which we want.

With these words, once again I thank the Chair for giving me this wonderful opportunity. Our party wholeheartedly thanks the Hon. President for his valuable speech and thanks the Government particularly for taking up eradication of poverty and farmers' welfare.

*__SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD):__ The President Address is really a declaration of policy of the present Government. I am sorry to tell you that the President has failed to address the very serious issues prevailing at present in our Country. In the last session of this House, we discussed the Constitutional aspects in connection with the birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. We also discussed the intolerance that the nation is facing nowadays.

There are some serious instances which really hurt the citizens of India. But such shocking instances and developments are not even touched by the President in his elaborate speech. Higher educational institutions are under serious attacks. Since the new Government came to power, they are promoting communalisation and communal polarisation in various parts of life. Many campuses of the highly prestigious Universities have become the places where this type of campaign is going on.

Suicide of Dalit student in Hyderabad University is one of the recent tragic instances that we witnessed. He was a PhD first year student with dreams and ambitions. He committed suicide just because of high pressure that he faced in the university itself. The

* Speech was laid on the Table.

university Chancellor suspended five Dalit Students and it was due to the direct interference of the HRD Minister. In the last one year about 12 students have committed suicide. The Dalit students were denied and rejected all facilities and conveniences and even denied the right to express their views. The suicide of Rohit is the outcome of atrocities from the University itself. So it was really an institutional killing.

The extraordinary action has been taken by the govt. in JNU. In Delhi in the name of anti-national slogans, cases are registered against some students and first year PhD student, Kannayya Kumar was arrested as he is the student leader of the JNU. Charges were framed against him and he was arrested on the basis of promoting anti national activity. The sedition section was imposed on him. When he was produced before Patiala Court he was beaten by a section of the advocates in the presence of the Police. Teachers and students who came to the court were also beaten. And he was kicked and beaten again by the police a second time when he appeared in court. Media Persons were also seriously beaten. This is really an attack on the freedom of the press.

When some political leaders visited JNU, they were also attacked. Congress senior leader Anand Sharma was beaten. Rahul Gandhi narrowly escaped from their attack. CPI(M) central committee office was attacked. CPI(M) General secretary was threatened by telephone. CPI leader D.Raja was also threatened. The Delhi police has become the instrument of the Government to frame false cases against students and teachers. Even bail was denied to the students just because of non bailable sections. High court has criticised the Delhi Police since there is no evidence against the students and also questioned why he was arrested.

Thousands of students were in the streets of Delhi. Majority of the political parties have come forward to support this agitation. The HRD Minister has taken a very negative stand even misleading the house. What we need is the immediate interference of Hon. President of India to protect the communal harmony of the Country. The educational and cultural field should not be communalized.

So, Hon. President should consider the extraordinary developments in the nation at present. With these words I conclude.

**SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI):** Hon. Chairperson, I would like to speak on behalf of my party on the Motion of Thanks on the Address of the President of India to the Parliament. Today, if you read any newspaper or magazine nationally or internationally, India is going through very mixed bag times. *Kabhi khushi kabhi gham*- that is what I would really like to call it. I am glad that the Hon. Minister of State for Finance is here. But I feel all the talk about wonderful growth of 7.4 or 7.6 per cent. It is only on the top that you see these wonderful numbers. I quote him; please correct me if I am wrong. He said, 'The Budget is about Bharat as well as it is about India.'

It is very complimentary and encouraging that in the Budget the Government has gone back to so many of UPAs programmes. So, I would like to compliment the Government on the Budget that *der aaye durust aaye* but they are finally on the right track. Be it MGNREGA, be it the Ministry of Agriculture put on priority, I am really grateful to them that after talking so much about Digital India and so much about everything that was so westernised, they have come back to their roots finally.

The only thing that worries me is that while everything is good, India is shining, it is all looking wonderful and beautiful and it is all glossy, even today after being in power for fourteen to eighteen months, there is negative growth. The sales are still down and manufacturing firms are still down by 11 per cent. The stock market which has been quite low has shown improvement in the last two days. I do appreciate that almost in seven years, it has gone up so high in the last two days. But that cannot be an indicator that all is still well.

The rupee is still committed at 40; still struggling between 68 and 70 – if I am right today it was at 70 – but there is acute distress.

Definitely today job creation and wealth creation for the poor still seems to be a long distance dream and a challenge. This is all that gives me pain.

It is not that I have got great experience in Parliament but in the last nine years I have been here. This is the first time Session after Session we talk about modernising India but every time we have to have a debate on social issues, on intolerance in the country. That is what really worries me.

When you have got such a big mandate that you have, you just deliver superior results. I think there are many people in the

Government who are management experts. I am not a management expert. I do not need to tell you but I am sure with this kind of a mandate that you have I cannot believe that you cannot push agendas which are big ticket agendas. I think it is definitely disappointing, not just because I am sitting on this side of the fence. All of us meet the common man in our constituency. The reality back home in our constituency is way different than what it really seems as in the debate and the replies that all our Hon. Ministers give here.

I am glad that the Minister has replied to me about maximum governance and minimum government being here. It is a very good reply. He complimented; he made a lot of effort for differently-abled people, and he talked about women getting more help during their pregnancy. I just want to ask him one question if he could kindly reply. I really feel the concern as an Indian first because I am an Indian first and then I am a Member of Parliament. Today, what happened in my own State? In my own State, a policeman who is a sub-inspector in a district called Latur was pulled out on Shiv Jayanthi, he was stripped, 50 hooligans from probably from all parties – we are not hiding away from anything – was given an orange flag and he had to say, 'Jai Hind', which he anyway says. Just because he was a Muslim,

is it the right thing to do? I really want to know what kind of governance this is.

The same thing happened to a woman. They keep talking about women's issues. I am glad he was talking about three months or six months of leave during pregnancy and childbirth. I am very happy about that. But how are you going to save that police officer who was just doing her duty in Mumbai by stopping a member of their allied party? She was doing her duty. All she was telling him was, 'Do not drive and talk on the phone'. When she stopped his car, that man stopped the car and bashed that woman up black and blue. How are you going to defend this? What this Government is thinking is my concern. What are they talking about?

Talking about Haryana, it is unfortunate that the Sonepat MP Shri Ramesh Kaushik is not here. He is also from the BJP. What happened to him? He is only 40 or 50 kilometres away. I do not know if Shri Dushyant Chautala is here. He was telling me that his house was burning. Are you trying to tell me that the police could not control Haryana? Delhi is a stone's throw away from where Sonepat is. They could not control the rioting that was going on. I am not talking about gang-rapes. I am not sure of the documents. I never talk in Parliament

about anything unless I have really done my homework. I think it is a very solemn space. Making allegations is very easy and immature. I do not think that is what Indian Parliament is all about.

Today's newspapers and channels have talked about what happened in JNU. What has happened has left a bad taste in everybody's mouth. A lot has been said. I know this is not the subject for it but I would definitely like to know if these tapes are doctored, who doctored them. You want to find out about everything that everybody is doing. Why does this Government not stand up and find out how these tapes were doctored? There is a story in the newspapers today which is making some really ridiculous and really harsh allegations. I think you owe us an explanation.

Prof. Sougata Ray is here. He has asked about a privilege motion against the Minister of HRD. I do not know why the HRD *Mantralaya*, such a big *Mantralaya*, which gives future direction to this nation is today embroiled in all kinds of issues. Is it really HRD *Mantralaya's* job to be kind of black? It is really a shame that that Department is going through such a bad time. What was the Minister talking about? Is this the kind of language any Minister should use?

Prof. Sougata Ray is trying to raise it for the last two days but his voice is not being heard.

The Minister is saying and even the Member of Parliament is saying. I would not get into what the MLA has said because he is not here to defend and I belong to a slightly old school of thought. I do not want to make allegations against somebody who is not present here to defend herself or himself. But, I think at least what the Hon. Minister has said – I do not know why I am calling him Hon. - what action this Government wants to take against him? It is a fact. How can you be Hon. if you are talking about killing other people? Are these the values that they have? Is this their religion and values that they keep talking about? The religion and the values that I have been taught has nothing to do with this. So, they really need to introspect as to what they are going to do in India.

Rohith's case is such a sad story. There are many mothers here. Did anybody bother to ask that mother what she has gone through, what her family is going through today? For us it is a debate. The minute the debate is over, life moves on for us. But what is happening back there and the repercussions it has on society? Today, you go anywhere in Maharashtra, you go to Aurangabad, I just saw on a

channel about hundreds of children feeling so disturbed. Is this the India that you want to give to the children of today? Is this what Digital India is about? Is this what Make in India is about?

They had such a big show of Make in India. Hundreds of crores were spent on it in Maharashtra. We are happy about it. Make in India is not being implemented for the first time. I come from a State which is very liberal and has been one of the most progressive States in this country. All the investments first came to Maharashtra. I am glad now other States are also catching up. Let there be a nice, competitive and healthy environment for everybody. What about Make in India? They are going by reports. The real original Make in India is not about the gadget, it is about the farmer. Is he getting everything right, Sir? I even want to ask the Hon. Ministers who are present here. You talk about Make in India. We are willing to support you but you want to do everything based on international reports.

They are talking about the ease of doing business. Foreigners are telling us what it is. Have they ever asked an Indian businessman how easy it is to do a business? Our people are doing business. Are they finding it that easy? In the circles of Mumbai or Maharashtra, today privately every industrialist is struggling with some or the other issue.

The poor guys may be scared of getting raided, so they may not want to say it publicly. Once or twice, one or two senior people who run banks in India said something against the Government and after two-three days there were repercussions. I am sure it is not a vindictive Government. If they have made a mistake in the past they probably will not repeat it again.

But, at the same time, in Make in India what is really happening? Are there enough reforms? Make in India is not going to depend on the policies here. All the States have to do it. What reforms, what hand holding you are doing with all the States is what I want to know.

My earlier speaker spoke about smart cities. We welcome it. Out of the top 12 smart cities that are picked up three are run by NCP; Navi Mumbai, Pune and Pimpri-Chinchwad. All three are run by my colleagues and run exceptionally well. The implementation of the mission at the city level will be done by a SPV, which is fine for us but you have no access to information. Who is going to run it? Smart city means, all of Pune or all of Navi Mumbai is not going to be smart. Small section of Pune will be taken up. So, one small part of the city will be good and the cost of living will go up. Who is going to run it?

Is there going to be a separate agency? What is the Municipal Commissioner going to do? All this clarity has to come.

There has been a lot of talk about farmers. Yesterday, even in the Budget the Minister talked extensively about agriculture. I am very happy about it. I just want to have three answers when they talk about farmers' suicide. I should not say this, but a lot of BJP leaders, when we were in Government in Maharashtra, used to say '302 will be imposed on your government, when there will be suicides.' I want to ask the Maharashtra Government and this Government today that on whom should I impose 302 today, with the number of suicides happening today, I agree with Venkaiah Ji. He has shown great leadership. I have high respect for him. He said that let us not make farmers' suicide an issue between you versus them. I am happy to do that. We are happy to walk an extra mile to find out a solution together with you to stop farmers' suicides but then what you say politically applies to you also. This is what I want to clarify.

They have made three road paths. Yes, we want to help the agriculture of India. We are very happy about it. What is the path? Do you have water? Is India free of monsoon? The answer is 'No'. We need new technology. What are you doing about technology? We all

know their vision about biotechnology. They do not want to do any research. If you go back to organic farming, which is welcome, it is expensive and also does not give the kind of productivity we need.

You will not do research in agriculture. You will not allow a trial. I do not know what you are doing in the water. I will not repeat what Khargeji had said about MSP. Khargeji has told us in detail what the MSP situation is. So, if you do not do these three things, how are you going to change it in five years? It will be 2050 and nothing is going to change.

My humble request to this Government is that please introspect. There are a lot of wise minds on this side also. We have worked in administration. Please take some of their suggestions, get your house in order, and make sure your MPs and Ministers do not talk irresponsibly. It is because they are inexperienced outside. If you have inexperienced people, give jobs to experienced people. Be respectful towards the country and society and be respectful to your peers also because I see a lot of MPs are very disrespectful. So please beware. We are also equal. Maybe, we are sitting here but life is a full circle. Someday you will be there. We have also sat there and have been sitting there for many years, so there is nothing like that we get more

sleep there and less here. Actually, when a red light comes on the head, there is more responsibility and less sleep. So better think about all this. I wish you good luck and I am grateful to the President of India for giving us these guidelines but I hope you would really make a difference to make a better India which is in our dreams.

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI (AMETHI):** Thank you Hon. Chairperson, Sir, for letting me speak at the President's Address.

*[Translation]*

Yesterday I was listening to Arun Jaitley ji's speech and we were sitting here, and in the middle I moved like this ... *(Interruptions)* The day before yesterday, I made a mistake, that's right. The day before yesterday I was listening to his speech and I was so moved. He announced a new scheme – Fair and Lovely Scheme. In this scheme any thief in India can convert his black money into white. No matter from where he has stolen, from where ever he has made money through corruption, no matter how much black money he has, Arun Jaitley ji said in the open house here that brother, Modi ji's Fair and Lovely scheme has come. ... *(Interruptions)* Hey, let me speak, brother. ... *(Interruptions)* Modi ji's Fair and Lovely scheme has come, you can convert black money into white. Modi ji gave a speech in the year 2014 - I will eliminate black money. I will win the battle of black money, whoever has earned black money, I will put him inside the jail. In the Fair and Lovely scheme, no one will be jailed, no arrest will be made. No one will be asked. Go to Arun Jaitley ji, pay tax and launder your money. What has Narendra Modi promised? …

*(Interruptions)* I know Modi ji had said that the economy is going down completely. In the election, it was said that pulses have become Rs 70. If I come, the price will come down. I will reduce the sufferings faced by women, mothers, sisters and others. Modi ji has come, today pulses are available in the market at Rs. 200 per kg. ... *(Interruptions)* Well, in our time ... *(Interruptions)* we have come, hello. ... *(Interruptions)* You did not hear, I said about the Fair and Lovely scheme, you should ask them. ... *(Interruptions)* Earlier, petrol used to be 130 dollars per barrel. Earlier petrol was 130 dollars per barrel, today Rs. 35 per barrel, sorry has become 35-dollar barrel.... *(Interruptions)* Brother, I am a member of RSS. I don't belong, I make mistakes. I am not yours, I do not know everything, do not understand everything. I listen to the public, try to understand their views, and then speak in this House. Today petrol has come down to $35 per barrel, which was earlier $130 per barrel. But the people did not get a single rupee. Women did not get it, mothers and sisters did not get it, it is being given to big industrialists. But the problems faced by them are not being reduced.

Well, the Prime Minister had promised to provide employment to the youth of India by giving two crore jobs every year. Babbar Sher prepared 'Make in India'. A black lion, if you look inside it, it moves

like a clock. Wherever you look, there is Babbar Sher on the internet, TV. Look at me Babbar Sher, listen to Modi ji's speech Babbar Sher. Babbar Sher burns the stage. We are asking you that you have shown Babbar Sher, tell us how many youth of India did you provide employment?

How many jobs were given? I was looking for figures for the speech. I asked Scindia ji whether he knows how many people got employment in India in one year. Nobody knows, nobody knows the figures. I want to ask Modi ji that when your speech is held today, tell India how many people did you give employment to in the last year? I go, give speeches and ask people whether they got employment, whether Modi ji gave employment, then everyone answers like no, no one did.

The Prime Minister stands here and says I have never seen a useless scheme like MGNREGA. ... *(Interruptions)* MGNREGA scheme, Mahatma Gandhi scheme, not Savarkar scheme. You make a plan for them.... *(Interruptions)* Okay, let me speak. Modi ji stands up and says that this is a useless plan, I have never seen such a plan, these people have ruined India. I will not remove it because the entire country should know that U.P.A. What mistakes did he make?

Yesterday I closed my eyes and I was thinking that Chidambaram ji is there, the talk about MNREGA is going on, we will put money in MNREGA, we will do MNREGA like this, we will do MNREGA like that. Arun Jaitley ji comes to me and says that there was no better scheme than MNREGA. I told him, brother, why don't you tell your boss, why are you telling us, go out and tell. Why don't you tell the Prime Minister of India? He didn't say a word, he became silent like that. Well, I feel a little scared, Narendra Modi ji is a very powerful man ... *(Interruptions)* He is very powerful, well said. I know you guys are scared too, but you should speak a little in front of them. You should also talk a little.

What happened now, Modi ji spread a web of promises, I will do this, I will do that, and then questions started arising. The first question Rohit Vemula asked was what is my mistake? I am a Dalit, so why am I being killed, why am I being crushed, why am I being suppressed? He asked the same question: should there not be a future for me in India?... *(Interruptions)* Hon. Speaker, sorry. My mother is poor. Shouldn't there be a future for me? And what do you guys do? This is how the power of the Government of India is pressed on his shoulders … *(Interruptions)* No-no, we have not suppressed it … *(Interruptions)* Now I am saying, listen, you suppressed him and the

poor man committed suicide. Your Ministers say that he was not a Dalit. The question is not whether he was a Dalit or not. The question is why did the life of an Indian youth end like this? That's the question. Narendra Modi ji neither called his mother, nor spoke about her, did not utter a single word ... *(Interruptions)* Then Kanhaiya stands in JNU. Gives a twenty minute speech. I have heard the speech. In twenty minutes he did not say a single word against India. Didn't say a word and you arrested him. If someone said something wrong in JNU, if someone said a word against the law, then you arrest him, take action against him. But you have left them open, you do not close them and raise questions on JNU … *(Interruptions)* What is JNU? 60 percent of JNU students come from Dalit, OBC, backward class and minority… *(Interruptions)* Same, same thing happens. Look brother, please understand one thing between you and us. You guys know everything and you guys never make mistakes in life. We all make mistakes. We listen to people, we don't know everything, we learn. This is the difference between us and you. Gandhi on one side and Savarkar on the other … *(Interruptions)* One uses non-violence and … * … *(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** You have to apologise for insulting Savarkar … *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I will go through the record. I will look into it.

… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Let the hon. Member continued his speech. Please sit down.

… *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:** Sir, I do not understand the point. Okay, let me speak … *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, please take your seats. I will go through the record and see. Please be seated. Let the Hon. Members speak.

… *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA:** Sir, Savarkar lived in the veins of India. He is being insulted again and again by name … *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Nothing will go on record except the speech of Shri Rahul Gandhi.

… *(Interruptions)...**

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I will go through the record and then take a decision. Please allow the Hon. Member to speak.

… *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:** Sir, I have not understood one thing that I have said, only one thing that Gandhi is ours, Savarkar is yours, have I said anything wrong in this? ... *(Interruptions)* Is Savarkar not yours? ... *(Interruptions)* Did you pick him up and throw him?... *(Interruptions)* Did you throw Savarkar? ... *(Interruptions)* Did you pick him up and throw him?... *(Interruptions)* Hey answer, Savarkar. Did you throw it away?... *(Interruptions)* You picked it up and threw

* Not recorded.

it out ... *(Interruptions)* Since if you did, you did it very well ... *(Interruptions)* Now you allow me to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Rahul Gandhi, please address the Chair.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:** Forty percent of JNU students' parents' income is less than six thousand rupees per month. Why are you after JNU and Rohit Vemula, I want to tell you, because they are poor, because they are weak, because they are Dalits, because they are tribals and you want the poor class and tribal class not to progress in India. Move forward, rather stay behind and we will not let this happen. ... *(Interruptions)* You will neither be able to crush JNU nor the poor people of this country ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, please do not disturb the Member while he is speaking. If you want to say anything, you can say that while your turn comes.

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:** Thank you, Chairman, Sir.

*[Translation]*

Last thing, now I want to talk a little about my religion. Where is it written in our religion that teachers should be beaten? You show me, in which book it is written that JNU teachers and students should be beaten in front of the media in the court, there the media was also beaten... *(Interruptions)* I want to ask a question to the Prime Minister: When the media was killed, when teachers were killed, when students were killed, why did you not say a single word? ... *(Interruptions)*

I would like to speak a little bit in English for my friends in the South. If you want, if you are not happy then I will say it again in Hindi for you later. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

A nation is the relationship between its people. It is nothing but the conversation between its citizens. Destroy the relationships, stop the conversation and the nation dies.

*[Translation]*

I said a good thing, if you like it then hit it on the table a little, hit it a little, hit it once, why are you suffering, if you like it then hit it.

*[English]*

Speaker Madam, sorry Chairman, Sir, when I salute the flag, I am not saluting the cloth. I am saluting the relationships that the flag represents – a Muslim man who joins his Hindu brothers to play Holi; or a Hindu man who embraces his Muslim brothers on Eid; a Christian woman who bows her head when she walks past a Gurdwara; a jat farmer who embraces a dalit labourer in Haryana; a Punjabi student who protects his brother hailing from the North-East; the relationship between Rohith and his fellow students; the relationship between all of us on this side of the aisle and those of you friends sitting across it. When I protect the flag, I protect the conversations on which those relationships are built.

**17.00 hours**

I protect every single voice and I pay special attention to the weakest, those voices that are most difficult to hear, that nobody can hear. Respecting the flag means respecting the opinion of every Indian. When I went to JNU, your ABVP workers waved black flags in my face. They taunted me and they abused me to my face. I felt no anger. In fact, I felt proud that I still live in a country, in India, where it is possible to be confronted by people who hold a different opinion

than my own. I don't agree with their views; I protected our Indian flag when I led your people, when they waved those black flags in my face. I protected the Indian flag when I allowed them to taunt me. You cannot defend the Indian flag by destroying the relationships between our people. You are not defending the flag when you frighten your own people into silence. Whose opinion does the Prime Minister listen to? Whose opinion does he respect? Does he respect your opinion? Does he respect the opinion of his Ministers? You were in silence. I understand and I understand the feeling within you and I want to bring that out; I want you to make him listen. But anyway, that will happen slowly.

You have been taught by your teachers in the RSS that there is only one truth in the Universe - your own - that nobody else's opinion matters in the entire Universe. This is all you have shown us in the last two years. The Prime Minister cannot run the country on only his opinion. The country is not the Prime Minister. The Prime Minister is not the country. One day, the Prime Minister called all the senior Opposition Leaders and told them that he had achieved what the Congress Party could not achieve in 40 years. He told the Congress President that he had solved the Nagaland problem and he had signed the historic accord. The Congress President panicked. She panicked

and called me up. She said: "Rahul, What have they signed?" Our Chief Ministers have not mentioned anything. She asked us to check with our Chief Ministers. We called them up. We asked them. Have you heard about the Naga Accord? As my esteemed colleagues know, the Naga Accord has huge ramifications for the States of Arunachal, Assam and Manipur. Massive tracts of land in these States are involved. We called them. They have not heard a word about the Accord. What had the Government signed? … *(Interruptions)* I am coming to that my friends.

They asked us what had the Government signed? According to the media, even the officials in the Home Ministry and the Intelligence Bureau had no idea. Even the Home Minister had no idea. Fascinating! I am asking a straightforward question. Did the Home Minister know about the Accord? Did the Nagaland Chief Minister know about the Accord? Did you tell our Chief Ministers about the Accord? And the most important question is, where has this Accord gone now? It has vanished into thin air, it has gone, gone with the wind, bye bye accord! Is it not an insult to every citizen of those States? Is it not an insult to the institutions and professionals in the Home Ministry and the Intelligence Bureau? Is it not an insult to the Indian Flag?

Sir, Pakistan directly attacked this country in Mumbai on 26/11. They trained and sent killers, murderers into the heart of Mumbai and almost 200 people were murdered and butchered by those people. … *(Interruptions)* I am coming to that my friends. The operation to stop the terrorists was on. Our soldiers and citizens were dying. The Government of India begged the Chief Minister of Gujarat not to go to Mumbai. The then Chief Minister of Gujarat decided to go to Mumbai. Did he care? No; he went right ahead to Mumbai, to the Oberoi Hotel itself and disturbed the entire operation. He grabbed his headlines while our people died. But let us forget that.

The Mumbai attack was a horrible, terrible blow to this country. It was a blow to every single Indian. The UPA Government worked tirelessly to trap Pakistan. We isolated them internationally. We spent thousands and thousands of hours of diplomacy to turn them into a pariah nation. We destroyed their reputation internationally and put them into a little diplomatic cage. We trapped them in a cage this big. We convinced the world that they were a global supporter of terrorism. How did we achieve this?… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, please be silent. Please do not disturb him.

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:** Hon. Chairman, Sir, how did we achieve this? Our Prime Minister took the advice of everybody, the Armed Forces, our Diplomats and our Intelligence people. We had wide-ranging conversations with everybody who understands these issues. We spoke to the Opposition. We utilised the great talent and expertise that is available to this country.

Sir, we worked tirelessly in Jammu and Kashmir and I must tell you it is the work that we did there, that the UPA did there, that makes us all really proud. We held Panchayat elections there; we built thousands of Self-Help Groups and created thousands of jobs. … *(Interruptions)* I will give the translation for you in Hindi. By the end, we had destroyed the insurgency in Kashmir; we had broken the back of the insurgency in Kashmir. The biggest strategic victory had been achieved against Pakistan completely peacefully. What does the Prime Minister do? He decides to have a cup of tea with Nawaz Sharif. He decides that I am going to go and have a cup of tea with Nawaz Sharif. Without any thought, without any vision, 'Discussion over tea.'

… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You can make your submission when your turn comes. Please do not disturb him. Let the Member continue.

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:** Without any thought, without any vision he decides to take a detour to Pakistan. Just like he did with the Nagaland Accord, he did not bother to ask anyone. He did not bother to ask the Armed Forces. He did not ask the intelligence people, not even the diplomats. He probably did not even ask Sushma *ji*. He just went there as if only his opinion matters.

Sir, the Prime Minister, single-handedly, destroyed six years of our work. In one move, he personally let Pakistan out of the little cage into which we had put them. He gifted them a status equal to our own. When he stopped over in Pakistan without talking to the professionals in our Government, the Prime Minister disrespected our flag. He disrespected those who died in Mumbai and in Pathankot. He disrespected the talent of our bureaucrats. He disrespected the tremendous talent of the Indian people.

There have been others in history who could only see their own perspective, people who saluted the cloth but destroyed the relationship and conversation between their people. Milosevic, the President of Yugoslavia, used to salute the flag every morning and talk of patriotism all day long. He broke the relationship between Serbs and Croats and destroyed his country. Nearer to us, Yahya Khan

claimed to defend the Pakistani flag. As a soldier, he used to salute their flag every morning. He actually believed he was protecting it. He thought he was a patriot and refused to listen to his countrymen. He destroyed the relationship between Punjabi and Bengali and he tore his country into two.

The Prime Minister still has the option to listen to what the country is trying to tell him. The country is gently trying to give him a message. The Prime Minister just has to listen to the message, listen to those around you, listen to Rajnath Singh *ji*, listen to Advani *ji*, listen to Sushma Swaraj *ji*, She is not here but will listen to my speech, listen to your MPs, listen to us across the aisle here –we are not your enemies; we do not hate you – listen to the voice of the Indian people, listen to the farmers and workers who have so much wisdom and especially listen to the voice of the next generation. They are the future of this country. Allow them the dignity of their voice. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

*__SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI):__ His Excellency's Address is the vision of our Government, in which the vision, plans and determination of the NDA Government running under the able leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister is reflected in it. The way our Hon. Prime Minister has created history by taking revolutionary steps in various fields in just 2 years and is unique in the history of independent India.

Earlier, except the Government of Hon. Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji, the country was living in an atmosphere of hope and disappointment even after 65 years of independence. But, today the expectations of the people of the country seem to be changing in the results.

Our Parliament represents people's aspirations. In a democratic system, debate and discussion is necessary, it does not create hurdles. In democracy, good views of people from all sections should be included in the discussion. It is a matter of pride for me to be a member of this Hon. organisation at present. Our Prime Minister has made continuous efforts for the smooth and constructive functioning of the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Parliament. As recently he tried by meeting respected leaders of all parties.

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji had talked about the social, economic and educational development of the person standing at the last end of the society. In order to fulfil his Antyodaya Sutra Mantra, the Government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister is implementing many schemes to provide facilities of education, medical, housing, electricity, water, road, communication and employment to all, strengthen the law and order situation, make people live a dignified life, protect women and which are our heritage like rivers, Our government is also successfully working with the forest, land, mines and their proper use for the country, various pension schemes, public distribution system and economic progress.

This government has launched Jan Dhan Yojana, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao, Padhe Bharat-Badhe Bharat, Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana, construction of toilets, Pt. Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Grameen Kaushal Vikas Yojana, reforms in MNREGA, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana which will definitely boost irrigation of crops. To combat drought by need-based use of water, work is being done for a unified

National Agriculture Market with the objective of establishing a common e-market platform linking 585 regular markets together to provide optimum market price to the farmers. With this, India can be made One Food Zone, One Country, One Market. With this, our farmers will get a fair price for their crops and hard work.

The Government has taken several remedial steps to bring about a green revolution with the objective of making the most of the agricultural potential of the Eastern States. Our Government has taken steps to establish three new Agricultural Technology Application Research Institutes and 109 new Krishi Vigyan Kendras, strengthen them and strengthen agricultural higher education. A 24/7 Kisan Channel has been launched to provide information on new policies, prices and other agriculture related issues for the benefit of farmers, which is welcome. Rural development is among our top priorities. In the year 2015-16, more than two lakh crore grants under 14th Finance Commission have been allocated for the next 5 years, especially for the development of Gram Panchayats. The states have welcomed it with great enthusiasm. With this, the development activity will reach the people and they will be able to their village and ward. Shyama Prasad Rurban Mission has also started 300 rural development groups,

which will promote skill development of people and local entrepreneurship.

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been reformed to ensure effective disbursement of wages, greater transparency and creation of productive assets. Mission Antyodaya has reached an intensive partnership planning process of 2569 highly backward blocks to identify assets to be created.

The main objective of our Government is to build an educated, clean India, which has been taken initiative. Recently, coming to know of our Prime Minister's Swachh Bharat Mission, a very poor old mataji of Chhattisgarh has sold his goats and got toilets constructed in the house and inspired others around his village to participate in this exercise. It’s a matter of pride.

Youth is the future of our country and the foremost goal of youth is through massive employment generation. The Government has been successful in creating employment through integrated initiatives like Make in India, Startup India, Skill India etc. Our government has implemented three new schemes to provide social security to all in the country. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana will provide

insurance protection and pension to the hitherto deprived sections of the society.

The government is committed to providing housing to all by the year 2022. Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana envisages construction of about 2 crore houses primarily for slum dwellers, urban poor and economically backward classes and low income groups of the society. Under this mission, 2011 cities from 27 States have been covered in the first year. Approval has been given for construction of more than 4 lakh 25 thousand houses at a cost of Rs. 24 thousand 6 hundred crore which has been welcomed everywhere.

