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Phalguna 24, 1937 (Saka)

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Seventh Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)

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LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Monday, March 14, 2016/Phalguna 24, 1937 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

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

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER

Re : Immediate intervention and assistance to farmers affected by unseasonal rains and hailstorms in entire north India

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Hon. Speaker, there has been unseasonal rainfall ...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Not now, you will be given an opportunity later.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JYOTIRADITYA MADHAVRAO SCINDIA (GUNA): Hon. Speaker Madam, there has been hailstorm. This is a very important issue. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: This relates to farmers. Please speak within two minutes. I had in fact intended to allow this matter to be raised during Zero Hour.

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I too have given a notice. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You will be given a chance later.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAHUL GANDHI (AMETHI): Hon. Speaker Madam, the farmers in North India have suffered tremendous losses due to rains and hailstorms. We want the Government to take immediate action. A Central Team should be sent to assess the damage in the affected States, and the Government should act expeditiously. The Agriculture Minister should make a statement. We want to ensure that what happened to farmers the last time, when there was hailstorm and rain, does not happen again. Prompt action must be taken. Thank you.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Hon. Speaker Madam, the issue raised by Shri Rahul Gandhi is indeed a serious matter. Yesterday evening, on reading the newspapers and watching the news, I immediately spoke to the Agriculture Minister. The Agriculture Minister is in touch with all the States. During this Session, either today or tomorrow, the Agriculture Minister will come to the House. Other Hon. Members may express their views, after which the Minister will respond with a solution.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): You see, what is happening in Bihar?... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: No, no more, we will see later.

11.04 hours

*ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 221, Shri Sultan Ahmed.

(Q. 221)

SHRI SULTAN AHMED: In reply to my question, the hon. The Minister has stated that for Startup, she is providing funding support through a Fund of Funds with a corpus of Rs. 10,000 crore. In our country, a lot of scams have come up and now, the Mallya gate scam is going on. We have seen 2G; we have seen SATYAM; and we have seen mining scam also. In the Budget speech, the hon. The Finance Minister has said that startups will generate employment, bring innovation, and are expected to be the key partners in the 'Make in India' programme. The shine of the 'Make in India' programme is also coming down. There is no shine at all.

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

The hon. The Finance Minister in his Budget allocated only Rs. 1,100 crore for Startup and Stand Up. In your reply, you have stated that you are providing funding and support through the Fund of Funds with a corpus of Rs.10,000 crore. We have seen in the past the Beti *Bachao* Programme. The Government has allotted only Rs.100 crore. But this year, no fund has been allocated at all.

The Government has given only a three year moratorium. There will not be any taxation. But this type of business or Startups will take a minimum of five to seven years to stand on their own feet. How would the Government save those investors who would invest in Startup programmes? They would lose money from the investors, angel investors, bankers and financial institutions. What is the thinking of the Government in providing protection to them?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam Speaker, the hon. Members have raised and linked several issues to a very good scheme through which India is seeing Startups being given an unusual support by the Government. The ecosystem already exists; the Government is only trying to help and facilitate. An announcement of the Fund of Funds has been made, the details of which have to be notified. They are yet to be notified by the Finance Ministry. The tax

exemption which the hon. Members are talking about – only three years; you need more – there is a flexibility which is being given three years. Startups can choose within a band of five years, three consecutive years. These are steps towards helping even angel investors who are coming in because their capital gains are also going to be tax exempted. So, at a stage, where we are very clearly announcing one after the other through the Action Plan, steps which are yet to even get grounded, I would wish the hon. Member to look at the positive steps taken by the Government rather than raise questions about scams, even now. Here is a case of entrepreneurs in India because of their sheer will power have created an ecosystem and the Government is trying to help and facilitate them. So, I would encourage you to look at the various steps, many of which are still getting notified by the Finance Ministry, to be seen as a facilitator for a young India which requires that support.

SHRI SULTAN AHMED: Hon. Minister has not clarified about Rs.1,100 crore and Rs.15,000 crore and from where this fund would come. Regarding the Startups, there must be some negative aspects. For example, about the allocation for the backward regions, there should be transparency on the selection of Startup entrepreneurs.

Whether the Government has already made up its mind that they are ready to allot funds to these Startup players? We want some sort of transparency in this scheme.

About the failure in the Startups, is there any mechanism to protect the investment of investors and bankers? We have seen in the past, public sector banks have allotted money to this programme and they have lost their entire amount. The Government has to give protection to small investors and businessmen.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: About the initiative and whether it is including backward areas and so on, the Startup ecosystem is also being spread to the Tier-II and Tier-III cities, semi-urban areas, and also to the rural areas. It is not confined to metropolitan or cities which are very big and which already have an ecosystem. We are aiming to include many of the Tier-II and tier-III cities. Since the Department of Science and Technology and also the HRD are involved in it, incubators and innovation core programmes are being held in these cities so that we can encourage them. It is not confined to metropolitan cities. … *(Interruptions)* We have very clearly mentioned about the fact that it is going to be spread to tier-II and tier-III cities. The Startups will be funded not just by the

Government's funds but, as you know, angel investors are definitely spreading and they are already assisting and they will be extending their help to fund the Startups.

Only commercially successful and commercially possible ventures are going to be supported and there is no direct support in the sense, Government directly giving to those investors or to those Startups. It is getting routed through SIDBI and SIDBI's retail ventures. So, the point about transparency/operations so that it is not leading to any scam is very well taken and at the moment every information is put on the website for everybody to see.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Bharatendra – Not present.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Madam, thank you for allowing me to raise this supplement.

The Startup Programme, as stated by the hon. Minister, is a very good initiative by the Government of India under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi. My question to the hon. Minister is this. Startup Programme is naturally a risky venture. My question is related to Tier-II cities also. She has replied to that. My point is, to promote and encourage entrepreneurs there is no scope for entrepreneurship in our education system and curriculum. So, in the Startup Scheme, is there

any linkage between Skill India Programme and Startup Programme to avoid the risk of losing the public fund? Also, is there any scheme to encourage and develop entrepreneurship through Startup India?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw your attention to three schemes which are being implemented by the Department of Science and Technology, in cooperation with the Ministry of HRD. There are three schemes called, Innovation Core Programme, National Initiative for Developing and Harnessing Innovations and Uchhattar Avishkar Yojana. They are aimed at bringing in school students and IIT students to the idea of innovation, to the idea of such entrepreneurship which will be important for building a startup ecosystem. So yes, there is a linkage and the Skill India Programme will also be able to show what are the kinds of skills which are required, which are going to be attractive for Startups, and, therefore, there is a definite linkage between the Ministry of Human Resources Development, DST and the programmes which are being promoted for the sake of building innovation.

Regarding one particular reference made by the earlier Member asking question on what is happening about exit, there is definitely a

faster exit route also defined for the Startups, and, therefore, both entry and exits are being facilitated in such a way that people are not going to be troubled.

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN: Madam Speaker, the Startup Programme was introduced by the Government of Kerala in 2012 under the leadership of hon. CM, Shri Oommen Chandy. The aim was to expose the Indian youths to legendary Silicon Valley. The Kerala model encourages funding, including soft loan, interest free loans, etc., besides reimbursement of VAT, CST, matching grants, etc. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, through you, Madam, what steps it has taken and how the Government advances to convince investors and banks to part with financial assistance that is essential for the growth in the incubation period. And, what is the role of the State Governments also?

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam Speaker, we have very clearly engaged with the banks and also we are making sure that there is engagement between the industry itself and those young entrepreneurs who want to have linkage with funders, such as angel investors or with the Funds of Funds, SIDBI and so on. There is a constant engagement which is happening at every level with the

Startups. In fact, the IITs have started running this programme. I am glad the HRD Minister is here and she has reminded me that the HRD Ministry is running the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan wherein entrepreneurship in village is being encouraged and they are also a part of the entire exercise of talking to entrepreneurs and linking them with funders, whether they are private or Government, through the SIDBI.

More importantly, when IITs and recognised incubation centers hold these programmes, the whole idea is to have greater connectivity with the people who are interested in funding them. So, the constant dynamism of this whole exercise is only to facilitate them from the side of the Government so that everybody gets connected to the people who matter in this whole exercise.

(Q.222)

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Hon. Speaker Madam, in our traditions, we regard women as divine beings, and children too occupy an equally exalted position. In the Puranic era, the child Dhruva was accorded such a lofty place that none has ever attained since. In our country even today, we honour children by celebrating the birth anniversary of former Prime Minister late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru as Children's Day. Regrettably, despite such recognition, the number of child labourers in our country, as per the reply given, is about 43–44 lakhs. I recall that some time ago the figure given was nearly 2 crores, but according to the International Labour Organisation, India has not less than 5 crore child labourers. Some of them work in hotels, some in knitting, some in the jewellery industry and other trades. Unfortunately, due to poverty in their families, children are compelled to work. The Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act was enacted in 1986 and has been amended since, yet the number of child labourers has not come down.

Through you, I wish to ask the Minister that despite several legislative measures, owing to lack of proper implementation, the

number of child labourers continues to increase. In future, how does the Government propose to ensure strict enforcement of the law, direct the State Governments to take firm action, and provide for effective measures to check the rise in child labour?

[English]

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Hon. Speaker, Madam, regarding the number of child labour, the figure as per 2001 Census was 1.26 crore. When it comes to the 2011 Census, it came down to 43,53,000. This is the record as per the Census data. Though the hon. Member is seriously concerned about increase in the number of child labour, it is not properly coming up in the data. But so far as his concern regarding eradication of child labour is concerned, our Government is totally committed to it and that is why amendment in the Child Labour (Prohibition & Regulation) Act is very much needed.

In the present Act, there are 18 occupations and 65 processes where employment of children below 14 years of age is prohibited. After approval of the Cabinet Committee in May 2015, we are proposing amendments in this Act. By this, the Government led by hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi wants to totally eliminate

the child labour including these 18 occupations and 65 processes so that the employment to children up to 14 years is prohibited in any factory or establishment.

Regarding other important aspects which you mentioned, we are linking this Act to the Right to Education Act of 2009.

The third thing which is very important and for which we are very much concerned is that there will be a stricter punishment for the employer, who violates this law. We have included this provision in the proposed Bill.

I would like to say that for the first time through the amendments the Government of India is coming up with a rehabilitation fund so that the children are provided skills as well as employment after their formal education.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT: Hon. Speaker Madam, I find it difficult to believe that in such a vast country of ours there are only about 43 lakh child labourers. I would request the Minister to once again ascertain the correct figures.

As the Minister has mentioned, through the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan we are making efforts to provide education to all children. Yet, in a reply given in the Rajya Sabha, the Minister has stated that despite the implementation of the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, at least 60 lakh children in our country are still deprived of education. This is the Government's own reply. I wish to state that the problem of child labour needs to be addressed in the spirit of a mission. Just as the Government undertook the mission of eradicating polio, and today the country has become polio-free, in the same manner, the Government must treat the elimination of child labour as a mission. I would therefore like to know what provisions this Ministry has made for the future in this regard.

[English]

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Hon. Speaker, the enforcement of the Act is very important. For the enforcement of the Act, the State Government is the appropriate authority at the State level while the Union Government is the appropriate authority in respect of Union Government establishments.

I would like to inform the House that for enforcement of the Act the Ministry of Labour has done five regional conferences at the State

level. In May 2015, I also wrote to all the Chief Ministers for the effective enforcement of labor laws. For follow up of that, our Secretary has also written letters to all the Chief Secretaries. So, we are constantly in touch with the State Governments.

So far as the number of child labour is concerned, if there is any other agency, we will take that into consideration so that proper number of child labour should come in the record.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MANDAL: Madam, I am grateful to you for permitting me to raise this question. The reply given by the Minister that there are only 44 lakh child labourers, while the population of India today is 125 crores, is something that no one would believe. The figures you have are computerised; we know they are not correct. The problem of child labour in our country today is indeed a very serious one. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MANDAL: Madam, the reply given by the Minister indicates that the schools for child labourers are being closed down. In every State, such schools for child labourers are being shut, and the grants that were being given to State Governments are also

being discontinued. These institutions, many of them run unconditionally by NGOs, are being adversely affected. Therefore, it is not in the interest of the Government to close them. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please ask your question.

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR MANDAL: My question to the Hon. Minister is this: regarding the schools for child labourers, will the Government enhance the grants, improve the quality of education imparted in these schools, and ensure the physical and mental development of child labourers, thereby enabling these schools to function properly? Does the Government have any plan for their development or not?

[English]

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Madam, hon. Member has rightly pointed out that there is a scheme for eradication of child labour, which is a Centrally-sponsored scheme, called NCLP. Now, it is continuing in the 12th Five Year Plan also. We are also taking up even more new districts. At present, 270 districts are covered. For implementation of the scheme, we are forming new guidelines. In these new guidelines, we are going to revise the decisions which were

taken earlier. We are going to increase the honorarium being paid to volunteer workers and expand the reach of our schools and technical institutes up to small, small villages so that flexibility can be provided in the guidelines. Then, our target groups are also expanding.

Another important thing is effective monitoring. We are covering that also. I have already expressed to you and once again say that this Government is totally committed to total eradication of child labour in the country. Also, I have already informed you that the proposed Amendment Bill, which is coming, is pending in the Rajya Sabha. Even in the Winter Session, I gave notice two times, but it could not come up. In this Session also, I have given a notice, but it could not come up. If all the hon. Members of our both the Houses, Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, come forward to pass the Bill, I definitely feel that total eradication of child labour will take place.

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA: Hon. Speaker Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that the Government is going to amend the Child Labour (Prohibition and Regulation) Act, 1986. Under that Act, employment of children below the age of 14 years is prohibited. However, under the Juvenile Justice Act, the age prescribed for a child

to undertake any form of creative work is 18 years. Both these Acts fall within the ambit of child labour, but because of the differences between them, those who employ child labour exploit this gap, lift poor children and subject them to child labour and exploitation. May I know whether the Government proposes to harmonise both these Acts by bringing forth a new legislation or has it prepared any action plan to effectively curb child labour in the country?

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: As I have already stated, *[English]* we are coming out with official amendments. If those official amendments and the bill are passed, I feel that all the acts, which cover child labor, will be converged and they will definitely be followed properly.

(Q. 223)

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD: Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity.

Today India is respected all over the world because of our software skilled personnel, doctors, educators and scientists. India once upon a time used to be called a country of snake-charmers while today it is a software giant. Once upon a time, India was a country full of hunger, but today we are a satellite launching country. Today, we are able to send satellites to Mars at the least cost. All this has been possible because of the foundation laid by our forefathers for quality and affordable education which was available to the poorest of poor and the meritorious students across the country across all sections of the population. Today, looking at the answer given by the hon. Minister, there are 233 private universities in this country, which is almost two-third of the universities. There are 88 privately-managed deemed universities out of 123.