Our entire country is indebted to our freedom fighters and the time has come to repay this debt to them by making this country what they had imagined and fought for. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had said that nationalism is inspired by the highest ideals of mankind Satyam, Shivam, Sundaram. Let us today gear up to follow these ideals for the beautiful future of the country.

*__SHRI DEVAJI M. PATEL (JALORE):__ In his address, His Excellency raised many important issues regarding the interest of the country. Today the country is moving towards economic progress. This is the first time in many years that inflation is under control. Corruption is being eradicated from the country. The country is moving towards development on every front. In such a situation, efforts are being made by the opposition to destabilise our country. That is not good. Two years ago, many problems were facing the government in their worst form. Under the leadership of our Prime Minister, all the problems are now gradually getting resolved.

Our country is an agriculture based country. 70 percent of our population is based on agriculture, but the farmer of our country always feels insecure. Sometimes natural calamity, sometimes due to falling prices in the market. Over the last 19 months, our government has taken a number of steps to help address these crises. Insurance schemes for farmers were in place earlier too, but did not succeed due to various reasons. Sometimes the premium rate is too high, sometimes the claim amount of loss is too low, and sometimes local loss is not included. As a result, hardly 20 percent of the farmers

* Speech was laid on the Table.

joined them and they had to face many problems to get their rights. Eventually, farmers' trust in insurance schemes had waned. In such a situation, our government held extensive discussions with farmers and insurance companies and now Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has been started to provide comprehensive benefits to our farmer brothers and sisters. This is a scheme that is going to bring a big change in agriculture. Especially for the helpless farmer who never received full compensation. The definition of disaster has been changed under this scheme. To improve this scheme, the good things of the old scheme have been kept and efforts have been made to remove the shortcomings. The amount that the farmer has to pay under this scheme is very less and with the help of new technologies including mobile phones, better assessment of the loss incurred can be done and full compensation can be delivered to the farmers at the right time. This type of arrangement has been made. Under this scheme, Rs. 8800 crore has been earmarked to meet the insurance premium through insurance. Due to this, work is being done to compensate for more and more areas of crop. This scheme with the lowest premium and best results is a historic step in itself for independent India. Only two percent have to be given to the kharif crops, which includes food related products and oilseeds and only one and a half percent has been

earmarked for rabi crops. Under this insurance or insurance scheme of Rs. 8800 crore, every kind of disaster has been included, the rest of the money which is of premium will be compensated by the Union Government and 50 percent which is the crop area. It covers 194.40 lakh hectares. This scheme will be implemented in the coming Kharif season which starts from June and the time from sowing of seeds to the last harvest and the time in between and whatever loss a farmer incurs in that period. This step has been taken to compensate for that. There is no upper limit and the outstanding 90 per cent will be compensated by the government. This scheme of the highest benefit for giving the lowest instalment under this provision, will continuously reduce the loss of farmers. Just as the farmers who commit suicide because of debt, it will also have a big impact. The government intends to use phone technology, satellite technology and all kinds of best technology to immediately refund the compensation to the farmers and to be paid as soon as possible. To ensure better price for agricultural products to farmers, the National Agriculture Market Scheme has been launched under which the work of connecting 585 mandis of the country with the cooperation of states is being done. After our government came to power, there has been a lot of progress in the field of dairy and fisheries. The country has also

made historic achievements in the direction of agricultural education, research and extension. Our government is working to move forward with the slogan of capable farmers and prosperous India.

Our Government brought Mudra Bank in 2015 and its most objective was to reach those people. Those who make 42 or 48 percent G.D.P. Till date there was no scheme for them. No government had ever thought or made a scheme for the betterment of the people who run tea stalls or do tailoring work for small jobs. This government tried to reach out to those people through Mudra Bank because most of the loan facilities were available to those big businessmen. Our Government has declared 10 such Small Finance Banks and 11 payment banks have been given licence. For all to reach the bank, the post office has been recognized as a payment bank. Our Government has created a special fund for infrastructure facilities in rural areas. It is constructing 72 skilled food parks which will provide employment opportunities to lakhs of people. There is a housing problem in my parliamentary constituency. Our government will create a city with world class facilities. Integrated infrastructure will be created in ideal cities to focus on cleanliness and cleanliness. The target of Housing for All by 2022 has been set to achieve that by the time the country completes 75 years of its independence, every family will have its own

permanent house with water connection, toilet facilities, 24-hour power supply and transportation facilities.

Digital India is such a program, in which the government is continuously trying that the best system infrastructure can stand in this country and so far the government has taken optical pipes in 1 lakh 20 thousand km and has laid about 99 thousand km of fibre. About 2.5 lakh villages have been added to it. Through the Digital India program, every citizen should get benefits, transparency in the system and this will enable us to end corruption, it is the desire of such a government. Through this programme about 4.5 lakh crore investments have been achieved and 18 lakh new jobs have been created.

Today, even after 67 years of independence, there is a huge shortage of doctors in the country, especially in the rural areas, due to which everyone is not getting health facilities. In terms of population, only 0.5 doctors are available out of the population of 1000. Our government is formulating a new health policy for providing health facilities to all and will launch the National Health Insurance Mission. Yoga and AYUSH will be encouraged. With this, changes will be made in health education and training to overcome the shortage of

healthcare professionals. A meaningful initiative has been started in the direction of converting hospitals of many district centres in Rajasthan into medical colleges.

*__SHRIMATI DARSHANA VIKRAM JARDOSH (SURAT):__ I thank the Hon. President for his address.

Today, when the nation is on the verge of being divided between patriots and those who raise anti-national slogans, when there is a conflict going on between the common citizens who want to save the Parliament and the supporters of those who dream of destroying the country through the Parliament, then the government is trying to protect the nation. Along with giving first priority to respect and national pride, it is running by keeping the development of the nation in front of its eyes. When there is a debate on tolerance and intolerance in the country, then in this country whose tradition is tolerance, where when a mother makes bread, she first offers bhog to mother cow, people chant the mantra of Sarvepi Sukheenah Santu, do not get the lesson and certificate of tolerance from anyone. No need. The biggest proof of tolerance is that Manmohan ji's government used to say that Muslims have the first right on the resources of this country, then this government says that the Constitution is the religious book of the government and the happiness of every Indian is our goal. The reflection of which is clearly visible in the President's address.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Our opposition, which has entered the corridors of power through Gandhiji's name, should be satisfied with the fact that we have made Gandhiji's mantra of cleanliness not a word but a campaign. The government is working on the goal of creating a developed, happy and prosperous India through a clean India by connecting people with us.

To ensure the happiness of the people, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana have been started, which is an example of the government's awareness towards social security. Ministers of the former Congress governments who talked about eradicating corruption, people of the party were found corrupt, but our government has taken concrete steps towards eradicating corruption by depositing the money of 12 schemes directly into the bank accounts of the beneficiaries and will also take further steps. Not only this, there is a huge amount of corruption in jobs, every poor-middle class person used to go to get a job, then it used to be in government jobs, we have ended the job interviews of third and fourth class employees. Now the eligible person will get direct orders on the basis of his merit. This has been a huge success of our government, for which I thank him.

Today, history is witness to the way people from the party talking about Rohit Vemula harassed Dalit saviour Ambedkar ji in the Constituent Assembly and as a member of the Council of Ministers. The idea of our Government to celebrate the 125th birth anniversary of Ambedkar ji shows the direction of this Government's consideration. Till date there has been only talk about minorities but they have not been given a chance to move forward in the true sense. It is my government which has tried to uplift them by giving them opportunities. The government has taken effective steps to ensure that farmers get maximum market price and water facility to the farmers, for this the government has taken effective steps and dedicated it to the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Yojana.

To ensure that the disabled people in the country also get a suitable environment to develop, the campaign of Accessible India has been launched. Through this, 1.7 lakh differently abled persons were given assistance. Our aim is to reduce the number of disabled people in the country. For this, paying attention to the health care of all pregnant women and working on reducing the number of disabled people in the country has been accepted as a major medium. Due to good health facilities, the birth rate of disabled children can be

controlled and due to good roads, the rate of accidental disability can be reduced.

Our country has the highest youth wealth in the world. The cooperation of the government is necessary to steer the youth on the path of progress and for the development of the country, the youth should be confident about the government, capable of development and take the country forward on their shoulders. The youth should participate in national development. It is necessary to have a mentality of preparation, hard work and struggle. Therefore, our government has started programs in a graded manner due to which the youth of the country have become confident and are ready to do something today. It is the priority of the government to give them opportunities and by starting so many programs like StartUp India, Stand Up India, Make in India, Skill India, Mudra Bank together, many old programs are organised well and the youth are encouraged to increase their participation in the development of the country. The resolution has come true. Our government is not stuck with just implementing the schemes but has also provided them with appropriate opportunities, which has given new wings to the hopes and expectations of the youth.

We have taken the governments in all the states along to implement the concept of Team India and Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. No state has been given less in our budget or schemes, providing qualified support according to its status, not less or less, we have had the idea.

I also thank the government for one more thing that in the infrastructural development of the country, all sectors have participated and everyone has started the smart city program. My constituency Surat and Ahmedabad in my state have been included in this competition by proving merit. I thank the government for this opportunity. My city Surat is also a small India. You will find a person from any district of the country getting employment in Surat city. Not only this, you will get a glimpse of the cultural promotion programs of all the states of the country in Surat. Such Surat has been included in the Smart City whose development will also benefit all other states, that is, Surat will be able to contribute to the development of the nation now and steadily.

My Government has also started efforts to strengthen motherhood by providing proper opportunities to women, who deserve accolades. Be it the Beti Bachao-Beti Padhao program or the approval to include

women in the Indian Air Force as Short Service Commission Officers and fighter pilots.If anyone raises an eye on the nation, then Mahishasura has been given the opportunity to destroy them in the form of Durga. As a woman I thank him.

Our government has given an opportunity to entrepreneurs, especially new and young entrepreneurs, to come forward through Make in India. The Surat region where I come from is known for textiles, gems, diamonds and brocade. Where people live with their entire families by installing small units in their homes. Today, my city Surat accounts for about 75 to 90 percent of the diamonds and clothes produced in this country. Through Stand Up India, our youth have been given the gift of new direction and new steps. I believe that the steps taken for the development of the textile industry will further strengthen India's power to dominate the textile industry in the world.

As soon as our government came into power, it has adopted the policy of taking up the unresolved questions for many decades and solving them in the national interest, due to which there is a problem like border situation with Bangladesh or one rank-one pension, which has been resolved in the national interest.

I believe that in this address the Parliament is discussing all the sensitive issues. Sensitivity or intolerance, patriot or anti-national is the answer to all these questions. So,I express my gratitude to Hon. President.

*[English]*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD):** Sir, thank you for this opportunity.... *(Interruptions) [Translation]* Chairperson Sir, Rahul ji's speech was done before my speech. I did not know whether he was speaking at the President's address or in a public meeting. I don't even know whether what has been written contains madam or chairman, it was also read like that.... *(Interruptions)* The page was changed and... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please continue.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** I am not yielding, Sir. I am sorry. He has spoken enough; I am not yielding. … *(Interruptions)* He is speaking about corruption. … *(Interruptions)* I am sorry; I am not yielding. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Member, I have allowed him to speak. Please be seated.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RAHUL GANDHI:** The point raised by the Hon. Members are absolutely correct. I have made two-three mistakes. We can make mistakes in the Congress party, you people never make mistakes. You people know everything. You know the truth. We are looking for the truth. We hear about the truth. Thank you.... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** Sir, he has accepted that they are committing mistakes. But after committing mistakes, one should learn the lesson.… *(Interruptions)* Still they are not ready to learn the lesson. This is the problem of the Congress Party.… *(Interruptions)* They do not want to learn anything from their past experience. *[Translation]* What is the problem of the Congress party? He says he makes mistakes. He makes mistakes, but he does not improve. ... *(Interruptions)* I am so surprised that he is talking about corruption. Sir, if there is any father of corruption in this country, it is the Congress Party.... *(Interruptions)* They are the people who are

responsible for corruption and who have...* this country in the last ten years.… *(Interruptions)* The people who ... * For the country, when we used to go abroad, when I went to the US, people were asking us what if we have to come to the country to do something ... * Have to pay money to the party and come there? Such was the atmosphere in those days.

*[English]*

Sir, through you, I would like to tell them as to how this coal scam happened. The entire country knows as to how the coal blocks were allocated.… *(Interruptions)* Sir, our entire Party has listened to Shri Rahul Gandhi. Let them listen to us. Let them have patience to hear us.… *(Interruptions)* ** They are so scared of what C&AG has said; what has happened in the Supreme Court today in the 2G scam; and what is happening to ...* (*Interruptions*) They do not want to take the name of ...*, who has invested thousands of crores of rupees in the entire world through money laundering. … *(Interruptions)* These people are talking about corruption.… *(Interruptions)* Let them have

* Not recorded.
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** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

a look on what is happening in Karnataka. I will come to it at a later stage.

Rahul ji is saying that 'Prime Minister is not India and India is not Prime Minister.' We have never said that. But what their people said previously is that, 'Indira is India and India is Indira.' The people who insulted India, the Constitution which they had submerged, are saying this today.... *(Interruptions)* I feel very sorry. … *(Interruptions)*

Sir, before coming to the Rashtrapati ji's *Abhibhashan*, let me tell you one thing. He is talking about the JNU issue.… *(Interruptions)* He is talking about Hyderabad University. I am going to ask him one thing. Leaving all other things aside, I would like to ask one question to this House and the entire country. … *(Interruptions)* Why was the death anniversary of Afzal Guru celebrated? I do not want to ask anything else. Why was it celebrated?…*(Interruptions)* What is announced or not is a different matter.... *(Interruptions)* that is a different issue. I would also like to tell you that during the tenure of ...*, who was the then Home Minister at that time, the clemency petition of Afzal Guru was rejected. … *(Interruptions)* He was the Home Minister at that time. … *(Interruptions)* Today, what he is

* Not recorded.

saying about Afzal Guru is that – it was not a fair trial and he was hanged improperly. … *(Interruptions)*

Is it proper on their part? Are they taking action on Shri Chidambaram, who was the then Home Minister? Did he not say that? He has said that in an interview. … *(Interruptions)* They do not have the ability to listen, so they are going out. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Pralhad Joshi, please continue.

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** Sir, let me tell you one thing. They are now talking about eliminating poverty. … *(Interruptions)*

Kharge ji also mentioned poverty. Hon. President had said in the address – progress of the poor, poverty eradication, prosperity of farmers, employment to the youth. Kharge had also referred it to him. *[English]* Most unfortunately, Shri Rahul Gandhi ji is also referring to it. May I tell you one thing, Sir? The *Garibi Hatao* slogan was given in 1971. After 1971 and up to 2014, the UPA Government appointed five Committees. They are: Rangarajan Committee, N.C. Saxena Committee, World Bank Committee, Tendulkar Committee, Arjun Sengupta Committee. The Report of the Arjun Sengupta Committee was not published. There was one more Committee – Hashim Committee.

Sir, all these Committees were appointed to understand what the level of poverty was and what the BPL level in the country was. If you take into consideration the average of all these Committees put together, you will find that 40 percent of the people are still under the Below Poverty Line. The Arjun Sengupta Committee said that the spending capacity of 80 crore people of this country was less than Rs. 20 per day. Who was ruling the country during that period, Sir? Shall I tell you, Sir? Jawaharlal Nehru ruled for 17 years; Indira Gandhi ji ruled for 15 years; Narasimha Rao ji ruled for five years; Rajiv Gandhi ji ruled for five years;* These people had ruled this country for 47 years. Poverty in this country today is… *(Interruptions)* Shri Tariq Anwar ji, please listen. … *(Interruptions)* The entire world knows as to who was ruling the country during the ten-year period of Dr. Manmohan Singh? … *(Interruptions)* *

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Pralhad Joshi, please address the Chair.

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** Sir, I am addressing the Chair.

Sir, 40 percent of the people were below the poverty line. The Congress Party ruled this country for 52 years. … *(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I will go through the record. I will make a decision after going through the record.

Shri Pralhad Joshi ji, please continue.

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** * … *(Interruptions)*

*[Translation]*

These people ask when will the good days come, where will they come, and for whom will they come. I can say that good days will come for the people of this country, good days will never come for Congress, understand this.

*[English]*

Sir, they are talking about the bank nationalisation. The Committee which was appointed by them had said that even after the bank nationalisation, more than 60 per cent of the people were out of the banking net. Is it a fact or not?

After this, they tried for financial inclusion. I am not saying 'no'. But more than 40 per cent of the people were out of the banking network.

That is why Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana was brought in; and it was the most successful Yojana.

Now, they are talking about corruption. What about the National Herald issue? It is *sub judice* in the court, and I do not want to refer to it much.

Sir, how much did they spend on infrastructure? Forty per cent of the total road traffic is on the national highways but these people constructed just two per cent of the roads in the entire 52 years of their tenure. But during the period of Atalji's Government, just in five years, 16,000 kilometres of the highways were constructed, which was accepted by the UPA while submitting the affidavit in the court. Even in the short period of Modiji's Government, we have already completed 7,890 kilometres of roads.

Sir, coming back to the PMGSY, the *Pradhan Mantri*, who sits in Delhi, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee had to come to this country to think about village roads. These people never thought that there should be road connectivity in the villages. So, we started the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana.

They are talking about MNNREGA. *[Translation]* What our Prime Minister said about MNREGA was right. What changes did we make in it now? We have converted it. Whatever has to be done for durable assets, we have done it.

*[English]*

Sir, about the power generation, he has referred to the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya scheme. There has been an increase in power generation by 8.4 per cent in the country since 2014. … *(Interruptions)*

Sir, shall I tell you one thing? Today, even surplus power is available in some of the States. But it cannot be transferred to Southern States. It cannot be transferred from one region to another region. Why? It is because there is no transmission facility, there is no corridor. After 52 years of their rule, not even a wire is for transformation; there is not even a single wire for transmitting power! Who is responsible for this? … *(Interruptions)*

Sir, they do not want to listen … *(Interruptions)* According to CEA, in Karnataka, there is a deficit of four per cent of electricity out of 70 years. These people had ruled for more than 52 years but even today, in Karnataka, we give electricity for two hours. We met Piyush Goyal sahab yesterday and told him to provide electricity. He readily agreed to give us 319 MW. but these people say that they do not want to take it. They do not want electricity from the centre, who is ready to supply. Do you know, why, sir? They want to purchase it from

private people, for the obvious reason. I do not want to talk about it here.

Sir, they are talking about terrorism. He is talking about terrorism. What their former Home Minister had said, I have already mentioned. The entire country knows how the Ishrat Jahan case was handled. Headley, who is an approver, has said it. But they are asking -- how can we believe a criminal? Sir, we are not believing a criminal, but he is an approver and in corroborative evidence, he has given a statement. But they are questioning his statement. I am really surprised.

Also, Sir, after that, what the former Home Secretary has said. He said that Ishrat Jahan was an LeT operator, but that line was deleted from the second affidavit. … *(Interruptions)*

Sir, here, I want to quote an example of Mahabharat. *[Translation]* When the Mahabharata war was going on, Duryodhana was captured by a Yaksha. At that time Dharamraj asked Bhima to free Duryodhana, to which he said that he will not free him because he is not a good man. But Dharmaraja said that 'Vayana Panchadikam Shatam.' When we fight among ourselves we are different but when we fight with others we are 105. Vayam Panchadikam Shatam. ... *(Interruptions)* What did these people do, to suppress Modi ji and

Amit Shah ji, to torture them? Ishrat Jaan who was a terrorist and it is coming out now. They called her the daughter of Bihar, I don't know what all she gave. How the Under Secretary was tortured, all this is coming on record, they will know everything. ... *(Interruptions) [English]* Now, I am coming to Karnataka.

Sir, Rs. 1,540 crore was given for drought relief. This is the highest ever amount for the State of Karnataka given by the Centre. These people have distributed only Rs. 192 crore. So far, they have not been able to distribute money. There are many things. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Joshi Ji, please wind up.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** I want to tell them about the *Fasal Bima Yojana.* The first crop insurance scheme was launched and fabricated by Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee. As it was a new scheme, we were told to further improve it. What these people did was that they gave it to private people and ultimately, the farmers did get nothing. We met the then Prime Minister Shri Manmohan Singh Ji but nothing was done.

Today, our Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji thinks of the farmers. Crop insurance scheme is so good. Each and every farm will be checked through new technology. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude Joshi Ji.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** I will take another two minutes.

Sir, they are talking about corruption. What is happening in Karnataka? The … *(Interruptions)...** is ** … *(Interruptions)...** ?... *(Interruptions)* He is not a socialist, he is a Lohiawad ... *(Interruptions)* ... * ....

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Joshi Ji, please wind up.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** I am not yielding. This … (*Interruptions*)...* Initially he said I'll give it for five lakhs, take it. ... (Interruptions) Later when it was found out that he had 70 lakhs, after a month they searched one person and they **.

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* Not recorded.
** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.
* Not recorded.
** Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude. I will call another Member.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** I am not alleging anything. ** … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** We are discussing the President's Address.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** ** … *(Interruptions)...* * … *(Interruptions)* ** … *(Interruptions)...* *

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please wind up.

Now, Mulayam Singh Ji.

… *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** I am concluding. *

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I have allowed Hon. Mulayam Singh Ji. You please speak.

… *(Interruptions)*

* Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Sir, I request you to expunge all those things which are irrelevant. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Shri Mulayam Singh Yadav Ji, please.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** We want to expunge them. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Nothing is going to be recorded.

*… (Interruptions)...***

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** Sir, I am going to conclude in 30 seconds.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You conclude.

**SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI:** Sir, as soon as the gift was received, it was his duty to declare. He hasn't done that. After one month, he has declared. It is a ...*. It is a ...*. It is a ...*. There is such an allegation. I want the Union Government to inquire into this. Thank you very much. … *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Nothing is going on the record.

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** Not recorded.
* Not recorded.

*… (Interruptions) ... **

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** This cannot go on the record.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I have said nothing is going on the record.

*… (Interruptions) ... **

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** So, you have to check up.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Right.

**SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE:** Otherwise, I have to speak about Gujarat, Maharashtra, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh… *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I have already said that I will go through the record and I will take the decision later on.

*__DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL):__ While participating in this discussion on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address, I have certain points of dissent and hence reservations. And I hope dissent is not to be stamped as "anti-national".

Why was the President silent about any financial provision for the SAGY? Without any financial help from the GOI, MPs cannot fulfil the SAGY programmes in time. He is also silent about the filling up of one million vacancies under various Government establishments, departments, Railways, PSU and Banks and Insurance Sectors, etc.

The Indian Diaspora abroad is about 5 million. But the President's address is again silent on any viable and feasible welfare and rehabilitation scheme for the non-resident Indians and their dependent family members. While the corporations who get more and more incentives every year do not add to any more employment opportunities and no increase in their exports, we still neglect the human factor-our own citizens!

While the farmers suicide are on the rise to the tune of 26% during the last one year alone, why silent about adequate provision for relief and financial, technical and logistical support for the scientific

* Speech was laid on the Table.

farming of various agriculture crops? What happened to the Dr. Swaminathan Committee Report? The primary sector is the most neglected one. The sad and deplorable condition of the Indian agriculture during the tenure of this Government has reached such a dimension that even the propertied class of people do not find remunerative regular employment and hence they also demand for benefits of reservation. It is high time that there should be reservation of jobs in the private sector also.

Why is there no mention about the NPAs of the large industrial houses and affluent to the tune of 1.14 lakh crores during the last two years? Is the GOI afraid to reveal the names of the big sharks of NPAs as well as black money holders? The burning issues of the common people - uncontrolled inflation of prices of essential goods and services and inadequacy of the social security network are there as long as the history of this nation. Only the crocodile tears come down, and no concrete steps. The galloping inflation in the prices of drugs, pharmaceutical items and surgical equipment have led the medical treatment of the common people virtually catastrophic.

May I ask how many centrally sponsored schemes have been renamed and how many of these old schemes have been merged with

the new schemes? The showering of words does not kindle even a ray of hope in the hearts of the people.

The decentralisation of powers has to take place in executive, legislative and judiciary simultaneously. Then what about the establishment of benches of the Supreme Court, outside Delhi as envisaged by the Constitution of India under Article 130 of the Constitution? Why is the Address silent about the establishment of a permanent bench of the High Court in Thiruvananthapuram, being the capital city of Kerala?

There is no mention about the extension of the National Inland Waterways in between Kollam and Kovalam in the state of Kerala. The preservation of water sources should be of prime concern. But the rainwater harvesting and construction of new hydroelectric power projects do not find any place in his Address.

The Address does not speak anything about any financial and technical encouragement of traditional industries such as handloom, potteries, bamboo, carpentry, coir, traditional ornament making, mat-weaving, fisheries, handicrafts etc.

The Address does not speak anything about the reservation and protection of public lands and promotion of sports facilities at grass

root level. What about the protection and encouragement of various regional art forms and folk culture? The Address is silent on employment and hence about the increasing of the minimum wages to Rs.10,000 per month. It should be constitutionally admitted that the " Pension is a right and not a privilege." sufficient provision should be ensured for adequate facilities for the physically, and psychologically disadvantaged people. The National Commission for the OBCs should also be given Constitutional Status.

Why is the President's Address silent about the sufficient financial technical and medical care for those who are in need of the palliative care treatment? Our population is growing not only in quantum but also in life expectancy. Even after the declaration of new AIIMS in various states, why is there silence about the establishment of AIIMS in Attingal Lok Sabha Constituency, Kerala?

The Address does not mention about the speedy completion of Angamali Sabri Rail routes and connecting it to the Vizhinjam International Seaport via Punalur and then to Vamanapuram-Nedumangad - Amvikkara - Kattakada of the Thiruvananthapuram district. The privatisation is not the panacea for the problems. Many of the PPPs have failed to deliver the results. Our natural resources

are being looted by large corporations. The unholy nexus of big corporate - ruling political class and the bureaucrats is nothing else but a reality. We cannot tolerate corruption and communalism. " Corruption" should not be a side effect of "development". Communalism is like smallpox to the society while corruption is like cancer! We have to fight both tooth and nail.

Why is this Address still silent about the construction of a new National Highway in Kerala and a bypass on NH-47 at Attingal and also about Kottoor- Ambasamudram Highway to connect in between the capital cities of Kerala and Tamil Nadu States" respectively?

The declaration of Varkala Cliffs as Global Geological Heritage site needs sufficient financial provision for their protection. The grand old cliffs at Varkala have a height of 30 metres and 20 million years old. Varkala Sivagiri has not received the national attention it deserves as a pilgrimage centre.

I could not understand why Address is silent about the solar capacity utilisation of the Government owned premises. The use of LED bulbs has not been initiated even in Government buildings to reduce energy consumption. Preservation of energy is like creation of energy. But even the Govt. still uses old and conventional equipment.

The Address has neglected the sad plight of rice, sugarcane, coconut, cotton, cardamom and rubber cultivators. The conversion of cultivable land to other purposes, the decreasing in cultivable land of various crops and the high prices of pulses have led to incurable problems in the primary sector. There is an urgent need to increase protein consumption of children and pregnant women and hence for free provision of sufficient quota of pulses, cooking, oil, sugar to the schools as well as Anganwadies.

The Address is silent on international refugee issues. It is also silent about the solving of the Rohingyan Refugees crisis and their rehabilitation. It has not mentioned about the interstate migrant workers. Why silent on the demand to increase the wages of unorganised sectors including the MNREGA?

The Parliament is being bypassed. International treaties and conventions should be discussed and get assent from the Parliament. Various stakeholders should also be consulted. The issues of the North Eastern states and Indian Islands should be separately discussed. The Parliament should be in session at least for a hundred days during a calendar year. All Indian languages should be used. We should start sending Indian Parliamentary delegations to various nations in order

to strengthen international friendship and also for bilateral parliamentary understanding.

The Address is conspicuously silent about the failure to prevent the terrorist attacks in various defence establishments and against the people. It is also keeping mum on the growing menace of various signs of intolerance- communal, religious, social and political. The President has not said a word on growing attacks on the media persons and the whistleblowers.

The law and order situation in Delhi NCR has become shameful. The Delhi Police under the GOI is like a puppet and it's over actions and inactions during various incidents are shocking! Even the premises of MPs are not safe. The drug peddlers occupy various streets when dark falls. The slogan of "to serve and to protect" has become a joke among the people! The principle of cooperative federalism does not trickle down. The benefits of the record slash in the International crude oil prices have not been transferred to the working class and the poor. So, the so-called "openness of a global economy" is only for the benefit of the rich and affluent.

Thus, I oppose the Motion of Thanks in its present form.

***SHRI ADHALRAO PATIL SHIVJIRAO (SHIRUR):** I indeed commend the Hon. President's address to both the Houses on the occasion of the beginning of the budget session of 2016 of the parliament. However, I humbly want to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that the funds allocated to the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana are not sufficient. As we all are aware of the fact that, most of India resides in rural areas. Agriculture forms the main occupation of the people residing there. The better road connectivity in rural areas is the only solution in bettering the agricultural business in rural areas. The appalling fact is, in recent years, particularly since the last two years, the budget allocation to Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is small in comparison. Therefore, I think the increased budget allocation for PMGSY should have found a place in the Presidential address. Increasing rural road connectivity is of utmost importance if we are to improve the livelihood and living standard of people living in rural India.

The other important issue that I would like to point out is, as we all know farmers are committing suicide on larger scale in the state of Maharashtra. There is grave drought in the state of Maharashtra

* Speech was laid on the Table.

adding to the destitute of the farmers. Therefore, I believe the suicide of farmers and the necessary remedies to mitigate the drought situation in the state of Maharashtra should have found mention the presidential address. Announcement of a package for the farmers that are affected by the grave situation of drought would be one of such steps by the government. Instead, there is no mention of the farmers' situation in the presidential address.

Therefore, I urge the Government to be considerate towards matters that I think are of urgent importance.

*[Translation]*

***DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):** This Address is the vision of the Government in which the vision, plans and determination of the NDA Government run under the able leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji is reflected.

The example of the way Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji has written the golden chapter of the all round development of the nation by taking revolutionary steps in all fields in the last 18 months.

Today, when the entire world is forced to live in an environment of uncertainty and despair, India seems to be infusing new hope, optimism, enthusiasm and new zeal in the world scenario. The economic pundits of the world are comparing India as a dynamic centre. The efforts to reach the last person of the society with the basic mantra of **Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas** have now started bearing fruit. For the first time, the country has got such a Prime Minister who on one hand takes the pledge of Clean India campaign from the ramparts of the Red Fort and on the other hand provides visionary leadership to the country in establishing India as an emerging economic power in the entire world community. Fortunately, for the first time we have

* Speech was laid on the Table.

got such a popular leadership which is determined to take India to the masses through various ambitious schemes and the chapter of social and economic development.