I would like to ask the hon. Minister. As you know, Madam, these universities are administered by themselves. Apparently, they follow certain rules, but most of the time most of us know how they function. I would like to ask this from the hon. Minister, through you,

Madam what steps are being taken to maintain the standards as well as constantly monitor quality of education and education for the poorest of the poor?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Madam Speaker, to ensure that those students who belong to disadvantaged communities, especially, those who belong to economically challenged backgrounds, subsidized education is ensured through the public and Government-managed institutions.

I would like to say here that the hon. Members particularly asked about the issues with regard to maintenance of standards in private universities. I would like to add here, Madam Speaker, that through the 'know your college portal' what we have done is that we have engaged every private and deemed to be university and other institutions across this country. In short, they give us details with regard to the academic staff that they have put in their institutions to service the educational sector including giving us the academic background of those academicians including the status of the labs in those institutions. The full discovery and full report of that particular institution is available in the public domain along with facilitation for the students and citizens at large that if they find any anomaly in the

private institution in which they have sought admission or for that matter an institution, which attracted them on the basis of a prospectus, but the elements of the prospectus do not fructify on the ground, then that citizen can complain to the Regulator and the Regulator takes appropriate action.

Madam Speaker, I would also like to add here that the Government has insistently pursued institutions across this country to ensure that they are accredited so that standards are maintained. Apart from ensuring that standards are maintained through inspection, through interaction with these institutions, through the UGC, we have also ensured that a model syllabi is given in various courses so that those institutions that need to, in some way refurbish their curriculum, can also be assisted. To ensure that standards are enhanced and become industry-compatible we have also, through UGC, allowed that adjunct faculty wherein experts in various academic fields can be called within the institutions and they can also teach our students along with academic staff, which has been appointed by the university.

The concern that the hon. Members expressed with regard to how education can be made less expensive, especially, for those who come

from economically challenged backgrounds, I will only say here that through an online open course protocol called SWAYAM, we are hoping to develop a platform. Currently, all IITs, IIMs, Central Universities, NITs and in one or two respects even some private institutions have approached the Government and we are in the process of putting forth to the nation around 500 courses, which include Diploma courses, certificate courses in conjunction with NIOS, the Tenth and Twelfth standard examination, which will be on this portal -- which will also be a mobile app -- will be available to Indian citizens free of cost. Any citizen seeking to give an examination and procure certification can go to designated centers, which will be publicly announced and notified so that they can sit and for a minimal processing fee give this exam and be certified as such.

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD: Madam, I would like to ask the most important Question. Today, education has become a big business module. Fortunately or unfortunately, education is supposed to be a non-profit making investment, but actually most of us know as to what actually happens on the ground. Today, we know that between Rs. 12,000 crore and Rs. 15,000 crore of black money is generated only through medical admission. Why cannot the Government take steps

to allow investment into the education sector in a straightforward manner and let there be clarity and transparency in the admission process?

Today, the most important thing is that the down-trodden sections, including myself, are able to sit in Parliament because of reservations. Reservations cannot be confined only to public or Government-run institutions. Reservations for SC/ST/OBC and also economically backward sections must be ensured in privately-managed universities and deemed universities. Otherwise, it will lead to public unrest because like health, almost two-thirds of educational institutions are in private hands.

I know that the Minister is very efficient. The Minister should take the call on behalf of 120 crore people of our country.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Madam Speaker, I am sure that the hon. Members know that the UGC regulations which have been notified in the year 2010 are the ones which fix the minimum standards of administration even in the university system. Insofar as ensuring that fees are not hiked and the students are not impacted, I would like to tell the House that most of the States are empowered and they have a Fee Committee which fixes the minimum standard

and benchmark in their States so that exorbitant fees are not taken from the students. Also under the AICTE and the Srikrishna Committee Report, guidelines to ensure that students are protected from exorbitant fee hikes, have also been approved and we have communicated the same to every State.

I would also like to state here, Madam Speaker, that the SWAYAM Portal that my Ministry proposes is the first of its kind because it will ensure free education to every section of the society. Once it comes into the public domain, I would implore and seek the assistance of every Member of the House to ensure that it reaches every citizen within their own constituency. I think that will be the greatest service we can do, through education, to our population

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD: Madam, the Minister has not answered my question on the reservation issue.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI: Hon. Speaker Madam, the issue of child labour which was raised earlier also arises due to the lack of adequate arrangements for primary education. If we turn to higher education, as per the reply given by the Hon. Minister, there are 233 private universities and 123 deemed universities in our country, which

along with Government universities are engaged in the task of imparting education. However, this number is quite insufficient considering the strength of students. Today, India is regarded across the world as a young nation. It is a general estimate that about 26 million students are currently pursuing higher education. While this is the present situation, in the coming ten years it is estimated that the number of such students will rise to 40 million. In such a scenario, we will require at least 550 to 600 additional universities.

May I know whether the Government proposes to adopt and promote free courses from leading universities along with online learning as an option for higher education? … *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Boora Narsaiah Goud, please take your seat.

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD: The Minister has not answered my question. The Minister can simply say ‘yes’ or ‘no’. … *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Hon. Speaker Madam, the hon. Member in his question has referred to an example regarding out-

of-school children. I would like to inform the House that as per the information available with me, in one district of Uttar Pradesh a study was conducted by the Labour Commission. It was found therein that 57 per cent of the children, though enrolled in schools, were being utilised as child labour, even though there was an earning adult member in their households. This is both an administrative as well as a social challenge. I am confident that such a challenge can be addressed jointly by the administration and society. Our endeavour has always been to ensure that out-of-school children in every State are brought back into the system and provided education. As regards the question whether the regulatory system will promote or impact online education so that a larger number of our students may have access to the boon of education, I wish to assure the House that this objective is very much under consideration.

Madam, through you, I wish to inform the hon. Member that under the SWAYAM portal, all courses being conducted shall be accorded credit recognition by the UGC and AICTE. This will enable learners to secure such credits and thereby advance their educational movement across the country. Once the credits are obtained online, if any individual seeks admission physically in a university or college in

any State of the Union, he or she shall not face any impediment. The hon. Member has expressed concern that in view of our growing population, there may not be adequate universities. I would like to draw his attention to the fact that, apart from private and public universities, under the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan we have urged every State, in coordination with the Union Government, to adopt the RUSA framework to meet district-wise requirements of colleges. Wherever State Governments have accredited colleges through NAAC, we have sought to strengthen such degree colleges at the district level through RUSA funding.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Madam, our universities are mushrooming in large numbers. If somebody has land, he contributes the land; if somebody has money, he invests it – and a university comes up. We have gradation of universities – those whose results are good may charge higher fees; that does not matter. But why should those universities which are not able to produce results, which are not performing well, also be allowed to charge high mess fees and tuition fees? Through you, Madam, I would like to ask the hon. Minister why such universities should not be graded. Universities which do not perform should not be permitted to charge fees arbitrarily and exploit

students. Today, many youngsters are carrying around degree certificates, but when they seek employment, they do not succeed. Therefore, my submission is that universities which do not perform should have their fees regulated accordingly.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Hon. Speaker Madam, through you, I wish to inform the hon. Member that for the first time in the history of our nation, we have placed before the country a National Ranking Framework. The first ranking of our higher education institutions will be presented to the nation in the first week of April. Through this framework, we will have a comparative account of how higher education institutions across the country are perceived by the nation, students, citizens and academicians, and the extent of their preference. It is also a fact that in the private sector, where institutions do not perform well, students are reluctant to seek admission. However, as the hon. Member pointed out, there are some institutions which admit students by misleading them, and subsequently the students find themselves trapped with no way out. In this regard, we have taken certain steps. Firstly, through the “Know Your College” portal, we have mandated that universities must place complete information about themselves in the public domain. If this

information is not available in the public domain, students can approach us, and if any assurance given in the prospectus is not honoured, the UGC acts on such complaints. It is also true that several students and citizens have reported to the UGC that certain institutions in which they had secured admission were not even registered with the regulator. We have identified 21 such fake universities and made their details public to ensure that students are not deceived. We have also written to the Secretaries of the respective States, since law and order is their domain, urging them to take legal action against such fraudulent universities.

[English]

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL: Madam, there is one Save Merit Society in Hyderabad. It is a registered Society. That Society has written a letter to the hon. The Prime Minister said that deemed universities are misusing their deemed status by selling hundred per cent seats and ignoring merit for high capitation fees before their entrance examination. Conducting entrance examination, counseling and admission process are just an eye wash to the medical aspirants. According to their calculation, every year, in our society, all medical colleges put together are doing a scam of Rs.4,000 crore. All these

colleges are cheating meritorious students. I would like to know from the hon. Minister, if it is a fact, then what steps the hon. The Minister is going to take this into consideration.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to tell the hon. Member that medical education is not within the ambit of the HRD Ministry. However, if the hon. Member has any specific complaint with regard to any non-medical higher education institution, my Ministry will definitely ensure that the UGC acts upon it. I look forward to any such specific information given to me by the hon. Member.

(Q.224)

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA: Madam Speaker, today many of the LPG users are not able to avail of the subsidy transfer benefit because a large number of people in whose names LPG connections stand as on date are no more and these connections are not being transferred to their respective legal heirs. In many cases the present users of such connections are forced to opt for quitting the subsidy transfer scheme although their economic condition is not so good. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government is considering simplification of the process of transfer of LPG connections so that every needy person can avail of this good scheme.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam Speaker, this is altogether a separate question, not related to the main question the hon. Member has asked. I will be informing the hon. Member in this regard separately.

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA: Madam, in Tamil Nadu, delivery of LPG cylinder takes more than a month after booking is made for the same. I too experience difficulties arising out of it as a housewife. Presently the distributors of each Oil Marketing Company are overloaded with customers and this is a reason for the delay. So, there

is an urgent need to appoint more LPG distributors in the State. Therefore, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken by the Government to curtail the delay and to appoint more LPG distributors in the State of Tamil Nadu.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, the hon. Members asked very pertinent and very important questions. If you permit, Madam, I can answer those questions.

HON. SPEAKER: You can.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, today there is no waiting list, there is no such issue as delay which the hon. Members have mentioned, in the overall picture. If she can specifically give any example, we are ready to sort it out. Regarding opening up of new LPG distributorships, our Government has recently announced an ambitious expansion plan of LPG consumers in BPL category households as well as APL category. For that, my Government is very focused on increasing the distributorship also. This financial year, 2016-17, the Government is planning to open up 10,000 new LPG distribution centers in the country and that process will start. In the next three months, around 2,000 new LPG distributors will be

appointed. I will inform the hon. Member as to how many of them are from Tamil Nadu.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISH MEENA: Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity. Under the name of LPG subsidy, injustice is being done to the villages. It appears that a large amount of LPG subsidy is being provided. However, if we study the matter closely, it will be found that most of the LPG gas agencies are located either in big cities or in towns. In Rajasthan's villages and hamlets, our poor people do not get this facility. I would like to ask the hon. Minister whether this subsidy is meant only for the urban poor or whether it will also be extended to the rural poor.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, though this is technically a separate question, I would, through you, respectfully submit that precisely for this reason a historic decision was taken by the Cabinet last week and also reflected in this year's Budget. Under the *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana*, particularly the poor families belonging to the BPL category and residing in villages will be given free LPG connections directly from the Government's treasury. In addition, the necessary distribution mechanism for ensuring LPG

availability, distribution and delivery up to the household level is being developed. Through you, Madam, I would like to assure the hon. Member that those were days of the past – now, better days have arrived.

[English]

SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL: Thank you Madam for giving me the opportunity to ask a Supplementary Question to Question No. 224. The Government invited the common people to give up the subsidy on LPG. In response, lakhs and lakhs of people have given up subsidies on LPG. So, I would like to ask the hon. Minister, through you, what are the schemes that have been taken up by the Government out of this fund.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, honoring the hon. Prime Minister's appeal on last 27th March on the occasion of Urja Sangam to the countrymen that those who could afford their own kitchen from their own pocket, to give up their subsidy, I would like to inform this august House through you that as on today more than 85 lakh common citizens have given up their subsidy. In the last one year, our Ministry successfully redistributed more than 50 lakh new connections to BPL households. In the last calendar year, 2015 this

was the highest number of LPG connections given after Independence. This is our expansion plan.

Apart from that, I am again reiterating, in this Budget the hon. The Finance Minister has categorically announced a new scheme. Last week, the Government of India through a Cabinet decision – I would like to inform this august House – approved the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana. This is a flagship scheme by Prime Minister Modi to the poor households of this country, primarily to the women of this country.

(Q.225)

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN: Hon. Speaker Madam, as we all know in the international market once the price of crude oil was more than $ 150 per barrel; now, it is only $ 34 per barrel. But now it is seen from the information given by the Minister that from February, 2013 to 31 January, 2016, in the last three years, the Government has increased the excise duty on petrol and diesel nine times. It has increased in petrol from Rs. 9.48 to Rs. 33.87 and in diesel from Rs. 3.56 to Rs. 25.02. Clearly it is a 300 percent increase. But in spite of the fall in price of petroleum products in the international market, consumers are not benefited.

With this money, our Finance Minister has tactfully managed the fiscal deficit in his Budget. On the other hand, the Government is allowing concessions to corporates in the name of tax forgone, in the name of writing off bad bank debts of wilful defaulters in 29 nationalized banks; again, there is a concession of Rs. 1.14 lakh crore to the big companies and capitalists. My question is why is the Government not transferring the benefit of the price fall of petroleum products to the consumers?

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, through you I would like to answer that since the last one and a half years, since the last 21 months, since our Government came to power, there has been a slight downward slide in crude oil price. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Is it only a slide? … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI DHRAMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, I need your protection. Why are they so impatient? … *(Interruptions)*

Madam, I am answering. Why are they so impatient? There is nothing to hide. … *(Interruptions)*

Since July 2014, there has been a downward trend in crude oil prices. There is nothing to hide. It is an open document. They are all much more learned than I am. They know everything.

The hon. Members have mentioned that the Government is keeping the money earned through excise duty in the Treasury. This is a half-truth. Let me put a bare fact in this august House.

Since the last one and a half years, we can say out of the amount we saved or we earned through this crude oil downturn, we have passed on 50 per cent to the consumer. We have decreased the price

24 times on petrol and 18 times on diesel; that is 50 per cent. … *(Interruptions)*

Raja sahib, you have been a minister at least, listen. You are my friend, you have to listen to the truth.... *(Interruptions)*

As regards the other half, we have kept that money to balance the fiscal deficit and for the welfare schemes of the country. Out of that, after the decision of the 14th Finance Commission, 42 per cent of that saving has to be shared with States.

Apart from that, a number of States have increased VAT on petroleum products. The States and the Centre have to carry a number of welfare schemes and developmental schemes. So, we have to decide whether we should not have good roads. Should the Union Government not provide drinking water to poor men in the countryside? Should this Government not be committed to provide irrigation facilities in the paddy fields? But where do we get money? We have shared 42 per cent of this money with the States as per recommendation of the 14th Finance Commission. This is a welfare State. Our Government is committed to cooperative federalism. We will share the revenue with States and some portion will go to the consumers indirectly through welfare activities.

SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN: Hon. Speaker, Madam, I am not quite satisfied with the answer of the Minister but I am asking my second supplementary.

It is said by the Government that the price of petrol and diesel have been made market-determined w.e.f. 26th June, 2010 and 19th October, 2014 respectively. Now the oil marketing companies are entitled to take appropriate decisions on pricing of petrol and diesel. In spite of that, the Government has increased excise duties. My question is whether the Government is ready to raise a separate fund to combat the situation when the price of oil in the international market will increase.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, after deregulation of diesel and petrol, the companies are taking decisions on their own. But there is an answer in his question itself. If at one point of time there is a hike in the prices of crude oil, the Government should have a cushion to pass on the benefit in those days of crisis. Previously also, I had mentioned that. Today, I am assuring this House, if there is a spectacular hike in the prices of crude oil, the Government may decide to pass on this benefit of increase in excise duty to the consumers.

SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN: Madam, the oil prices have come down to such a level that storing of crude oil will benefit the country in the longer run. The oil prices have come down so low that it is time to enter into contracts.

So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister the steps taken by the Government to store oil as well as to enter into contracts as per the prevailing crude oil prices.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, the hon. Members have raised a very good question as to how we leverage the falling oil price. The Government is moving very strategically. We are increasing our storage capacity. Previously, all the three oil Companies were bargaining with the countries separately. But this Government is very focused on leveraging the sliding oil price… *(Interruptions).*

Why are you shouting? Venugopal Ji, you are a very senior Member. Be patient and behave with parliamentary etiquettes. We are here to learn. Why are you so abusive and aggressive?… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Venugopal ji, it is not proper. Nothing will go on record.

*…(Interruptions)...**

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, let me answer the question.

HON. SPEAKER: Only the answer of the Minister will go on record.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, Our Government is collectively bargaining with respective countries. We have started getting concessions through this process.

Madam, if you permit, I can reveal some bare facts to him.

HON. SPEAKER: No. It is not necessary. I will not permit you. You only answer the questions.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, I can tell him what they are doing with consumers of the State which he is representing. I can tell you about Kerala. I can shout back to him. They are running the Government there. I can be equally abusive and shout back… *(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

(Q.226)

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Hon. Speaker Madam, I am only speaking on the basis of the reply given by the hon. Minister; I am not introducing any new point. After the Mandal Commission Report, a provision of 27 per cent reservation was made for the OBCs. The present situation in the country's universities is that, out of 2,371 Professors, only one is from the OBC category; out of 4,708 Associate Professors, only six are from the OBC category.... *(Interruptions)* This is from the Minister's own reply.... *(Interruptions)* Will you not even listen?... *(Interruptions)* Will you not hear the Minister's reply?... *(Interruptions)* Among Assistant Professors, out of 9,521, only 1,745 are from the OBC category. In line with the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, and in keeping with the spirit of the Constitution and the law passed by this very House, my request and my question is: when will the 27 per cent rightful share of the backward classes be implemented in the Central Universities? I am not saying that the fault lies with you alone; it also lies with those who ruled for so many years. But I must say this – justice must be given to the backward classes, whether it is by you or by someone else. If justice is not given to them,

then there will be struggles on the streets. This, I wish to convey to the people of the country through this House. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Madam Speaker, I am grateful that the hon. Member has placed his expectations of justice upon our Government. I wish to inform him that, insofar as the process of selection of Professors in universities is concerned, it is an autonomous right of the universities, a right which has been conferred upon them by this very House. During the past one and a half to two years, I have myself written to every university on nine occasions. In meetings of Visitors and Vice-Chancellors, held five times, I have repeatedly urged that vacant seats should be filled keeping in view the representation of SCs, STs and OBCs. I would also like to inform him that to ensure that no discrimination takes place on the campus, a written provision has been made and directions have been issued by the Union Government. Discussions have also been held with Vice-Chancellors in this regard. The hon. Member may also take satisfaction from the fact that during my tenure itself, a Vice-Chancellor has been appointed who himself belongs to a disadvantaged community. I would only submit that, time and again, our Government appeals to the Central Universities, to the IITs and to

the IIMs that those belonging to disadvantaged communities, whether students or faculty, must receive justice and their rights under the law, and be given equal opportunity. This has been our constant endeavour, of which the hon. Member himself is well aware.

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*WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Starred Question Nos.227 to 240

Unstarred Question Nos.2531 to 2760

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

12.00 hours

PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now take up Papers to be laid on the Table of the House.

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Outcome Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4274/16/16]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF MICRO, SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES (SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, Hyderabad, for the year 2014-2015 version).

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4275/16/16]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2014-2015, together with the Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Coir Board, Kochi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4276/16/16]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4277/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT): Madam Speaker, on behalf of Virendra Singh Chaudhary, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Detailed Demands for Grants (Hindi and English versions) of the Ministry of Rural Development for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4278/16/16]

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

(1) Detailed demands for Grants of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4279/16/16]

(2) Outcome Budget of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4280/16/16]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(i) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Human Resource Development for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4281/16/16]

(ii) Outcome Budget of the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Human Resource Development, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4282/16/16]

(iii) Outcome Budget of the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Human Resource Development, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4283/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4284/16/16]

(3) A copy of the Statement (Hindi and English versions) regarding adoption of new "ILO Recommendation No. 204 (R-204) concerning the transition from the informal to the formal economy, adopted by 4 the International Labour Conference at its 104th Session held in Geneva from 1st June, 2015 to 13th June, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4285/16/16]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (2) of Section 7 of the Employees' Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952:-

(i) The Employees' Provident Funds (Amendment) Scheme, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 158(E) in the Gazette of India dated 10th February, 2016.

(ii) The Employees' Provident Funds Appellate Tribunal (Procedure) Amendment Rules, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 24(E) in the Gazette of India dated 14th January, 2016.

(iii)The Employees' Provident Funds (Amendment) Scheme, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R. 25(E) in the Gazette of India dated 14th January, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4286/16/16]

(iv) S.O. 444(E) published in Gazette of India dated 10th February, 2016, regarding amendment in respect of those employees who are not entitled to the benefit of contributory provident fund or old age pension in accordance with any scheme or rule framed by the Union Government or the State Government or by the respective banks established under the Banking Regulations Act, 1949.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4287/16/16]

(5) A copy of Notification No. S.O. 443(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 10th February, 2016, regarding incentive scheme for employers for providing Universal Account Number 5 with 100% seeded KYC to all its employees in the Employee's Provident Funds Scheme, 1952 issued under the said Scheme.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4288/16/16]

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

(i) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4289/16/16]

(ii) Outcome Budget of the Ministry of Labour and Employment for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4290/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:- (1) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 62 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board Act, 2006:-

(i) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Technical Standards and Specifications including Safety Standards for Petroleum and Petroleum Products Pipelines) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. G.S.R. Infra/T4S/P&PPPL/01/2014 in Gazette of India dated 16th February, 2016.

(ii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Determination of Natural Gas Pipeline Tariff) Amendment Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/M(C)/110 in Gazette of India dated 12th January, 2016.

(iii) The Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Authorizing Entities to Lay, Build, Operate or Expand City or Local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Amendment

Regulations, 2015 published in Notification No. F. No. 6 PNGRB/CGD/Amendment/2015/2 in Gazette of India dated 15th December, 2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4291/16/16]

(2) A copy of the Motor Spirit and High Speed Diesel (Regulation of Supply, Distribution and Prevention of Malpractices) Amendment Order, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 621(E) in Gazette of India dated 10th August, 2015 under subsection (6) of Section 3 of the Essential Commodity Act, 1955.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4292/16/16]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Rae Bareli, 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 Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology, Rae Bareli, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4293/16/16]

(5) A copy of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Model access arrangement related to access code for CGD networks) Guidelines, 2014 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No. PNGRB/CGD/Amendment/2015/1 in Gazette of India dated 28th August, 2015 issued under sub-regulation (1) of Regulation 2 of the Petroleum and Natural Gas Regulatory Board (Access Code for City or local Natural Gas Distribution Networks) Regulations Act, 2011.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4294/16/16]

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

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council 7

(CAPEXIL), Kolkata, 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 Chemicals and Allied Products Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL), Kolkata, 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 4295/16/16]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Agricultural and Processed Food

Products Export Development Authority, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4296/16/16]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the 8 Government of the working of the Coffee Board, Bangalore, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4297/16/16]

(7) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 30 of the Tobacco Board Act, 1975:-

(i) S.O.356(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th February, 2016, authorizing the Tobacco Board to allow the traders/dealers of the Tobacco to purchase the excess unauthorized tobacco at the auction platforms by charging penalties as fixed by the Government in the State of Karnataka.

(ii) S.O.357(E) published in Gazette of India dated 4th February, 2016, relaxing the operation of the provisions of Section 10(1) of the Tobacco Act, 1975 in the State of Karnataka.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4298/16/16]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Mumbai Industrial Corridor Development Corporation Limited, 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 Delhi Mumbai Industrial

Corridor Development Corporation Limited, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4299/16/16]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs, 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 Export Promotion Council for EOUs & SEZs, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4300/16/16]

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

(i) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4301/16/16]

(ii) Outcome Budget of the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4302/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (DR. MAHESH SHARMA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, 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 Salar Jung Museum, Hyderabad, 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 4303/16/16]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, 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 Khuda Bakhsh Oriental Public Library, Patna, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4304/16/16]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre,

Kolkata, 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 Eastern Zonal Cultural Centre, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4305/16/16]

(6) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Delhi Public Library, 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 Delhi Public Library, Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4306/16/16]

(8) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the Central University of Tibetan Studies, Varanasi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4307/16/16]

(10) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, 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 Raja Rammohun Roy Library Foundation, Kolkata, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4308/16/16]

(12) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, 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 Kalakshetra Foundation, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4309/16/16]

(14) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National School of Drama, 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 National School of Drama, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

(15) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (14) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4310/16/16]

(16) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Airports Economic Regulatory Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(17) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (16) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4311/16/16]

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

(i) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4312/16/16]

(ii) Outcome Budget of the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4313/16/16]

(iii) Detailed Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Culture for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4314/16/16]

(iv) Outcome Budget of the Ministry of Culture for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4315/16/16]

[Translation]

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

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Bihar Mahila Samakhya Society, Patna, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Bihar Mahila Samakhya Society, Patna, 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 4316/16/16]

(3) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mahila Samakhya, Karnataka, Bangalore, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mahila Samakhya, Karnataka, Bangalore, for the year 2013-2014.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4317/16/16]

(5) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Mizoram Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Mission, Aizawl, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Mizoram Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Mission, Aizawl, for the year 2013-2014.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4318/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEV SAI): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table, a copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (1) of Section 28 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957::-

(i) G.S.R.7(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th January, 2015, notifying the M/s Singareni Collieries Company Limited and M/s Telangana State Mineral Development Corporation for the purposes of the second proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

(ii) G.S.R.954(E) published in Gazette of India dated 11th December, 2015, notifying the M/s Gujarat Mineral Development Corporation Limited for the purposes of the second proviso to sub-section (1) of Section 4 of the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act, 1957.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4319/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HRD DEVELOPMENT (DR. RAMSHANKAR KATHERIA): Madam, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Central Institute of Classical Tamil, Chennai, 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 4320/16/16]

(3)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Arunachal Pradesh, Yupia, 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 National Institute of Technology Arunachal Pradesh, Yupia, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4321/16/16]

(5)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Goa, Goa, 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 National Institute of Technology Goa, Goa, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4322/16/16]

(7)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Hamirpur, Hamirpur, 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 National Institute of Technology Hamirpur, Hamirpur, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4323/16/16]

(9)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee, Roorkee, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4324/16/16]

(11)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Guwahati, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Guwahati, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Guwahati, Guwahati, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4325/16/16]

(13)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, for the year 2014-2015, 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology (Banaras Hindu University), Varanasi, for the year 2014-2015, 2014-2015.

(14) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (13) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4326/16/16]

(15)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, Gandhinagar, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, Gandhinagar, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Gandhinagar, Gandhinagar, for the year 2014-2015.

(16) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (15) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4327/16/16]

(17)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Bhubaneswar, Bhubaneswar, for the year 2014-2015.

(18) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (17) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4328/16/16]

(19)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, 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 National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Surathkal, for the year 2014-2015.

(20) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (19) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4329/16/16]

(21)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Silchar, Cachar, 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 National Institute of Technology Silchar, Cachar, for the year 2014-2015.

(22) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (21) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4330/16/16]

(23)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Mizoram, Aizawl, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Mizoram, Aizawl, for the year 2013-2014.

(24) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (23) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4331/16/16]

(25)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2013-2014.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2013-2014, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2013-2014.

(26) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (25) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4332/16/16]

(27)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, Jaipur, 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 Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur, Jaipur, for the year 2014-2015.

(28) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (27) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4333/16/16]

(29)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Warangal, Warangal, for the year 2014-2015, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Warangal, Warangal, for the year 2014-2015.

(30) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (29) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4334/16/16]

(31) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, Mumbai, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(32) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (31) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4335/16/16]

(33)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Meghalaya, Shillong, for the year 2014-2015.

(34) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (33) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4336/16/16]

(35) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Kendriya Hindi Shikshan Mandal, Agra, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(36) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (35) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4337/16/16]

(37) A copy of the All India Council for Technical Education (clarifications on certain issues/anomalies pertaining to Qualifications, Pay Scales, Service Conditions, Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) etc. For Teachers and other Academic Staff of Technical Institutions (Degree/Diploma), 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. F. No.27/RIFD/Pay Scale/01/2013-14 in Gazette of India dated 6th January, 2016 under

Section 23 read with Section 10 of the All India Council for Technical Education Act, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4338/16/16]

(38) A copy of the School of Planning and Architecture (Removal of Difficulties) Second Order, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.87(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th January, 2016 under sub-section (2) of Section 40 of the School of Planning and Architecture Act, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4339/16/16]

(39)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Ranchi, Ranchi, for the year 2013-2014, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Ranchi, Ranchi, for the year 2013-2014.

(40) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (39) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4340/16/16]

(41) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Manipur University, Imphal, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(42) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (41) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4341/16/16]

(43) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(44) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (43) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4342/16/16]

(45)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad, for the year 2013-2014, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad, Ahmedabad, for the year 2013-2014.

(46) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (45) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4343/16/16]

(47)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, Bengaluru, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Management Bangalore, Bengaluru, for the year 2014-2015.

(48) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (47) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4344/16/16]

(49)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indore, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indore, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Indore, Indore, for the year 2014-2015.

(50) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (49) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4345/16/16]

(51)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Patna, Patna, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Patna, Patna, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Patna, Patna, for the year 2014-2015.

(52) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (51) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4346/16/16]

(53)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, Jodhpur, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, Jodhpur, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Jodhpur, Jodhpur, for the year 2014-2015.

(54) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned at (53) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4347/16/16]

(55)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Hazratbal, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Hazratbal, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Hazratbal, for the year 2014-2015.

(56) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (55) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4348/16/16]

(57)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015.

(58) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (57) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4349/16/16]

(59)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Durgapur, Durgapur, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the National Institute of Technology Durgapur, Durgapur, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Institute of Technology Durgapur, Durgapur, for the year 2014-2015.

(60) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (59) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4350/16/16]

(61)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur, Kanpur, for the year 2014-2015.

(62) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (59) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4351/16/16]

(63)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Mandi, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Institute of Technology Mandi, Mandi, for the year 2014-2015.

(64) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (63) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4352/16/16]

(65)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management, Gwalior, for the year 2014-2015.

(66) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (65) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4353/16/16]

(67) A copy of Notification No. 75 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 19th February, 2016, relating to amendment of the Statutes No. 2, 10, 11, 16, 15 and 18 under sub-section (2) of Section 49 of the Indira Gandhi National Tribal University Act, 2007.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4364/16/16]

(68)(i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, 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 School of Planning and Architecture, Vijayawada, for the year 2014-2015.

(69) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (68) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4355/16/16]

(70)(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Tamil Nadu, Chennai, 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 Central University of Tamil Nadu, Chennai, for the year 2014-2015.

(71) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (70) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4356/16/16]

(72)(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, for the year 2014-2015.

(73) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (72) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4357/16/16]

(74)(1) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna Garhwal University, Srinagar Garhwal, for the year 2014-2015.

(75) Two statements (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (74) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4358/16/16]

(76) A copy of Notification No. 4 (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 6th January, 2014, relating to amendment of the Statutes No. 2(4), 11, 13 and 41 and repeal of Statute 40 of the Central University of Kerala under sub-section (2) of Section 43 of the Central Universities Act, 2009.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4359/16/16]

(77) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Maharshi Sandipani Rashtriya Vedavidya Pratishthan, Ujjain, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(78) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (77) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4360/16/16]

(79) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central University of Jharkhand, Ranchi, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(80) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (79) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4361/16/16]

(81) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 2014-2015.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan, for the year 2014-2015.

(82) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (81) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4362/16/16]

(83) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Allahabad, Allahabad, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(84) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (83) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4363/16/16]

(85) A copy of the School of Planning and Architecture (Procedure of Meeting of Council and Payment of Allowances to Members) Rules, 2015 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.117(E) in Gazette of India dated 28th January, 2016 under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the School of Planning and Architecture Act, 2014.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4364/16/16]

(86) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the University of Delhi, Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, together with Audit Report thereon.

(87) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for delay in laying the papers mentioned at (86) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4365/16/16]

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12.05 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

13th Report

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Madam, I beg to present the 13th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy on the subject 'Development and Status of Small Hydro Sector'.

12.06 hours

STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS

(i)Progress on the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Act, 2015

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES; AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTER OF STEEL (SHRI NARENDRA SINGH TOMAR): Madam Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to make a statement in this House on the encouraging outcomes following the amendments to the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Act. Hon. Members will recall that the Mines and Minerals (Development and Regulation) Amendment Bill, 2015 was passed by both Houses of Parliament and notified on 27 March 2015 for implementation with effect from 12 January 2015. The amendments provided, inter alia, for the grant of mineral concessions only through auction; establishment of District Mineral Foundations (DMFs) in all districts affected by mining operations; setting up of the National Mineral Exploration Trust (NMET) to promote exploration activities; and provision of more stringent penalties to curb illegal mining. During the past year,

the Government has taken concrete steps to operationalise and give effect to the provisions of the Amendment Act. After extensive consultations and deliberations, all necessary subordinate legislation has been notified. To ensure the success of the auction process, the Union Government, through its subordinate organisations and public sector undertakings, has extended all possible support to the State Governments. As a result of continuous dialogue and consultations between the Union Government and various States, notices inviting tenders have been issued for auction of 43 blocks so far. Of these, successful bidders have recently been identified in respect of 6 blocks. From the auction of these first six mineral blocks across the country, the States will receive revenue of about Rs. 18,146 crore over the lease period. Out of this, approximately Rs. 13,032 crore will accrue as additional revenue from the auction provisions, while about Rs. 5,113 crore will accrue by way of royalty, DMF and NMET contributions. Further, owing to the recent decision of the Government to increase royalty rates, the States will receive an additional revenue of about Rs. 1,313 crore. It is noteworthy that the provisions relating to DMF and NMET, as well as the decision to enhance royalty rates, are initiatives of the present Government. Thus, from the auction of six blocks alone, the States will gain revenue exceeding Rs. 18,000 crore, of which

nearly Rs. 14,893 crore is a direct outcome of the present Government's initiatives.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4366/16/16]

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12.09 hours

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1st Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2014-15), pertaining to the Ministry of Labour and Employment*

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): Madam, I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 1st Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2014-15), pertaining to the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4367/16/16.

12.10 hours

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 118th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on Demands for Grants (2015-16) Demand No.13, pertaining to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry*

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN): I beg to lay a Statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 118th Report of the Standing Committee on Commerce on Demands for Grants (2015-16) Demand No. 13, pertaining to the Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No.LT 4368/16/16, respectively.

12.10 ½ hours

(iv) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 9th Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Demands for Grants (2015-16), pertaining to the Ministry of Steel*

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINES AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI VISHNU DEV SAI): Madam Speker, I beg to lay on the Table a Statement on the Status of implementation of recommendations contained in the 9th Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Demands for Grants (2015-16) pertaining to the Ministry of Steel.

* Laid on the Table and also placed in Library, See No. LT 4369/16/16.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Shri Mallikarjun Kharge, Shri Rahul Gandhi, Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, Shri K.C. Venugopal, Shri Shailesh Kumar alias Bulo Mandal, Prof. Saugata Roy, Shri Ravneet Singh, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, Shri Rajesh Ranjan and Shri Deepender Singh Hooda on different issues.

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

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

HON. SPEAKER: Now, the House will take up 'Zero Hour'.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): I am thankful to you for having already allowed Shri Rahul Gandhi to raise it. Shri Venkaiah Naidu has responded to him. We want that the statement should be placed on the Table of the House as soon as possible so that the people know about the extensive damage caused in various parts of the country. That is our concern.

[Translation]

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR (KARNAL): Madam Speaker, discussions have been going on for the past two days. ... *(Interruptions)* The Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha has alleged that the RSS is on par with ISIS... *(Interruptions)* This matter should be discussed.... *(Interruptions)* How could he equate them?... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You may give a notice, because without notice, this cannot be discussed.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR: The Congress Party has tried to malign the RSS. This matter should be discussed. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You give notice for discussion.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR: You tell us how to do it?... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Kindly tell us how we should proceed in this regard?

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ratan Lal Kataria is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Ashwini Kumar.

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the fact that in the year 2012, the Government of India spent several hundred crores of rupees on the new construction of Jalgaon Airport. Not only that, but a scanner facility has also been provided there. In addition, the Government is spending crores of rupees every year on the maintenance of this airport and the salaries of the staff. However, despite all this, not a single domestic flight or cargo service has yet been made operational from Jalgaon.

Madam, through you, I would like to inform the Hon. Minister that the world heritage sites of Ajanta and Ellora caves are located very close to the Jalgaon region. With the commencement of operations at this airport, the difficulties faced by tourists coming from outside could be resolved. International tourists could also be attracted here. Jalgaon is also a district known for banana production... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Your point has been made.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL: Madam Speaker, this is a very important matter pending since the year 2012, but the Government has not paid attention to it. ... *(Interruptions)* Even though there is a steel industry here, the Government... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR (CHENNAI CENTRAL): Hon. Speaker, thank you. People of Rajasthan and Gujarat who are settled in Tamil Nadu permanently often visit their native places for all functions. But there is only one train from Chennai to Jodhpur which was introduced in 2001 as a weekly train. Even after a gap of fifteen years the frequency of this train has not been increased. The train runs

always with full capacity in winter and summer with no room. This has put Rajasthani and Gujarati brothers from my constituency to tremendous hardship. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Okay, you have raised your demand.

SHRI S.R. VIJAYA KUMAR: Earlier people from Bengaluru used to come to Chennai to travel to Rajasthan. … *(Interruptions)* But due to lack of frequency of trains, people from Chennai go to Bengaluru as there are ten trains a week from Bengaluru to various places of Rajasthan. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: It is okay. No need to read out the whole thing. During 'Zero Hour' you have to just raise the issue, which you have already raised.

Shri Sudheer Gupta and Shri Rodmal Nagar are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri S.R. Vijayakumar.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI RANJIT RANJAN (SUPAUL): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to raise the issue of CSAT in UPSC through you. It came in CSAT in 2011, due to which there was a lot of injustice to the students of other languages from rural backgrounds. The Nigpekar

Committee report came in 2012 and recommended changes in it, saying that it was unfavorable for the candidates from rural background and arts stream etc. UPSC had continued CSAT questions from 2012 to 2015 due to which students had agitated again in 2015. I thank the government for making provision for amendment of CSAT in 2015.

My appeal is that children who have wasted four years from 2011 to 2015 should get three additional opportunities by 2016-18 as their past cannot come back. If they get three additional chances between 2016-18, their dream will come true.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Nana Patole is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Ranjit Ranjan.

SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT (JHUNJHUNU): Hon. Speaker Madam, I am very grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak about the problems of farmers during Zero Hour. Through you, I would like to inform the Hon. Prime Minister, Agriculture Minister and the entire House. This is not the problem in my area. The rain and hailstorm have caused extensive damage to crops. In my Lok Sabha constituency, due to hail storms in Mandawa, Tai, Birmi, Kabir Saro and Patoda, farmers have suffered huge losses

and standing crops have been completely destroyed. I request through you that proper compensation should be given to the farmers of the village on time so that their economic condition, which has weakened due to crop loss, can be improved.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri C P Joshi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMEDNAGAR): Hon. Speaker, Railway Minister has given many schemes for Maharashtra and Ahmednagar and due to this the pace of development has increased. Provision is yet to be made in the budget for overbridge and underbridge at gate no. 40 of Daund-Manmad railway line, I demand through you that this should be done.

Another important issue is the farmers. Due to the railway line, the farmer's farm is divided into two parts. If he has to take water from a river, well or canal, he has to take a horizontal bore from below. In 1997, only Rs 5000 had to be deposited in the railway account, which has now been increased from Rs 90,000 to Rs one lakh. Rs 5000 is nominal, whereas money should not be taken as the cultivation of

farmers has already been taken away by the Railways. I request the government and the Ministry of Railways not to take any money and allow them to bore horizontally from below.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri C.P. Joshi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sudheer Gupta and Shri Rodmal Nagar are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi.

[English]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): Through you, I want to raise a demand for the setting up of a Central University in Biswanath district of Assam which comes under my parliamentary constituency. There are six districts to be covered. Guwahati University and Dibrugarh University are overcrowded. Madam, 300 colleges are affiliated with these universities. Hence, I want a Central University for General Studies to be set up in Biswanath district of Assam so that Arunachal Pradesh and six districts of Assam can get the benefit of education in the Central University in Biswanath district. So, I would request, through you, to the Minister of HRD that immediate action should be taken up for the setting up of a Central University in Biswanath district in Assam.

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): I have received many representations from hundreds of act apprentice candidates who were trained under Act apprentice in various trades from time to time since 2010 in South Western Railways, Hubli. There has not been any recruitment for them in South Western Railway, Hubli. It is also brought to our notice by these Act apprentice trainees including Diploma holders in other Railway Zones are regularly appointed but apprentice candidates in South Western Railway have not been appointed. Some Railway Zones are appointing and some are not appointing. When enquired with the concerned South Western Railway authorities, it is explained that there is no such compulsion that these apprentice trainees should be accommodated as a rule and also there are no such mandatory instructions from the CRB.

Under the circumstances, I would only like to urge the Railway Ministry to frame informal rules for the entire country so that recruitment of Act apprentice trainees from the South Western Railways, Hubli like all the other Railways Zones take place.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri C.P. Joshi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh

and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Prahlad Joshi.

SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA (PHULPUR): Hon. Speaker Madam, at present there is a struggle going on in the country to fight poverty, disease and illiteracy. But in my Allahabad, like Jawaharlal Nehru University, there is an incident happening inside the Allahabad Agricultural Institute where students from Afghanistan who have come to India with visas to get education, their actions are such that there was an incident of attack on students and their cases were registered not once but twice. The second incident was that they unitedly attacked the traders there. Since the government of Uttar Pradesh is not able to handle law and order, this type of incident happens and no action is taken on it, due to which such a problem has arisen.

The Agriculture Institute has become a center of three types of activities, corruption is prevalent there and religion conversions are taking place in the name of Ishu Darbar and anti-national activities are also going on there on a large scale.

I, through you, since Prayag is the land of knowledge, the land of the holy confluence of Ganga, Yamuna and Saraswati, the land of freedom fighters.... *(Interruptions)*

Hon. Speaker Madam, this matter is related to the security of our country and the wrong things that are being done through the Agricultural Institute which is operating here as a Manav university, I demand from the Government of India through you that the anti-national activities that are going on inside this Agricultural Institute, the work of conversion which is going on under the guise of education, the corruption that is going on, 55 courses on the report of UGC have been declared illegal by the Allahabad High Court, students are also being extorted in its name, many of our students have been attacked and injured inside CATS but no action has been taken against those people.

Therefore, I demand from the government through you to take action against the students of Afghanistan who are here and whose activities are anti-national.

HON. SPEAKER: Your speech is over. Now you sit.

...(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Rodmal Nagar are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya.

SHRIMATI RAKSHA TAI KHADSE (RAVER): Hon. Speaker, Railway Engineers working in all various departments with approximately 80,000 in number have an important responsibility in running the rail system safely and at the right time. Not only this, Indian Railways is the institution of such a country which is considered as a technical institution and this technical institution is run by the engineers who are included in the safety category. These Railway Engineers are included in the Grade Pay 4600 Group C non-gazette rail service whereas all engineers in any other department of the Centre are in the category of Group B or above. Other non-technical staff of Railways who mostly perform clerical work and are included in the non-safety category, also have higher grades than these engineers and are included in the category above Group B category.

In his Budget Speech, the Hon. Railway Minister has incorporated several recommendations of the Committee headed by Dr. Vivek Dev Rai and other committees in his Railway Budget.It has

also been recommended by these committees that the engineers of the railways who fall in the safety category should be included in the appropriate category so that the responsibility of the railway engineers increases further and they can contribute in running the railways well. I demand through the House that these 80,000 engineers should be included in the appropriate category, keeping in mind their number and their safety category. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shrimati Santosh Ahlawat, Shrimati Riti Pathak, Shrimati Ranjana Ben Dhananjay Bhatt, Shri Rajeev Satav are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shrimati Rakshatai Khadse.

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): Hon. Speaker Madam, today in Zero Hour you have given an opportunity to raise a very important question that gold traders from all over the country are on strike for the last seven days today. Today, in protest against the one percent excise tax imposed on gold and diamond jewelry, gold traders across the country have been on strike for the last two weeks, the Union Government is ignoring the interests of these traders.