In just 18 months after becoming the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has provided visionary and strong leadership to the country, living up to the hopes and expectations of 125 crore people of the country. People's expectations seem to be changing as a result and people's confidence is getting stronger. I believe that the government is facing all-round challenges right now. We have to go a long way to achieve our goal.

Amidst all this, it is sad when the friends of the opposition, while ignoring our hard work and dedication, are accusing our government of intolerance. There is talk of imposing a particular ideology. We are questioning our nationalism. We are being called opponents of free expression. I would like to humbly ask him, what did you do when you were in charge of the country for most of the seven decades of independence? By stifling free speech during the Emergency, you misled the country under the guise of pseudo-secularism. The situation is that even after 68 years of the country's independence, a total of 26 percent of the country's population i.e. about 32 crore

people are suffering from deprivation below the poverty line. Crores of people still do not have houses to cover their heads. 68 per cent, that is, around 70 crore people still do not have toilets, They are forced to go to open defecation. More than 38 per cent i.e. more than 45 crore people in the country are deprived of education, not only that, those who are educated fail to get employment in a manner. In fact, 60 to 65 crore people are not getting drinking water. India still has one doctor on 1700 objections while this number should have been one thousand. Most of the rural population is still deprived of medical facilities.

Under such adverse circumstances, the Prime Minister of the present government, Shri Narendra Modi ji is determined for the overall development of the 125 crore people of this country with eternity all the time by facing every challenge. Can my friends sitting in the opposition deny today's odd circumstances? Today when the world is struggling with economic recession. Terrorism is posing a challenge to humanity day by day with its enormity, the nation is plagued by hunger, poverty, illiteracy and unemployment. In such a situation, what is the wisdom in opposing the capable, meaningful and visionary leadership of the country? The conspiracy to mislead the people of the country is not pushing the NDA government back but is

pushing the country back. It is pushing back 125 crore Indians. I want to tell my opposition friends that today you should discuss poverty, where the progress of the country should have been discussed, today you should discuss Make in India. You should talk about getting GST passed, give suggestions for Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, where you should give your reaction to the Kisan Bima Yojana, and sing the praises of Kashmiri separatists. You should congratulate the Prime Minister for his excellent GDP growth rate. You go to Hyderabad and instigate students in the university and JNU. But they are doing politics. Let us assume that you talk about freedom of expression in universities, is it the job of those students to pollute the sacred environment of the campus by doing politics of separatism? Mention should have been made of those infinite sacrifices who kissed the noose with a smile for the freedom of the country. Their desires should have been discussed but I am sad that the discussion is taking place in favour of those who are talking about destroying the country. He is being advocated for the seditious Afzal who attacked the Parliament in general. They are being favoured here who vow to continue the war till India is ruined on the anniversary of Afzal Guru.

The entire country is shocked and saying:-

*Shame on those who meet the traitors of the country,*

*They should die by drowning in a handful of water.*

*Whose faces light up after seeing the traitors.*

I want to present some portions of my poetry.

*Now there is no end to the conspiracy of those who destroyed the country.*

*But sorrow is our own enemy, not someone else's.*

Seeing these circumstances of today, I give my question in the form of Atal ji's poem:-

*Do you know what freedom is?*

*You got it for free, you didn't pay any price.*

Looking at the sad situation of the country, some poet, feeling agitated with pain, said and I want to quote -

*Now don't dream that this land will be distributed.*

02.03.2016

*The tongue of anyone who asks to divide the country will be cut off.*

*Now the limit of tolerating has been crossed.*

*That's why there is a need to shout it out now.*

*Who doesn't love my country,*

*He has no right to live in India.*

I come from the glorious land of Uttarakhand, where patriotism is present in every vein. Whenever any crisis hits the country, Uttarakhand not only feels its pain but also stands in the first row and makes sacrifices. Be it before the independence of the country or after the independence of the country, we all know that Uttarakhand has given maximum sacrifices in proportion to the population. If you see the story of Uttarakhand,

(1) **SHRI MATBAR SINGH NEGI:** Martyred in Terrorist Attack on Parliament on 13th December,2001.

(2) **SHRI SURJAN SINGH BHANDARI:** 24 and 25 September,2002 (NSG) were martyred in the terrorist attack on Akshardham Temple.

(3) **SHRI HAVALDAR GAJENDRA SINGH:** 51 Special Action Group (NSG) was martyred in the terror attack at Taj Hotel, Mumbai on 26/11/2008.

(4) 6 people including Shri Manoj Naugai were martyred in Maoist attack in Dantewada.

(5) A total of 572 soldiers were martyred in the Kargil war out of which 75 soldiers were from Uttarakhand i.e. a small state with a population of one per cent of the total population of the country makes a great contribution of 8 per cent in terms of martyrdom.

(6) On September 19, 2008, when an attack took place at Batla House in Delhi, Uttarakhand Police Inspector Mahesh Sharma was martyred.

(7) It has been the golden journey of the Garhwal and Kumaon Regiment with the most glorious history of Indian Armed Forces.

**Garhwal Regiment has (1)** Three Victoria Crosses: Darban Singh Negi, Gabbar Singh respectively (Festubert France) Neuve Chapelle First World War 1914 William Canny Waziristan

Campaign, 1920; **(2)** 1, Ashok Chakra (Bhavani Dutt Joshi, 1984 Blue Star); **(3)** 3 Mahavir Chakras; **(4)** 52 Veer Chakras; **(5)** 10 Param Vishisht Sena Medals; **(6)** 84 Army Medals; **(7)** 17 Ati Vishisht Sena Medals.

**Kumaon Regiment: (1)** 2 Param Vir Chakra (1.Major Somnath Sharma 2.Major Shaitan Singh); **(2)** Four Ashoka Chakras; **(3)** 10 Mahavir Chakras; **(4)** 78 Veer Chakra

This proves that such patriots have been born on the soil of Uttarakhand, who sacrificed everything for the pride of the country.

I want to caution that the coming generation will never forgive this selfish act against the country. We do meaningful politics, we do politics of nation building and public welfare and in this sequence, I want to present before you the important achievements of our government. Which the President mentioned in his address.

For the first time, a Prime Minister from the ramparts of the Red Fort has pledged to provide toilets to the villagers under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan as even today 68% of the rural Indians do not have toilets after 68 years of the country's independence. Governments came into the country and went but only this Government understood

the seriousness of this important issue and took the big idea for its redressal. Promoting cleanliness across the country, the goal is to stop open defecation in India by October 2019. Swachh Bharat Abhiyan will cost Rs 2. lakh crore in the next five years. In the next 5 years, 11 crore new toilets will be constructed in rural areas of the country. A radical change will be brought about by spending Rs. 62000 crore in the urban sector and Rs 1.34 lakh crore in the rural sector. A target to construct a toilet in every school in the country by August 15, 2015. The whole country is associated with this mission, people of every section, every region are contributing to it. In the last one year, the Government constructed 4,17,796 toilets which benefited 13.77 crore students.

Our government, which is engaged in giving concrete shape to the concept of holistic social and economic development, has been successful in realising Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's economic development based on integral humanism. Who cares about the last person in society? With a view to empower the States and to increase better coordination among the Central States, the State's share in Central taxes has increased by 32 to 42 per cent so that today Rs. 5.23 lakh crore has been received by the States more. The Non Plan Grant-in-Aid has been increased by 40 per cent to 1,08,551 crore. It is a

matter of pride for the entire country that the country's GDP growth rate of 2015-16 is expected to be 7.6 per cent. Today, for the first time, the World Bank, IMF, are describing the Indian GDP growth as the fastest growing rate in the world. India's services sector is one of the fastest growing sectors in the world with a growth rate of more than 9 percent.

The National Highways in the country were constructed in the year 2013-14 at 3500 km and in 2014-15 at 8,000 km and 2015-16 at 10,000 km. The construction of more than three times in a very short time reflects our belief that we consider highways as the arteries of the nation and our government is completely dedicated to their development.

Last year, 2442 KM broad gauge rail line was constructed in the country which is 65% more than the previous year. Similarly, this year 982 km railway line was electrified which is 75 percent more than the previous year.

12900 km of new highways have been approved. Motor Vehicle Agreement signed in Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal. In the year 2014-15,36 thousand km rural roads were constructed which is a record in itself.

The International Solar Alliance has been established on the initiative of India. Electrification of 5279 villages in 18452 unelectrified villages of the country 2022 target of non-traditional energy has been set at 175 GWA provision of one lakh solar pump was made for 100 MW target fixed irrigation drinking water of solar energy by 2022. An investment of 6,00,000 (six lakh crore) has been kept in the non-traditional energy sector.

For the first time in Indian history and world history, such a big scheme of financial inclusion was launched. Under the non-operational Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, about 21 crore accounts have been opened in different regions of the country, out of which about 15 crore accounts of 70 percent are operational. Less than 30 percent of people have zero balance accounts. It is noteworthy that in all, Rs. 33,379 crore was deposited in these accounts for which 1.26 lakh bank friends were appointed. 16 crore cards have been issued and free accident insurance has been provided to all the Rupees card holders. Under social security, 12.33 crore people have been covered under social security cover. Even after 68 years of independence, 68 percent of the population did not have an account. This ambitious scheme launched by the Prime Minister has carved its place in the Guinness Book. Under this scheme, the beneficiaries will get

insurance of Rs 30 thousand and accident insurance of Rs one lakh and Rs 5 thousand as loan. Apart from this, the country will get the following benefits from this scheme. Hundred percent inclusion of the economically backward people of the country can be ensured. Under the scheme, direct transfer of government payment of subsidy into the accounts of MNREGA, L.P.G. Leakage will be stopped by subsidies etc. going directly into their accounts. The country will be able to save more than Rs 58,000 crore in the next three years. Mother power of the country, which accounts for 51 percent, can be included in the mainstream of development.

The welfare of the country is possible only with the welfare of the farmers. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has been launched for farmers. The assistance provided in natural disasters has been increased by 50 %. Is it not a revolutionary step that the Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana has been launched in the country to promote 14 crore holders of the country by March 2017. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Yojana has been launched to provide irrigation benefits to the farmers of the country. 585 regular wholesale market e-marvettes have been set up to provide maximum market price to farmers. Where we have set a target of producing 17 lakh metric tonnes of urea in the next three years. Our government is determined to ensure the second green

revolution. The Government is well aware that India lives in the villages. The welfare of farmers is necessary to ensure the development of the country. Under this, we have strengthened our agricultural universities.

Moving the white revolution in the milk sector, the milk products have increased from 146 million tonnes to 160 million tonnes. An allocation of Rs. 500 crore has been made for the promotion of conservation of 37 native species of the country through Gokul Mission. A target of Rs 3000 crore has been set for better management of fish farming under the Blue Revolution.

"**Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana** was launched to promote organic farming. The production of urea was 184 million tonnes till last December, due to which the country could escape the shortage of urea.

The arrears of sugarcane farmers have been brought down from 66,033 crores to 1800 crores. Soil testing (soil cards) were provided to 79 lakh people in the country, so that their agricultural land could be completely examined and crop advice could be given on that basis. A new storage facility for 13.78 lakh Million Tonnes has been created to deal with the problems of storage of agricultural products. Under

the Kisan Crop Insurance Scheme, crop insurance will be provided to 50 percent of the farmers of the country at cheap premiums.

Our government believes that countries like America, Germany, Japan, and South Korea have reached the top position because the universities there are centres of excellent education. In this sequence, in the field of higher education, the Government has established two new Institutes of Technology in the country, 6 Indian Institute of Management, Indian Institute of Science Education and Research and National Institute of Technology. The facility to apply for scholarships has been made online, while foreign experts have been invited to teach in India.

The government has realised that efforts to make the country prosperous can be successful only if education is provided to all. Schemes named Nai Manzil and Ustad have been started for the socio-economic development of minorities. More than 50 per cent of the budget of the Ministry of Minority Affairs has been allocated for the Scholarship Fund. The ranking system of institutions in the country is being set up to enhance the quality of education on the lines of foreign countries so that the institute continues to strive towards excellence.

In order to provide roof over the head to crores of homeless people in India, the NDA government is committed to implement its ambitious scheme "Housing for All". **Our campaign to provide a roof to every person, under the leadership of our illustrious Prime Minister, will help in setting new benchmarks for the entire world. Building two crore new houses is a new record in itself.** Under this scheme, it will be ensured by the year 2022 that housing is available to all the people in urban and rural areas. There is a provision to give subsidies of one lakh to 1.8 lakh for the economically weaker section of the society and lower income group. To benefit the middle class, a plan has been made to simplify housing loans and provide more tax concessions. In the same series, it has also been decided to increase the corpus of the National Housing Bank. An amount of Rs. 8000 crore has been allocated to the Housing Bank for the successful implementation of the scheme.

History is testimony to the fact that in the last 18 months, under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and with the efforts of Hon. External Affairs Minister Shrimati Sushma Swaraj ji, Indian foreign policy has touched new heights, whether it is a SAARC group, whether it is BRICS or America, Australia or European Union, all have reposed their faith in the leadership

potential of the Prime Minister. A new chapter of mutual friendship and cooperation has begun with all these countries.

Recently, 9 agreements on bilateral matters were signed with Nepal to resolve the standoff due to the new Constitution. The Indo Africa Summit was held successfully for the first time,in which 54 countries from Africa were invited. For the first time, more than 40 heads of state attended the event.

For the first time, the US has supported India for permanent membership of the United Nations. In the next five years, Japan alone has assured to invest USD 40 billion or USD 240 thousand crore.The recent visit of the President of France to India has brought new energy to the strategic relationship. On the one hand, the important agreement of Rafale Jet has helped in furtherance, while the Smart Cita Solar Alliance has paved the way for cooperation in technology transfer, non-alternative energy.

In this context, China has also pledged an investment of $ 20 billion (120 thousand crores) in the next five years. The United States also plans to invest USD 41 billion and has expressed its willingness to work together in several important areas of strategic importance with India. In addition, new energy has been infused into our relations

with Atiritt, Bhutan, Nepal, Fiji, Sri Lanka. Pakistan has also been asked to refrain from terrorism in strong words. Bilateral relations with Russia, Australia, Germany, South Africa have increased.

Under the illustrious leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, our government has started a scheme to give new life to the shipping sector and provide financial assistance to domestic shipyards keeping in mind 'Make in India'. Several steps have been taken to streamline operations and simplify rules and procedures at major ports. The average time of landing on Indian ports in 2015 was the lowest and the quantity of cargo travelling to and from major ports was the highest. In addition to this, the Government is trying to promote inland waterways and coastal water harvesting as an alternative tool.

In this sequence, the government is also working on a new civil aviation policy to enhance connectivity to smaller cities. There is a substantial increase in the domestic air passenger traffic during this year. Under the visionary policy of the Government, it has been the priority of the Government to set up world class infrastructure for electronic manufacturing across the country. 19 Electronic manufacturing clusters are being developed. Recent reforms in the

Duty regime in the mobile handset manufacturing industry have almost doubled the production of mobile handsets in the current year. The maximum value of about one lakh ten thousand crore rupees has been received so far due to transparent and efficient auction of spectrum. Policies like spectrum trading and sharing have been framed for optimum utilisation of resources.

In order to promote the manufacturing sector in India, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the NDA Government has implemented the Make in India Scheme. Increasing foreign investment in the defense sector in the country from 26 to 49 percent will bring a new revolution in this sector. Hundred percent foreign investment in construction and rail-related infrastructure will overcome the shortage of financial resources in the Railways.

In our country, Shakti, which means strength, women's power is realised. This is where Shakti reflects our strength. The government has approved the induction of women in the Indian Air Force as Short Service Commission Officers and fighter pilots. Government has initiated several measures such as Nationwide Emergency Response System, a Central Victim Compensation Fund, Cyber Crime Prevention and Organized Crime Investigation Agency and Integrated

Emergency Response Management System for safety of women on Railways to provide safety and security to women.

Several industrial corridors have been planned to be set up. All types of clearances are planned to be given to all investors for 48-72 hours. Through skill development and entrepreneurship centres, an exercise is being done to give a new impetus to industrial production in the country. Efforts are being made to provide world-class housing facilities to the citizens of the country by building smart cities. By taking important steps like de-licensing, the country's entrepreneurs are being encouraged to set up new industries.

Make in India is likely to provide employment to one crore people. Provision has been made to provide all information online to the entrepreneurs and all those associated with them through the e-Biz portal round the clock. The government has identified 25 key sectors in which telecommunications, tourism, pharmaceuticals, energy etc. are important to take industrial production in the country to new heights. More than 1000 world class training institutes will be set up across the country in two years. A provision of Rs.15000 crore has been made for training institutes. To compete with international competition, provision has been made for special facilities for training

in construction, painting, plumbing, mason, fitter and nursing to youth in the age group of 15-35 years.

There is a shortage of skilled entrepreneurs and artisans as a major challenge to economic growth all over the world. In view of this, proper entrepreneurship development programs are being run by the government so that our entrepreneurs can meet the demand of the time. The present Government is trying to train all kinds of artisans.

| | |
|---|---|
| White Collar: | Management |
| Grey-collar: | Knowledge workers |
| Blue Collar: | Production Service/ Sector |
| Rust collar: | Unorganised workers |

Extensive efforts are being made to ensure the quality of Indian products in the world scenario. Under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, a provision of 2.7 crore new loans was made which is estimated to cost 99,468 crore. I think Start Up India, Skill India, Make in India will become the pillars of prosperous India.

The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has taken an unprecedented decision to devote 42 per cent of the revenue to the

State Governments by taking revolutionary steps. As compared to the year 2013-14, the states will now get an additional amount of Rs. 175 thousand crores. Apart from this, low revenue states like Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir etc. will receive additional grant of Rs. 1.94 lakh crore.

The Chief Ministers of all the states will be entitled to equal share in the NITI Aayog. Modi ji has taken this step and presented his 4D image. (1) Decisive; (2) Dynamic; (3) Development; (4) Devolution

Under the Ganga Cleanliness Campaign, the government has established a comprehensive mission for the purity, cleanliness, continuity and conservation of Ganga. The government has earmarked Rs. 20 crore for the project. Creating a consortium of top IITs in the country, they are being linked to the cleaning of the Ganga. Namami Gange will focus on the following objectives:-

- Nirmal Section - Efforts will be made to keep Ganga clean by managing sewerage in the municipal area. This will prevent pollution by sewage being done in rural areas. In this, industrial waste will be banned from entering the Ganges.
- Continuous stream - Ganga ghat, irrigation scheme and conservation of wetlands will be its main goals. Apart from this,

focus will also be focused on biodiversity, ecology, tourism and shipping capacity of Ganga. The first Ganga Knowledge Centre will be set up. Hamara Jal Jeevan has been implemented in 485 districts of the country. So that adequate supply of clean drinking water can be ensured to all.

To make 'Make in India' successful in the country, it is very important to have skilled artisans. Keeping this in view, the government has taken the following steps.

- The Government has set a target to train 500 million i.e. 50 crore people by 2020.
- To deal with the problem of dilapidated ITIs and old courses in the country, the government has decided to establish one thousand new training institutions. Rs. 15000 crore has been earmarked for this.
- To promote skill development in villages, Deendayal Upadhyay Gramin Kaushal Yojana, Deendayal Upadhyay Antyodaya Yojana for economically backward people and Ustad Yojana for Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Caste and Minority communities have been launched.

This Government is committed to ensure proper exploitation of the resources of the country and transparency in the process. The efficiency that the Government has shown in allocating coal blocks is not exemplified anywhere else. Last year, Coal India Limited registered a growth rate of 9.8 per cent. 15 Construction of Coal washeries made up to October 2017. Saved Rs. 877 crore by rationalising coal leakage. Coal production for the year 2014-15 is higher than the total production of the last four years.

The government has taken steps at various levels for the welfare and social security of teachers, women, aged, organised and unorganised workers. To promote girl child education, Sukanya Samriddhi Account has been launched so that the boys and girls divide in the country can be eradicated and our daughters can also become equal partners in nation building and upliftment. For the welfare of teachers and trainers, Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya Training Scheme was launched so that in the era of international competition, our teachers can study well. Minimum income for Employees Provident Fund has been raised to Rs. 15000 which will benefit 50000 workers from the organised sector. The minimum pension in the country has been raised to Rs 1000 with effect from September 1,2014, which is expected to benefit 3200000 people.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the unique inaccessible circumstances of the Himalayan States which are ecologically sensitive and strategically very important. This biodiverse region directly or indirectly benefits 130 crore people of the world through its glaciers, rivers and runoff. The Himalayas have immense minerals, forest and water wealth, which needs to be exploited properly for the region and the country. In such a situation,I request that a separate Ministry should be constituted to connect the Himalayan states with the mainstream of development. Unless that is possible, the Council should be formed so that it will prove to be a milestone for the economic, social development of the region with environmental protection.

In view of the specific ecology of the entire Himalayan region, in view of separate socio-economic needs, the States of this region should be given proper green bonus as an incentive for their planned development.

The Important forested, inaccessible, strategically mountainous state of Uttarakhand has 66 percent forest area. Natural calamities occur every day in Uttarakhand. It is extremely important to prevent increasing migration due to unemployment, inaccessible conditions

and disaster. I request that special projects of agriculture and horticulture be made in view of the specific geographical, economic, social conditions in the State. Considering the immense tourism potential, a special project needs to be implemented. In view of the significant contribution of Uttarakhand to the military and paramilitary forces of the country, training facilities should be provided to the youth for recruitment at various levels with military installations here. Through special skill development schemes, youth will have to be motivated and encouraged for horticulture, cottage industry, herbal production and flower production.

I am grateful to the Prime Minister and my government that whether it is the Char Dham Master Plan or Namami Gange scheme or railway projects or to deal with natural disasters, thousands of crores of rupees have been provided for various development schemes.

Today, when there is a conspiracy going on to trivialise the achievements of the government amid allegations and counter-allegations, I would like to request my opposition colleagues to understand the reality and not mislead the House and the country. I want to give you some data. You can make your own decision.

As far as employment generation is concerned, online appointments have seen a growth rate of 52.7 percent. The manufacturing sector has registered a growth rate of 12.6 per cent. India was ranked 71st in the World Economic Forum's competitive list last year and has climbed to 55th today. While there was an investment of 313.5 billion in the last year 2014, an investment of 354.2 billion dollars has been made from June 2014 to June 2015 this year. India has been declared the number 1 destination for investment by Greenfield Investments 2015 and American Foreign Policy magazine. The country's brand value sector has registered a growth of 32 per cent. In the Travel and Tourism Competitive List,India was ranked 65th in 2013 and now has come down to 52th position.

Infrastructure development in which projects of road, railways, energy and other infrastructural development have registered an increase of 29.3 per cent last year. 128,168 (One lakh eighty eight thousand one hundred and sixty eight crore) has been spent. People of Indian origin have been given lifelong visas. While India and Bhutan signed the 10,000 MW power generation agreement, we arranged to give scholarships to 1000 Afghan children and built a new parliament for them.

Accelerating transparency and anti-corruption campaign, the government collected Rs 1.09 lakh crore from telecom auctions. Self-certification has been empowered by making it effective.

125 Expenditure Act has been removed and 1000 Acts need to be removed further. A provision of Rs. 1.13 lakh crore has been made for digital India. 98 thousand crore has been earmarked for Smart Cities. In Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, 4.2 lakh new toilets were given to schools last year.

A total of 18 new higher educational institutions were established in the country including IIMs, IITs, IISERs, NITs. Under the Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Scheme,1.75 lakh youth were provided employment.

Under Sukanya Samriddhi Yojana, 80 lakh new accounts were opened, in which Rs. 3400 crore was deposited. Under Mission Indra Dhanush, 7 new vaccines were made. Under Van Bandhu Kalyan Yojana, a campaign was launched against sickle cell anaemia (due to iron deficiency) among women and girls.

Nayi Manzil, Ustad and Maulana Azad National Scheme were started to provide proper training and employment to minorities.

Today the situation is challenging. To fulfil the resolve of a better and prosperous India, we all will have to dedicate ourselves completely to the sacred task of nation building. I would like to quote the poem of respected Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the famous Prime Minister of India and the ideal of all of us.

***Obstacles come and come.***

***Decrease the severity of the surrounding disaster.***

***Embers under the feet.***

***If flames rain on your head.***

***Laughing in my own hands.***

***Will have to be set on fire and burnt.***

***We will have to move in step.***

Fulfilling the concept of Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas, our government has focused its attention on the backward, poor, neglected, farming class, women and youth in the development journey of Integral Humanism India. This is also reflected in the address of His Excellency the President. I remember some of the lines of Dr. Vijay Tiwari's poetry.

02.03.2016

***Now we have to climb the peak of progress with determination.***

***Leaving aside high and low, we have to move forward every moment.***

***India has to create a new identity in the whole world.***

***Today, the revolution has to be brought back, making India prosperous.***

We have faith in the 125 crore people of the country, on their determination, on their hard work, on their dedication. This faith gives us self - confidence through which we will be able to realise the vision of a developed self - respecting India.

***SHRI JANARDAN SINGH SIGRIWAL (MAHARAJGANJ):** The way the President has mentioned the principle 'Antyodaya' of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay ji in his Address, it becomes clear that the NDA Government headed by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi wants to bring the last instinct of the society into the mainstream through development. A living example of this is 21 crore accounts opened by the general public under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. It is the faith of the great people of the country towards Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji that the great people of the country have deposited Rs. 32 thousand crore in the exchequer of the country in the account of zero balance. In his address, His Excellency the President has mentioned the government's vision of "upliftment of the poor", "prosperity of farmers" and "employment to the youth". Certainly, we can say whether it is open accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana or Atal Pension Yojana of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Suraksha Bima Yojana under which Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima is being given only Rs.1 per month 12 per annum. All these schemes are becoming evidence for the progress of the poor. As far as farmers are concerned, our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always

* Speech was laid on the Table.

said that the welfare of the country is not possible unless the farmers of the country are prosperous. Our government has taken very beneficial decisions in the interest of farmers, be it Kisan Bima Yojana or Soil Health Card or reducing the limit of assessed loss due to crop disaster from 50 to 33 percent. For the first time in the country, “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana” has been launched with the aim of providing water to every farm. Today, it is the result of the government's transparent work that the supply of fertiliser in the country has been ensured. Today, work is being done for an integrated national market with the objective of establishing a common e-Marvet platform connecting 585 wholesale markets simultaneously to give maximum market price to farmers. With this, India can be made One Food Zone, One Country, One Market. With this, our farmers will get a fair price for their crops and hard work.

The Government is taking several steps to bring a second green revolution with the objective of making the most of the agricultural potential of the Eastern States. My Government has taken measures to establish three new Agricultural Technology Applications Research Institutes and 109 new Krishi Vigyan Kendras for strengthening their reinforcement and strengthening agricultural higher education. 24/7 Kisan Channel has been launched to provide information on new

policies, prices and other agriculture related issues for the benefit of farmers.

My government recognizes the importance of sectors like animal husbandry, milk production and fisheries in the social and economic development of the country. Even today, India continues to be the largest milk producing country with a growth rate of 6.3%. The poultry venture capital fund and rural backyard poultry development programmes have led to the highest ever production of eggs. “Blue Revolution” has been launched to ensure consolidated development and management of fisheries with a central outlay of Rs 3,000 crore.

Now even in the general budget it has been proposed that the subsidy on fertilisers will go directly into the accounts of the farmers. For the first time under the leadership of Hon. Modi ji, the government has implemented an ambitious scheme like skill development in the country with emphasis on the personal sector. Many schemes have been brought to provide employment to the youth and make them self-employed, prominent among which are “Make in India”, “Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana”, “Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana” etc. Apart from this, under the 'Prime Minister's Mudra Yojana', a consolidated amount of more than Rs. 1 lakh crore has been disbursed

to more than 2.6 crore people, of which 2.07 crore are women entrepreneurs. Udyog Aadhar Portal has been set up to facilitate online registration of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises. Our government has started “Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana” with the aim of providing affordable houses to everyone by 2022. By 2018, our government has named “Pt. Under Deendayal Gram Jyoti Yojana”, a target has been set to provide 24-hour electricity to all the villages. Under the PAHAL scheme, 15 crore LPG holders are getting the benefit of subsidy directly in their accounts. In compliance with the encouragement of Hon. Modi ji, 62 lakh families have started their LPG cylinders under the "Give it Up" campaign. Subsidies are abandoned. The President mentioned the important schemes for the minority community “Nai Manzil” and “Ustad” run by our government, under which skill training is being given in 20,000 madrassas. Our popular Government has earmarked more than 50 per cent of the budget under the Ministry of Minority Affairs for minority students and girl students, which will greatly benefit the students of this category.

It was the inspiration of Hon. Prime Minister said that in recognition of Indian culture, last year, the whole world celebrated ‘International Yoga Day’ on June 21.

Today, it is the result of the encouragement of Hon. Modi ji that an environment has been created towards cleanliness in the country under the “Cleanliness Campaign” and people are actively participating in it and are themselves aware of cleanliness.

All such other schemes which are being run by the Government of India under the able leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has been mentioned by His Excellency the President in his address. Today the government has made amendments in the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act to make it more effective, so that people of these categories have got economic, social and judicial powers. The 125th birth anniversary of the architect and great scholar Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar is being celebrated by the government and it is getting the support of all sections of the people. Our government has decided to make Babasaheb Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar's birth anniversary on 26 January this year as Constitution Day every year.

I thank you for all the schemes mentioned in the President's Address and the policies inspired by the development test and 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' of the Government of India.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV (AZAMGARH):** Hon. Speaker, I thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the Address of His Excellency the President.

The President fulfils the formalities of the Constitution. The speech is of the government, the government itself sends it by writing. They understand that the President also makes some amendments. It is my experience that when we send it to the Governor and he gives a little suggestion, we accept it. But this is the speech of the entire government. It is now going to be two years of this government. It's not late, it's been two years. But how much difference is there between the words and actions of this government and your party? How many promises were made? At least any promise should have been fulfilled by now. It's going to be two years. If the promises could not be fulfilled, they could have started it. You did not even start to fulfil a single promise. You said that as soon as we come, we will end the inflation. Inflation did not end, it increased further. Now you talked a little about the prices of petrol and diesel. Actually, the price of diesel should have been reduced more, which is related to the farmers. The entire work is being done on diesel. You have reduced the prices of petrol and have not reduced the prices of diesel. What is the intention of the government? You have completely proved that, in increasing

and decreasing the price of diesel and petrol, this is a government of industrialists and capitalists. There is a government in their interests. Now what answer do you have to this? The price of diesel used by farmers is higher and the price of petrol is lower. Will farmers manage their work with petrol? That's why I said that there is a difference between the words and actions of the government.