You will also remember that in the year 2012, the then UPA government had also brought a proposal to impose this excise tax. It

was opposed by the NDA at that time. A letter was also written by the present Prime Minister to the then Prime Minister that this excise tax should be withdrawn. This should be withdrawn because gold-businessmen will be fully exploited by bureaucrats due to the excise duty that is being imposed. Today, when their government has been formed, they are doing the work of imposing this type of excise tax today.

Therefore, I would like to say to you that gold traders across the country have been on strike for the last seven days. Therefore, keeping them in mind, the excise tax should be withdrawn.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Janardan Singh Sigriwal, Laxmi Narayan Yadav, Hukum Singh, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Vishnu Dayal Ram, Om Prakash Yadav, Rajendra Agrawal, Santosh Ahlawat, Ramcharan Bohra, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Rajesh Ranjan, Rajiv Satav are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Shailesh Kumar.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Shri ShaileshKumar.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to associate myself with the issue raised by Shri Shailesh Kumar.

[English]

SHRI C. MAHENDRAN (POLLACHI): Thank you hon. Speaker, Madam. This is a very important farmers' issue. Hence, I would like to speak in Tamil.

HON. SPEAKER: Yes.

***SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:** In order to improve the status of livelihood of farmers of Tamil Nadu….

HON. SPEAKER: Not to read all these things. Only raise the issue.

***SHRI C. MAHENDRAN:** Simple, Madam, simple.

In order to uplift the status of livelihood of farmers, and to increase production, the Government of Tamil Nadu has been implementing several schemes. Interest-free loans are provided to farmers through the Cooperative Societies by the Government of Tamil Nadu led by Hon. Chief Minister *Puratchithalaivi* Amma. As

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* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.
* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

stressed by Hon. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma earlier, the Union Government should waive off the loans taken by farmers. Particularly tractor loans taken by farmers should be waived. As part of the recovery procedure banks should not go ahead with the seizure of farm equipment taken on loan. The Union Government should instruct banks on this issue. Bank officials should not engage in torturing farmers and the farmers are to be treated with dignity and due respect. I on behalf of farmers, at large, thank Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu *Puratchithalaivi* Amma for allowing me to raise an important issue concerning farmers. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI KAMLA PATLE (JANJGIR-CHAMPA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak, in Zero Hour

The district headquarters of my constituency is known by the name of the railway station, earlier known as Naila station. Railways has named that station Janjgir Naila. But not a single long distance train has been given stoppage there. I want to tell you that thousands of passengers travelling from there have to go elsewhere to catch the train. This costs passengers their labor, time and money and they have to face a lot of trouble. The Gondwana Express running on this route should be run as a passenger train till Bilaspur. My Demand is that all long distance trains should be given stoppage at Janjgir-Naila, the main railway station of our district headquarters Janjgir. Now as a consolation, I demand that South Bihar Express be given a stoppage at this station.

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI (CHITTORGARH): Hon. Madam Speaker, India has had several languages since ancient times and they contain a vast repository of knowledge and science. I am from Rajasthan The Government of India on several occasions works

to include many languages in the Eighth Schedule. But Rajasthani Language Today is also waiting in the list. Languages are the carriers of our culture, traditions, carriers of our values. Therefore, Idemand that since Rajasthan is made from Rajasthani language, even today, the entire people of the state have only one demand that Rajasthani language should be included in the Eighth Schedule. More than eight crore people, be it in the country, in the state or anywhere in the world, speak Rajasthani language. Rajasthani is one of the 100 languages recognized by the White House in the US. In Nepal, the Rajasthani language has been recognized in the Parliament of Nepal. A cabinet minister was sworn in Rajasthani language. Therefore, I want to say that the only thing that happens in Right to Education is that primary education should be given to the children in their native language, so that the child can take that education quickly. Therefore, my demand today is that whether it is Meera's bhajans or Maharana Pratap's battles, they can spread all over the world because their dialogues are in Rajasthani language.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Don't make long speeches.

SHRI CHANDRA PRAKASH JOSHI: Madam, the reason behind the children of Rajasthan who are lagging behind in IAS and IPS today

is that the marks of Rajasthani language are not added to it. Therefore, I demand from the government through you that Rajasthani language should be included in the eighth list.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri C R Chaudhary, Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya and Shri Ramcharan Bohra are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi.

SHRI KRIPAL BALAJI TUMANE (RAMTEK): Madam Speaker, the Hon. Prime Minister has made Mudra Yojana to provide employment to unemployed youth, under which unemployed youth can take loans from banks and do some good business for their livelihood. I appreciate the Prime Minister for this. Many unemployed youth have so far given proposals in banks to get loans under Mudra Yojana. Our youth from rural areas are unemployed. Today everyone knows the condition of the farmers. Yesterday's hail storm has harmed everyone, at such a time they should get added business, joint business. That's why they go to banks, apply, but it has come to our notice that banks do not pass Mudra loan cases, they fail them on one pretext or the other. In such a situation, there is a lot of disappointment

among our unemployed youth. I request the government through you, MOS sahib is sitting here to give necessary instructions to all the banks to give loans to unemployed youth under Mudra Yojana and action should be taken against the bank which does not follow such a scheme. Accordingly, UCO Bank, Canara Bank and Bank of Baroda do not accept such cases at all. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Kripal Balaji Tumane.

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR): Madam, many people have raised this issue. Last year, during this harvest season, hailstorms occurred in various provinces of the country and due to untimely rains, the food that was expected by the farmer was snatched away. Farmers across India had thanked Hon. Modi ji, when he had also changed the amount of compensation to provide support to the farmers by sending teams of Government of India in a proactive manner, also changed the rate of compensation and reduced the base of compensation to 33 percent. Unfortunately, a similar situation has arisen once again in my state, in Madhya Pradesh

and elsewhere and due to an untimely hailstorm, which has taken place in three phases and continued till last night, cumin crop, isabgol crop, wheat and mustard crops have been destroyed.

I once again draw the attention of the Government of India and the Hon. Agriculture Minister through you, as all the MPs have said that this is everyone's problem. Once again the Government of India should work in a proactive manner in this regard. In the coming times, the crop insurance scheme given by the Hon. Prime Minister will give a chance to the farmers to be safe and protected, but at present such a situation has arisen, in this our farmer should not be forced to commit suicide, along with the small farmer, the farmer working in the field should also not be forced, so they need immediate support. The Government of India once again needs to work in this direction with a proactive mind.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Vishnu Dayal Ram, Shri C R Chaudhary, Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria, Dr Kirit P Solanki, Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Subhash Patel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Keshav Prasad

Maurya and Shri Ramcharan Bohra are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

SHRI VINOD KUMAR SONKAR (KAUSHAMBI): Madam Speaker, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak during Zero Hour.

Madam, I have been elected from Kaushambi Lok Sabha constituency. This district was formed on 4th April, 1997 and all its educational institutions have moved to Allahabad. This area is very backward, educationally backward and a proposal has been passed by the Ministry of HRD, Government of India to open Kendriya Vidyalayas there. In this sequence, land has been made available by the district administration in village Budhanpur for Kendriya Vidyalaya. The Government of India team has also conducted a survey there, but due to non-availability of funds, that school is not being started. Hon. HRD Minister is sitting here, I would like to urge him through you that till a new building is built there, the district administration is providing an old place, please start Kendriya Vidyalaya in it immediately from this session itself, because this area is very backward, there is an acute lack of education.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Keshav Prasad Maurya and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Vinod Kumar Sonkar.

[English]

***SHRI R. PARTHIPAN (THENI):** Hon. Madam Speaker. Vanakkam. Since time immemorial, the days of inception of mother tongue Tamil as a language in Tamil Nadu, Jallikattu, a bravery sport of embracing bulls has been organized in the State. Those, who were at the helm of affairs during past regimes, have banned organizing this bull sport called Jallikattu, in Tamil Nadu. As a sport of embracing bulls, this brave sport is also being organized in different forms in the western countries. Jallikattu has been banned exclusively in TamilNadu. As per the directions of Hon. Supreme Court, the Government of Tamil Nadu under the leadership of Hon. Chief Minister *Puratchithalaivi* Amma had been successfully organizing Jallikattu in Tamil Nadu till the year 2013. During the years 2014 and 2015, the Hon. The Supreme Court had banned organizing Jallikattu in the State.

As demanded by Hon. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma, I urge upon the Union Government to legislate a specific law in Parliament allowing to organize Jallikattu-the sport of bravery in Tamil Nadu. Thank you.

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* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

SHRI JAYADEV GALLA (GUNTUR): Hon. Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity to raise a very important matter.

On the one hand, the Government is giving a lot of emphasis to creating skilled manpower in the country and a separate Ministry has also been created for this purpose but on the other hand there is a growing concern among the people who have got skill training but are jobless.

India has less than two per cent of the skilled workforce and the Government aims to train five crore people with various kinds of skills by 2022 to plug the skill gap in the country. But, as per the Survey conducted by the Labour Bureau, there is 14.5 percent unemployment among the skilled workforce in the country. The findings reveal that accepted trades such as leather work, plumbing, motor driving, travel operations and other categories of skilled persons exhibited double digit unemployment figures. Nearly 17 per cent of those who have textile-relating training and over 14 per cent with machine operator skills are lying idle. It has also been revealed that about 12 million people join the workforce every year. But the figures show that only 5.5 million of them are actually employed every year.

Madam, many jobs are created by industry also which are going unfilled because local people lack the skills required in that local area. There is a mismatch.

To address this problem, I would suggest for the consideration of the Government to map sector-wise skill requirements of the country in consultation with industry. I also agree with the hon. Prime Minister when he says that there is also a need to map skill requirements of various countries. And, on the basis of these two maps, we have to lay emphasis on areas and trades, and train the people.

I think we have to consider the idea of the Rural Economic Zone. Most of the unemployment and underemployment in the country are in the rural areas. So, we can consider actually giving incentives to places where there are more people who have the potential to be employed and bring industry to those locations, and skill the people for those industries in those locations. We can align all of these things together, and, I think, the young people of this country will benefit, industry will benefit and the country will benefit. Thank you.

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR): Hon. Speaker, I would like to raise a very important issue regarding the shortage of healthcare professions in the rural areas especially in the

Primary Health Centres, in the Community Health Centres, and in the block level and district level hospitals. According to Rural Health Statistics, 20214, about 26 per cent sanctioned posts of our doctors at Primary Health Centres are lying vacant. About 67 per cent of the posts for total specialists sanctioned at Community Health Centres are lying vacant. Similarly, about 16 per cent of the posts for nurses sanctioned across Primary Health Centres and Community Health Centres are lying vacant. The vacancies are not limited to doctors and nurses posts only. In Community Health Centres, 48 per cent posts sanctioned for radiographers, 19 per cent posts sanctioned for pharmacists and 27 per cent posts sanctioned for laboratory technicians are lying vacant.

At present, the Government is offering some incentives for doctors to work in the rural areas but this incentive is not enough, and it is being given to doctors only. The Medical Council of India had submitted a proposal to the Government to make one year rural posting at a Primary Health Centre compulsory for admission to the Post Graduate Course.

Madam, I would urge upon the Government to reconsider this proposal and also to design similar incentives to encourage healthcare professionals other than doctors to serve in the rural areas. Thank you.

SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): Hon. Madam Speaker, I stand here to raise an important issue regarding the problems being faced by the Tamil Nadu Dal Manufacturers Association. One of the main problems that comes when they import pulses is that they do not get clearance within the timeframe as provided in the Food Safety and Standards Regulations Act. The Act provides that the clearance should be given within five days from the arrival of the consignment, but it has been seen that the Authorities, especially, the Chennai Port takes about two weeks time to give clearance, which is causing great hardships to the importers.

Moreover there is an urgent need to differentiate the specifications for raw pulses from those of processed dals. The FSSAI should be given clear-cut directions to facilitate timely clearance of consignment, especially at the Chennai Port, and also to issue orders to identify the specifications between raw pulses and processed pulses.

Madam, I would, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to take immediate steps on this matter. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on an issue of great importance. For the expansion of education and to bring the light of knowledge to every village, there is a great need for big institutions like Indian Institute of Management and Indian Institute of Technology in the state considering the population and talent of the state of Bihar. We will urge the Hon. Minister to open Indian Institute of Management and Indian Institute of Technology according to the population of the state, to promote educational institutions there. On the other hand, Nalanda University is an open international university, on the lines of Vikramshila University, which is not only a historical university of Bhagalpur, but also has its reputation all over the world, an international university should be opened there and a school like Munger should be established in every Commissionerate of Bihar. We urged the Human Resource Minister to end my speech.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Jitendra Choudhary and Dr. A. Sampath are permitted to associate themselves with the issue raised by Shri Jayaprakash Narayan Yadav.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on a serious question. There is a state in this country where education has no meaning, there is no primary education, no colleges, no teachers, no professors and no quality. Children go there only for mid-day meals and nutrition, and they are also 90 per cent Dalit children. I am showing you the print, the situation there is so bad, I would like to show it to the entire House, where the children are stripped naked and their exams are taken. The way exams are conducted there, by stripping the clothes of the children and making them naked, Army exams are sometimes conducted in underwear and vest. But the way Matric students' exams are conducted in Khagaria, they are beaten inside, they never went to study, there was never any tuition there.

Madam, I demand through you that this is the biggest violation of human rights. There cannot be a bigger Talibani government or Hitler-like government than this. I urge the government to take immediate action in this regard. I think the entire House should come

up with a censure motion that the manner in which the exams are conducted by stripping the children naked is highly condemnable. ... *(Interruptions)* I request the government to take immediate action on that.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rajesh Ranjan.

[English]

DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR): Madam, today All India Federation of University and College Teachers Organisation and the Federation of Central University Teachers Association are having a mass strike here in Jantar Mantar. Thousands of teachers are there together. Their demands are twelve but among them, three important demands are (i) immediately constitute the UGC Seventh Pay Review Committee; (ii) grant MHRD approval for amendment to Ph.D Regulation of 2009; and (iii) UGC decision on the 3rd Amendment of the UGC Regulation 2010.

Madam, since I belong to the Federation and at the same time, I was teaching in university colleges for more than 30 long years, I know their demands are not unjustified. So, I urge upon the Union HRD Minister who is also present here to kindly have an audience

with the representatives of the All India Federation of University and College Teachers Organizations and Federation of Central University Teacher Association.`

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12.47 hours

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, the Matters under Rule 377 shall be laid on the Table of the House. Members, who have been permitted to raise matter under Rule 377 today and are desirous of laying them, may personally hand over text of the matter at the Table of the House within 20 minutes.