The unity between the parties in the NDA is breaking down. It is a threat to the unity of the country. What is the distance between each other? As there is concern in the House, in the year 2014, the people of the country gave majority to the NDA. Gave you the majority, but what did you do in 20 months? What have you done for the farmers of the country? You should tell any one thing which has been done for the farmers of the country. There are labourers, minorities, intellectuals, students, teachers, why did they suddenly turn against the government? This is a serious matter. This needs to be considered. Why did farmers, labourers, intellectuals, students and teachers stand together against the government? Those who gave you the majority with great pride and with zeal are going against you.

This is not a small matter. When the Prime Minister appealed, the people in Delhi rejected it. The appeal had no effect. You appealed in

Bihar, there too, your appeal was turned down. You should think, where you are, where you have been and where you are going. I want the unity of the country. There may be ideological differences among political parties, but as far as the country is concerned, there are many issues on which the entire House and the entire country are united. This is lacking from your side. Therefore, I want to tell you that fear has developed in the minds of university students towards the government, because they have started feeling that the government wants to change the structure of the country or wants to change the constitution, and wants to end reservation. Whatever is yours, it is RSS and RSS leaders who speak against reservation that we will consider it, amend it, what will we do. If you do something against reservation, what will happen in the whole country? The whole country will stand up. You cannot consider reservation, don't make a mistake of doing so, it will be a huge blunder. Similarly reservation has not been available, we have struggled for this. Karpoori Thakur and Chaudhary Devi Lal also supported, on the other hand, the big leaders of the entire South India, what should I name them, all stood together and a committee was formed under the chairmanship of Chandrashekhar ji. Chandrashekhar ji's committee accepted and it was decided to implement the recommendations of the Mandal

Commission. Chaudhary Saheb supported it and proposed that there should be reservation. You understand how many big people have given reservation thoughtfully - the backward, the poor and you said that we will consider it.

Can you reject RSS? If any Minister rejects RSS, they will throw him out. It is true that there is RSS, but in the case of RSS, Modi ji, the Prime Minister has shown that we do some things from our mind also, we speak our mind. He expressed his feelings to the press. I am sure that you would not have been asked about Mann Ki Baat. That's why he spoke his mind. I have warned you. How much trust is there between BJP and PDP in Kashmir. Earlier, the BJP and PDP were united in Kashmir, how much connection is left now? The entire country knows that there are serious differences between PDP and BJP. Similarly, how much love is left between BJP and Shiv Sena in Maharashtra? Geete Saheb, tell me, how much love there was between both, BJP and Shiv Sena, but how much love there is now. There also you people turned against each other. Just see it in Punjab. In Punjab, the Akali Dal supported you and the BJP … *(Interruptions)* There is a need to break up with the government. ... *(Interruptions)* The whole country knows this, you keep saying here, go there, then you will

know. There is growing distrust between the non-BJP ruled states and the Centre.

As far as neighbouring countries like Pakistan and Nepal are concerned, relations with them are deteriorating. It is good that the Prime Minister of that place came and welcomed him, but I feel that it would be good if Modi Saheb made an effort. I understand and believe that the foreign policy is successful if it has maximum good relations with the countries of the world and minimum opposition. But no one has been able to become your friend yet. The relationship is different. If friends were made, then Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru ji made them after independence. When India fought with Pakistan, America sent its fleet to support Pakistan and Russia sent its army to support India. It was friendship! You tell me whether you have such friendship with any country or not with anyone else. Relations may be good, but friendship is not with anyone. You talk about China. When you were talking to China, at the same time the Chinese army had entered our borders. On the other hand, Nepal's ambassador said that if India interferes even a little in Nepal's issue, we will side with China. Was it a trivial matter, shouldn't you have responded? Nepal's ambassador was talking about going with China. People were being killed there, many murders took place. Okay, then if anyone intervened then

Sushma Swaraj ji had made some efforts. The Prime Minister has also made efforts. Why are we being shown the fear of China by Nepal and why do others show all this? Today, the situation in China is also not good. But I want to say that India's army is not weak, it is our brave army. If anyone attacks us, our brave army is capable of giving a befitting reply. I have been Defence Minister, so I know how brave our forces are. Therefore, if anyone tries to suppress India in this way, you should remain silent, you will suppress us somehow but strengthen the country. If the country becomes strong, you will also become strong and the country will also accept that the country has become strong.

You said that we will give employment to two crore people every year. It is about two years that four crore unemployed people should have got employment. I want to say that four crore people have not been given employment even for one million people. Is this not a lack of trust in you in the minds of the public, is it not a betrayal of the public, because you have not kept to the promises given to the public. The promises you made to the people, they are understanding that those promises have not been fulfilled, the youth are also understanding this, we are also understanding that is why the entire opposition has stood together. But you are not understanding. It is true

that a man forgets when he is in power, but this should not happen. You got power, you raised slogans, people made you win and defeated you, but now the reality is that the same people have now stood against you. Now the countdown of your government has started. If you just call the opposition and the leftists anti-national, your crisis will not be averted. We are called your opponents, we are the opposition, are we also traitors? Only your people are speaking this language. We know that all the Ministers do not say, the Prime Minister does not say, Sushma ji does not say, but some Ministers do.

Today there are many problems in front of the country. Your foreign policy should be such that not only have good relations with other countries, there should also be friendship. The more good relations with countries, the more successful the foreign policy of that government will be. But you have not succeeded in that. You tell me that the country is our friend. Relationships can be good, but there is no friendship.

I want to say that it is not only you who are responsible for this, the Congress Party also has some responsibility. When I was in power, I said that. The Prime Minister of that time had called us and spoke to us. But you don’t talk about it. We make any statement, whether you

like it or not, you can say so. You call us, call an all-party meeting and ask what your opinion is about the unity of the country. Now it is your job to believe or not, we can only give opinions. But it will lead to harmony, and the unity of the country will be strengthened.

Here we will continue to fight for different powers, there are no two opinions on this. But you need to work with your experience. You said that the opposition people, the leftists, are anti-national. Now the Prime Minister and the government, who gave the slogan of 'Acche Din', are standing in the dock of the country. You did not accept, later you came to know in Delhi, Bihar that why you and the Prime Minister did not accept the appeal, it had no impact. Two examples have come before you, Delhi and Bihar. In the times to come ... *(Interruptions)* You people have not been able to eliminate unemployment and have also not been able to provide jobs to four lakh people on time. Those who are educated and unemployed. Well, how many there are, ten lakhs are increasing. Apart from this, the number of educated people is increasing by one million. Crops have been damaged in the village. Are their numbers different? Recently there was a drought somewhere, a flood happened somewhere, the farmer was ruined, if he did not produce even a single grain, he too became unemployed. In this way unemployment is increasing. No matter how good the

intentions and policies are, if the intentions are not good then the policies do not work. Even if the policies are bad, if the intentions are right then work can be done, but the intentions of this government are not right. No matter how many good promises you have made, no matter how many good words you have spoken, your intention can be known only by this, what is your intention?

Sir, what was going on right now and the President had also said that the previous government had started MNREGA. This provided employment to people for 100 days. You are grossly ignoring him. There is tremendous corruption in it, but corruption should be removed, it should not be stopped. Farmers and the landless should be protected by giving more money in MNREGA. Don't stop MNREGA, stop corruption. MNREGA is a good scheme, in which poor, landless labourers get work. The President said that amendments will be made. You make amendments and provide employment for at least 250 days at the rate of 250 rupees per day. If you do this, you might succeed. I advise you and you should make amendments in MGNREGA at the rate of two hundred and fifty days work and two and a half hundred rupees per day. Follow what the President has said. The President has a constitutional compulsion and he will read it, but it is you who has written it. Therefore, you should give two hundred rupees per day.

This will have an impact, the poor will benefit, the farmers will benefit. The Prime Minister had promised the people of the country that we will bring back the black money that is abroad. The figures of how much has come have not yet come ... *(Interruptions)* Even they don't know. Nothing has come. Will bring black money from abroad, but you should tell about how much black money has been brought. When the Prime Minister answers, he must be told that we have brought so much black money from abroad. Those who have black money, as Jaitley ji had pointed out, there are 11 people. Some names were mentioned in the last session. The government has completely failed on the issue of how much money has come. The people whose names were mentioned, kept away from bringing money from abroad, hundreds of crores of rupees are going abroad every day.

**17.55 hours** (Shri Pralhad Joshi *in the Chair*)

What is the reason? Who is behind this? Can money go abroad without the consent of the government? But you have failed in that. The Prime Minister had said that Rs. 15 lakh will go into the account of every Indian, leave alone Rs 15 lakh, not even five rupees have reached. Now you find out, we are also there, you are also here, everyone is here, there was talk of sending Rs. 15 lakh to the accounts,

but not even Rs. 5 was sent there. You will commit such a big betrayal on the citizens of the country. The President said that the law made on black money has started yielding benefits. You tell me what benefit you got, if anyone speaks today then tell me today, otherwise the Prime Minister will say what benefit you got. Of the people whose names have come out, how many people have taken action against them and who had given these names, these names were given by your Minister of Finance, Jaitley Saheb and if the government has taken action against those people who have money stashed abroad. If you have not done so then I allege that there is collusion with your government. If you are not taking action against those who have black money, even though you have got the information, not taking action means you are in collusion with them. You have to accept it. If there is no collusion, then tell us that no one's terror is greater than the government's terror, no one's power is greater than the government's power, who has more power than the government? If the government had acted strictly, black money would have been curbed, black money would have been caught, action would have been taken against those who had black money. But if nothing of that sort happens, then I would say that you are in collusion. The policy and intentions of the government are not right, which I had said earlier, then how will

corruption stop. Corruption is not stopping, corruption is increasing. This government used to claim that bank accounts of lakhs of poor people will be opened, the accounts have been opened, if the accounts have been opened then you did not tell what employment has been provided by the banks to the poor. Apart from this, how many unemployed people started new businesses? The government does not have its figures, because the government's false slogan is that the poor unemployed are being cheated by the government. How much black money is there, you tell us that we have brought so much black money and we have taken this action. Hon. Minister of Finance had also given 11 names.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Mulayam Singh ji, now you conclude.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV:** Speaker Sir, you see the situation that profits are increasing in private banks and profits are declining in public sector banks, is it a minor thing? The Minister knows everything that the profit in non-government banks is continuously increasing and the profit in government banks is decreasing.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Mulayam Singh ji,now you conclude, you have been about 25 minutes.

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV:** The biggest bank is not in good shape. That is why we are telling you that the profits of private banks are increasing and on the other hand the profits of public sector banks are decreasing and the condition of the largest State Bank of India is bad. Perhaps the Minister of Finance has also accepted that the condition of the State Bank is bad. Now if the condition of the State Bank of India is bad, then it will have to think about how it will affect the country. How can you fix it? If we want to get people's opinions, we can also give opinions. But you will not take our opinion, we know this, you are arbitrary. There is democracy, there is democracy, you can take opinion in it, you take opinion of scholars, take opinion of colleagues, Reserve Bank of India has huge experience, it will tell you that. And I think you should ask them. I am advising you, you should do this, otherwise you will face a huge crisis and the country is facing a crisis. The government opened bank accounts for all, but it did not benefit the consumers.

**18.00 hours**

Secondly, the Government is asking to give small loans, but where will the money come from with the banks? You are saying that we will give, but you also tell where you will get the money from? If he

is not coming then why is he not coming? If the situation in the State Bank also gets worse then what will you be left with? The condition of the biggest bank, State Bank of India, is also deteriorating. Ten big industry groups have debt of $ 113 billion. Those industrial groups are not repaying that loan and have written off Rs 4 lakh crore. I want to ask if this money is not going to be collected. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Mulayam Singh ji, I have to take the sense of the House. Hon. Members, I have a list of more than 25 Members to speak on the Motion of Thanks. If the House agrees, the time for the discussion may be extended by two hours.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Yes.

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):** There are a lot of small parties who are yet to speak. We have to complete it today. Please keep that in mind.

Shri Mulayam Singh ji, please continue.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV:** Hon. Chairperson, I was saying that there are ten big industrial clusters. Minister, you are also a scholar, only you can find a way out. They are not repaying loans worth 113 billion dollars and four lakh crore rupees have gone into write-offs. Now new capital of Rs. 700 billion is proposed to be given to banks, then the condition of banks will improve. In such a situation, the government's slogan of Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikas has become an air slogan. With these words, I conclude.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** I have a long list of Members who want to speak. Now, small parties are there. To accommodate all, we have to complete within five minutes. After four minutes, I will ring the bell and you have to conclude within one minute. I have no other option.

*[Translation]*

***SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI):** I would like to express some views from my side regarding the address of the President of India before the Parliament. The President's address has definitely brought credibility to the countrymen in order to bring the country on a positive and strong path. The thought of the head of the country who has shown that only when everyone is together is there development for everyone is true. If there is such thinking then only there is concern for the progress of the country and the welfare of the countrymen.

It was accepted by the President of the country that this government is a government full of sensitivities which has been concerned with the "progress of the poor", prosperity of farmers and "employment of the youth" with sensitivity. If the country has to move forward on the path of development, then such ideas and availability of such flexibility are essential. This government, which is running on the philosophy of Integral Humanism based on the thinking of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay, is definitely trying to strengthen every section and every person of the country by taking it along.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

The Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, based on the thinking of the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, shows that the vision of this government is to build a complete India.

Protecting Indian social security and its rights is the priority of our government. The work of making the country economically prosperous is the result of positive thinking.

By changing the passed laws and changing the rules, it has been passed that Tarmar has simplified the complexity of the law and made the judicial system easily accessible to the public interest. We have to worry about every issue of the country and make progress in every field. This was the objective of the respected Prime Minister. In the address, it was also mentioned by the President that today the country is moving on the path of progress and a new revolution has come with slogans like 'Make in India' and 'Skill India'.

This government, full of sensitivities, has taken many efforts and unique initiatives to empower and prosper women, in which the daughters of the country have started thinking positively about their future.

The relations and agreements made by the Prime Minister of the country during his foreign trips have taken the country forward to a profitable level.

Therefore, the budget brought by the government will definitely fulfil the dreams of the country.

Keeping my positive views in favour of the President's address, I wish for the development of the country in all areas.

*[English]*

***SHRI B. SRIRAMULU (BELLARY):** I support the Motion of Thanks. I am thankful to our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi for his vision and guiding the nation on the path of progress and prosperity. In less than two years, he has shown to the country what good governance is all about. An atmosphere of trust among the people has been built. There has been a sense of certainty and confidence among the foreign investors after a series of measures taken by our government for ease of doing business. Despite an unfavourable global economic downturn, our economy has registered over 7 percent of GDP growth and is expected to reach 10 per cent by 2019.

I take this opportunity to place on record my deep appreciation of the vision of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the farsightedness, experience and understanding of our Finance Minister to roll out schemes like the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana which was criticised by the opposition. But today, the scheme is one of its kind for providing a unique opportunity to all those who would not have dreamt of having a bank account in their lifetime. It has helped

* Speech was laid on the Table.

in enhancing financial inclusion of the poorest of the poor and the downtrodden.

I would like to bring to the attention of the Government to emphasise on bringing more people, particularly the poor tribal's to the scheme so as to bring them to the mainstream and to make them a partner in the nation's progress.

Another, visionary initiative of our Government is the 'Make in India' programme. I am sure, this will be a big success and will provide employment opportunities to thousands of youth besides helping in asset creation.

I would request the Government to prioritise the projects in my constituency under the Bharatmala Pariyojana. Highways passing through my constituency need to be further developed and the connecting roads to the highways also need to be strengthened to percolate the benefits to the poor and rural people of my area.

Another aspect I would like to raise is that Special training centres may be created in our area, particularly in the backward areas which have been marred by unemployment and lack of opportunities so that they may get job opportunities in the coming days.

I would also like to bring to the notice of the Government about the harsh reality of the tribal population of our country. Be it poverty, illiteracy, lack of access to health benefits, the tribal population are the worst sufferers.

Our Government is committed to increasing the capacity of renewable energy. In this context, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the vast canal bringing water from the dam to the far-off places on which solar panels can be fixed for power generation. In this case, the issue of land for such a purpose would not arise. I request our Government to take note of this opportunity and benefit the people of my state.

*[Translation]*

***SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** We are all grateful to the President for his Address. The entire world community is watching the way the country is progressing under the leadership of the Prime Minister. In the last 21 months, the Government has worked tirelessly to implement the schemes for the betterment of the people of the country, the result of which has started showing. A collective effort is needed to ensure that the growth trajectory of the country increases and does not decrease. Despite the international recession, our country is progressing. It is a matter of pride for our country. India has jumped 16 places in the Competitive Index of the Word Economic Forum last year and India will overtake China by the end of 2016. Today people from dozens of countries are coming and investing in India. People have increased confidence in our country. The government has established new dimensions of development in every field. Where measures have been taken to raise the standard of living of the poor. At the same time, work has also been done to bring them under the ambit of social security. The public welfare schemes announced last year were given concrete shape this year. Also, an

* Speech was laid on the Table.

attempt has been made to solve the overall problems of farmers by bringing the new Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme.

In the end, I thank His Excellency the President for his address and support the vote of thanks presented by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi.

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA):** Hon. Chairperson, I rise to take part in the discussion on the motion of thanks on the address of His Excellency the President. Community-verified icon His Excellency the President said in the beginning - It is the Government's stand that we welcome the joint sitting of both the Houses of Parliament in this spring season that brings new life and development. This is not the spring of power. I believe that this resulted in the fall of power. That is why in this government, honesty is the first thing to do. Due to the drought of respect the government is not moving towards construction. You had pledged to build India. But not a single brick of construction is visible in two years. This country wants to know, the people want to know, the youth want to know, the farmers want to know, the Parliament members want to know and the whole country wants to know. You must show beautiful dreams, you must show the dreams of Mungeri Lal, you must have promised the nation, but why did you make a U-turn on all the promises? You will say that we did not make a U-turn. But I want to know what you have presented through the document of your honour, the document of His Excellency the President, which Hon. Mulayam Singh Yadav ji has now done in his own words, we would like to ask you what is the purpose of black money? Did even a single rupee enter

the country? Created noise in the country by playing the trumpet and tricked the public. Made him look like a hunter in an unnecessary way to win the elections. But black money did not come. Unemployed youth did not get jobs. Today, the youth feels cheated, tired. Today, inflation is skyrocketing. Today pulses have disappeared from the plates of the poor. You said zero tolerance, what happened to that? What happened to Jan Dhan Yojana? What happened to Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas? What happened to the 56 inch chest? You talked about bringing good days, but today is not a good day, today is a bad day for the country. If bad days have not come then why are pulses being sold at Rs. 200 per kg today? Who will control this? You talk about Make in India, you talk about Digital India, you talk about Namami Gange, you talk about smart cities.

Sir, regarding Smart City, we want to say that there are no grains to eat, we have promised to build Model Village and Smart City. What have they promised? Today there is so much inflation that people are crying for every penny. Today the situation is worse. Today terrorists entered Pathankot airbase, the situation is much worse.

Sir, Bihar is being discriminated against. Give special state status to Bihar. Bihar's share in the centrally-sponsored schemes has been

cut. Today it is a question of Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), what is Kanhaiya's fault? Kanhaiya is the president of the Students Union. We are patriots. We are the unity of the nation. What is Kanhaiya's fault? We believe in the national flag. Nationality is hidden in our veins. Kanhaiya is being implicated unnecessarily. This is what happened with Rohit Vemula.

Sir, let it be five minutes. You said you had five minutes of your time.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You have one minute left. You conclude your speech in one minute.

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV:** Sir, give us a chance to speak. Vemula was a Dalit student. Baba Saheb's 125th birth anniversary was celebrated. Today, after so many days of independence, a Dalit's son commits suicide, there cannot be a bigger shame for this government than this. Dalits will eat this government, Dal will eat, Dadri will eat, you are suppressing democracy. Respected Jaitley Saheb had said that every third person is landless. Who is the rickshaw puller, who is the cart puller, who is the poor, who is the hut owner?

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now you finish.

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV:** Sir, I should not look behind, nor should I look to the side, the farmers, labourers and poor should be at the core of India. ... *(Interruptions)* I will take one more minute. They are not giving time. We will discuss further about our area, Banka, Bhagalpur, Muger, Jamui, but we just want to say one more thing that clear the resolutions, then talk about them, first look into the heart, then talk about them. What we want to say is that the falling rupee should call out, now please save the promise-breaking government.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Upendra Kushwaha.

**SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV:** You tell me why the value of the rupee fell today, why did inflation increase? This government is going to destroy peace, spread hatred and disturb peace.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please, you start.

*[English]*

Only Shri Upendra Kushwaha will go on record.

*… (Interruptions)...**

* Not recorded.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Once again I remind the Members that there is a long list of speakers. Please do not force me to switch off the mic. I will ring the bell after four minutes and within one minute you will have to conclude. There is no other option because the list is so long. I am saying this to everybody.

*__SHRI S. P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):__ The people of the country have a lot of hopes on the President's Address because this document is the road map, resolution and intentions of the Government.

In the 2014 general election 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' was the NDA's famous slogan. But the fact is that the NDA Government is concerned only about the development of few people. This Government talks about "Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas". However, I want to know whether any segment of the population has been taken along. Without taking along all the people, the country cannot develop.

Several announcements made in the Address are about the schemes commenced by the UPA Government. Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, it is a well known fact that at most of these accounts have not had even a single transaction.

On the one hand, the NDA Government talks of priority to the welfare of farmers, and on the other hand, the NDA Government wants to acquire their land forcibly. This has created fear in their mind and it is the duty of the Government to assure them in this regard.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

The NDA Government talks of the country's GDP growing at 7.75% and food inflation are at a record low. But what about the plight of poor, disadvantaged people? What is the policy initiative of the Government towards ameliorating the pain and agony of the poor and downtrodden? In spite of petrol prices decreasing drastically, the prices of essential commodities, vegetables, fruits have gone up.

As far as water disputes in the country are concerned, it has not been mentioned in the President's Address. It is a matter of great concern that the entire country is facing great difficulty in sharing waters between various States. I would like to state a burning issue in this context that recent events in the Cauvery dispute is causing great disturbance in Southern States, particularly between Karnataka and Tamil Nadu. When it comes to inter-State water issues, Karnataka has always been meted out with injustice. Now, the point is that Tamil Nadu is insisting the Union Government to constitute Cauvery Management Board to ensure release of Cauvery water. On the other hand, there are large parts of Karnataka facing drought-like situations. So, this has been the case for the last few years. The matter is sub-juice in the Apex Court. In this context, the Government of Karnataka has made a request not to constitute the Cauvery Management Board. I would like to impress upon the Union Government that it should not

constitute any such Board because water is a State subject, as per the Constitution. If the Center sets up a Management Board, then it would affect the very federal structure of our nation. These problems should be dealt with from a national point of view. Since we do not have a national policy on Water to deal with the disputes of water sharing, such issues are being raised every now and then. Sometimes, it would create a law and order situation and end up with grave situations like damaging public property and killing innocent lives. That is why, I would like to suggest that the need of the hour is to have a national policy for water sharing between the states concerned. So, there should be a permanent solution to such contentious issues. The Union Government should take all necessary steps in this regard.

The Swachh Bharat Mission is very far from becoming a people's movement and it has not produced any worthwhile result, but instead a much better result was achieved under Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan under UPA.

It has been committed in last year's President's Address that all schools in the country will have a toilet but the Government has not spelt out anything about maintenance and operation of the toilets, water supply, sewerage, etc.

The NDA Government has reduced funding of the MGNREGA programme and also reduced its access by reducing the number of districts to 200. 'Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana ' is another example of copying or duplicating UPA schemes. 'Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana' with focus on villages have predominance of SC/ST. The NDA Government has only announced housing for all by 2022 without any clear and concrete roadmap of how this scheme will be taken up and from where the funds will be arranged, etc.

There has been a steep fall in international crude oil prices due to which fuel prices have come down but the entire benefits of reduction of crude oil prices have not been passed on to the consumer. I urge the Government to pass on the entire benefit to the consumer.

On the issue of improving relations with our immediate neighbours especially Pakistan, the Government must outline the policy.

This Government has not announced any worthwhile incentive for Food Parks like encouraging the Food Processing Industry to set up its unit or shift units to Food Part etc.

I want the Government to come out with concrete measures to stem the outbreak of Swine Flu and Dengue diseases before it takes the form of an epidemic.

Agriculture is the largest employment providing sector in the country. 72% of the population in the country has agriculture land but 65% out of them do farming. The farmers are removing unemployment but sadly they are not properly mentioned in the speech.

There are 7 crore educated unemployed youth in the country. Even the people engaged in the agriculture sector are also not getting jobs throughout the year. These people have found no mention in the Address. No mention has been made in the Address about these people. Those who used to get 100 days of employment under the MNREGA, have also been deprived of the same by this Government. This Government has totally engaged itself in anti-people work. Today, our children do not go to the employment exchange for registration. They go for an interview on-line and get the job. The Govt. do not have any idea as to how many youths are unemployed. The Government is silent about workers in the unorganised sector

which constitute a large percentage of the labour force and they do not get their rightful dues.

There is absolutely no mention in this Address how the concerns of minorities will be addressed with their education, religious freedom etc. Communal harmony is shaky since this NDA Government took over the reins of the country. It has failed to instil confidence among minorities on communal harmony and peace. This Government has not taken into confidence the minorities, the backward classes and the scheduled castes of this country. This Government has done nothing for them so far.

I urge the Government to increase the number of hostels both for male and female students of SC/ ST communities by building new hostels. Story doesn't end here. Government should also provide the facilities in the hostel to enable the students to prepare themselves to face the global challenges. As a result, the Government should also provide the computer education facilities, libraries and training for spoken English in their hostel itself. Pre and Post Metric Scholarships for SCs/STs should be doubled to meet the education needs of these students. Women empowerment and safety is the utmost need of the

hour and the Government should promptly make efforts for women empowerment.

Another point I would like to mention is that a number of States in our country have repeatedly been facing drought or famine conditions. The Union Government has opened the Food Corporation of India to rescue the affected people by distributing the food grains from the FCI. Whereas cattle and other livestock are concerned, there is no such Fodder Bank which is to be set up to rescue them at the time of distress. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to earmark adequate funds for setting up of Fodder Bank at every cluster of villages to rescue our livestock during drought and other natural calamities.

My next point is about a national policy on medium of instruction at primary school level. This has also not been mentioned in the President's Address. The experts in the education field are of the firm view that in primary education, the mother tongue of the regional administrative language of the State should be made the medium of instruction. In a globalized era, it is very essential to promote and preserve our own language and culture. In order to promote Indian languages, the Union Government should bring a national policy in

regard to medium of instruction at primary level. I would like to urge upon the Union Government to consider the issue of bringing a national policy on medium of instruction.

I hope that the Union Government will come up to the expectations and aspirations of the people of our nation.

*[Translation]*

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA):** Hon. Chairperson, I rise to speak on behalf of my party, Rashtriya Lok Samata Party, in favour of the Motion of Thanks moved in the House on the President's Address.

Sir, our Constitution has accepted the concept of social justice and commitment towards it has also been expressed from time to time. But it is a matter of sadness and regret that social diversity and social justice should be seen in all the democratic institutions in the country. When we look at the highest judiciary of the country, we feel very sad and regretful that the one who is accountable, if social justice is not being done then there should be social justice. It is their responsibility to provide justice, but where there is responsibility to provide justice, there is no justice system today.

Sir, reflection of social diversity should be visible everywhere. There is a complete lack of this in the judiciary of the country. Our government tried, for the first time after independence the initiative was taken in the House and we would like to thank the people of all parties who unanimously supported it. Our government tried, took

decisions and the system is in place till now. If even a clerk is reinstated somewhere in the country, there is a provision for taking a written test. But the appointment process in the judiciary, some people just make recommendations and on the basis of that the appointment process takes place there. Our government had tried to break this situation of inertia. It was decided that there should be a change in the current system for the appointment of judges. Our government took the decision, everyone cooperated. But this initiative of our government was rejected and ended in one pen. We do not want to comment on this decision of the Hon. Judiciary. We want to say with all due respect and honour that you are finished, okay. But what is the situation? Till now OBC people have not got a place in the judiciary in this country, S.C. S.T. People did not get a place. Out of all the Chief Justices there have been till date, only two have been from the Dalit community, but since independence till date, there has not been a single Chief Justice from the OBC category. Sir, among all the people who are judges in the Supreme Court today, S.C. And S.T. The number is zero, there is not even one. The number of OBCs is only 2 and for women, half of the population we talk about giving reservation, but the number of women is only 1 in it. What is the situation? Whatever they want to do, they can do it, but when our

government tried, they rejected it. But the people of the country want to know today why such a situation is there?

The discussion was going on in the House, the issue of Hyderabad University was being discussed. I don't want to get into that debate, but the discussion that was going on that day ... *(Interruptions)* We will not speak on that, but the discussion that was going on, everyone talked about whatever system was there, Dalits were also included in that system. There should be space, this was the concern. People have only one intention behind this that the class for which we talk about justice should definitely be represented, only then people will have confidence in the judicial system. But when this is the situation in the Supreme Court, how will the people of the country be trusted? Those who are from OBC community, who are from Dalit community, who are from SC community. And S.T. There are people of the society, how can they trust them? This is not a matter of concern for just one party, it is not a matter of concern for one party, it is a matter of concern for the entire country. Therefore, we all should pay attention to this topic. Sir, it is said that when the forest starts a fire then the monsoon should extinguish it, and when the monsoon starts the fire then who will extinguish it. This is the situation of the judiciary in

India today. If this is the situation there then where will we go to seek justice. Therefore, there should be a change in this situation.

Sir, I have come from Bihar state after being elected from Karakat parliamentary constituency. Karakat Lok Sabha parliamentary constituency of Bihar has the largest population of farmers. Right now our government has taken many decisions in favour of farmers. How should farmers get benefits, how should they get fair prices for their crops? Our Prime Minister and our Government have taken many important decisions. We propose to double their income in the next few years. We work to provide assistance to the states in the name of support price. The Government of India decides the minimum price so that the farmers get its benefits. But farmers in Bihar are not getting the benefit of minimum support price.