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

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Need to conduct a probe into the misappropriation of National Disaster Fund meant for disbursement to farmers who lost their crops due to hailstorms in Jalaun Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI BHANU PRATAP SINGH VERMA (JALAUN): In my parliamentary constituency Jalaun-Garautha-Bhognipur, under District Jalaun, due to the hailstorm that occurred in 2014-15, compensation was distributed to farmers in 2015. Under this, farmers received assistance ranging from Rs. 9,000 to Rs. 18,000 from the National Disaster Relief Fund. However, contrary to the rules, the State Government did not provide the requisite funds to small, marginal, and large farmers. Some farmers have not even received their first installment, while in certain villages funds were distributed in violation of norms. In Konch Tehsil, there was such alleged malpractice that non-farmers were shown as farmers and, in collusion with revenue officials, three installments of Rs. 35,000 each were transferred into their accounts. Altogether, misappropriation to the tune of Rs. 35 to 40 lakhs took place. Several individuals were found

guilty in the inquiry into this serious and sensitive matter, and some officers even went to jail.

Therefore, I demand from the Union Government that this misuse of the National Disaster Relief Fund be investigated by a high-level Central inquiry committee so that justice may be ensured for the farmers.

(ii) Need to clearly put in practice the doctrine of Separation of Powers in accordance with the spirit of the Constitution.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): In the process of judicial reforms, the present Government had enacted a law relating to the National Judicial Appointments Commission in order to establish a transparent system. This matter is presently pending before the Constitutional Bench of the Hon. Supreme Court for final adjudication. Judicial appointments must take place under a transparent system. In no other country of the world do judges themselves appoint judges; such a practice is not the tradition anywhere. The provision made in our Constitution by the founding fathers with regard to judicial appointments was intended in a particular spirit. To distort or deviate from that original provision may adversely affect the basic spirit of the Constitution. Therefore, I urge the Hon. Law Minister of India that, as the Constitution clearly provides for separation of powers among the Executive, the Judiciary, and the Legislature, this must be maintained. At present, owing to increasing judicial activism, it is being seen that through Public Interest Litigations (PILs), many senior officials are summoned

repeatedly to the courts. If senior officials of a State are required to appear in courts two or three days every week, when will they attend to the work of the people? This is indeed a matter of concern. Therefore, I request that this trend be deliberated upon in Parliament so that it may be brought in line with the spirit of the Constitution.

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(iii) Need to amend the Delhi Rent Control Act

[English]

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): I have raised this issue earlier also. In Delhi, commercial tenants are being evicted by landlords on the grounds of false bona fide needed under the Delhi Rent Control Act due to which around 30 to 40 lakh people of Delhi are directly and indirectly affected. I am thankful that the Hon. Minister of Urban Development is proposing to make necessary changes in the form of clauses in the (Delhi) Model Tenancy Act. I have been, however, informed by the aggrieved persons that since the basic premise of the Model Tenancy Act is in tune with the Pradhan Mantri Awas yojana and therefore its implications are much greater for the benefit of residential tenants, and not very suitable for application to commercial tenancies. The need of the hour is to bring a balance in Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958 on the lines of the Gujarat Rent Control Act, 2011. I, therefore, request that the Delhi Rent Control Act, 1958 be amended to include the clauses for which the Ministry of Urban Development has already given in-principle approval, namely the clauses defining comparative hardship, removal of summary procedure and one particular landlord not entitled to file

for bona fide eviction for more than one property in the same city. The aggrieved traders who had brought this issue are being evicted on a daily basis due to lack of a legislative framework for their protection in Delhi; this harms not only 30-40 lakh people of Delhi but also the faith they have in the present Government.

(iv) Need to include people belonging to Satnami, Suryavanshi and Ramnami community in different lists.

[Translation]

SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR): In the State of Chhattisgarh as well as in some other States, the Satnami, Suryavanshi, and Ramnami communities have been placed under serial number 14 in the category of Chamar. This is a derogatory term. These communities have never engaged in animal slaughter or leather work, nor did their forefathers ever engage in such activities. Therefore, to address them by, or to record them under, the term Chamar, which is used as an abusive expression, is objectionable and condemnable. Even during the British period, the Gurus and Raj Mahants of the Satnami community had appealed to Governor Butler to have this term removed, and it was indeed deleted at that time. The followers of Guru Ghasidasji of the Satnam Panth are known as Satnamis. They regard adherence to the path of truth, the practice of a pure diet, and the principle of non-violence as their religion.

If we look into the history of the Satnami community, we find that they were originally residents of what is now Narnaul in Haryana. They were engaged in various occupations, but Emperor Aurangzeb

attempted to convert them to Islam by force. Though the Satnamis initially resisted and emerged victorious, they were later defeated in battle and were compelled to migrate to different provinces. In Chhattisgarh, Guru Ghasidasji became the founder of the Satnam Panth, and his followers came to be known as Satnamis. Inspired by his teachings and works, people from different castes and religions in Chhattisgarh became his followers, and they were subsequently recognized as the Satnami community.

Therefore, I urge the Government to heed the demand of this community and delete their inclusion under serial number 14, and instead record Satnamis under a separate entry. This will give the community a rightful sense of dignity and pride.

(v) Need to enhance annual allocation for Members of Parliament Local Area Development Fund and also delegate executive powers to Members of Parliament for development works in their respective Parliamentary Constituencies.

SHRI KAUSHAL KISHORE (MOHANLALGANJ): I wish to submit that the constituencies of most Members of Parliament are predominantly rural. In the villages, there is an acute problem of drinking water. In my constituency alone, nearly 8,000 applications have been received for the installation of India Mark II hand pumps. Due to the shortage of electricity in villages, around 12,000 applications have been received for solar lights. Similarly, hundreds of applications have come for the installation of government tube wells for irrigation of crops, as well as for the construction of roads to connect villages with link routes. Regrettably, in the State there has been neglect of such developmental works. As a result, the people are holding their Members of Parliament accountable. If these works are not carried out, it will be difficult for MPs to avoid criticism from their constituents. Furthermore, the Government has not given consideration to enhancing the MPLADS funds.

I, therefore, urge the Union Government to provide each Member of Parliament with at least 10,000 hand pump pipes, 12,000 solar lights, 100 government tube wells, road connectivity for every village, and toilets for 50,000 people under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. I also request that the allocation under MPLADS be raised from Rs. 5 crore to Rs. 25 crore. This will enable every Member of Parliament to fulfil their accountability to the people.

(vi) Need to provide adequate compensation to farmers in Shahjahanpur Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

SHRIMATI KRISHNA RAJ (SHAHJAHANPUR): Due to unseasonal rains and hailstorms this year, our food providers, the farmers have been pushed to the brink of starvation. On several occasions, concerns have been raised in this House regarding the plight of farmers. I acknowledge that the Union Government, on humanitarian grounds, has extended compensation to almost all States to alleviate the suffering of farmers affected by natural calamities. Through you, Madam, I urge that in Uttar Pradesh a comprehensive survey be conducted in every district and that due compensation be ensured for each farmer. No matter how many industries we establish or how much development takes place, farmers will always hold the highest place in our nation. The first need of any human being is food, and after one's mother, it is the farmer who sustains us. However developed India may become, if the farmer remains distressed, all such development will appear meaningless.

I further urge that the compensation granted by the Union Government should be adequate, and its distribution must be just and equitable, which every State Government should ensure.

In my own constituency of Shahjahanpur, where nearly 20 lakh farmers reside, crops have been severely damaged by hailstorms. It is estimated that almost 80 per cent of the wheat crop has been destroyed, and the majority of farmers are suffering. Although Rs. 56 crore has been shown as compensation in the name of farmers in my constituency, the reality is that 50 to 70 per cent of farmers remain deprived of this relief. In nearly 40 to 50 per cent of villages, compensation has not reached the affected farmers due to grave discrepancies and unjust distribution at the administrative level. I therefore request that strict legal action be taken against such officials so that justice is delivered to our food providers.

In conclusion, I appeal that fair and timely compensation be provided to all farmers so that they may recover from this disaster.

(vii) Need to ensure an adequate water-harvesting system in new residential colonies in cities and towns in the country.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHEDIA (BHILWARA): Urbanization is progressing rapidly across the country. The Union Government has also undertaken the commendable initiative of developing 100 Smart Cities nationwide. I wish to express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister for including the cities of Jaipur and Udaipur from Rajasthan in this programme.

I would like to bring to the attention of the House that in recent years, cities have expanded at a very fast pace and their populations have doubled or even tripled. Urban local bodies have also created new colonies. However, while doing so, they have failed to earmark adequate spaces for the collection of rainwater. In earlier times, whenever villages and towns were settled, lakes or ponds were constructed alongside, and the layout was planned in such a manner that all the rainwater would naturally flow into these reservoirs. This water was then used for drinking and irrigation purposes. Unfortunately, under the present pattern of urban expansion, colonies

are being built without such provisions, resulting in severe water scarcity for the people.

Through you, Madam, I urge the Union Government to frame the necessary legislation making it mandatory for urban local bodies not to grant approval to any new colony unless adequate arrangements are made for the construction of lakes or ponds for rainwater harvesting.

(viii) Need to expand banking services in Uttar Pradesh.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): There are nearly 1,32,000 bank branches functioning across the country. In view of the Government's commitment to an inclusive economy, it is imperative to further expand banking services. Uttar Pradesh accounts for about one-sixth of the country's population. Accordingly, the State should ideally have around 22,000 bank branches. However, at present, there are only about 11,000 branches operating in Uttar Pradesh.

Through you, Madam, I urge the Hon. Finance Minister to kindly issue directions for the rapid opening of additional bank branches in Uttar Pradesh in proportion to its population.

(ix) Need to investigate the collapse of a building in Hubballi Railway Station, Karnataka

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): In Hubballi Railway station, Karnataka there was a building about 90 years old in which railway parcel office and Railway Police office was functioning. On the 8th of this month, this building collapsed suddenly and about eight people who were working in the premises died including two outsiders who had come to take delivery of parcels. This was the most unfortunate incident in the history of Hubballi Railway Station and Hubballi city. It is reported that there are many such railway buildings in the region of South Western Railway Zone and in other parts of the country. I urge the railway administration to constitute a committee to identify such old structures posing danger to the lives of the people and replace all of them with new buildings. I would also like to bring to the notice of the Government that the unfortunate collapse of the Hubballi Railway building is attributed to the negligence of local railway authorities as per the public and the Press in Hubballi. As per the documents, it appears to be a fact that the concerned railway engineers had issued notice to the concerned authorities stating that

this building was unsafe for human dwelling. Even after 4 days of this notice the offices were functioning in the premises till 8th February, the day the structure collapsed. This needs a thorough enquiry.

(x) Need to provide adequate funds for construction of roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in tribal areas of the country.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMEDNAGAR): The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is a scheme aimed at connecting remote rural areas. It was launched by the Union Government on 25 December 2000. The roads constructed under the PMGSY at that time have remained strong even after 15–16 years. However, subsequently, the then Government gradually neglected this scheme and reduced its allocations from time to time. Due to insufficient funds, the wider objective of creating a network of rural roads to improve connectivity remained unfulfilled. The contractors, who had deposited security with the Government while taking up PMGSY works, found even their security deposits being utilised. As a result, they have now become dependent on the Union Government for refund of these deposits. Consequently, contractors are showing reluctance to take up further works and the implementation of the PMGSY scheme has come to a standstill. Since the initial targets were not achieved, the preparation of subsequent

proposals has also been delayed, and in tribal-dominated areas the work of PMGSY has virtually stopped. The Government of Maharashtra has, from time to time, made representations to the Union Government in this regard. I would like to know whether the Government is taking any action to fix a definite time-frame and allocate sufficient funds for the effective implementation of the PMGSY in order to ensure the development of the people in tribal areas.

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(xi) Need to undertake a fresh census of people belonging to Other Backward Classes.

SHRI NANA PATOLE (BHANDARA-GONDIYA): From time to time the issue of securing the economic, educational and social rights of the Other Backward Classes (OBC) has come before the Government. In 1993, there was a wave of joy among the OBC community, but it soon faded away. The students belonging to the OBC category are being deprived of scholarships and reservation benefits, resulting in severe academic loss and jeopardising their future. Recently, Lokesh Vijay Yerane, a second-year student of J.D. Engineering College, Kalmeshwar, Nagpur, belonging to the OBC community, was harassed by the college administration as he was unable to pay his fees. Tragically, this student was compelled to commit suicide on 20 February 2016. The OBC community, particularly in rural, backward and remote areas, is facing acute financial and educational crises. I, therefore, once again urge the Union Government to take immediate steps to ensure constitutional rights for the OBC community and to conduct a census of this community at the earliest.

(xii) Need to provide stoppage of 15707/08 at Mairwa railway station in Siwan Parliamentary Constituency, Bihar.

SHRI OM PRAKASH YADAV (SIWAN): It is essential that Train No. 15707/08 be provided a halt at Mairwa Railway Station in my parliamentary constituency, Siwan. Such a halt will benefit thousands of passengers from Mairwa and the neighbouring State of Uttar Pradesh who wish to travel to Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Delhi and Amritsar. Local citizens and public representatives have repeatedly requested the railway administration to provide this facility.

I, therefore, urge the Hon. Railway Minister to kindly ensure that Train No. 15707/08 is given a halt at Mairwa Railway Station under the North Eastern Railway, so that students, patients, traders and all sections of society may benefit.

(xiii) Need to ensure toll-free movement of vehicles in the entire Chitrakoot area, a famous tourist and pilgrimage center.

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): The famous pilgrimage centre of Chitrakoot falls within my parliamentary constituency. This holy place spans both Uttar Pradesh and Madhya Pradesh. A number of pilgrimage and tourist sites lie within Madhya Pradesh, while nearly half of these sites fall within the territory of Uttar Pradesh. The sacred Kamadgiri Parvat, which is circumambulated by devotees, too is divided equally between the two States. Pilgrims are compelled to pay heavy taxes while crossing from one State to another, and there are also instances of illegal collections. This is a matter of serious concern.

I, therefore, urge the Government to declare this region as a free zone for movement, so that pilgrims may be provided relief and convenience through effective measures.

(xiv) Need to raise the Bundelkhand Regiment in the Army.

KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR): The Bundelkhand region has a glorious military history and its folk literature is imbued with the spirit of valour, the mere recital of which fills one with enthusiasm and energy. Though Bundelkhand is a region where people live under difficult natural conditions, the common populace here is industrious, honest, and imbued with values of service. Service to elders, care of animals, and love of nature are traditional virtues of the people of this area. In view of the human qualities of Bundelkhand and the social acceptance of military skills in the region, I urge that a Bundelkhand Regiment be established. Just as in the past regiments have been formed keeping in mind the distinctive traits of various regions, such as the Bihar Regiment, Kumaon Regiment, Assam Regiment, Sikkim Scouts, and Arunachal Scouts- a Bundelkhand Regiment can likewise be constituted.

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(xv) Need to provide special financial package to autonomous district councils in Manipur

[English]

SHRI THANGSO BAITE (OUTER MANIPUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards an urgent public importance in respect of my Parliamentary Constituency in Manipur. There are six autonomous District Councils viz. (i) Senapati (ADC), (ii) Sadar Hills (ADC), (iii) Ukhrul (ADC), (iv) Churachandpur (ADC), (v) Tamenglong (ADC) and (vi) Chandel (ADC). It was constituted under the Manipur (Hill Areas) District Council Act 1971, passed by the Parliament while Manipur was still a Union Territory of India. After attainment of Manipur Statehood in the year 1972, the Act itself was inherited by the State Government. The Councils for the past twenty years are non-functional as people want the council under 6th Schedule which has not been attained till date. In 2010, the councils were revived as there was no Local Self Government in the Hill Area and it became very problematic for the administration and in pursuit of development activities in the rural areas.

In spite of its importance (i.e. the Institution of Local Self Government), the Autonomous District Councils could not function

properly owing to fund constraints and limited financial resources. In view of the stated facts, I would like to appeal that a special financial package of at least Rs.1200 crores may please be awarded to the Councils to enable them to undertake multifarious developmental activities.

(xvi) Need for four-laning of Ludhiana-Talwandi Station on NH-95

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards an acute need of four-laning of Ludhiana-Talwandi section on NH-95 fromm Km 86.00 to Km 92.00, which falls under my Lok Sabha constituency, Ludhiana. As more than 25000 vehicles pass through this stretch daily, there is usually traffic congestion on this portion of the National Highway.

This 65 Km long two-lane stretch falls within 1000 yards of Army Ammunition Depot, Ludhiana. Since its preceding stretch towards Ludhiana is already eight-laned and its succeeding stretch towards Mullanpur is four-laned, this left out portion is a major traffic bottleneck. As a result, this stretch has become accident prone and is called a killer stretch.

To prevent loss of precious human lives in accidents, I request the Ministry of Defence to expedite the issuance of a No-Objection Certificate to the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) and allow the Authority to undertake the long pending widening of this critical stretch, on top priority, in public interest.

(xvii) Need to set up Kendriya Vidyalayas in Mayiladuthurai Parliamentary Constituency

SHRI R.K. BHARATHI MOHAN (MAYILADUTHURAI): Mayiladuthruai and Kumbakonam are the two important municipal towns in my Mayiladuthurai Parliamentary Constituency. It is a long pending demand of the people to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya school at these two places. The people are willing to provide necessary support to start new Kendriya Vidyalayas. Both Kumbakonam and Mayiladuthurai are known for 1000 years of glorious history in socio-economic-religious and traditional life. The poor and middle class people of these two towns want their children to study in Kendriya Vidyalaya for quality education at an affordable cost.

Therefore, I urge the Minister for Human Resource Development to give permission to set up a Kendriya Vidyalaya school at both Kumbakonam and Mayiladuthurai towns with TAMIL as one of the medium of instruction to benefit the children of poor and middle class people.

(xviii) Need for resumption of train services between Chennai and Tiruvannamalai and Chennai and Tirupattur

SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI): In my Tiruvannamalai constituency, there was rail connectivity between Chennai and Tiruvannamalai prior to gauge conversion. After the broad gauge conversion, all the train services were stopped. Tiruvannamalai is a district headquarters and a spiritual center. To visit Annamalaiyar temple of Tiruvannamalai and for circumambulation during full-moon day, Tamil New Year, English New Year and festival days like Karthgai Deepam, lakhs of pilgrim from Chennai and other parts of Tamil Nadu come to Tiruvannamalai. There is heavy vehicular traffic during these occasions and it becomes difficult to control the traffic. There should be adequate rail services to Tiruvannamalai. The Howrah Express between Puducherry and Howrah does not stop at Tiruvannamalai. This train should stop at least for 5 minutes at Tiruvannamalai railway station. Moreover, ticket reservation is done only during morning hours and I urge that it should be extended till evening. A parcel office should function at Tiruvannamalai railway station. Basic amenities like drinking water

facilities, rest room, latrine facilities, etc. in the railway station should be improved. Chennai-Tirupattur train service was in operation for many years. This train departs from Tirupattur at 4.30 A.M. and reaches Chennai and on the other side reaches Tirupathur at 10 P.M. But in the last four months, this train service has terminated at Jolarpet. I therefore, urge the Hon. Railway Minister that the train service may be restored up to Tirupathur as it was before. Also a new railway line between Tiruvannamalai to Jolarpettai via Chengam be laid.

(xix) Need to fix remunerative price of paddy and jute crops in West Bengal particularly in Krishnanagar parliamentary constituency

SHRI TAPAS PAUL (KRISHNANAGAR): Over the last 15 years, over 12 lakh farmers have committed suicides in different parts of the country due to an acute agrarian crisis. In West Bengal, which is otherwise blessed with very fertile soils, agriculture has also been badly affected by a spate of farmers' suicides in recent years. One of the main reasons for the crisis is that the farmers are getting very low rates for the paddy and jute crops in the State, particularly in Krishnanagar Parliamentary Constituency. There is a need to look into this matter urgently so that this unhealthy trend of farmers' suicides in the state of West Bengal could be checked.

(xx) Need to strengthen Air Force War Capability

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): At a time when South Asia is seeing induction of advanced fighter aircraft in large numbers, as per senior Air Force Officer the current fighter strength of the country is inadequate to handle a two front war. “Our aircraft numbers are not adequate to execute an air campaign in a two-front scenario”, Air Force Vice-Chief Air Marshal B. S. Dhanoa Said. He was speaking at a media briefing on the upcoming Iron Fist Air Force exercises later this month at Pokhran test range. He said steps are being taken to address the issue and the government-to-government agreement for 36 Rafale aircraft was agreed to in this regard. The Air Force has a sanctioned strength of 42 squadrons but the numbers are steadily dropping with the MIG series being phased out and the squadron strength is at its lowest, especially the SU-30s, 272 of which will eventually be fielded by IAF. This, at a time when Pakistan is inducting JF-17 fighters and set to receive eight more F-16 fighters from the US, China, meanwhile, is likely to receive the first of the 24 SU-35 jets from Russia by year end even as its fifth generation aircraft programmes make progress. However, the Air Force has something

to cheer about as the indigenously developed Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) is expected to get Final Operational clearance in the next six months. The IAF has 120 LCA on order, of which 100 will be an improved variant. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), which is manufacturing them, is ramping up production to 18 aircraft per year and the first aircraft with improvements is scheduled to be ready by 2018.

(xxi) Need to provide adequate financial assistance to drought victims in Kandhamal Parliamentary Constituency

SHRIMATI PRATYUSHA RAJESHWARI SINGH (KANDHAMAL): Drought is a slow and crippling disaster and its effect is likely to be felt by the people for a considerable long period of time. The primary loss is that of agriculture. Acute shortage of water has brought many associated problems including shortage of drinking water, food shortage, malnutrition and health hazard for both human and animals in my Parliamentary constituency of Kandhamal consisting of Nayagarh, Boudh, Ganjam and Kandhamal districts of Odisha.

I request the Union Government to mitigate the situation and provide adequate financial assistance to the farmers by taking up relief and rehabilitation measures.

(xxii) Need to resolve the issue relating to apportioning of institutions between Andhra Pradesh and Telangana

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): As per the Andhra Pradesh Reorganization Act, Schedule 9 & 10 to the Act lists a set of institutions that were supposed to be apportioned between the two States in a time bound manner. These institutions form a total of about 196. The Central Committee appointed to divide these institutions is not resolving the dispute between the two states. In the meanwhile, the State of Telangana is showing high handed behavior and is illegally claiming these institutions. As a host of those institutions lie in the erstwhile, the State of Telangana is showing high handed behavior and is illegally claiming these institutions. As a host of those institutions lie in the erstwhile capital of the undivided State, Hyderabad, which is in Telangana, the State is seeking to claim these institutions. A delegation of AP Ministers has also met the Hon. President in this regard.

We request the immediate resolution of this issue. These institutions have to be apportioned based on the population ratio of

42:58 at the earliest. The Hon. Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh has also actively pursued this matter. The issue has to be resolved in order to deliver justice to the state of Andhra Pradesh which was divided in an unscientific manner.

(xxiii) Need to set up AIIMS like Institute in Telangana

DR. BOORA NARASAIAH GOUD (BHONGIR): Telangana is the youngest state of India and needs more attention. The stated policy of the Government of India is to have one AIIMS like institute in each state. The AIIMS like institute to Telangana was promised on the floor of the August House in 2015 itself. On the advice of the Health Minister, the State Government had located 220 acres of land at Bibinagar in Nalgonda district with all the requirements. The Health Minister was apprised of the same. The Health Minister had also assured us that AIIMS like institute would be set up in Telangana

I, therefore, urge upon the Government to expedite the matter.

(xxiv) Need to take farmer-oriented policies to prevent farmers' suicides

SHRIMATI SUPRIYA SULE (BARAMATI): In 2015, two-thirds of the 1.37 crore farmers in Maharashtra have been affected by the drought mainly in the Marathwada and Vidarbha regions. That is nearly 90 lakh farmers in Maharashtra alone. Year 2015 has seen the highest number of farmer suicides in the past five years in Maharashtra. The death toll on December 31, 2015 in Maharashtra stood at 3,228 for the year 2015. In January this year, as many as 89 farmers ended their lives in Marathwada, indicating that the slew of measures the government undertook through the year failed to arrest the disturbing trend. The Government officials have failed to create confidence among the farmers regarding several government schemes intended to benefit them. Packages will no longer work for farmers and the Government seems to be missing this point completely. There is a need for farmer oriented policies like better irrigation technologies like drip irrigation, water harvesting, better varieties of seeds, better technology and awareness among farmers about good cropping practices.

(xxv) Need to provide special funds and incentives to border States

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Government of India should allocate special funds for border States. Education, health and roads are badly affected due to disturbances on the border. Specially, industries of such states cannot grow, education and agri-sectors also do not get the required boost. So I would request the Government to provide special funds and incentives to border States.

(xxvi) Need to take suitable action for resettlement of Jhuggi-Jhopri clusters presently occupying the land owned by Mumbai Airport Authority.

[Translation]

SHRI VINAYAK BHAURAO RAUT (RATNAGIRI-SINDHUDURG): On nearly 175 acres of land belonging to the Mumbai Airport Authority, more than 80,000 hutments have come up. These slums, which have existed for over 50 years, face numerous problems due to the lack of basic facilities such as toilets, drinking water, roads, and other amenities, causing great hardship to the residents. The Union Government had earlier adopted a plan for their rehabilitation, but it did not succeed. The Union Government has now taken the decision to rehabilitate these slums located on its land through the State Government's rehabilitation scheme.

I therefore request that an effective plan be prepared so that the rehabilitation of the slums situated on the land of the Mumbai Airport Authority may be undertaken at the earliest through the State Government.

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HON. SPEAKER: If the House agrees, we may now take up a Bill of Shri Ram Vilas Paswan, which has come from the Rajya Sabha - the Bureau of Indian Standards, along with certain numbered amendments..

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Yes, that is fine.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Ram Vilas Paswan.

12.48 hours

BUREAU OF INDIAN STANDARDS BILL, 2015*

(Amendments made by Rajya Sabha)

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): Hon. Speaker, the BIS Bill was passed by the Lok Sabha on 3rd December and subsequently by the Rajya Sabha on 8th March. The only change that has arisen is with respect to the year mentioned. When the Bill was passed in the Lok Sabha, it was the 66th year of the Republic, that is, 2015. By the time it was passed in the Rajya Sabha, it had become 2016, the 67th year of the Republic. Therefore, the only modification required is to replace "66" with "67" and the year "2015" with "2016". I propose:-

"That the following amendments made by the Rajya Sabha in the Bill to provide for the establishment of a national standards body for the

* The Bill was passed by Lok Sabha on the 3rd December, 2015 and transmitted to Rajya Sabha for its concurrence. Rajya Sabha passed the Bill with amendments at its sitting held on the 8th March, 2016 and returned it to Lok Sabha on the same day.

harmonious development of activities of standardization, conformity assessment and quality assurance of goods, articles, processes, systems and services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration:-

Regulation formula

1.On page 1, in line 1, for the word "sixty-six", substitute the word "sixty-seventh".

Section One

2.page 1, in line 5 "2015" digit should be replaced by "2016" digit."

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> “That the following amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill* to provide for the establishment of a national standards body for the harmonious development of the activities of standardization, conformity assessment and quality assurance of goods, articles, processes, systems and services and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto be taken into consideration:-”

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, *for* the word "Sixty-sixth", the word "Sixty-seventh" be *substituted.*

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 4, *for* the figure, "2015", the figure "2016" be *substituted*."

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: We shall now take up amendments made by Rajya Sabha. I shall now put amendment Nos. 1 and 2 made by Rajya Sabha together to the vote of the House.

The question is:

ENACTING FORMULA

1. That at page 1, line 1, *for* the word "Sixty-sixth", the word "Sixty-seventh" be *substituted.*

CLAUSE 1

2. That at page 1, line 4, *for* the figure, "2015", the figure "2016" be *substituted*."

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister may now move that the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bureau of Indian Standards Bill, 2015, as passed by Lok Sabha, be agreed to.

[Translation]

SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN: Madam, I also request that the amendments made by Rajya Sabha be accepted.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the amendments made by Rajya Sabha in the Bill be agreed to."

The motion was adopted.

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12.49 hours

GENERAL BUDGET (2016-17)- GENERAL DISCUSSION, DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT(GENERAL), 2016-17 AND DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 2015-16 -Cont'd.

HON. SPEAKER: Motion moved:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper, be granted to the President out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2016, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 6, 9,10,12 to 16, 18 to 20, 23 to 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 35, 37, 41, 43, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 55 to 57, 59 to 64, 66, 68, 69, 72, 73, 75, 80, 82 to 89, 91, 92, 94, 96, 99 to 101, 103 to 105, 107, 108 and 109."

[Translation]

Shri Tariq Anwar ji. He was just sitting now. Not present now.

Shrimati Poonam Mahajan ji.

SHRIMATI POONAM MAHAJAN (NORTH CENTRAL MUMBAI): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to thank the Government and you for giving me, once again, the opportunity, this being the third time for a first-time MP to speak on the Budget.

When the budget was presented, there were many discussions on the budget. When we look at this budget, which is a reformist budget, whenever there is a discussion on it, I always think that this is the era of the global village. ... *(Interruptions)* Recently, the IMF has once again stated that "India is the bright spot." Here when we look at India financially, the way an economic slowdown is happening globally, what is happening in China, what is happening in Europe, the global way we are seeing a slow down, India is being seen as a bright spot in such a way that when India shows its financial strength, when India goes ahead with its financial position, then only India will make this global global village, the global financial situation stronger than itself.