Sir, my parliamentary constituency is a paddy producing area. Paddy is produced throughout Bihar but the area I represent is called the 'Rice Bowl'. Only one month is left for paddy procurement. How much paddy will the Bihar government be able to buy in just one month? The target of procuring paddy was 30 lakh metric tonnes, according to the paddy procured from the state government last week, 6,37,201 metric tonnes of paddy has been procured. It is 21 percent of

the target.... *(Interruptions)* Only 21 per cent paddy has been procured.... *(Interruptions)* This situation will remain... *(Interruptions)* The Government of India will continue to make efforts.... *(Interruptions)* But people will not be able to get the benefit from it. This is the condition of farmers in the state.... *(Interruptions)* Last year there were elections in Bihar. ... *(Interruptions)* When the people of the Grand Alliance wanted to get votes in the elections, they did the work of giving bonuses. ... *(Interruptions)* He had said that he will give a bonus next year also but this time the Bihar government has not given even a single paisa bonus. ... *(Interruptions)* This is a very sad situation. If this situation continues, any efforts of the Government of India will not be able to reach the bottom, this is a matter of misfortune.... *(Interruptions)* Not just that. Our government is working for the entire country through the education department. Whatever we want to do in Bihar through the Education Department of the Government of India, its condition is even more unfortunate. ... *(Interruptions)* There are 14 Kendriya Vidyalayas. The government of Bihar has not given any land for this. There is no one year, two year or five year school in them, but in Lakhisarai the school was opened in the year 1987-88, even after so many years the government has not yet done the work of giving the land.... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, on 24th June, 2015, the Government decided to open IIMs in all places of Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal but the Government of Bihar has not done the work of providing land so far. The decision to convert Patna Engineering College as NIT was of the old government. Approval was received on 28th February, 2004 but the formality of giving land has not been completed yet. There is an old proposal to open a Regional Centre of NCERT. ... *(Interruptions)* But the process of giving land there has not been completed yet. ... *(Interruptions)* There is a new proposal to open 62 Navodaya Vidyalayas across the country, but you will be sad to know this.... *(Interruptions)* Khagaria Navodaya Vidyalaya in Bihar opened not today but in the year 1993-94. But till date the Bihar government has not done the work of giving land for that Navodaya Vidyalaya. How will it be possible? Hon. Members are also from Bihar. Everyone keeps saying that Kendriya Vidyalaya should be opened. Jaiprakash ji, you also say many times that Kendriya Vidyalaya should be opened. ... *(Interruptions)* After all, how will the work of opening Kendriya Vidyalaya be done? If the Bihar government does not give land, we will not be able to open Kendriya Vidyalaya. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Kushwaha ji, please address the Chair.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI UPENDRA KUSHWAHA:** So if you really want to do something then the slogan will not happen.... *(Interruptions)* The issue of special status for Bihar will not be achieved by making it a mere political issue, it will happen by working for Bihar. ... *(Interruptions)* Please do the work. The people of Bihar have given you a chance, they have also given us a chance.... *(Interruptions)* Under the leadership of our Prime Minister, we are working for the entire country and also for Bihar. But you go there and work to stop that effort which is not right. ... *(Interruptions)*

With these words, I express my support on behalf of my party on the Motion of Thanks to His Excellency, the President. Thank you very much for giving me the time to speak.

***SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH BHOLE (AKBARPUR):** I would also like to express my gratitude to His Excellency the President who, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, has praised the programs and achievements of the popular government which is moving on the path of Antyodaya under the shadow of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's philosophy of Integral Humanity. Details have been given.

There is no doubt that due to the clear vision of strong leadership, the country has moved towards the goal of 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas' with full confidence. His Excellency the President has mentioned the priorities of progress of the poor, prosperity of farmers and providing employment to the youth. These are the problems and challenges that, as representatives of Kanpur city and rural areas, we have to face every day.

In saying that for the first time, the popular government of the country has brought a ray of hope and happiness in the lives of the farmers who were forced to commit suicide by making revolutionary changes in the Prime Minister Agricultural Insurance Scheme, but still these Annadata sons of Mother India are not considered equal to

* Speech was laid on the Table.

development and progress. A lot has to be done to provide opportunities.

I represent Akbarpur, a large and extended parliamentary constituency of Kanpur city and countryside. Its large area is connected to the coastal ravines of Yamuna, Ganga, Rihand, Sengur, Pandu and Sai rivers. Let us say that Yamuna river divides the border of this region from Bundelkhand. There is no doubt that the circumstances of Bundelkhand are very odd and worrying, but here it is to be noted that in the year 1954, there was a proposal in the then Uttar Pradesh that the geophysical, social and economic conditions of the coastal areas of Yamuna adjacent to Bundelkhand are the same and the facilities are separate from the deep stream of Yamuna 16 that the standard of holdings towards the south is uniform. Therefore, similar scale and programmes should be adopted for the development and welfare of this region with Bundelkhand.

Whatever may be the results, the truth cannot be denied that Bundelkhand's coffers have been filled on many occasions due to the greed for vote bank or loot, but on the other side of the deep river of Yamuna, just a few metres away, similar misery is happening. There is no one to take care of the helpless and destitute farmers living in

Kanpur city and countryside and in other words, the entire strip between Agra and Allahabad.

I am happy to inform you that this soldier of yours, despite not being in power, had recently launched a movement on this issue by mobilising the broad masses of that area. Today, being in power, our responsibility has increased. I would like to urge the government to take initiative for the development of this inaccessible Yamuna belt from Agra to Allahabad on par with Bundelkhand through the state government and in this partnership, the Center should take the initiative to change the ground situation by playing the role of vigilant monitoring.

Land levelling can also play a big role in the transformation of this region. It is well known that landholdings are continuously becoming smaller, and large tracts of the Yamuna belt are unable to utilise agricultural produce due to inequality and degradation. If the Union Government, in coordination with the State Government, takes over a comprehensive and practical scheme of geo-equalisation in the area from Agra to Allahabad in Bihar strip, then there is no doubt that the hardworking farmers here can be helpful in changing the picture of the State and the country. It would also be appropriate to mention here

that the farmers who suffered the brunt of the natural disaster last year have not yet received the relief amount provided by the Centre.I would urge the government to promptly complete this incomplete relief distribution work under its supervision.

I would like to especially thank the Prime Minister that he has provided the cover of protection not only to the fields but even to the barns to the farmers from the devastation caused by natural calamities in the new agricultural insurance scheme. But I would like to draw attention towards a new challenge facing the farmers in this entire agricultural belt including Kanpur city and countryside. This new problem has arisen in the form of stray animals being abandoned. Shrinking land holdings, decreasing use of oxen in agriculture and the tendency to abandon milkless cows have become a new disaster for farmers. This new problem has broken the back of the farmers who are already facing the terror of nilgais. Since the government is keeping rural employment very high among its priorities, can an integrated plan for youth employment and agricultural security through rearing of such stray animals and utilisation of their dung, urine etc. be worked out? I feel that the initiative of the Modi government is that it will not only help in stopping the indiscriminate

migration to the cities, but will also reflect the famous folk poet Ghagh of Kanyakubja region that:

**“Doing Farming is Good, Then Doing Business, after that Doing Job, then least is Begging”**

It is true that under the visionary leadership of the Prime Minister, ambitious campaigns have been taken up like every drop of excess crop under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana and water harvesting for water irrigation, but the ground reality is that due to the mismanagement and insensitivity of the state government, the canals are in poor condition. They are dry and the tube wells are bad. The second phase of Amrahat Pump Canal, an ambitious project of Kanpur Nagar and Dehat, cannot even start. I would appeal to the government to put pressure on the state government to take positive and effective steps on these issues related to farmers.

I would like to thank the Prime Minister and his Government for introducing a number of insurance and pension schemes keeping in view the health and social security of the common man, but regrettably it is also necessary to add that the condition of health services in Kanpur Dehat is very bad. There is a community health centre but doctors and facilities are not available. The condition of

primary health centres is even worse. In order to properly diagnose the emergency situations of the villagers, it is necessary that the facilities established under the Rural Health Mission should be equipped with doctors and equipment and to expand the primary health services up to the Nyaya Panchayat level, PHCs should be established.

One example is enough to illustrate the health services of my parliamentary constituency. Bauhar and many other villages of Bhitargaon block of Ghatampur assembly constituency were hit by acute viral fever, which is called Vichitra fever in the local dialect. The affected patients were sent to Lala Lajpat Rai Hospital in Kanpur, but there was no arrangement for necessary blood tests. As a result, blood samples had to be sent to the National Center for Disease Control, Delhi and no definite treatment could be given until the test results were received from there. As a result, half a dozen people lost their lives and hundreds of people succumbed to the disease. Kanpur is not only a hub for itself but also for the health services of large tracts of central Uttar Pradesh and Bundelkhand. In such a situation, it is very important to strengthen the services there.

It is heartening that under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, the Government is aiming to connect 1 lakh 78 lost villages by concrete roads by March 2019 and a comprehensive scheme named 'Bharatmala' has been taken up for development of National Highways. But there is a strong need to crack down on the problems being faced by the civilised, educated and common people due to rigging, hooliganism and illegal recovery at the toll points built on these highways, so that the government does not get tarnished by the activities of these anarchic points. In this context, I would like to especially mention the irregularities of Bara Toll Plaza located on Etawah-Chakeri Highway in Kanpur Dehat district, in respect of which authentic complaints have been made available to the government. Still, illegal collection and rigging on Uttar Pradesh toll continues. The allocation of this toll was done against the rules by the previous government and there were discussions about the collusion of Ministers and officials of the previous government. Hon. Road Transport Minister is also aware of these facts. I demand to stop the looting of public pockets by the toll operators and the anarchy being spread by them and also demand a high level investigation into the allocation of this entire contract and its cancellation.

The country is proud of the fact that the government has started the Smart City Scheme to rejuvenate the cities which are turning into slums and are becoming worse than villages. But I want to express my surprise at the decision to keep Kanpur city separate from this list. This city, formerly known as Manchester, had a real right to be included in the first list of cities selected for the Smart City Plan in every respect. I would like to draw the attention of the government that it should take the initiative to correct this error in the list and give Kanpur its desired right.

I thank His Excellency the President for his emotional and insightful address.

*__SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRDIH):__ The way His Excellency the President has mentioned Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay's principle "Antyodaya" in his address, it becomes clear that the government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji. The NDA government wants to bring even the last person of the society into the mainstream through development. A living example of which is the 21 crore accounts opened by the common people under the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana. It is the faith of the great people of the country towards Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji that the great people of the country have deposited Rs. 32 thousand crore in the exchequer of the country in the account of zero balance. In his address, His Excellency the President has mentioned the government's vision of “upliftment of the poor”, “prosperity of farmers” and “employment to the youth”. Certainly, we can say that whether accounts are opened under Jan Dhan Yojana or Atal Pension Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Suraksha Bima Yojana, under which Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Insurance is being given for just Rs. 1 per month or Rs. 12 per year.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

All these schemes are becoming evidence for the progress of the poor. As far as farmers are concerned, our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has always said that the welfare of the country is not possible unless the farmers of the country are prosperous. Our government has taken very beneficial decisions in the interest of farmers, be it Kisan Bima Yojana or Soil Health Card or reducing the limit of assessed loss due to crop disaster from 50 to 33 percent. For the first time in the country, “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana” has been launched with the aim of providing water to every farm.

Today, it is the result of the government's transparent work that the supply of fertiliser in the country has been ensured. Today, work is being done for an integrated national market with the objective of establishing a common E-Market platform connecting 585 wholesale markets simultaneously to give maximum market price to farmers. With this, India can be made One Food Zone, One Country, One Market. With this, our farmers will get a fair price for their crops and hard work.

I thank the President for all the schemes mentioned in his Address and the policies inspired by the development test and 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' of the Government of India.

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, it is often that His Excellency the President recounts the achievements of his Government last year. It has been applauded recently. Next day it is published in the paper and in the electronic media that we have done this and that. But I want to bring some things to the public through you. ... *(Interruptions)* I will also bring it before the House because the people have sent us here.... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please address the Chair. You have got just five minutes to speak. Do not waste your time.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:** We are here because of the people. If the public had not voted, you too would not have been here. Then one has to come to Rajya Sabha like Jaitley Sahab, who is not liked by the public. Votes were sought in the name of Digital India, votes were sought in the name of Bullet Train. But the debate is on the fact that you cannot eat this, you cannot sing this, you cannot wear this. Where did these cows, buffaloes and goats come from? On one hand they are talking about Digital India, on the other hand they will get a menu from the BJP office as to what to eat, whether to listen to Ghulam Ali's

song or not. This is the politics of hatred. Now how did the politics of hatred come? What did you do for the farmers? One lakh 14 thousand crore rupees were waived off from the industrialists that they are industrialists, they cannot pay the money. What did you do for the farmers?

I come from Punjab. There are 3-3, 4-4 widows living under one roof in Punjab. Two sons died, the father died, he committed suicide. Why was the crop destroyed. There was a debt. How much was the debt - Rs.80 thousand. Think something for the farmers. Where did the Swaminathan Committee report go? The Prime Minister had said at the time of election that he will implement the Swaminathan Committee report. Where did he go? There is nothing. You will be surprised that a farmer of Punjab is getting his daughter married by selling his kidney. The one who used to feed the entire country is himself forced to sleep hungry. Have you ever found out? Harsimrat ji, look at your constitution. ... *(Interruptions)* This is an anti-Dalit government. Dalits are being suppressed, the poor are being suppressed. Rohit Vaimula did not commit suicide, he has been murdered. When the HRD Ministry was writing 5-5 letters, they were not letters, they were writing warrants of Rohit's death. Our youth was so talented, it forced him to commit suicide. The HRD Minister is

giving a very angry speech, emotion, this is not a serial - mother-in-law was also sometimes daughter-in-law, this is the house, one should speak in one's own way here. This means whatever you say is there. He is being praised wow, wow, wow. What is this happening? I want to say how are our relations with Pakistan. What Modi ji was saying - one head will be cut, we will bring 15. What happened? He is drinking tea with Nawaz Sharif. The Prime Minister of our country, the biggest democracy in the world, lands his plane in Lahore without informing the opposition. We come to know that hey, he is drinking tea because there was a function in his house and on top of that he is carrying out attacks sometimes in Pathankot and sometimes in Dinanagar. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude your speech. It has been four minutes since you spoke, so I rang the bell.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:** Chairperson Sir, please allow me to speak.

*... (Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You conclude your speech in one minute.

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:** Chairperson Sir, let me speak. ... *(Interruptions)* When the Prime Minister goes to an RSS function, it is said there that he is a very true servant. This is the same RSS office in which the tricolour flag was not hoisted in Nagpur for 52 years. Those who are distributing patriotic precautions did not hoist the tricolour for 52 years.... *(Interruptions)* Afzal Guru is being talked about. Are you with Afzal Guru or against him? I say that the Aam Aadmi Party opposes Afzal Guru. You tell us whether you are with or against the PDP, which called Afzal Guru a martyr. You are forming the government with them only. ... *(Interruptions)* I want to say that this is the first time in politics, in democracy, that CBI raids the office of an elected Chief Minister and also takes away the secret cabinet registers. What did he get? Nothing was found. Is this talk about saving the federal structure? In the end, I would like to say to those who spread politics of hatred that

Don't divide the community into tribes,

Don't divide a long journey into miles,

My country India is a flowing river

Don't divide it into rivers and lakes.

Thank you so much.

**THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M.VENKAIAH NAIDU):** Bhagwant Mann ji, I want to remind you. ... *(Interruptions)* BJP along with PDP formed the government in Kashmir in the interest of the country. Before that, the Congress also formed the government, but you formed the government in Delhi with the Congress.

**SHRI BHAGWANT MANN:** What is this answer? ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Nothing would go on record except the speech of Shri Ajmal.

… *(Interruptions)*[*]

**SHRI SIRAJUDDIN AJMAL (BARPETA):** Sir, I thank you very much for giving me an opportunity to express the views of my Party, All India United Democratic Front.

[*] Not recorded.

Sir, we come from one of the most backward States of India, Assam. We have got so many problems but due to paucity of time, I am unable to air all my problems. I believe that the good work of the Government should be appreciated but at the same time all those things which have been neglected and the issues which have not been addressed should also be pointed out by the people's representatives. People of Assam have sent us here to talk about their problems.

The President's Address is supposed to be the mirror of the Government's policy and its agenda. Therefore, I would like to highlight some of the issues. As you know, the prices of essential commodities are rising. The prices of all the essential commodities like rice, wheat, pulses, vegetables and onions are touching the sky. The poor people are unable to have anything. Their children remain hungry in the night. Millions of people are living under the poverty line and the Government is doing zilch in the matter.

You will be surprised to know that people in Assam are forced to throw vegetables on the roads. As you know, millions of tonnes of wheat are rotting in Government godowns.

As regards maintaining peace in the country, the incidents of communal riots are increasing so much that there is a 20 percent rise

in communal incidents in the last one year. I do not know how the objectionable speeches of the representatives of the people from the Ruling Party are going to stop so that this entire thing stops immediately. This was not mentioned in the Address of the Hon. President.

The next point is on arsenic and fluoride in drinking water. Arsenic and fluoride are the bane of drinking water all around India, especially in Assam. On 8.5.2015 I had drawn the attention of the House towards lapse in mitigation of fluoride and arsenic in drinking water in the State of Assam in my Parliamentary constituency. Till today nothing has been done in this regard. In fact, I have been directed to meet the Hon. Prime Minister in this matter.

The other point is about the Minority character of Aligarh Muslim University and the Jamia Milia University should not be disturbed as various Committees and Commissions have stressed the point that Muslims are the most backward community as far as education and economy are concerned.

Sir, there have been various floods in cities and States like Mumbai, Bihar, Uttarakhand, Jammu and Kashmir and Tamil Nadu but flood and erosion of banks of rivers is a very serious problem. This

has destroyed lives and it has affected the lives of normal people and rendered them poor. Something special should be done in this regard. We have met Ms. Uma Bharati, the Hon. Minister of Water Resources, on several occasions and I have heard that she has done something for our State of Assam. We have been demanding and I am repeating it once again that flood and erosion should be declared a national calamity as far as the State of Assam is concerned and special funds should be allocated for flood and erosion in my State.

Sir, India has become so volatile that our forefathers who fought for the country's Independence are being branded as anti-nationals and terrorists but whose forefathers never fought for Independence has become the *rakhwala* of India today. It is very sad to say that incidence of sexual harassment and rape is increasing by the day and something very special should be done to check this and very tough laws should be framed to control this.

Sir, I would like to put on record some of the demands of my Party. The flood and erosion of Assam should be declared as national calamity and measures should be taken to control the flood and erosion in the State; Implementation of recommendations given by the Sacchar Committee and Ranganath Mishra Commission; need to

provide houses to flood and erosion affected people of Assam; need to control communal violence and introduce the Communal Violence Bill immediately. Steps should be taken to ensure Muslim reservation and need to give constitutional power to the National Commission for Minority and need to give justice to innocent Muslim youths who have been arrested falsely and the guilty should be punished. There is a need for measures to control prices … *(Interruptions)* Need to have stringent laws for safety and security of women and need to ensure implementation of PM's 15 point programme … *(Interruptions)*

Thank you.

*__SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI (HAVERI):__ While supporting the Motion moved by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi Ji and seconded by Shrimati Harsimrart Kaur Ji, I would like to make certain observations.

His Excellency the President in his address to the Joint Session of the Parliament mentioned the achievements of the Government during the previous year and the roadmap for the current year for the Union Government in 81 paragraphs.

Agriculture is the backbone of Indian economy. Realising the greater importance of the agriculture sector, our Hon. Prime Minister has given to priority for the development of agriculture in the country. As per the information, currently about 142 million hectares are used for cultivation in our country, out of which only 45 percent farmland is under irrigation.

" The major objective of the PMKSY is to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level, expand cultivable area under assured irrigation (har khet ko pani), improve on-farm water use efficiency to reduce wastage of water, enhance adoption of precision-

* Speech was laid on the Table.

irrigation and other water-saving technologies (more crop per drop), In this scheme my district Haveri has also been included.

With an eye on improving farm productivity, the union government has decided to spend Rs. 50,000 crore over the next four years under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY).

In the year 2015-16, Rs. 5,300 crore was allocated for the scheme. It is expected that an additional 6 lakh hectares would come under irrigation and 5 lakh hectares will benefit from trip irrigation. Besides this, about 1,300 watershed projects have been marked for completion.

With regard to welfare of Farmers the Union government has taken a commendable step to increase the relief from the government to distressed farmers. As we are aware that the farmers in our country are in great hardship as Rabi and Kharif crops were damaged due to natural calamities such as drought in some parts of the country and unseasonal rain and hail storms in other parts of the country. According to some reports, the unseasonal rains and hailstorms have damaged rabi (winter -sown) crops in 113 lakh hectares of area across 14 states including my state Karnataka. The total cultivable area in the

rabi season stands at 600 lakh hectares. Rabi crops mainly include wheat, mustard and pulses etc.;

In order to give immediate and adequate relief to the affected farmers our Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji has changed the guidelines criteria of 50 per cent crop damage for providing compensation and reduced it to 33 per cent, crop damage. The new guidelines will help more and more farmers get compensation for their crop loss.

Another important decision that the government has taken is to raise the parameters to increase the amount of compensation to 1.5 times for affected farmers. Earlier an affected farmer was getting Rs.100 as compensation, now he will get Rs. 150. Earlier if it was Rs. 1 lakh, now he will get Rs.1.5 lakh. Total 50 per cent is increased in the compensation to farmers. Taking such a pro-farmer measure, the BJP government realised the responsibility of the Union government in understanding the problems faced by farmers due to abnormal weather conditions. At this juncture, I would like to suggest that both the Union and State Governments should issue stringent directions to the banks and insurance companies to provide relief to the farmers and to settle claims of farmers on a priority basis.

With regard to voluntary give up LPG subsidy, the Union Government launched the 'Give It Up' movement in Karnataka on 4th April 2015. People of the entire country responded positively to the sincere appeal of the government under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi ji to voluntarily give up their subsidy amount given on Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) cylinders. The money surrendered under this movement will be utilised to give LPG connections to people in rural areas who are still using firewood for cooking.

Our NDA Government has taken a very right step to encourage the youth of the country to become Job Creators, not Job seekers by introducing the Pradhan Mantri MUDRA (Micro Units Development and Refinance Agency) Yojana or PMMY scheme to fund for setting up small business such as tailoring shops, grocery shops and cosmetic shops, etc; All these years they were forced to take loans from the unorganised sector at an exorbitant annual rate of interest, sometimes at even 100 percent . But now the Government has given them an opportunity to have access to institutional credit to get loans of up to Rs.50,000 from banks at much lower rates.

The union Government has rightly identified the cause of unemployment and made sincere attempts to create employment

opportunities by promoting small enterprises. As per the information, large industries create more employment. He said, a look at the details reveals the reality that only 1.25 crore people find employment in large industries, whereas small enterprises employ 12 crore people in the country. So I would congratulate the Union Government for such a pro-youth scheme like MUDRA. I would also like to suggest the Government to take necessary action against the Banks which discourage the youth to give them Collateral Free Loans to set up enterprises.

Hon. Prime Minister Narenda Modi ji launched three social security schemes, relating to the insurance and pension sector, intended at widening the process of financial inclusion. They are " Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana" (accident insurance), "Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Yojana" (life insurance ) and "Atal Pension Yojana". The schemes target the poor and unorganised sector who are neither covered by any form of insurance, nor get pension. Under the accident insurance schemes, a person will provide cover of Rs. 200,000 for an annual premium of Rs.12. The cover is for accidental death or permanent total disability. The life insurance scheme will offer a renewable one year life cover of Rs. 200,000 to all savings bank account holders in the age group of 18 to 50 years,

covering death due to any reason, for a premium of Rs.330 per annum per subscriber.

On the other hand, the pension scheme focuses on the unorganised sector and provides subscribers a fixed minimum pension of Rs. 1,000.Rs. 2,000, Rs. 3,000 Rs. 4,000 or Rs. 5,000 per month starting at the age of 60 years, depending on the contribution option exercised on entering at an age between 18 and 40 years. Thus, the period of contribution by any subscriber under APY would be 20 years or more. The benefit of fixed minimum pension enjoys sovereign guarantee. With these words I support the motion. Thank You.

**SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR):** Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. I rise to speak in support of the Motion initiated by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi ji and seconded by Hon. Minister Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal ji to thank the Hon. President for jointly addressing both the Houses of Parliament on 23rd February, 2016.

It is a matter of great pride for me that my Government has focused on the three-fold objective of poverty eradication; farmer's prosperity and employment generation. As far as poverty eradication is concerned, I appreciate the NDA Government's effort towards financial inclusion and social security. It is heartening to state that zero balance accounts under *Pradhan Mantri Jandhan Yojana* have declined from 76 percent to 36 percent in a span of one year between 2014 and 2015. Also, out of 21 crores accounts today opened under the *Pradhan Mantri Jandhan Yojana,* 15 crore accounts are operational with an aggregate deposit of Rs. 32000 crore.

Sir, there was a lot of talk about food security. I am glad that my Government is using it to ensure relief to a lot of poor and needy people. Hon. Members from the Congress Party said that food security

is nothing new that the NDA Government has done. This is a flagship scheme of the UPA Government. Yes, there is no doubt about it. However, it is important to mention here that the food security scheme was launched by the UPA Government in 2013, however, during their time it was implemented only in 11 States, whereas under the rule of the NDA Government, the scheme has been implemented more effectively and today 24 States have implemented it.

He said a lot of things about the Gujarat Government being slammed by the Supreme Court. It is important to point out here that Gujarat is not the only State which has not implemented the Food Security Act. It is just one of the States among the big list of States like my own State, UP, MP, Bihar, Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, Chhattisgarh, Tamil Nadu and Kerala which still have not implemented the scheme.

I am not forgetting to mention here that Kerala is also one of the States which is being ruled by the Congress-led UDF Government where the scheme has not been implemented so far. Its Chief Minister says that he still needs extension of time for implementing the scheme on account of the identification of the beneficiaries and hence the process which is not complete as yet.

I am happy that our Government has tried to provide insurance cover to a lot of needy people by means of three flagship schemes like Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and Atal Pension Yojana.

As far as the second objective of farmers' prosperity is concerned, I only want to say one thing. The obvious does not require proof. Just two days ago, our Union Minister presented the Budget for 2016-17 and the Budget has been lauded across the nation for being agriculture centric. An amount of Rs. 36,000 crore has been set aside for farmers' welfare. As regards crop insurance, a new scheme has been in place with the lowest ever premium rates. Soil Health Cards are to be issued to 14 crore people by 2017.

As far as irrigation is concerned, there is a long term Irrigation Fund which the Government plans to create. Organic farming is being promoted. I know that a lot of Members from the Opposition raised the issue of organic farming being a costly affair. However, I am sure that our Government is also considering the idea of addressing the cost factor as far as organic farming is concerned.

Sugarcane arrears have also been brought down from Rs. 21,000 crore to Rs. 1800 crores.

There was a lot of hue and cry from the Opposition regarding neem coating of urea. Of course, this is also not a new initiative of NDA Government because neem coating is being done for the past 11 years but it is important to point out here that initially, neem coating was allowed only for 35 percent of the total production of subsidised fertilisers whereas the credit to the NDA Government is that it has allowed 100 per cent neem coating of urea so as to avoid any sort of leakages and diversion of urea for industrial uses.

The UPA Government waived off the loans and debts of the farmers to almost Rs. 72,000 crores and it was a big relief to the farmers. Our Government has not done anything so far. I also come from a State which has a region called Bundelkhand which has been in news for many years for a number of farmers committing suicide. I urge upon the Government to consider the idea of waiving off the debts of the farmers.

As far as the third objective of employment generation is concerned, there are a lot of initiatives like Make In India, Startup India, Skill India and Mudra Yojana which have been taken up by the Government in order to promote the youth to become job creators

rather than being job seekers. I am quite confident that these initiatives are going to transform the future of the Indian youth.

There has also been an idea floated by the Hon. President in his Address that the Government has a vision to induct more and more women personnel in the Armed Forces. A few days back, I read an article which described the state of affairs in the Armed Forces as far as women are concerned. Our set-up is still not very women-friendly. I only want to say that the equipment, uniforms and other things are not designed keeping in mind the convenience of women members. There is a lack of proper amenities for women. If you are thinking of inducting more women into the Armed Forces, the Government should also try to make the environment and set-up more women-friendly.

I just want to end by saying that today, Shri Rahul Gandhi has given us a new scheme which surprisingly even our Government and none of us are aware of, namely, the fair and lovely scheme. I am not aware of any such scheme. I am only aware of Fair and Lovely cream which is one of the most popular skin lightening creams trusted and used by millions of women worldwide. Trust me, it has transformed the lives of millions of women. I am sure that the fair and lovely

yojana of the Government which he thinks of will also transform India because our Government thinks of bringing back the black money to change the lives of millions of Indians. I am sure that this is going to be an instrument of transformation. Thank you.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA):** Hon. Chairperson, I thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the motion of thanks on the President's address.

I welcome the speech of the President. Actually, this entire speech is prepared by the government and tells about its achievements. But I am also surprised at the discrimination being done by the government. The well-known demand of a backward state like Bihar to "grant special status to Bihar" has not been mentioned anywhere in the address.

Bihar is a very backward state, where there are no factories. After November 2000, all the mineral estates moved from Bihar to Jharkhand. Bihar now faces devastation every year due to floods and droughts, which forces people to face tragedy. After partition, all sources of income have gone to Jharkhand. It was said many times during the speech by the Hon. Prime Minister said that he will give a special package to Bihar or will give special state status to Bihar, but there is no mention of it. I supported it in the Parliament on the question of special status and all the leaders of Bihar from Delhi to Patna supported it. When we were in NDA, all NDA people also

supported it. Therefore, I would like the Hon. Prime Minister to definitely make efforts to give special state status to Bihar.

The Prime Minister had also talked about the Housing Scheme for the poor. But there is no mention of anything regarding the provision of permanent houses to every poor person through which every poor person will get a permanent house. He had said that I will also remove the plight of farmers. In Bihar, the state government has been giving bonus continuously, but this time the reason for not giving the bonus is that in the letter sent from the Finance Ministry of the Government of India, it has been said that the bonus given by the state government on grains is not given by FCI to that paddy. Will be able to take it. Therefore, the state government has also stopped this bonus. Therefore, I would like to tell the Government of India that every farmer should be given a bonus on paddy and wheat so that the farmers can get benefits.

Many things were said by the Hon. Prime Minister. He had said that there was talk of finding a solution to the plight of the farmers, due to which they are not able to get fair prices. He had said that farmers will be given a dividend of one and a half times the cost price, but this is also not mentioned anywhere in the budget. I would request

that farmers should get everything at a reasonable price. There should also be a solution for this for the benefit of farmers.

The government talks about "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas". But I say that our leader Shri Nitish Kumar ji, who is running the government in Bihar, is doing "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas" and proper justice is being done. I have not talked about discrimination. Backward States are being neglected in the concept of "Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas". Bihar is not being given the status of a special state. The special package that has been announced should also be given. The state is also demanding outstanding amounts from the Center regarding various issues.

Be it Rohith Vemula's case or JNU's case, we discuss it in Parliament, but I would tell the government that today the entire country is going through a phase of intolerance. I would request that the atrocities being committed on Dalits and youth should be stopped.

Hon. Prime Minister has also talked about the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. But no mention has been made about this either. It is the wish of every member how to complete the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. This question is related to all MPs.

**YOGI ADITYANATH (GORAKHPUR):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise here to support the Motion of Thanks moved by Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi on the Address made by His Excellency, the President in the House assembled in Parliament on 23th February.

Hon. Chairperson, His Excellency the President's address is a document of the achievements and future plans of the government. This welcome of His Excellency the President is indicating the achievements of this government as well as the future plans. Therefore, I will start my talk from the last paragraph of this address, in which, quoting Netaji Subha Chandra Bose, His Excellency the President said that it is very important to mention nationalism by associating it with the highest ideals of mankind – Satyam Shivam Sundaram. Explaining this in beautiful words, he said that wherever truth is, there is Shiva. Shiva means welfare and welfare system and where there is welfare system, beauty is also seen there.

Sir, when we talk about nationalism, no nation can be imagined without nationalism. Nationality of any nation is its soul, in the absence of nationalism no nation can travel very long. Our biggest sad aspect after independence has been the loss of the feeling of nationalism. For any country to develop, it has to have a national

character to move forward. Without that national character that nation cannot progress. JNU is being talked about again and again here. I went to Jantar Mantar yesterday. A campaign for cow protection is going on there. There, a program of serial fasting was going on by the saints of the country and by a large community to declare Mother Cow as the Mother of the Nation. Next to it, a serial fast program was going on by some students, in which anti-India slogans were openly raised. The freedom and autonomy of JNU that people talk about, how that autonomy has been made synonymous with unruly and unruly behaviour, yesterday such slogans were being raised shamelessly at a public place like Jantar Mantar. That is why no one can even imagine that if the feeling of nationalism does not disappear, then the students studying in higher educational institutions like JNU would make a malicious attempt to malign the Mother Nation and raise slogans against her. This scene can also be seen in this country. We should not forget that in the Second World War, Japan, which was completely destroyed in 1945, has made its place in the developed countries of the world today because of its national character and where India stands. Along with every member of this House, we should also consider those who are talking about autonomy and independence

today. Many people have the misconception that the concept of India as a nation began when Discovery of India was written in this country.

Sir, this country was not formed in 1947. The journey of this country has been going on for thousands of years. We all should not forget that in the Atharvaveda, India has been worshipped like a mother – “Mata Bhoomi: Putroshaham”. This has been said while expressing the feeling of 'Prithivya'. Yajurveda talks about "Vayam Rastr Jagrayam Purohita", but some people are victims of the misconception that India was created when Pandit Nehru wrote "Discovery of India. Some people, our communist brothers, were giving speeches here and I was surprised to see them. Communist Party was established in India in 1920. The Communists have never considered India as a nation in their movement that has been going on since 1920. India has been called a group of nationalities. Even today, due to the same values, I sometimes go to JNU. Sometimes in some other place, by raising such slogans, they are challenging the entire Indian nationhood. The feeling of nationalism which His Excellency the President has mentioned here for the first time, I am sure that at least every member of this House understands that feeling of nationalism and about that ancient nation, about which our

mythological literature has written thousands of years ago. The Vishnu Purana says:

Uttaram Yatsamudrasya, Himadrechaiva Save Dakshinam.

Varsham Tad Bharatam Naamah, Bharati Yatra Santati.

The sentiment about India is very important.

Sir, the spirit of democracy has been mentioned in the second paragraph of this address. Democracy is synonymous with equality, fraternity and justice. Democracy is coordination between consent and disagreement. This sentiment of "Aa No Bhadra Kritvoyanthu Vishwatah" in which the limits of freedom of expression are imposed while respecting that sentiment. But this idea of democracy, how these people have divided this spirit, based on minority and majority.

What the President has mentioned in this address is that the resources of the Government of this country have the rights of the poor, the rights of the last person of this country. This government is never working to divide the society on the basis of minority and majority, sometimes on the basis of caste or religion, or on the basis of forward and backward. This government talks about Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas. In this democracy, when we try to divide a society on

the basis of minority and majority, then that effort is a kind of attack on democracy.

People are saying that nothing has happened in the last 19-20 months. Whose accounts have been opened under Jan Dhan Yojana? More than 21 crore accounts have so far been opened under this scheme. Out of that, 15 crore accounts are in operational condition. The deposit capital of Rs. 35,000 crore is present there today, in eradicating poverty and providing financial services and security to the last person of the society. This means that the person whose account has been opened in the Jan Dhan Yojana, along with credit of Rs 5,000, has also been provided that if unfortunately he is a victim of an accident, then there is a provision for insurance of Rs 2 lakh. Guaranteeing security, they are giving accounts under Jan Dhan Yojana to every person of this country, that too without any discrimination. We did not say that only so and so minority or so and so caste has the right on this account. We have made announcements for every person of the society. In that sense, those schemes are going on. Other welfare announcements that have been announced, like Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Bima Jyoti Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana are extremely important and an effort to give a new lease of life to the last person of the society.

Sir, I want to talk about the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. Keeping in mind the six crore people of this country, the government has started three types of schemes to move the unemployed of the country towards self-reliance. In which there are schemes named Shishu, Kishore and Tarun. There is a scheme of Rs 50,000 for this scheme. The juvenile scheme has a provision of 50,000 to 5,00,000 Rupees and the Tarun scheme has a provision of 5,00,000 to 10,0000 rupees. All these three schemes have talked about benefiting the people without any guarantee. Under the Shishu Yojana, there is a provision to provide loans to the people on easy instalments.

Sir, for the first time a Prime Minister of India launches 'Swachh Bharat Abhiyan'. Together crores of people engage in that cleanliness exercise within the whole country. Let us realise the vision of connecting Clean India with Strong India. Toilets will be installed in primary schools of the country where basic facilities were not available. For the first time it has been seen and more than five lakh toilets have been built in primary schools till now.

Similar programmes have been organised in rural areas too. The Government has issued proposals for construction of two crore houses so far under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana for providing housing to

all by the year 2022, which is very important. Also, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, 14 crore agricultural holdings of this country have been made keeping in mind the soil health card and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana farmers of this country. Keeping farmers in mind, the Hon. Minister of Finance presented the important budget proposal in the House, and some important announcements have been made in it. This is a very important scheme to promote organic farming in five lakh acres in the country. Due to the wrong policies of the previous governments, the proposal of this government to move that farmer towards prosperity and double the income of the farmers of this country by the year 2022. For the first time in this country, when the Government of Hon. Modi came to power, the sugar mills of this country owed Rs. 21 thousand crores to the sugarcane farmers. But today only 18 hundred crore rupees are left due to the efforts of the government, all the rest of the money has been paid by the farmers. This has been seen for the first time.

Sir, this government has allocated Rs. 2 lakh crore for the development of villages in the country for the next five years so that Gandhiji's vision of Gram Swaraj can be realised in the Gram Panchayats of the country. At the same time, efforts have been made to show a new path for employment and self-reliance for the youth of

the country through schemes like Make in India, Startup India, Skill India etc. Under Skill India, more than 76 lakh youth have been trained in this country so far. In the field of higher education, the government has so far started the work of establishing two Indian Institutes of Technology, 6 Indian Institutes of Management, one Indian Institute of Science, Education and Research and one Indian Institute of Technology.

Sir, water is life. The Government has run a massive awareness campaign for conservation and management of water on the basis of Gram Panchayats of this country. With the highest ever allocation under MNREGA, five lakh wells will be dug in the country in the coming years. This Government has started this work for the first time. Namami Gange, in this country the sentiments of all Indians towards Mother Ganga are connected. The government has allocated Rs. 20,000 crore to maintain the cleanliness and availability of Ganga and has also implemented its schemes for complete sanitation solutions for 188 cities and 1649 gram panchayats located on the banks of the Ganga.

Sir, I want to talk about energy. I come from Uttar Pradesh. There is no electricity in Uttar Pradesh. When this government came, it

produced the highest number of records of electricity in a year. This Government has set a target that by May 2018, we will provide electricity to every household in every village of the country through Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and will work to electrify urban areas as well as replace the dilapidated poles and wires under the Power Integrated Development Scheme. This work has been done by the government to ensure that 24 hours electricity is supplied to rural and urban areas. At the same time, while respecting faith, the government has started work on 13 circuits and 13 pilgrimage sites under Swadesh Darshan Scheme, PRASAD Scheme, connecting Char Dhams with roadways.

The government has shown sentiments towards the soldiers inside the country. People from there also used to talk about One Rank, One Pension, but it has been implemented by this Government and today the soldier of this country feels proud that at least a Government has come to think about him and that is why when the JNU episode came, the ex-servicemen of the country came in lakhs and took that disorderly and defiant action in JNU of Delhi. We protested against JNU and at the same time warned JNU that if such activities are not stopped, we will work to return our degrees awarded by JNU.

**19.00 hours**

Sir, I also want to draw attention towards the foreign policy of the government, because the foreign policy front was being discussed again and again. Nepal is our neighbouring country. How did these people behave with Nepal? Nepal was the only Hindu nation in the world. But today the Prime Minister of Nepal himself came here and realised that the people who filled me with misconceptions about India are the same people who had never expressed their respect for India in front of the American Ambassador. What kind of comments do they make and come here and present their proof of patriotism, but when they go in front of the American Ambassador, they poison India there. The same people had created a similar environment in Nepal also. But when the Prime Minister of Nepal saw the scene after coming to India, today he realised that my feeling towards India was wrong and after going to Nepal he said that I used to have a feeling towards India, somewhere I regret that the feeling that India has towards Nepal today. This is India's policy and the historical treaties that have been signed with Nepal, with Bhutan, with Myanmar, with Bangladesh and the kind of relations that we have established with Sri Lanka today. Today, this is the first time in the entire world that every country in the world appears to be eager to attend the Prime Minister's

foreign program. The way America, Russia, Japan, China and every other country in the world welcomed and honoured the Prime Minister of India, I think it should at least be inspirational for all these people.

Sir, this government is completely dedicated to the security and sovereignty of the country, the internal and external security of the nation has already been strengthened. We appreciate all these efforts made by the government and with these words, I support the motion of thanks presented here by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi to His Excellency the President. Thank you.

*__SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA (PHULPUR):__ I support the address of His Excellency the President. The way the Government led by Hon. Narendra Modi has started work after the formation of the Government for the villages, poor, farmers and youth. The country will definitely be eliminated from poverty, corruption, starvation, education, disease and unemployment. I believe that the Congress-led UPA government has: -

They looted the country, looted the state. Looted the village farmers.

Looted the game and looted the barn. Looted the whole of India.

Hon. Narendra ji's government has realised the vision of Antyodaya through the philosophy of Integral Humanity and has taken steps to solve the problems like progress of the poor, prosperity of farmers, employment to the youth and housing for the homeless etc. It is clear that the Modi government is moving forward with a strong resolve of 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas'.

Supporting His Excellency the President's Address, I urge the Government to undertake the establishment of the Medical, Agriculture, Engineering Faculty at Allahabad University in the holy

* Speech was laid on the Table.

place of Maa Saraswati from the point of view of education as well as the arrangement of hostels for 1 lakh students.

By the grace of Maa Saraswati, Allahabad has played an important role in every field of nation building. I would also request that every year the Magh Mela in Tirthraj Prayag is bigger than the Kumbh and Ardh Kumbh Melas held at other places in the country. But due to lack of facilities one has to face difficulties, hence please give the status of semi Kumbh Mela to Magh Mela in Prayag and make permanent arrangements for the pilgrims.

*[English]*

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR):** Hon. Chairman, Sir, I am happy to participate in this discussion on the Motion of Thanks to the President for his Address to both the Houses of Parliament. This is perhaps the completion of 66 years of this custom being followed in our Parliamentary Democracy. As an offshoot of the 100-year-old Dravidian movement, our AIADMK party goes strong in its 44th year, celebrating very recently the 68th birthday of our beloved Leader Amma and on this occasion let me convey our best wishes to our great Democratic Institution, the Parliament. Let it continue with its rich legacy, great ideals and traditions.

On behalf of our Party, let me also share some of our reflections on the Address by our President. We are all quite aware that what has been articulated by our President is what the Government wanted to say to the Members of Parliament and through them the people of this country.

It has been spelt out in this Address the plans and project proposals in line with the policies of this Government. Various things are being evolved and are being made operational. Much has been claimed as outcomes in the last 19 months.

The major group from the Opposition Benches termed this Address to be disappointing. This Government is optimistic with its non-stop announcements that continue still. But the erstwhile ruling front and its allies are neither convinces nor enthused. As far as we are concerned we want to be aloof. We have no reason to be pessimistic either, and we continue to watch.

Sir, as an elder Statesman, our President has handled his responsibility of rolling out the road map for the growth and development of our Nation which is evolving to be a developed State. I find the mention of both those words 'Growth' and 'Development' just 26 times in this 26-page long Address in 81 paragraphs. Though long the Address is not short of hopes. It comes with exuberance of confidence. The moot question is whether the people of the country get that confidence. This can be perceived by all of us, of course, with different points of view.

Hon. Chairman, Sir, we, from Tamil Nadu have come all the way to attend this Budget Session after having been saddened. That was due to the rude shock and gloomy challenge that inundated us in the form of a deluge like flood-havoc. We are still coming to terms with the loss to life and property in and around Chennai, the Capital city

and some other coastal areas of Tamil Nadu. It was a huge devastation of a great magnitude.

We all expected the Union Government to amply highlight that natural disaster which gave a heavy blow to Tamil Nadu. We expected the Centre to list out its helping measures giving top priority.

We had hopes that a blueprint for revival would come from the Centre with adequate fund allocation to rebuild life. But we find the mention of the word ‘floods’ just twice in a single line in the lengthy Presidential Address of about 5600 words. It was just like a passing reference.

His Excellency the President said: “The unprecedented floods that submerged Chennai in December last year brought untold suffering and economic loss”. Even after using the words like ‘unprecedented’ and ‘untold suffering and loss’, duly matching financial compensation much expected is yet to be extended by the Centre.

Chennai witnessed the rains pouring out just within a month of the quantum of average annual rainfall. On a single day, there was a heavy rain that surpassed a month's average of the entire Tamil Nadu. More than 150 mm of rain, just in a day over Chennai, was a destructive downpour.

The Government of Tamil Nadu led by our Hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma pressed into service the entire administrative machinery to ensure that there was no outbreak of epidemic. Health and sanitation measures succeeded even in the wake of heavy flooding in many residential areas.

The efforts of Tamil Nadu continue on a war-footing bringing back normalcy very soon. Rushing with supply of food and essential materials to rebuild life was possible with the cooperation of many organisations and individuals. Still the largesse of the Centre is awaited in a big way.

The nature of that nature's fury was holistically analysed by a team of experts. The Chief Secretary of Tamil Nadu came with a detailed statement mentioning the cause and loss in line with the views expressed by our beloved leader. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu wrote a letter to the Centre asking for Rs.25,000 crore. That appeal based on the ground reality still remains a distant dream.

That great natural disaster was taken note of even in the Climate Summit held in Paris at that point of time. But I am afraid the Centre has not taken note of the tragedy in Tamil Nadu with the same amount of concern. The Centre released just Rs.1,000 crore immediately after

our Prime Minister's flying visit. An announcement about releasing a meagre Rs. 1,150 crore was made on the eve of this session. Too little has come too late and that too after the visit of a central team to assess the damages. Though we are disappointed, we still look forward to some packages even now.

Even while facing a challenging financial management scenario, the Government of Tamil Nadu is doing its best to overcome the insurmountable loss to its people.

It needs to be treated as a great loss of national importance and a national disaster.

We are a federal body polity. Unity in diversity is our uniqueness. The spirit of tolerance has always been inherent in our National ethos. I hope this government will uphold with greater vigour these values and principles. The words like 'unity', 'integrity' and 'integration' do not find a place in this Statement of the Government that has come through the President. It is only the word 'opportunity' used just once and the word 'community' used thrice, we find the sandwiched word 'unity'. No divisive force can divide our unity. So, we must take care to take all the people together. Our President has exhorted us saying that 'we will all be partners in the progress and development of our

great country'.

Even after reducing considerably in the last Budget the fund allocation for education, especially higher education and more particularly towards Research and Development, this Government seeks to make tall claims about giving impetus to research. Higher education facilities are wanted in many parts of the country. Prudent use of education cess and increased State funding are necessary. We may have to be careful to avoid converting higher education into a high-ended commercial commodity in the hands of private players. Without apportioning adequate funds to enhance infrastructure and ensure quality of our higher educational institutions, there is no point in launching the National Institutional Ranking Framework. We must have a re-look at extending red carpet to foreign tie-ups before ensuring a liberal academic ambience encouraging spirit of enquiry.

You are still identifying scientific goalposts thereby suggesting that setting and scoring goals are a far cry yet. I do not want to get into a controversy mentioning about the eagerness of this Government to give impetus to a third language in the school curriculum across the country. I only want to caution this Government that diversion of funds for arranging instruction facilities and teachers for that

ambitious project, should not be at the cost of quality higher education that must come from the State. Maybe that can wait for the time being.

When this Government states through the President that education empowers people, it only talks about scholarships and scholarship funds but not about allocating more and covering more beneficiaries. Have you ensured timely grant of scholarships?

Sir, when it comes to Central scholarships including that of the UGC scholarships, inordinate delay in its disbursal affects the beneficiaries in a big way all over the country. I am not going into the specific cases but I get this complaint wherever I go.

Unfortunately, the word ‘students’ is used just once in this Address, that too while talking about interaction with foreign faculties. We must wake up to the reality that more than 63 per cent of the population is below the age of 30 comprising youth and students. Students want liberal education and youth want job opportunities. This needs to be of utmost priority. We should not allow our youth and students to get disillusioned with the approach of the Government.

This Government has announced its intended tribute measures to Dr. Ambedkar. It takes pride in amending ‘The Scheduled Castes and

The Scheduled Tribes (Prevention of Atrocities) Act in December, 2015. The provisions of the amended Act have to be followed in letter and spirit without which there will be demand for new protection measures. Hence I want this Government to treat it carefully.

Sir, while talking about social security, the Government talks only about insurance schemes and pension schemes. But there needs to be more. At the same time, the Government is also talking about financial inclusion claiming that 21 crore bank accounts have been opened under Jan Dhan Yojana. It has also been stated that only 15 crore such bank accounts are operational now. Security to the poor should go beyond mere opening of bank accounts.

As one interested in rural development, I would like to ask this Government as to why the Second Green Revolution would cover only the Eastern States.

When you are talking about the Blue Revolution, we need to find a lasting solution to the problems faced by our fishermen in Tamil Nadu. Retrieval of Katchatheevu is being urged upon by all the stakeholders in the coastal region of Tamil Nadu. Our innocent fishermen happen to cross to the other side of the territorial waters even without knowing that they are strayed. According to the United

Nations Convention on Sea Laws, straying of civilians must be treated only as civil trespasses under civil laws. I fail to understand how the Government of Sri Lank is not allowing it and why the Government of India is allowing such violations against our countrymen.

In order to continue with our traditional rights and to help our much abused and attacked fishermen, I wish this Government takes suitable positive measures at the earliest.

Sir, though job creation is said to be given priority, enough has not come about. Still the MNREGA Programme calls for revamping with more funds. Till such time, when the new Central schemes are made operational, care must be taken to create employment opportunities in rural areas.

It is said that 39 percent increase in inflow has been achieved. I would like to know whether care has been taken to see that only non-polluting industries are allowed to join “Make in India”.

The Government believes economic development and environmental protection can co-exist. But the lessons from the West are to the contrary. Hence, we need to be careful.

The Government has stated that 76 lakh people have been trained last year under the Mission of Skilling India. I would like to know

whether enough job opportunities have been created to make the best use of trained people.

This Government is talking about enhancing 'Ease of Doing' business. While talking about simplifying the procedures to get approval and clearance, mention of dedicated commercial courts and commercial divisions in the High Court is there. Concrete measures must be taken to fill the vacancies in the judiciary at the national level urgently and immediately.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, it is claimed that priority is being given to Ganga water quality. I would like to urge upon the Government that implementation of several projects on the banks of River Ganga must be linked with inter-linking of river projects.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Venugopal Ji, please conclude now.

**DR. P. VENUGOPAL:** As per the customary practice of conveying our thanks to the President for his address to the Parliament, let me express our support to the Motion of Thanks.

With this, I conclude. Thank you, Sir.

*__SHRI K. PARASURAMAN (THANJAVUR):__ I raise some points on the motion of Thanks to the President's Address on behalf of my All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kzhagam.

The Union Government had tabled its objectives for the coming years and listed out its achievements for the last two years. Even though there are a number of issues to be raised on this Motion of Thanks, I would like to mention a few of the issues. I opine that whatever projects, schemes, activities of the Union Government, that should centre around the objective of developing the life of common people. India is one of the developing countries having the second largest population in the world and a major percentage of population are common citizens running their everyday life as candle burning at both ends.

I accept that several schemes like food security, 'Housing for All' have been implemented by the Government. Further, through Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana, the government has tried to cover a large number of common people in the banking network and under this programme, out of over twenty-one crore accounts opened, fifteen

* Speech was laid on the Table.

crore accounts are operational with an aggregate deposit of over rupees thirty two thousand crore.

It was told that the programme has gone beyond mere opening of bank accounts, to becoming a platform for poverty eradication, by offering basic financial services and security to the poor. But we could not deny that India is the home of the largest population living in poverty in the world. Thus, the presidential address did not mention the target of eradication of poverty in the country. I feel that the government may fix a target for the upliftment of the common public and achieve 100% poverty eradication at least in the coming years.

Further, to universalize social security, the Government has launched insurance and pension schemes namely, the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and the Atal Pension Yojana, which afford insurance cover to hitherto uncovered sections of society. However, the number of beneficiaries included in the scheme is less. The Government is aware that the majority of the population in urban areas are facing severe financial crises due to the unexpected expenditure for medical care. The price of medical care in the country is abnormally high which in turn pushes the middle-class population to below the poverty line. Therefore, the

Government should have placed its commitments to regularise the fee in private hospitals for treatment. But unfortunately, there is no announcement made by the Government through the presidential address.

It was told the Government was committed to provide Housing for All by 2022 and the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana was launched on June 25, 2015, with the aim of constructing 2 crore houses to benefit primarily slum dwellers, urban poor and people form economically weaker sections and lower income groups of society.

At this moment, I would like to bring to the notice of the Government about the massive destruction of floods in Tamil Nadu.

Our Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thaliavi Amma had informed that a special project to construct alternative housing for the 50,000 families who lost their houses, was being prepared that require a funding of Rs. 5,000 crore and requested the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation to provide financial assistance by way of special grant for the “massive” housing project as a special scheme considering the magnitude of the devastation. Further, for those families that have lost hunts due to heavy rainfall, a special package of Rs. 750 crore for construction of

50,000 tenements under the Union Government's 'Housing for All' scheme was also requested. But to the great disappointment, the presidential address does not mention about the provision of financial packages to the state of Tamil Nadu. Therefore, I suggest including the financial package for the state of Tamil Nadu to supplement the efforts of our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu for uplifting the life of common citizens.

It was informed that the Government had notified the New Urea Policy 2015 with the objective of maximising indigenous production and improving energy efficiency and the policy will lead to additional production of 17 lakh metric tons annually in the next three years. However, I would like to urge that the Government should give preference for production of organic fertilisers. For the last several decades the country has faced the impact of chemical fertilisers which besides affecting ecological balance affects the health of the consumers. Further, the lands had become barren due to the excessive usage of chemical fertilisers. Therefore, I request Government to add the steps to be taken to improve production of organic fertilisers as well as to encourage the organic farming in the country with additional allocation of fund

Increasing levels of malnutrition in the country is one of the major challenges faced by the Government. It was informed in the Address that to address the problems of malnutrition in a holistic manner, the Government is ensuring convergence of the action of various Ministries and programmes with a clear focus on measurable outcomes. Infrastructure required for effective implementation of the Integrated Child Development Scheme is being strengthened in convergence with other programmes. For this project, I appreciate the efforts of the Government which built two lakh Anganwadi in most backward Blocks under Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme over a period of four years. However, our country represents one of the largest numbers of malnourished children in the world and performs dismally on all child nutrition indicators. Under-nutrition in infants and young children leads to growth failure, lowered resistance to infections, increased rates of morbidity, increased risks to survival, impaired growth and poor school performance. Thus, a lack of proper nutrition during childhood has tangible long-term impacts on the mental and physical development of individuals. We are witnessing the impact of the malnutrition level high in tribal and rural areas.

Therefore, the Government should initiate a National Mission on eradication of Malnutrition to achieve 100% eradication of malnutrition from the country particularly from rural and tribal areas.

In the end, I would like to reiterate that the Government's programmes and welfare schemes should be centred around the benefit of common citizens. Without making them accessible to all benefits of the programmes, the efforts of the Government will end impasse, and the development could be seen through statistics on paper. Therefore, it is the duty of the Government to give priority to the needs of the common public and further the request of State Governments regarding financial packages should also be addressed.

***DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** I support the Presidential Address and would request the Government to expedite and pay more attention towards the hydro projects and small/ mini hydro projects. The Hon. Prime Minister's mission of 1,75,000 megawatt of solar/ renewable energy is appreciable. But it has to be balanced with supplementary power projects which will make power available when the solar/ renewable energy cannot be generated.

As solar power will be available during the daytime i.e. 8+hrs. only and to have 24x7 power, we have to generate power during the balance time of the day also. Hydro power does have such technology and facility to switch off/on the generation easily when the solar power is available/generated.

I would request the Government/ Hon. Prime Minister to have Mission Hydro parallel to Mission Solar.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY (DUM DUM):** Sir, I am sorry that I cannot support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. Sometimes I think that the President's speech under article 85 of the Constitution is an anachronism which should be done away with because we are making the President speak something which he does not believe. The President is a son of freedom fighters, and the speech starts with the name of a man, Deen Dayal Upadhyaya who did not participate in the freedom movement. It ends with the name of Netaji Subash Bose who went to jail 11 times. The speech contains the name of Shyama Prasad Mukherji who never went to jail during British times, but it omits the names of Jawaharlal Nehru, the first Prime Minister who was sent to British jail nine times. That is why, I think that you make the President speak something which he does not believe in.

Sir, this speech is given in the background of suicide of Rohith Vemula. You may ask why I talk of suicide of one person when there are so many suicides in the country. I will come to the other suicides. But may I remind you, Sir, of a poem by John Donne quoted by Ernest Hemingway. It says: -

> "Every man's death diminishes me for I am involved in mankind and therefore, never ask me not for whom the bells tolls; it tolls for thee."

Rohith Vemula's death is a bell for the Ruling Party whose HRD Minister wrote five letters to the University of Hyderabad to get Rohith expelled from the University.

Sir, this speech comes in the background of the arrest of Kanhaiya Kumar, the President of Jawaharlal Nehru University Students' Union under charges of sedition. The police are repeatedly saying that Kanhaiya Kumar did not give any seditious speech yet he is put in jail. He is beaten up in the court premises by BJP supporters wearing black coats.

Sir, once Jawaharlal Nehru said that the sedition clause should be done away with. Even the President in Kochi has said that this Section 124A of the Indian Penal Code should be done away. I support this view and I want that Section 124A should be deleted from the Indian Penal Code and never again used against students of the country.

Sir, I spoke of one suicide. I will speak of more suicides. In paragraph 70, a brief mention has been made about droughts and floods, but the fact is that we are facing the worst agrarian crisis today.

In Marathwada, Maharashtra alone, 1100 farmers committed suicide in 2015 and 200 more in 2016. Where is the seriousness of the crisis portrayed? As the Prime Minister travels all over the world, has he gone for a single day to meet the farmers of Aurangabad, Latur, Beed and Osmanabad? Had he been to? He did not have the sympathy whereas he is globetrotting on his own. Even Dr. Manmohan Singh, who was supposed to be a *chup ke* Prime Minister, went to Vidarbha when there was farmer's suicide. This Prime Minister does not even have time for that.

In paragraph 63, the President's speech takes pride that inflation, fiscal deficit and current account deficit are all within control and it is less. But they should thank Mr. Petroleum for the drop in petroleum prices. Instead of taking advantage of the drop in crude prices from 135 dollars to below 30 dollars per barrel, the benefit has not been passed on to the consumers. The Government has rather imposed excise duties to reduce its fiscal deficit. Again, the Government's plan for the coming year depends only on Mr. Monsoon. If there is a third

successive monsoon failure, the calculations of the Government will go haywire. The President's speech does not mention this eventuality.

Again, I want to say it is true that there is an elected Government. We need it to do work for the people. But what are their Ministers doing? The HRD Minister makes false statements in Lok Sabha regarding Vemula and JNU. The MoS for Human Resource Development goes to Agra and asks the Hindus to be prepared against onslaughts. His colleague, the BJP MP from Fatehpur Sikri, says let the Muslims decide on a date. We will fight them out. What sort of an atmosphere of intolerance is this? Is this the atmosphere in which the country will progress?

Haryana is one of the most advanced States of the country. It is good in both industry and agriculture. In Haryana, for days together the Jat agitation for reservation went on. According to official reports, 19 people were killed, and according to unofficial reports, more than 200 people were killed, and there is complaint about rape on women.… *(Interruptions)* He is so close to Haryana. Has any Central Minister or has the PM or has the Home Minister gone to Haryana to assess the situation? No, they do not care. They are smug in their chairs in Delhi.

In paragraph 76, the President has spoken of good relations with Pakistan. There has never been such a cavalier approach towards relations with Pakistan. The Prime Minister suddenly drops in for tea with Nawaz Sharif at Lahore on his way back from Kabul and then the Pathankot attack takes place. What sort of dialogue did he have with Nawaz Sharif? Then, remember that Vajpayee Ji showed the same initiative as the BJP Prime Minister. He went to Lahore on a bus *yatra* and then Kargil happened. How do you trust Pakistan? You drop in for a family function of Nawaz Sharif. We must state clearly and unequivocally that there cannot be talks with Pakistan unless terrorists' action stops. In Pathankot, I will tell you that seven Indian soldiers were killed whereas only four militant bodies have been found.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Sougata Ray Ji, please conclude now.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Sir, I will conclude in two minutes. You also spoke a little earlier. You know how the speakers feel. You will understand our feelings.

One of the promises of the BJP was that when they come to power, they will bring all the black money back from abroad. That is mentioned in paragraph 65. But they brought the law. After that only

Rs.4000 crore has come in. Is this all the black money stacked away abroad?

The Prime Minister has announced *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana*, which is a pilot project covering only 45 districts. When people are reeling under droughts and floods, this cannot be the solution. Yes, some of the social security schemes have merit in them. *Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana* and *Atal Pension Yojana* are good schemes and for them I am praising the Government. This Government is also adopting some of the good schemes of the previous Government like Food Security Scheme, MGNREGA and Direct Bank Transfer. But most of the words of the Prime Minister are just slogans – Make in India, Start-up India, *Mudra Yojana*, Skill India, Digital India, etc. In 20 months, we have not seen any implementation. The unemployment problem is reaching to unmanageable proportions to which attention should be paid.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Please conclude.

**PROF. SOUGATA RAY:** Lastly, many people have spoken about the success of banks. They said that 21 crore accounts have been opened under *Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana* and Rs. 32,000 crore has been collected through it. I show a report given by the

Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance. It says the total Non-Performing Assets of banks is Rs. 3,69,990 crore. Your banking system is on the verge of collapse and you are shouting from the rooftops how successful your programme has been.

Sir, to end, if the Prime Minister's desire is to work, to show results in the short term, he could follow the West Bengal model of Mamata Banerjee. There, in spite of outstanding debt left by the previous Government, she has introduced *Kanyashree Prakalpa* for 33 lakh girl children and under *Sabooj Sathi*, cycles have been given to 40 lakh students. Not only this, she has provided food security to 7 crore people. It is possible to answer and that is why I do not support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

***SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH):** I express my indebtedness and sincere thanks to our beloved Leader Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA for giving me this great opportunity to express my views on the motion of thanks on the President's Address.

I would like to focus on 5Es, Education, Employment, Enterprises, Energy, Economy besides Urban Infrastructure and Digital India.

It is heartening that the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme has been revamped to ensure the efficient disbursements of wages, increased transparency and creation of productive assets. Mission Antyodaya, an intensive Participatory Planning Exercise, has reached 2569 most backward blocks, to identify the kind of assets to be created. The Government has begun the exercise to correct the skew in the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) scheme with wage distribution of Rs. 37,000 crores in this fiscal year among States and to ensure better targeting on MGNREGA funding.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Tamil Nadu under the dynamic leadership of Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA is one of the most productive states in the country to utilize the Rural employment scheme. The Government had already identified 5.37 crore households, which can be described as the landless households deriving major part of their income from manual casual labour that could be potential targets of MGNREGA. Timely release of funds to states to provide work on demand, an electronic fund management system, and consistent coordination between banks and post offices, besides monitoring of pendency of payments, have led to the revival of this employment scheme.

The Government's mission of skilling India has gained momentum and during the last year about 76 lakh people have been trained. The skill training is successful in Tamil Nadu which stands first in producing the largest number of engineering graduates and skilled persons suitable for employment in Multinational companies.

Education is the eye of the society. A country without proper education is like a person with a blurred vision. The Government aims to create an educated, healthy and clean India. It is a laudable effort of this Government that over four lakh seventeen thousand functional toilets for girls and boys have been constructed. Our beloved leader

Puratchi Talaivi AMMA has focused exclusively for the development of education in the State and has been taking far sighted initiatives for the welfare of students in the state. AMMA's scheme of provision of priceless laptops for students is the first of its kind in the country. I wish the Union Government will take a leaf out of AMMA's many innovative, inclusive schemes implemented in Tamil Nadu. Because of AMMA's far-sighted schemes, Tamil Nadu has become the Education Capital of the country attracting students from across the country and globe.

The skilling India initiative will have to achieve much more than what it could so far. With only 2.3 per cent of the total workforce in India having undergone formal skill training as compared to 68 per cent in the UK and 52 per cent in the US, the quantum of the challenge is still high. Most important being, taking advantage of the demographic dividend, which is both- the biggest opportunity and the biggest concern-for the country.

Industry experts say public perception on skilling and vocational training is still low. Another concern would be to ensure that ground level implementation of skill policies happen at the same speed at which the youth are coming into the workforce. With new policies on

skill development being put in place, the reskilling and up-skilling initiatives are expected to put up pace.

On the demand side, a skill gap study was conducted by National Skill Development Council (NSDC) in 2014, which indicates that there is an additional net requirement of 119.2 million skilled manpower in 24 key sectors by 2022. It is observed that today the total workforce in the country is estimated at 487.4 million, of which approximately 51 per cent is in the non-farm sector.

The biggest challenge is availability of good quality trained trainers. There are more than 10,000 ITIs in the country, employing large numbers of trainers but their knowledge and skills do not match industry requirements of today.

In India, and globally, there is an enormous gap between the skills needed by the industry and what academia is producing, resulting in a deep fracture in the talent supply chain. By 2020, almost 60 per cent of India's population of 1.3 billion will be in the working age group of 15-59 years, if adequately skilled this demographic divide could make India a global HR powerhouse. Apart from mere fund allocations from the private sector, proper hand holding from the private sector is what will boost the new phase of skilling. Be it from the training

perspective or from job opportunity perspective, skill council heads also say that higher private participation will be the key. I am happy to see this government has given impetus to research through the launch of IMPRINT India whereby scientific goalposts have been identified in 10 fields of research ranging from Defence to Sustainable Living.

I welcome the move by the Government to enable increased interaction between foreign faculty and our students. Under the aegis of GIAN, the government has invited 400 foreign academicians to *'Teach in India'*. I wish to record here about the innovative Rural student study in abroad program implemented by Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA which enables the students from rural and poor background. It is really the need of the hour that students get to know about the details of the higher education and scholarship schemes and facility to apply online on a single window platform. In this regard, the launch of the National Institutional Ranking Framework for higher educational institutions and The National Scholarship Portal which provides a one-stop platform for applications of all scholarships is laudable.

The new Civil Aviation Policy with thrust on air connectivity to small cities will be a boon for Domestic Air Passenger traffic which is growing year after year. Tamil Nadu stands first in many parameters and there has been a consistent rise in the Air Traffic in all the airports in Tamil Nadu. I wish the Government would pay more attention to improving the airport infrastructure in Tamil Nadu in particular.

The Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalavi AMMA's innovative and far-sighted Tamil Nadu vision 2023 has envisaged all round progress and developments of the State. The setting up world-class infrastructure for Electronics manufacturing across the country remains a priority for any Government. The country recorded the highest ever software exports during 2015. Tamil Nadu's contribution is second to none.

The inroads made by this Government in Bharatnet, building the architecture and design of the National Optical Fiber Network is being revamped to rapidly take broadband connectivity to our villages. This is vital for the country as every common man could have access to the government schemes and policies through IT power. The network of Common Service Centers and setting up BPOs in small towns and linking land record modernization with the use of space technology,

Government is taking the benefits of Digital India to common citizens. I firmly believe that the Digital India Programme will give a big boost to citizen empowerment and the knowledge economy.

It will be commendable work if the IT Modernisation Project involving computerization and networking of 1,55,000 Post Offices in the country is completed by 2017. The proposed Postal Payment Bank of India will further boost financial inclusion. The National Supercomputing Mission and the Science and Technology of Yoga and Meditation (SATYAM) are the two initiatives to explore the modern scientific roots of our traditional wisdom.

The Government's efforts to scale new heights in Space and satellite technology is most impressive. The completion of the constellation of the Indian navigational satellites in 2016 to cater to indigenous navigation and location-based services is a must for growth of the Nation in this sphere.

I am very glad that Varanasi and Jaipur have been declared as the first two Indian cities to be part of the UNESCO Creative Cities network. I wish the Government can include our Madurai and Kanchipuram in the list. I wish to record emphatically that Chennai has been elected as the most favourite destination in India for foreign

tourists. I wish the Government will necessitate appropriate steps to promote Chennai too.

India is a haven of stability in an increasingly turbulent global economy. GDP growth has increased making India the world's fastest growing economy among large economies. Inflation, fiscal deficit and current account deficit have all decreased. India recorded the highest ever foreign exchange reserves in 2015. We must not forget the contributions from the productive States like Tamil Nadu in our GDP growth. Our Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA has devised several development projects which will make Tamil Nadu the number one state in the country and contribute substantially for the overall development of the country.

Productive and purposeful banking sector is a ladder to growth and if the Banking sector has flaws the economy will have a steep fall too. The people of the country are worried to know the mounting values of NPA and bad loans of Banks which will have a huge dent in our economy. I wish the Government should come up with a comprehensive formula to recover the existing NPA and bad loans and to infuse financial discipline in our Banking system. Otherwise, the road ahead will be gloomy. The Government has launched the

Indradhanush programme to revitalise public sector banks and ensure credit flow in the economy. The government has also issued 23 banking licences after a long hiatus of ten years. I hope these initiatives will yield productive and purposeful results.

Another important area the Government needs to focus is to take concerted efforts to tackle the menace of black money. I hope the enactment of the Black Money (Undisclosed Foreign Income and Assets) and Imposition of Tax Act, 2015 would accelerate the process of the recovery of black money and combat the menace.

The Government has taken a number of measures to put in place a simplified, progressive and non-adversarial tax regime by incorporating internationally prevalent best practices in tax administration. The one area India needs to concentrate more is with regard to the recovery of Taxes from Foreign players in India and Indian Players abroad.

According to the reports, thousands of crores to be collected from multinationals operating in India and abroad are still pending. This needs utmost attention, otherwise our due share will vanish in thin air.

Smart Cities Program launched by the Government is vital for the country's progress envisaging city development in a challenge mode.

I hope the twenty cities selected for the First Phase in the Smart City Program will be quickly followed by the Second and Third Phases of the programme so that a uniform development will be affected throughout the country and any gaps in the facilities provided in the smart cities can be avoided.

Energy sector needs more inclination towards clean energy and new and renewable energy. To enhance the availability of clean energy, the Government has envisaged increasing the renewable energy capacity manifold to 175 GW by 2022 by encouraging various initiatives. The wind energy policy which aims to generate energy from wind from both onshore and offshore should be encouraged. Tamil Nadu is the leading producer of wind energy in the country which accounts for nearly 45% of the total energy produced. Our beloved leader Hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalavi AMMA has initiated innumerable energy projects in Tamil Nadu in all her regimes. I wish to record that Our Leader Puratchi Thalaivi AMMA when she took over the Tamil Nadu State in 2011, the entire state was reeling under acute power shortage and was literally a dark land. But her consistent and sustainable efforts has now made Tamil Nadu a Energy-Surplus State.

The Union Government's efforts in bundling of thermal power with solar power, setting up solar parks in States, etc. has been rewarded suitably. The Installed solar capacity has almost doubled in the last 20 months and crossed 5000 MW. Today, solar power is affordable and accessible to thousands of people.

I also wish that the Government needs to be more focused on commissioning major transmission projects for reducing congestion in transmission. I am happy to share that Available Transfer Capacity for South India has increased by 71% from May, 2014 to December, 2015. The goal of One Nation, One Grid, One Price will become a ground reality soon.

Another area that needs exclusive attention is gas based power generation. The Government has implemented a new initiative of supply of Refined LNG. This has ensured revival of stranded gas plants with installed capacity of 11,717 MW.

It is extremely heartening to see that the Government has introduced critical amendments in the Tariff Policy for ensuring availability of electricity to consumers at reasonable and competitive rates. Two ambitious National LED Programmes have been launched for cities for Street Lighting and LED bulbs for Domestic Lighting.

The Grid connectivity needs to be completed in totto and the transmission losses need to be minimised. The energy sharing between the power stations in various States need to be smooth and uninterrupted. Atomic and Nuclear energy projects need greater attention and focus as the energy will be clean and cheap. The Nuclear projects are long term projects and the hosting States need to be supported more to provide adequate support for the native people living around the Nuclear Power Stations like Kudankulam and Kalpakkam.

02.03.2016

*[Translation]*

*__SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA (MANDSAUR):__ I would like to appreciate the speech of the President of India before the Parliament of India and feel that the vision of "Antyodaya" envisioned by Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay in "Integral Human Philosophy" will pave the way for the welfare of the poorest and the last person of India. This perception of the poor being the first right to resources has been reinforced. 62 lakh people gave assurance to the country by giving up gas subsidy on the call of the government. The feeling that we are ready has been strengthened. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has brought new hope for development of roads or development of railways or development of ports. Access to Travellers and Materials Trade Trust has increased on the government. Be it relations with neighbouring countries or the countries of the Pacific Islands, cultural and commercial relations have been strengthened. The country was hopeful of getting rid of Naxalism and terrorism, now it has become hopeful. Certainly, now it seems that this slogan of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas is not only for the entire country but for India.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR):** Hon. Chairperson, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak at the President's address. Hon. President ji presented the government's point very well and put it before the joint meeting of both the Houses for the third time. What I said earlier twice, I will say even today that somewhere, the government and the President have done the work of speaking on the most important problem of our country. Being young, I had earlier dropped both the speeches by saying one thing that the Government was never ready to discuss the biggest problem of our country on population. I would expect the Hon. Prime Minister that when he gives the reply, he will work to have a population problem before the 125 crore population of this country. Being a youth it is my responsibility. Today 65 percent of our country's population, about 80 crore people are below the age of 35 years. The government repeatedly says that it will do Make in India, it will do Skill India, it will do Start-up India. I want to say that you are leading the government, when will you do the work of Educate India. Today, the biggest problem inside our country is that we are not able to provide proper education standards in government schools.

Before me, our BJP colleagues were saying that we had built so many lakh toilets. I want to say that to take the population of 80 crores

of this country forward, it is necessary to give them good teachers, good books. I hope that when the Prime Minister responds,he will work to focus on Education India as well.

The second important issue is that today along with education, employment is also very important. The Skill Development Ministry was created by the new government. We got a chance to go to Odisha recently. It is very sad that when we went to see the Skill Development Center in Bhubaneswar, on the way we saw 25 such institutions locked, where today children do not want to do engineering and polytechnic, because they do not see their future in it. Is the Government taking any steps so that the young colleagues work to go to the skilled labour jobs like Engineering and Polytechnic again.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, if we talk about the rural sector, today about 62 percent of the population of our country belongs to the farming sector. The government has been running a continuous campaign for the last three months and wherever the name of the government comes up, the issue of insurance for farmers comes up. The President also talked about Farmers Insurance. Recently, when the Finance Minister presented his budget, every person in the country tried to prepare an agricultural budget. I want to say that has this government even

thought about the debt that that farmer has? The biggest problem today is the debt of the farmer. The government says that we will give direct bank transfers through Aadhaar. You are doing the work of transfer to his account, but before that, do the work of paying off his debt. Today he buys fertilisers and seeds by taking money from the broker. If you charge interest for one more month on bank transfer, then the farmer will not have that much money to borrow today. The crop has been completely ruined for almost three years. Today the government will first have to talk about waiving off the loans of farmers.

When it comes to insurance, I would like to thank the government for bringing one unit from the block to the village. But today the farmer's unit is not a village but a farm. If you want to give real benefit to the farmer, then in this insurance scheme you will have to make the farmer's farm a unit. ... *(Interruptions)* Only when the crop gets ruined will the farmer settle down.

Hon. Chairperson Sir, where e-market was discussed.... *(Interruptions)* I would like to tell you one thing about the electronic market.... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Dushyantji, please conclude now.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, when you are in the chair. … *(Interruptions)* whenever the Chair gives you a chance to speak… *(Interruptions)* We are a small party.... *(Interruptions)* I hope that you will also give us a chance to speak.... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Everyone is given time according to the party, so what should I do in this? It will be decided by Hon. Speaker. Please conclude now.

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:** I will conclude my speech in four minutes. ... *(Interruptions)*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You conclude your speech in one minute.

*... (Interruptions)*

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:** The Government talks about the E-market. Today, when Guar went to the market, its price reached from Rs. 12 hundred to Rs. 33 thousand. But when the farmer came to the market to sell, he had to sell his guar at the price of Rs. 19

thousand or Rs. 2,000. While the government talks about Housing for All, it is not me, the government's data shows that the government has not given money to build a single house in Haryana state in the last one year. No, the data of the country shows that the flats built under JNNURM, still have two lakh 45 thousand flats lying vacant. Building a house is very easy, but allotment is very difficult. Faridabad is near Delhi, flats are vacant there also.... *(Interruptions)* If the government wants, it should do the work of allotting them.

Chairperson Sir, there is talk of terrorism here. Just now Sougata Ray ji was also speaking to me. I will conclude with this that Pathankot was attacked. It was first seen that NSA involved by putting the country's Armed Forces behind and NSG was sent for operation at Air Force Base. Did our Air Force personnel today, who sacrificed their lives for this country by consuming bullets on their chest, not they succeed? Were they not capable of protecting this country? It took four days for that operation to end. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Okay, thank you.

Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I am concluding my speech. You just give me a minute. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** You conclude now within half a minute.

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:** Sir, I will take just sixty seconds. *[Translation]* Wherever there was failure, there was similar failure within Haryana also. Haryana remained closed for nine days. The Chief Hon. Minister of Haryana and the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs of the state intervened on the ninth day to think about the situation in Haryana. If the Government of India and the Government of Haryana had got involved in Haryana on the first day, not a single life would have been lost in Haryana. ... *(Interruptions)* Today, the Central and State Government did the work of taking the lives of 32 people.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Now, Shri Vijay Kumar Hansdak.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI VIJAY KUMAR HANSDAK (RAJMAHAL):** Hon. Deputy Speaker, somewhere during the tenure of this government, the feeling of intolerance has spread more. There have been attacks on tribals, Christians, Dalits and minorities. The statements made outside by the MPs of the government party hurt the unity and integrity of India. I request that the cooperation of everyone from side and opposition is needed to keep India united. Everyone should weigh what they say so that no one gets hurt.

Sir, our security is constantly being attacked somewhere or the other by Pakistan, say it in Jammu and Kashmir or say it in Pathankot. The government seems interested only in forming the government there and not in strengthening the security when it is very much needed. In many countries, youth have to spend two-three years of their education in the army. I want to give a suggestion that if our youth spend their lives in the army in the future, then we will find an army somewhere in every youth and no outside power will ever show its strength to touch us.

Sir, just a while back, there was talk of Tarun Yojana, Shishu Yojana, Kishore Yojana and it was being said that without any

guarantee you are being provided a loan. But I would like the Government to look into that scheme on its own behalf because our people are continuously running the banks but loans are not being provided to them. Many schemes have been started in the name of the Prime Minister. I will talk about a scheme- Pradhan Mantri Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. Under this scheme, we have to take three villages within five years. Today, not a single work has been done on the ground in a village that we have taken, because we are afraid to enter the village there. If you start any plan then keep your back strong so that we can implement the plan there. Everybody is being talked about here but Parliament is not talking about MPs. There was talk of salary. I think MPs will not be interested in salary because MPs spend many times more than their salary on their constituencies and their people. But there is a great need to increase the MPLAD somewhere. If we divide the amount of five crore rupees into 21 blocks then 20 lakh per block goes into it, then we will give it to the panchayat then we have cumin in the camel mouth.

In Jharkhand, one MLA has four crore rupees.If there are 6 MLAs in our constituency then it becomes Rs 24 crore. Unless these five crores are converted into 25 crores, we will have nothing to do. We are sitting here as 'Than Than Gopal'. The work of presenting the

views of the MPs should also be done in the Parliament. If it is not increased from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 25 crore, then it should be abolished and our participation in the central schemes should be increased.

Sir, there is talk of electricity for all. Just some time ago, our elder brothers from Bihar were saying that Jharkhand got everything in the partition, we also say that we got everything but no attempt should be made to extract coal or minerals from there, that state also Try to give something because we are just giving from there, we are not getting much. GST To add green sass I would say because we have mining here and there. We have to face pollution here, we have to face mining. Therefore, I would like that green tax should be added and it should benefit our state or any mining state. Along with this, I will give a suggestion for our state that depots should be opened. The coal which is being used only for electricity, should also be available to our people for cooking.

I would like to thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak at the President's address.

*[English]*

**SHRI C. N. JAYADEVAN (THRISSUR):** Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak. For a change, I wish to speak in my mother tongue, Malayalam.

*I am making a change; I am speaking in my mother tongue Malayalam. If one considers the peculiar situation that the world and India is facing today, one can understand why the Indian President was compelled to make the kind of speech which he gave this year. I was emotionless and felt a sense of helplessness when I listened to his speech. The President in his address repeated several slogans of the last Government and this Government. We say in Malayalam, “smearing sugar on someone's one'slips”. I am not repeating those slogans. Shri Sougata Ray spoke in detail about it. What is the message for the people? It is only a message of disappointment.

This Government has completed twenty-two months of governance. An elephant needs twenty-two months to deliver its baby. This Government has not yet delivered its baby. The people of this country are looking with expectation to see whether the Government will finally deliver after twenty-two months of gestation. Even after

* English translation of the speech originially delivered in Malyalam.

twenty-two months, Shri Narendra Modi's Government cannot deliver.

What is happening in our centres of higher education, has been discussed in the House and I do not want to repeat it. Rohit Vemula's incident was repeated by several members in this House and due to paucity of time I am not going into the details. Our President has not even mentioned anything about any of these incidents in his speech. Kanhaiya Kumar, is still behind bars. We remember the statements made by our Human Resources Minister with reference to Rohith Vemula and Kanhaiya Kumar.

Sir Hitler's cabinet had a Broadcasting and Communications Minister – Goebbels was his name. Our HRD Minister, though she is beautiful, has become another Goebbels. She believes that if a lie is said aloud, and repeated a number of times, it will become a truth. This was what the HRD Minister was doing in the House, following the style of Goebbels. What is it that this nation is hearing? The people are not even sure whether the Minister was speaking the truth or she was lying. The incidents of farmers suicides that continue unabated, was also mentioned by several members. I do not want to

repeat it. We are given to understand that the public sector banks have written off Rs. 1.14 lakh crores during the period 2013-2015.

For years now we have been hearing about proposals to bring in reservation for women in Parliament and the Assembly.

Why can't you bring in legislation to give reservation for women in the Assemblies and the Parliament? Do you mean that twenty-two months is not sufficient to bring such a legislation? The President's Address does not mention women reservation. The communist party demands strongly that thirty three percent reservation for women in the Assembly and Parliament should be given soon. We strongly support it.

The commercialization of education continues in India. Only the rich can afford to educate their children in our country. The bank balance of parents determine the kind of education a child gets. Only two sentences more. The attacks and atrocities against children and women are increasing. I am not going into the details, due to time constraints.

Health sector has become expensive. We are giving several requests for monetary help from the Prime Minister's relief fund. It is

good that the Prime Minister is helping them. Crores of the poor in India do not have the money to get any medical treatment.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Ok, thank you.

**SHRI C. N. JAYADEVAN:** One more point. Unemployment is increasing in India, you will have to find a solution for it. I conclude with one last sentence. As a single member party representative, usually I get only two minutes to speak. You have allowed me to speak for five minutes. I express my gratitude to you. Thank you, once again.

**SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NAGALAND):** Hon. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to participate in the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. The Hon. President highlighted the initiatives and the achievements of the NDA Government headed by the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Modiji. Hon. Prime Minister's inspirational leadership has today made the country proud and a global force to reckon with.

Hon. Prime Minister's ambitious world tour of about 37 countries to attract investors across the globe through the "Make in India" campaign has been a great success. Indications have shown that this has become possible with the growth of 39 percent in FDI amidst global slow-down, Skill Development and Skill India with employment generation, smart cities, digital India, Start Up India, Rurban Mission, PM MUDRA Yojana, Swachh Bharat and also most importantly, eradication of poverty and various projects and welfare schemes to farmers and weaker sections of our society. Massive infrastructure developments like roads, railways, power projects, Housing for All and programmes undertaken in all sectors enabled India to leapfrog 16 places from 71st position to 55$^{th}$ in two years, as per the ranking of the World Economic Forum. India has virtually surpassed superpowers and economic giants to become the world's

fastest growing economy by the projection of the International Monetary Fund. India stands at 7.5 per cent growth whereas China stands with 6.8 per cent growth and the US stands with 2.8 per cent growth. I think it is a matter of pride for India that we are moving towards huge progress.

While I appreciate and applaud the many positive developments taking place in the country, I would also like to draw your attention to people who deserve due recognition and attention. The Government's slogan *Sabka Sath Sabka Vikas,* that is about inclusive growth is most welcome.

I quote para 1 of the President's Address. It says:

> "We will all be partners in the progress and development of our great country."

To realise this objective, I want to make a mention of the North-Eastern region and request you to bring it on par with the rest of the country. The North-Eastern region suffers from a huge infrastructure deficit including educational institutes, health care facility, poor connectivity, backward region with difficult terrain, minimum economic activities with insurgency infested. However, I am positive when the Hon. Prime Minister stated like this:

"Unless, North-Eastern region is developed, India is not developed, and India will only gain if the North East gains."

We hope that the Prime Minister's concern and commitment to develop the North-Eastern region will be fulfilled sooner than later. I speak on behalf of all the Nagas being the lone Naga Member in the Parliament, that is, inclusive of Manipur, Arunachal and Assam. Nagas are grateful to the Hon. Prime Minister for his dynamic leadership for the bold step taken to resolve the Naga political issue which is nearly seven decades old by signing the historical Naga Peace Accord on 3rd August, 2015. I also thank the Home Minister and all those who are involved in making this framework agreement possible. … *(Interruptions)*

**SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD):** Is this an accord or a framework agreement?

**SHRI NEIPHIU RIO:** It is a peace accord signed and it is a framework which is being understood. I think the concern of Hon. Members in this august House. Hon. Members had also mentioned about this peace accord which was signed on 3rd August. However, I feel that at the appropriate time further consultation will be taken and I seek support of Members of all the parties for this. For every problem

there is a solution. We deserve peace and we desire that we be given equal opportunity to be partners in our great country's development.

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** Rioji, can you throw on some light where this Naga Accord was because some people are not able to see what is Naga Accord. *[Translation]* Some people are having fun. You were the Chief Minister of Nagaland and are experienced. What is the situation, give some knowledge to the people.

*[English]*

**SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:** Sir, are you saying that accord has happened?

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** I know, Naga peace agreement.

**SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI:** Accord was the name of the agreement.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Nothing goes on record except Mr. Rio's speech.

**SHRI NEIPHIU RIO:** Accord and we also call it a framework agreement. It is an accord. … *(Interruptions)...**

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Mr. Rio, please address the Chair.

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* Not recorded.

**SHRI NEIPHIU RIO:** Sir, on the day the accord was signed the Prime Minister spoke kind words and I quote. “The Naga courage and commitment are legendary. Equally they represent the highest level of humanism”.

Sir, you know that subsequent Prime Ministers of India had met the Naga nationalist groups starting from Morarji Desai who met A.Z. Phizo. And the then Hon. Prime Minister Narasimha Rao met the collective leadership. And again Vajpayeeji recognized the uniqueness of Naga history and the situation. The Congress Government under Narasimha Rao recognized Naga issue as a political issue because this is pre–Indian Independence issue. Therefore, I feel that when the Naga nationalists are willing to come into the Union and be peaceful citizens, I think all should support and try to resolve this.

Sir, the Manipur Assembly passed three Bills on 31st August, 2015. Hill tribes people protested against the three contentious Bills resulting in loss of nine lives. Now it is 184 days, six months. The dead are still lying unburied and protests and agitations continue. I request the Government of India to resolve the issue through consultation so that the burial of the departed souls can take place.

I pray for justice to all concerned and especially the backward, marginalised sections of the society. With these few words, I support the motion. Thank you.

*__SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU):__ On behalf of my entire constituency, I would like to extend my heartiest gratitude for the intellectually stimulating speech that the Hon. President delivered at the commencement of the Budget session 2016. It is inspiring to look at the schemes and the policies which the Government is formulating, as well as implementing, to rid the country of some of the most pertinent challenges it is facing in today's time.

India is currently the fastest growing economy in the world. At the current rate of growth, our GDP would double in the next 10 years. Estimates suggest that more than 50 million jobs would need to be created in this period. It's uplifting to see how this Government is taking proactive steps in this regard through initiatives like skill India. Make in India, Mudra, Startup India –Stand up India, etc. Considering this to be just an example, and the same approach being visible in almost every aspect which signals caution and demands pre-emptive action, this is definitely a welcome change.

The notion of linking the country's prosperity to the prosperity of the farmers demonstrates how this Government wishes to opt for inclusive growth. It's heartening to see how the Government has come

* Speech was laid on the Table.

up with plans and schemes to uphold the integrity of every single individual of the country, irrespective of his/her economic predicament. Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojaya are two of the many glaring examples of the same. This approach would definitely benefit a constituency like mine where agriculture employs more than 70% of the total workforce.

Doing business is no longer considered to be cumbersome. Thanks for bringing in the idea of 'competition federalism' and getting the states to compete with each other. This is definitely a competition which no one is going to lose. My own state, for that matter, has recently launched a Resurgent Rajasthan initiative to emerge as a magnet for investments-both form India and abroad. These are definitely the spill-over effects of what the Centre is pushing, as well as, pursuing. Needless to say, for a constituency like Churu, which has less than 2% population employed in industries, and less than 30% employed in services, this would catalyse the process of healthy economic transition and bring in more development.

Thanks to the Government's emphasis on Swachh Bharat, the constituency of Churu has emerged as the first 'open defecation free' constituency in India. The desire to achieve this altered the obsolete

bureaucratic way of doing things and infused the government officials in my constituency with a sense of responsibility that was unthought-of before. In addition, the pride this milestone brought in them inspires them to accomplish bigger and better goals.

This Government has demonstrated impeccable solidarity in promoting the idea of environment conservation and maintaining ecological balances. Be it taking a solid stand on climate change in international conferences or promoting the usage of renewable sources of energy internally. The Government has truly demonstrated its integrity for the cause. With such a push coming from the Centre, I wouldn't be surprised to see my constituency becoming a leading producer of solar energy in times to come (considering the area gets more than 320 days of sunshine in a year).

It fills up with awe to see the Government touching every aspect of our lives through its policies and initiatives. Be it employment and skill development, or agriculture, or cleanliness, or environmental protection, or infrastructure development, or health and education, it is obvious even to the laymen of this country that the Government is trying to make a difference. It is encouraging to see the technical change that it is bringing about in terms of inputs (through initiatives

like MyGov, e-governance, etc.), to achieve the desired outputs in the respective domains.

Hon. President proficiently outlined the achievements of the Government through various projects it has executed in the last few months through his speech. We believe that these achievements are just the beginning of a beautiful narrative that this Government is going to craft for the country in the next few years. It was stirring to see how every strata of the society is expected to be a part of this narrative-from rural India which is facing challenges due to low productivity and unemployment, to urban India which is constantly striving to emerge out of tumultuous times, to industry and service sectors which are untameable in its endeavour to rewrite the growth story of the nation, this Government has plans for everyone.

As a Member of Parliament, it's my pleasure to play an important role in touching the lives of the people who I represent, through the initiatives and policies of the Government which I represent. I aspire to see a day when every citizen of my constituency, as well as, this country, fully understands the struggle that lies ahead of us in taking this country where it belongs.

To sum up, I would like to commend the vision and the purpose with which this Government is working. Hon. President talked about a strong and forward looking India in his speech. Needless to say, if we continue our suitable disruptive mode of operation, this doesn’t seem like a distant dream 'Sabka Saath and Sabka Vikaas' would happen eventually.

**SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I stand to oppose the motion moved over here.

Sir, the Hon. Prime Minister talked about Ek Bharat, Shreshth Bharat. He said in London that in India Imran lives. The Prime Minister during a book launch in his house said that in the Quran the word Ilm or knowledge has been mentioned 800 times to specify the importance of knowledge in Islam. In 2014 in this august House the Prime Minister during his maiden speech said that many Muslim boys work in cycle shops repairing cycles.

Now if you juxtapose these statements with what his Government has done, by stating that this Government cannot be seen to be establishing a minority university, which is completely obnoxious. That is because a Government is always in continuous form. I am saying this in relation to Aligarh Muslim University. What was implicit in 1920 was made explicit in 1981. And this Government has forgotten the Jan Sangh's stand. The Jan Sangh's stand was for Aligarh Muslim University to be given minority status when Shri Vajpayee was part of the Government. Because that Government could not complete its tenure, in 1981 an Act was brought where in AMU was given a minority status.

My question to the Government is, if you cannot by law create a minority university, how can you create a minority university under law under Section 3 of UGC?

The whole world knows that Muslims were given land. At that time, an amount of Rs 30 crore was collected. In today's value, it is more than Rs. 600 crore. So, I would request the Government, please understand the ramifications. You are entering into an abyss which will create a huge legal problem. A Government of the day would fight for the legislation passed by this august House. You do not disown a legislation passed by this august House but the opposite has happened.

The same is happening with Jamia Millia Islamia. Article 30 is a Fundamental Right. Any Government brings in legislation to further the interest and intention of Article 30. Jamia Milia was founded by Muslims. It is known in history. Article 15(v), Article 13(ii), Central Educational Institutions Act 2006 and the National Commission for Minority Educational Institutions clearly state that Jamia Millia Islamia is a minority institute and in both these Universities there is no reservation for Muslims. In fact, 30 percent of students in Aligarh Muslim University belong to non-Muslim community. I want to know

why you are after these Universities. What is wrong with this Government? As it is, out of 100, only 3 Muslim boys become graduates. Why do you want to isolate Muslims? Why do you want to separate Muslims? Where is your *sabka saath, sabka vikas*? Your policies are completely contrary to what you are doing on the ground. Don't you want the Muslim boys to become doctors? Don't you want Muslim girls to become scientists? Why are you stopping our progress? I mentioned in the present debate about demand-driven scholarships. My proposal to the Government is, make the scholarships demand-driven. We want to study, we want to become pioneers, we want to strengthen this nation and we want to realise the dream of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. That can only happen if scholarships are made demand-driven for minorities, OBCs and Dalit community.

My third point is, Shri Venkaiah Naidu has been made the Chairman of a Committee to look into the reservation for Jats within 27 per cent reservation. Where is your *sabka saath, sabka vikas*? Where is the empirical data of backwardness of Jats? I have nothing against them. Please give it to them. But there is empirical data of our socio-educational backwardness. Will Shri Venkaiah Naidu's Government stand up and support the 4.5 per cent reservation given

to Minorities? Will the Modi Government give reservation to Muslims of Maharashtra? Hon. The Bombay High Court has given it. You are awarding violence. You are giving it to those people who have indulged in killings. Is this what you stand for? Where is your support and talk about rule of law?

The next point which I want to bring to your notice is about the important issue of Jammu and Kashmir. Where is the Government in Jammu and Kashmir which is a sensitive State? Alienation has increased so much that terrorists are firing at us and people are throwing stones at our security forces. What is wrong with this Government? Where is that governance of which you talked about during the election campaign? You have no iota of governance in Jammu and Kashmir.

Coming to oil prices, why is the benefit not being passed to the general public? The price of an oil barrel is now less than USD 30. Why can I not get the benefit? Why are you stopping the benefit being given to me?

Hon. Chairperson Sir, you come from Karnataka. I would request you also, Sir. A Member of Parliament of the ruling party from Karnataka has said, ‘as long as Islam remains, there will be terrorism

in the world.' Sir, I am a proud Muslim and a proud Indian but how can you say that my religion has connection with terrorism? The Prime Minister is going to address a Sufi Conference on 16th of March. If that is the case, why should the Prime Minister go and address a Muslim conference? A Member of Parliament of BJP says, 'as long as Islam exists, there will be cause of terrorism.' Sir, I request the wisdom of this Government that your Minister of State says, "We will show the strength of the majority community to the Muslims." What is wrong? You have taken oath on the Constitution of India?

**20.00 hours**

May I know from the Government how it is that such statements are emanating. If the Prime Minister disagrees, then he should sack that Minister. He should sack his Member of Parliament who stands up and says that Bhatkal is a centre of terrorism. The Muslims of Bhatkal are proud Indians as you and me. There might be some elements which should be dealt with strictly but to say this about Islam and Bhatkal is completely wrong. Let me bring to your notice the statement made by the Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Minority Affairs. During the closing of a function, he said, Right now

there are some situations which do not allow people to sleep. We can't even sleep now.

This is what an Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Minority Affairs has said. I salute that Additional Secretary. He is a proud secular Hindu and by stating those words he has shown this Government a mirror.

Lastly, I want to congratulate the Prime Minister for working for 18 hours. This is what the Hon. Minister for Food Processing Industries said but what has been the outcome of those 18 hours? The outcome of the work of those 18 hours is soldiers dying in the borders; the outcome of the work of those 18 hours is that the common man is still suffering; but the positive outcome for the Prime Minister is growth of Hindutva, violence on dalits, and atrocities on minorities. That is why I request the Government through you that if they stood for India first, if they stood for the Constitution, give minority character certificate to AMU, support the legislation passed in this august House. These are only two universities. Give scholarships to Muslims and make it demand-driven. Stop your Ministers and stop your MPs from creating further polarisation.

Thank you.

*[Translation]*

*__SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR):__ I wholeheartedly thank His Excellency the President, who, while addressing the Joint Meeting of both Houses of Parliament, briefed us on the revolutionary step taken by the BJP Government led by the able leadership of Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji on the direction and condition of building an empowered India. In fact, this is highly commendable, which is especially encouraging for the common people including farmers, women, poor and youth. I expect all my opposition colleagues to give positive support to the government to make this principle of development "Sabka Saath – Sabka Vikas" meaningful.

The vision of "Antyodaya" of Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya, the visionary of integrated humanity, the upliftment of the person sitting at the last rung of the society is the link to nation-building. Our Government is committed to the progress of the villages, prosperity of the farmers, employment to the unemployed, social security to all and providing housing to all living under huts and open skies by 2022 and many schemes have been made for this and it is being

* Speech was laid on the Table.

implemented at a rapid pace. While two schemes namely "New Manzil" and "Ustad" have been launched to enrich the minorities, our government has taken many effective steps for the prosperity of the farmers. Our government has recently launched a beneficial 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana' for farmers for the first time. In addition, under the ‘Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana’ and ‘New Urea Policy 2015’ for irrigation, the target is to produce 17 lakh metric tonnes of attached neem omitted urea per annum during the next three years, which will not only increase the fertiliser capacity but also prevent the use of subsidised urea. Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana has been launched to provide soil health cards to the farmers of the country by 2017 and to promote organic farming. Our Government is committed to water harvesting for every drop of more crop and water irrigation. The government has launched Sugamya Bharat Abhiyan at the national level for differently abled people.

In this way, our Government is developing on every aspect for all-round development, such as promotion of animal husbandry and milk production, scheme for setting up of E-Market platform for providing modern market value to farmers, plan to bring second green revolution to enhance the agricultural potential of Eastern States and grant of

more than Rs. 2 lakh crore for rural development has been allocated for the next five years.

Apart from this, the path of massive employment generation is being paved through integrated initiatives of Make in India, Skill India etc. Our government is determined to encourage excellence and research in the field of higher education, health, sanitation and root out malnutrition.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana launched by Maa Atal ji, 1 lakh 78 thousand villages will be connected by pucca road by March 2019. A comprehensive scheme Bharatmala has also been started for the development of national highways. It is committed to connect all the roads connecting all the four Dhams with each other in all seasons and connect the thirteen pilgrimage circuits. Under the Namami Gange programme, our government is implementing a complete cleanliness campaign for all the cities and villages situated on the banks of the holy Ganga. Besides, Aviral Ganga is also committed to clean Ganga.

Now all of us members of Parliament should discharge their responsibilities and debate in the democratic system and it is never appropriate to disrupt the proceedings of Parliament by creating

obstacles on baseless issues. This is a cruel joke by playing with public sentiments. We should never forget that our Parliament reflects the aspirations of the people. This verse of the Gita is inspiring for our life:-

The best people of the world:

He is a democratic person.

Our Government is committed to the principle of Sarva Dharma Sambhava,Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam and Sarve Bhavantu Sukhin. Let us all move forward together towards building a prosperous and empowered India of Swami Vivekananda's dreams.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA):** Sir, I rise to speak in support of the address presented by His Excellency the President. I am grateful to His Excellency, the Hon. Prime Minister who started his speech by celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar ji. This credit goes to the NDA government that for the first time after independence, the ideas of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar were discussed in the Parliament of India for two days. This is the credit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

**20.02 hours** (Dr. P. Venugopal *in the Chair*)

Modi ji called a convention of Dalits of India through DICCI in Bhawan and there it was resolved that we want to make the Dalits of India job providers and not job seekers. Recently, on the birth anniversary of Sant Ravidas Maharaj, for the first time a Prime Minister of India participated in the birth anniversary of Sant Ravidas Ji. I would like to say that today I feel sorry for the thinking of our critics. We have no opposition to anyone, but I would like to say that those who shed crocodile tears over the martyrs of Pathankot during the day but celebrate the birthdays of Yakub Memon and Afzal Guru in JNU and Hyderabad University at night. We are against people with

such a mentality. I would like to say that our critics should change their tune and accept the performance of the NDA government. It is only in the last two and a quarter year that the currency reserves have increased so much today.

*[English]*

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, if the House agrees, we may extend the time of the House till the list of Hon. Members participating in this debate are exhausted and the reply will be tomorrow.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Yes.

**SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU:** We have to complete the debate today itself.

**SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR):** Sir, what about 'Zero Hour'?

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** We will see after this.

*[Translation]*

**SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA:** For the first time after the independence of the country, India has got facilities in terms of ease of doing business. The World Bank, International Monetary Fund and

all the financial institutions of the world are considering India as an excellent investment destination. Today, under the leadership of Modi ji, the maximum number of kilometres of roads are being built in the country, national highways have been built, the maximum number of motor vehicles have been produced, the maximum increase in the capital cost of railways has happened during this two and a quarter year tenure of Modi ji. The highest production of electricity has taken place in these two and a quarter year.

India produced the highest amount of coal and not only this, more than three lakh crore rupees came into the treasury of our country through the auction of coal, this is the first time. Those people who are accusing us today, who sold India's spectrum, who sold India's coal, who sold the sky, the earth, the underworld, are trying to make all kinds of allegations against our government. Let's try.

Sir, today when we talk that we will double the income of Indian farmers in the coming years, questions are raised on us as to how we will do it. This year itself we have produced the maximum amount of urea fertiliser in India. The increase in the production of urea fertiliser in the country, will it not increase the crops? The way we have approved 100 percent FDI in food processing today, will the condition

of farmers of India not improve. We have produced the most mixed fuel and whether the production of ethanol will not benefit the farmers of our country. Apart from this, in the case of domestic gas, our Government is credited with giving up gas subsidies to 75 lakh people. Now the time has come that the BPL families, the poor people who have never used gas till date, the Government of India will provide free of cost more than 1.5 crore LPG gas cylinders every year to their homes.

Sir, I would also like to say that today the way our Government is taking the Panchayati Raj system towards progress,in the coming time, there will be a provision of Rs. 80 lakh in every Panchayat. This will be the first time in the history of independent India that such a huge amount has been given to the panchayats. We are working to build a glorious India. We are increasing the progress of development day and night. We want to build such a strong and visionary India under the leadership of respected Modi ji, which will push China and America back and put India in the front row of the world. Today, this is why our opponents feel pain in the stomach and that is why they criticise the Prime Minister. I want to say that you remember the time when Devakant Baruah used to say - India is India and Indira is India,

today he does not have the right to make any such comment on the Prime Minister.

With these words, I support the Address of the Hon. President. Thank you.

**SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):** Hon. Chairperson Sir, I rise in the House to speak in favour of the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address. In the address of the Hon. President, while the picture of the country's glorious economic, social and political system has come to the fore, at the same time the picture of the challenges facing the country and the plans of the government for the development of the country has come to the fore and I would like to say that I can say that the operative part which the people of the country expected and the trust with which the people of the country formed Modi Saheb's government, seems to be being fulfilled by it - 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'. I am proud that the concept of ‘Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas’ came first in this country from the place where I have a constitutionality and its name is Anandpur Sahib. The message of casteless society, elimination of high and low, principle of equality, welfare of society, civilised common talk is received in the country from there and I think that today's government has adopted it, for this I want to congratulate the government.

Sir, as far as development is concerned, it is a big thing to open 21 crore new bank accounts and deposit Rs 32 thousand crore in Jan Dhan Yojana. In the first governments, money went to some people. Forty percent of the country's wealth went to a hundred families and

90 percent of the country's capital went to ten percent of the people. I think that the Prime Minister kept one lakh crore rupees under the Mudra Yojana and five crore people benefited from it, and the de-centralization of wealth that has happened through it, I think is a very good message for the future of the country. This is a matter of everyone's development, similar is the matter of skill education. I want to say one thing that whatever is happening with everyone is challenging and risky. Where NITI Aayog came under Cooperative Federalism for everyone's support. By taking all the states together and forming separate committees, a good message has been sent. You need to send a message for this. People's mindset has to change. People attribute any incident that happens in the name of caste and religion. Be it Rohit ji's case or Kanhaiya's case, and many such things. Rahul ji has left from here, he has claimed for himself the legacy of Mahatma Gandhi ji. Now they are gone, and don't want to listen. They used to say that I have to learn. Left from here on the pretext of going to the bathroom. I understand that a motion of privilege is being made. They deceived the whole house and left. I wanted to ask them whether they follow the instructions of Mahatma Gandhiji? He refused Mahatma Gandhi's words just 24 hours after independence. He had said to close the Congress, end it, but he did

not end the Congress. Mahatma Gandhi did not tell them that innocent people should be burnt on fire, their children should be strangled with tires around their necks. There should be dance on their dead bodies and their leaders should say that when a big tree falls, the earth trembles. Did Mahatma Gandhiji say this? Mahatma Gandhiji had told them in Chandni Chowk that the people of the Sikh community had fought and freed the Gurudwaras from the British rulers, had called it the first war of independence, had congratulated them and had talked about disbanding the Shiromani Committee. Today they are called the heirs of Mahatma Gandhi?

Chairperson Sir, the second thing I want to say is that Make in India is a very good thing and we welcome it. When Hon. Modi ji had invited us to the first Diwali Milan, I liked it very much, he had said that small talk gives a big message. I want to say that Make in India is a very good thing. Now Kataria ji also said that urea was made in our Nangal, the Fertilizer Ministry did a very good job and made Neem coated urea, farmers got urea on time, 17 lakh metric tons of urea was made. I can say that by giving only Rs. 250 crore in Nangal factory, a unit of at least Rs. six thousand crore can be created. This is the first government that has taken care of the villages sooner or later, the roads built under PMGSY under the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee

Rural Mission. There is a need to relax a little because the roads are not widened, roads are not built. 300 such clusters have been created. First of all, our Hon. Chief Minister Sahib Parkash Singh Badal ji made focal points in the year 1977. There were some shortcomings left in it and I want to say that those shortcomings can be removed if the experience of our Punjab government is taken into consideration. For the first time in this country, electricity bills of tube wells of farmers were waived off. In the same way, I understand that today the Crop Insurance Scheme which the Prime Minister has brought and the Prime Minister Agriculture Scheme, water is important. I want to say one thing that when our reorganisation took place, our water was our partition. Now we want that the country's law and legislation, the riparian law, should be put forward for the distribution of that water. I will expect this from my government today. Because the first government, in 1977, looted our water and put our leaders in … *(Interruptions)*

Give me one minute, Sir. The Chief Minister and the then Prime Minister were asked by the court to withdraw the case. A lot of injustice has been done to us in the matter of water. Today we expect that we should get justice under that law and legislation. There was talk about the border, we are sitting on the border and special

incentives should be given to the people of the border area. The development funds for our border areas have been reduced and we should give them to them. We do not get any compensation for our roads that break down, crops that get damaged, our lands that are outside the fencing. There should be a system of giving special incentives for the border areas so that we can contribute to the security of the country. Thank you.

*[English]*

**SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI):** Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address.

Sir, I rise to support the President's Address delivered by the Hon. President to both the Houses of Parliament. He has declared that the Government will always strive for smooth and constructive conduct of the business of the House. I appeal to my fellow colleagues to cooperate with the Government in enacting laws to build a flourishing and prosperous India. The Opposition can give suggestions to the Government during the debate in this temple of democracy.

The NDA Government is fully committed to firmly deal with all challenges concerning the security of the country. We all know that terrorism is a global threat and strong counter-terrorism measures are necessary not only in India but throughout the world to eradicate it completely.

I congratulate the security forces on successfully foiling the recent attack at the Pathankot air base by terrorists. Pakistan authorities had registered a First Information Report in the Pathankot attack. The FIR,

however, did not name the terror group or Azhar, who allegedly masterminded the attack. I also congratulate the security forces on successfully flushing out a terrorist from the campus of a Government training institute in Pampore in the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Sir, the Hon. President's Address says, "My Government is committed to forging a mutually respectful relationship with Pakistan and in creating an environment of cooperation in combating cross-border terrorism." We have been observing that Pakistan is not at all serious in checking cross-border terrorism. They are sending terrorists into our territory and spoiling the peaceful atmosphere.

I welcome the Government's initiative, "Development for all" which means that the backward sections of society are equally valued and are genuine stakeholders in the country's progress. Development for all also means that we should tackle the issues of pollution, traffic and garbage problems that are found in our cities.

"Development for all" also means development of the entire world because India is a responsible member of the global comity of nations helping humanity solve major challenges like terrorism, climate change and financial instability. This idea of the NDA government

shows that they think globally and want to discharge its responsibility towards humanity across the globe. I really appreciate this idea.

The President has also said that the Government is focused on poverty eradication, revival of the farm sector, and creation of infrastructure in the rural areas. Our Government is also taking an initiative to market farm products by setting up an e-market platform and massive employment generation. I welcome this. The Government has education as a priority and the Government wants to develop the educational institutions as world class educational institutions. I congratulate the Government on this initiative.

Sir, the President's Address also has highlighted the *Pradhan Mantri Jandhan Yojana*. He was proud to say that it was the world's most successful financial inclusion programme. Under the programme, out of over 21 crore accounts that have been opened, 15 crore accounts are operational with an aggregate deposit of over Rs. 32000 crore. It is a platform for poverty eradication by offering basic financial services and security to the poor. The *Mudra* also is also one of the good schemes. Swami Vivekananda said, "Youth is the hope of the nation. They can do anything and everything and nothing is impossible, and he gave the slogan, `Arise, Awake and stop not till

the goal is achieved'. *Mudra* scheme certainly gives the best solution for the problem of unemployment in this country. This will help to eradicate the problems like black money and private financial institutions.

Sir, the Hon. President has also described the Indian economy as a haven of stability. The Government has simplified procedures for approvals, repeal obsolete laws and put in place a non-adversarial tax regime to attract investments.

First of all, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister for giving 24X7 power to our State. I also congratulate the Union Minister, Shri Venkaiah Naidu on sanctioning 1,92,000 houses for our State because he is the person responsible for it. I also congratulate the NDA Government on giving smart city status to Vizag and Kakinada. The Hon. President has said that India has jumped 12 places in the ranking of doing business with the World Bank while the foreign investment inflow has risen by 39 per cent.

Lastly, I request the Government on one point. Our State is a newly born State. We do not have a capital, and we do not have a Railway Zone. We do not have a surplus budget, and we have only a deficit budget. I request the Government to come to the rescue of the

State Government and help us to build our capital as we require thousands of crores of rupees to establish a new capital and a Railway Zone. We have a deficit budget as we do not have other sources of income. The UPA Government had miserably divided our State without taking into account further consequences.

On behalf of the Government of Andhra Pradesh, on behalf of Shri Chandrababu Naidu and Telugu Desam Party, I request the Union Government to come to the rescue of Andhra Pradesh and lend a helping hand to it as Andhra Pradesh is one of the very strong potential States which gives a lot of income to the Government of India. Our Hon. Chief Minister, Shri Chandrababu Naidu is working for 20 hours per day to bring our State to limelight.

I also congratulate the Government for taking steps to eliminate corruption and for taking action to punish those who are found guilty of corruption.

With these words, I strongly support the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address and I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak.

02.03.2016

*[Translation]*

**DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):** Hon. Chairperson, I am very grateful to you for allowing me to speak on the Motion of Thanks on the Address moved by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi Ji.

Hon. Chairperson, our government has completed 20 months under the leadership of our illustrious Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi ji, but if the achievements of these 20 months are counted, then this is a government working for the poor, a government working for the farmers, There is a government working for the backward people, there is a government working for the Dalits and forest dwellers.

Chairperson Sir, I remember that the then Congress government had nationalised the banks in 1972. I think that according to him, if there was any important purpose for nationalising the banks, then the purpose was for financial inclusion, the purpose was to connect the poor with banks. But it is unfortunate, and I feel regretful that despite more than 55 years, Congress has not opened bank accounts for the poor. Under the leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi, the Government brought Jan Dhan Yojana and about 21 crore new bank accounts were opened in it. Congress governments worked

for so many years, but till date so many people were away from the doors of banks. Our Prime Minister has done this. About 75 per cent of the accounts of these banks are active and the amount which has come in is about Rs. 32 crore. In this, more than two-thirds of the accounts are opened in rural areas and the number of women's accounts is more than 70 percent.

Now I want to talk about social justice. After the coming of our Narendra Bhai Modi ji government, the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe Prevention of Atrocities Act has been further strengthened and the work of strengthening it has been done by our government, it has been done by the Minister of our Social Justice and Empowerment Department. Babasaheb Ambedkar was discussed in both the Houses. Baba Saheb has given such a constitution, due to which the democracy of the country became stronger. The Congress government did not build any memorial of Baba Saheb Ambedkar in Delhi. I am very thankful to our Prime Minister Narendra Bhai Modi Ji, I am very grateful to him that he has started the construction of Baba Saheb Ambedkar International Memorial at Janpath in Delhi at a cost of crores of rupees. Baba Saheb Ambedkar breathed his last at Chhattisgarh Alipore Road in Delhi. During Atal ji's government, it was purchased as private property and Narendra Bhai Modi ji's

government has resolved to make it his memorial at a cost of Rs. 100 crore. I thank him very much for this.

As far as Dalits and forest dwellers are concerned, Dalits and forest dwellers only do jobs, they only go into employment, but for the first time, Modi ji himself was present in the Dicki convention of Dalit entrepreneurs and industrialists. I think this is a big question on the issue of social justice. As far as Smart City is concerned, this Government has announced 100 Smart Cities. Out of them, 20 Smart Cities have been announced already. I thank the government for this. I express my gratitude to the Prime Minister that Ahmedabad in our Gujarat, the area I represent, Surat has been declared as a smart city. As far as infrastructure is concerned, connecting roads with highways, after the coming of our government, under the leadership of our Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari ji, about 18 kilometres of national highways are constructed every day. About 7200 km of highways have been completed till date and a resolution has been made in this budget for about 12,900 km of highways. It will be completed in the future. ...*(Interruptions)* As far as the linking of villages by road is concerned about 1,78,000 villages will be connected by road by 2019 under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, which will lead to development of villages. The way our Government has come up with

the 'Mudra' scheme and many other issues, I think that this Government is going in the right direction to build the coming India. ... *(Interruptions)* My Congress friends blame the government, I want to tell them that our government is moving in the right direction and will move forward under the leadership of the Prime Minister. ... *(Interruptions)*

*[English]*

***SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR):** First of all, I would like to thank the Hon. President for highlighting the work of the current Modi Government in such a comprehensive manner. The President has shared perhaps elaborately the details of schemes and work done by each and every Ministry that has worked really hard for the past 20 months under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

Firstly, I would like to extend my warm thanks to the Railway Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu for special focus towards my home state, Himachal Pradesh. H.P. had been consistently ignored by the previous governments and never received an outlay of more than Rs.50 crores in the UPA regime. Under the current Government, it's the 2nd consecutive year that H.P. has received an outlay of more than Rs. 300 crores. The Bilaspur- Beryi railway line has been fast tracked and received Rs.190 crores of total outlay in 2016-17. Once completed, the railway line would not only have immense potential to boost Himachal tourism but also act as a strategic line near the border area. Railway Ministry's intervention on the Heritage metro line of Kalka-

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Shimla by means of repair and maintenance is also highly commendable work.

This rail budget has indeed been fashioned by a creative partnership with ideas from my colleagues in Parliament, industry associations, commuter associations, media and practically all sections of the society. The budget owes its inspiration to the vision and leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji who wanted to make railways the backbone of India's progress and economic development.

Railways is headed towards its golden *era* with three pillars of the strategy that will reflect the new thought process of Railways –Nav Arjan-New revenues to exploit every asset, tangible or intangible gets optimally monetized; Nav Mank-new norms to ensure optimal productivity of each activity and Nav Sanrachna- New Structures to Re-imagine the conventional ways of solving issues and shifting towards co-operation, collaboration, Creativity and Communication for our decision –making and actions.

Our railways too look in good financial condition with extensive cost optimization and revenue enhancement through innovative means undertaken and continued for the next year. We have already

made humble beginnings in this direction, as a result of which a saving of Rs. 8,720 crore from the budget estimates would be affected this year, and we're expecting to generate revenue worth Rs.1,84,820 crore next year, 10.1% higher than the revised target for the current year.

Coming to the general budget that was recently announced by the Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitely, I would like to thank the F.M. and his ministry for presenting such a comprehensive and all-encompassing visionary budget. Under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, we've received enhanced support to rural areas, farmers, youth and tax incentives to the common man. The finance minister has announced special initiatives for skill development and job creation. The focus is also on ease of doing business and incentivizing them.

I come from a rural background. The youth today want employment and self-employment opportunities. Schemes like 'Start up, Stand up India' will help youth to become entrepreneurs, develop skills for employment and self-employment, and further enhance the rural economy. Rs 2.87 lakh crore, the highest ever grant-in-aid will be given to village panchayats and Municipalities that will boost rural

economy in unprecedented manner. The government also proposes to develop 300 'rurban' clusters across India that will act as smart villages equivalent to the /smart Cities program. It is also praiseworthy that the Government plans to increase the target to 10,000kms of national highway and upgradation of 50,000 kms of state highways in 2016/17.

The initiatives around the public transport system too deserve a mention. The initiatives will create entrepreneurship in the public transport system. Like the Finance Minister said, this is an unreformed sector which poses several hurdles for doing business. Once the scheme is implemented, entrepreneurs will be able to operate buses on various routes if they comply with the efficiency and safety norms. A fleet of new public transport vehicles will not only improve efficiency but also open up job opportunities.

The Government has provided relief to common man by increasing the deduction form Housing Rent Allowance (HRA) from Rs. 24000 to Rs. 60,000 besides increasing tax rebate form 2000 to 5000. I also would like to thank the FM for taking steps towards affordable housing wherein the 1st home buyers would get additional deduction of Rs.50,000 on interest for loan up to Rs 35 lakh.

The Government plans to bring 28.5 lakh hectares under irrigation under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana and 5 lakh hectares under Organic Farming scheme which would help our farmers to be less dependent on monsoon and move India towards an irrigated society. Nothing justifies the Modi government's importance towards farmer concerns than the fact that it targets to double the farmer's income in the next 5 years. The government also plans to focus on crop insurance, by setting aside Rs. 5500 crore to be allocated to PM Fasal Bima Yojana for next fiscal year. Perhaps, it was new to hear for the opposition parties that the FM has also set aside Rs. 850 crore on animal husbandry, cattle, livestock breeding and other allied agriculture activities.

Continuing with the Skill India Program, the Modi government has been committed to educate, employ and empower the youth of the country. The FM's decision for allocating Rs.500 crore for 'Stand Up India' scheme that'll be especially beneficial to SC/ST and women entrepreneurs will go a long way in shifting the most vulnerable strata of our society from job seekers to job creators. The Finance Minister has taken the interests of everyone –farmers, industry, common man and youth and presented a comprehensive and pro-people budget that will take India to newer heights.

I would like to bring to the notice of the Government every important and distinct feature of the current Government. The previous Government had only one incentive for their new schemes in the name of members of just one family. The aim of the current Government is India first always! Hence, you would find the name of the current Government's key schemes always highlighting the purpose for which it is launched-India and its citizens, from 'Make in India', Digital India, Skill India, Start UP India to Stand Up India.

In the end, I'd just like to thank and congratulate our Prime Minister, Narendra Modi and each and every Minister for their sheer dedication and hard work for the past 20 months. I'm also thankful to the President for the kind and truthful words in his Address for the various initiatives and schemes of the Government.

02.03.2016

***SHRI R. K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI):** Hon. Chairman Sir, Vanakkam. I thank Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchithalaivi* Amma for this opportunity to speak on Motion of Thanks on the President's Address to Parliament. In the Hon. President's Address, the important welfare schemes undertaken by the Union Government including eradication of poverty, welfare of farmers, generating more employment to the youth are listed in detail. Hon. President, in his Address, has mentioned several welfare schemes being implemented by the Union government for providing the basic necessities such as food, clothing, housing, education, health and employment to the poor people. In Tamil Nadu, Hon. Chief Minister *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has been implementing several ambitious schemes and programmes aimed at the welfare of poor and downtrodden people. Amma Unavagam –a canteen facility is implemented in Tamil Nadu which is world famous for providing food at subsidised rates to the common people. Under this Scheme, Idly is provided at Rs.1 per piece, Curd rice at Rs. 3 per plate and Sambhar rice at Rs. 5 per plate. Particularly aged persons, labourers and other sections of people are able to get food at very low prices.

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* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

**SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA:** Sir, I am on a point of order. There is no quorum in the House.

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Shri Bharathimohan, please be seated. Because a Member is very particular about quorum.

The bell is being rung –

**HON. CHAIRPERSON:** Hon. Members, there is no quorum in the House. The House stands adjourned to meet tomorrow, the 3rd March, 2016 at 11 a.m.

**20.41 hours**

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the clock

*on Thursday, March 3, 2016 / Phalguna 13, 1937 (Saka).*

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02.03.2016

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02.03.2016

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