The Hon. Minister of Finance said that a slippery, fiscal discipline, since the first year, he has been taking it forward. This

fiscal discipline is because a fiscal discipline has been brought in by the Hon. Finance Minister while paying attention to the way the deficit has been happening for many years, the way the global financial situation is becoming. I have to say that there are some points which are very important in this budget. Swami Vivekananda had said that whenever we have to see India in the world form, it is very important to understand India as our strength, it is very important to make a national policy of India and India can show its financial strength in the world. In terms of the same financial strength, there are some points which the Finance Minister himself has taken forward, the first of them is agriculture. Who is the first citizen of India, it is our farmer. India will be happy only when we give strength to that first citizen. I remember the words Hon. Aurobindo ji had said, “every village is the cell of this country like how it is in the body. If every cell in your body is healthy, then the body is healthy.” Similarly every village, every town of India is an integral part of India in the form of a cell. When every village is fine, every town is fine, it will progress, only then the body of India will remain strong and powerful. The Hon. Prime Minister, on his part, has made the maximum investment in agriculture to empower the farmers, to empower every particle, to empower the first citizen of the country.

We are seeing that for the last two years, the situation of monsoon is not good, the heavenly strength is not good, the Sultanic strength is not getting good, but our spiritual strength is very good. We want this country to move forward with soul, we want the farmers of the country to move forward with heart and soul. In the irrigation scheme, which has been given the most importance, the Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme, lands in lakhs of places, lakhs of hectares of land are today being included in the irrigation sector in a big way. Until there is no irrigation, no strength, no water, we will not be able to move forward. We have got a very good strength in the form of civil cards.

The third important spiritual strength is the crop insurance scheme. This crop insurance scheme was made earlier also and is still the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, but it is very important to see two different important issues in it. In the earlier crop insurance scheme there was a premium, every farmer was not able to pay the premium on his own, in the earlier crop insurance it was said that a fixed cost would have to be paid in the premium. But our government, the NDA government, Hon. the Prime Minister's government and said that the premium of 90 percent will be paid by the Government of India and you try to pay up to 10 percent. Such strength has been

given. It also has a timeline, before or after.You can insure the farmer even before the crop is damaged or even after the crop is wasted, you can take your insurance, fill the premium.

The third important thing is that it has shown the timeline, for Rabi and Kharif crops, every one percentage wise it has been given that power. In this way, the farmers who are the first citizens of India want to move forward with a different force through the crop insurance scheme.

Another important point is infrastructure. I want to give an example. From the year 1933 to 1938, the Great Depression occurred in a nation like America. Franklin Roosevelt was the head of state at that time. He thought that the way the Great Depression is happening, I should increase the strength of my country, then by making a new deal, a new form of infrastructure, agriculture and such a policy was made, in which grade depression could be prevented in the coming times. In the same new deal, today we see in the infrastructure that 2 lakh 21 thousand 246 crore rupees have been invested in the infrastructure. This is necessary because Crisil's report last year said that when India keeps the most money in infrastructure, invests its own, then very different evidence of employment will come and

people, youth will get employment. Similarly, 70 thousand crore rupees, 27 thousand crore rupees from Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and 800 crore rupees in the form of Sagarmala have been received by us today. We have been given a new mantra in the form of Deendayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Yojana. We BJP people take this mantra forward all the time, but what is said in that Antyodaya Yojana? Deendayal Upadhyay ji has said that we have to reach the last man of the society, only then the country will move forward. If we have to reach the final destination, we have to make a way. Our Hon. leader of Maharashtra Nitin Gadkari ji has made many roads so that India reaches the destination, work has been done in this way.

Madam, in the last two years, 50 thousand kilometers of State Highways have been converted into National Highways. Within a year, 10 thousand kilometers of National Highways have been approved, which was not done in the last 10 years. I am a pilot myself, I know how important infrastructure is. A lot of investment has also been made in small private investments, in which an investment of Rs 100 crore has been made. Unless the infrastructure, basic facilities and basic foundation of this country is built, we will not be able to move

forward. It is very important that we have invested more than two lakh rupees in infrastructure.

When we talk about the health of the country, we talk about the health of every human being in the country. That health is equally important, I would say two points in that, how important it is, how it has been affected till the last man in the form of Antyodaya Yojana? One of the important schemes was 'Jan Aushadhi Yojana'. We will get three thousand such small shops across the country under the 'Jan Aushadhi Yojana', where we will be able to get cheap medicines. We have found 14 such shops in Maharashtra, half of which are not functioning and half are still functioning. So far, 258 such shops have been opened across the country, but it is a revolutionary idea that when a poor man earns his salary, half of that money is spent on medicine and liquor. Under the 'Jan Aushadhi Yojana', they will get three thousand such small shops. Four to five such stores will be set up in every district across the country.

The second thing that touched my heart, because we all work in the Lok Sabha. People of our parliamentary constituency come to us for every small thing, sometimes they come for some medical help. Everyone needs help for a dialysis center, that is the top medical help.

All our colleagues here will agree that every poor person comes to you for a dialysis center and says get me a discount, tell the doctor and every year about 2.2 lakh patients are joining end-stage renal diseases. 3.4 crore dialysis sessions are conducted every year in every country. We have about 5000 such dialysis centers. Originally they are in cities or in private hospitals, because of their presence in cities and private hospitals, people living in villages are not able to reach the dialysis center. I think, since the cost per session is Rs 2000, the annual expenditure of any poor person in that dialysis center is Rs 3 lakh. I would like to thank the Minister of Finance for not making such dialysis centers expensive, so he has protected the small mechanical equipment of the dialysis centers from all the duties of custom, excise, CVD and ACD.

The third important thing and point is that everyone wants light in life. In the form of electricity, we have been seeing darkness under the lamp for years Hon. Atal ji has said that lamps should be lit at all times. We need that same electricity and lamp in every home, so that even a child born in a poor family can study in electric light and take this country forward. Piyush Goyal ji, who is from Maharashtra, has done a great job by taking steps to provide 100 percent electricity to

every village of the country by May 2018. In the coming time, 18, 542 villages are to be electrified. Out of 18,542 villages, 5,542 villages have been electrified till February 23, 2016.

13.00 hours

8,500 crore is reaching out to people in the form of Deendayal Gram Jyoti Yojana, it is a very good thing. I still remember the story that many people told their stories that when I was young, there was no electricity in my house. Hon. Prime Minister asked all of us to adopt one village each under the Sansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. I adopted Charoti village 120 km from Mumbai. There are many tribals and forest hamlets living in that village. Electricity had not reached there for sixty years. When I adopted that village, the first thing I thought of was that I would do three important things there – electricity, water and road. After that, we will take the village forward through education and in every way. You can read a story from the Economic Times. It's written in it. A sixty-year-old woman named Parvati in the tribal hamlet of Charoti village. When we provided electricity to her house under Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana, she was very happy and a story, good news item was written on it that after sixty years today we have not been able to provide electricity even 120

kilometers from a financial city of India like Mumbai. It has reached today under the Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana. If a Parvati is happy today, then how many women across the country will be happy with it. It is a very important thing. Another important thing is the UDAY Yojana. We are always burdened by the cost of power and that cost of power affects us life-time. For that also, as an exercise on good interest, burden of interest, cost of power, today Hon. Piyush Goyal ji has brought a scheme like UDAY. We will also benefit from that scheme.

Another important point is for every woman. That is an LPG connection Every woman wants regular gas to reach her house. Every woman in the village should be free from the pain of cooking. I would like to thank the Prime Minister, Hon. Minister of Finance. Give it up - When I used to go to small streets in elections, I used to tell people that this is our PPP. People used to ask me what PPP means. I say that unless there is a public politician partnership, we will not be able to work. I want to thank the people of this country. When the Hon. Prime Minister gave the slogan of Give It Up to entire country, 77 lakh, 76 thousand, 293 citizens of our country, including me, returned my two gas connections, returned my gas connections. The country benefited

from Give It Up by Rs 186 crore. Along with this, LPG gas connections reached one and a half crore houses. At the same time, the old aunt from our village came out of that kitchen life. Therefore, additional two thousand crore rupees were given in this form by Hon. Piyush Goyal ji and the Minister of Finance. So I want to thank them. These points are for women, security and farmers.

The strength of this country is youth.Unless the youth of this country grows and stands up, this country will not move forward.For that, the self-respect of a youth is very important. It is very important to educate them.Hon. The Minister of Finance in his capacity as HRD and Skill Development Ministry has pushed the youth to get empowerment through different forms of education. Today every youth comes forward after studying with that self-respect but wants to do something else. But for that he doesn't get a base, he doesn't get money. Today, with this slogan of Stand Up and Start Up India, every youth of our country will move forward with whatever he wants to do from his heart and this strength has been given by our Prime Minister. As a Start Up India, I can make anything, make a different slipper, a different fan that can save electricity, make a different form of LED light,for such small businesses, it is a very big thing to give 100% tax

deduction for the first three years to the youngsters doing such businesses. To get strength in his first five years of work, to make a special incubation center that I want to do something, I have that strength but I do not get that place. That stage has been given by the Finance Minister. Stand up with Startup India, stand up with your pride, self-respect or stand up and move forward. Due to this stand-up India era, there are so many promising youth from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes in our country, who have never got that much platform, today the Hon. Minister of Finance has set aside Rs.500 crores. This will benefit 2.5 lakh youth in the country.There is a Mudra scheme with these benefits. Mudra has kept one lakh 80 thousand crore rupees separately for the youth of this country for their work. Imagine, by combining three schemes, the youth of every corner, village, city and street of this country can also stand up and start up India with their self-respect.

Business is everything in the city I come from. For that business, I always used to tell the Hon. Minister of Finance, Hon. Jayant Sinha that you should do something such that if any company wants to open its business in Mumbai, it can be done quickly. Ease of doing business can have different meanings, different forms, you can help for that

only. The most important thing under the Amendment of 2013 Companies Act is that today any country can establish a company. If someone cannot open a company in Mumbai, he goes to some other state and even in other states, when the 2013 amendments had not been made, he opens a company in Singapore and then brings its back offices to Mumbai. It is said that opening a company is a long process and closing it is an even longer process. Today we want to thank the government if someone opens a company here for ease of doing business, then as per the amendments made in the Companies Act 2013, one can open a company and do business within a day, this is a very big thing.

I have come from Mumbai city, but my whole life is connected to Marathwada. My father used to came from Marathwada, You know that most of the farmers are committing suicide there because of water shortage. If there is no monsoon, the problems will increase in the coming times. The journey of my family from Marathwada to Mumbai, we cannot forget the poor farmers of Maharashtra. What is the strength needed for the farmers of Marathwada? We have a government in Maharashtra, In the form of Jalyukt Shivar, Hon. Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis Ji has said that whether it is crop

insurance scheme, how to provide water to people's homes through Jalyukt Shivar or if five lakh wells are dug through MGNREGA, how much benefit will it have in Marathwada of Maharashtra. The strength you showed to give strength to the farmers of Marathwada and to give strength to the farmers of the country, they thought that they are the first citizens, they are the backbones of the country, it gave them strength. I want to thank them very much. When I travel from Marathwada to Mumbai, I feel a bit indifferent about my city because my city got very good power in the Railway Budget and got trains with more coaches. People who travel by local trains in Mumbai are always surprised. People keep coming and going by local trains and for that some provision has been made in the railway budget. I always used to say to Jayant Sinha ji that you should do something for IFC. Mumbai is our financial hub. Just as we see India as a bright spot all over the world, we see Mumbai as a bright spot as a financial hub. My expectation is that just like the International Financial Services Centre is a gift, some complimentary tax benefits should be given as well because the city is very small, the place is very small, Mumbai can be made bigger in the form of FCI but cannot be made wide. If we get tax benefits in FIC, then if we make Mumbai an international financial institution in Asia,it will be of great benefit. Every gram panchayat is

going to get 80 lakh rupees, big municipalities are going to get 21 crore direct benefit but no matter how much benefit Mumbai city gets, it increases in the form of influxes and slums keep increasing. The number of people coming to Mumbai has never decreased but keeps increasing. Attention should also be given to the health aspect in Mumbai city. In Maharashtra, people suffering from cancer or any other disease want to come to Mumbai because there are good hospitals. I want to demand from the Minister of Finance, you are bringing AIIMS in Nagpur, government hospitals are filled in Mumbai because people not only from Mumbai city but from all over Maharashtra even people from North East come to Mumbai hospitals for cancer treatment. An AIIMS-like facility should be brought in my constituency Chandivali. So that Mumbai can benefit from it. Along with Maharashtra, people from all over the country should also take advantage of it.

Madam Speaker, I would like to raise another important issue that women and child welfare is very important for this country. We have young people, but new creatures keep coming here, due to which the population of the country is increasing. Somewhere our budget for the health of those creatures falls short and we shrink from holding

their hands. Unless the physical and mental strength of children aged from zero to six months and three years increases, they will not be able to move forward nor will they be able to take this country forward. Why don’t we give more power to ICDS, make it more professional?There are a lot of scams in it, so why not give money, professionalize ICDS and bring it to the main issue. I expect that from you.

In the end, I would say that Swami Vivekananda had said that if India has to become a world guru, then it has to recognize its culture, its strength. This is a reform budget. Hon. Jayant Sinha ji said very well the day before yesterday that this is a super-duper hit budget. This is a super-duper hit budget, but every budget is very important in public policy. Every budget should be for public entertainment, for people's work. Every budget should be just a one day TRIP headline or should we consider the next 20 years in the coming one year or not. I am saying that given the global financial situation, we are getting walls in front of us. This budget is so wonderful, so pragmatic, progressive and pro-public that it is not breaking the walls in front of us, but actually it is providing a door through those walls. Everywhere we do not want to break the walls. We want to build a door there. We

want people to go beyond that door and see that world where Swami Vivekanand had said that if any country in the world can become the world guru, then it can only be India. To make this country India the world leader, the Hon. Prime Minister has presented this budget very well. Which has reached to every section, like Deen Dayal Upadhyay ji said that it should reach every sectionWomen, youth, men and the strength of this country, our first citizen being the farmer, takes everyone forward and envisions that vision. Therefore, I would like to thank this budget and also take forward my issues and thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance very much.

***SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA):** I would like to make my point on the General Budget 2016-17. The NDA Government under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi presented the third General Budget in Parliament on 29th February 2016. The budget is dedicated to villages, poor, farmers, women and youth. The budget is dedicated to the objective of the present government of "Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas" towards realizing the resolve of all-round development of India. The budget is a roadmap to make the good governance and development agenda of the Modi government practical and actionable. The soul of India resides in its villages and the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley has realized its expressed-unexpressed pain and has given a concrete shape to the structure for building a golden and strong India. Many salutes to Shri Arun Jaitley ji for the Union Budget that empowers and rebuilds rural India.

The budget lays the foundation of a strong India, strengthens the rural economy and strengthens the infrastructure. This will bring prosperity to the poor, employment to the youth, increase in the income of farmers, provide housing to the homeless, empower women

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

and benefit small businessmen. The budget provides basic necessities like roads, electricity, water, houses, cooking gas, agriculture etc. Rural youth will benefit immensely from the provisions of digital literacy and computers, laptops, mobiles etc. will be accessible in every village. The main objective of this budget is to double the income of farmers in five years.A total allocation of Rs.35,984 crore has been made in the budget to double the income of farmers by 2022. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has been strengthened and will be implemented in mission mode. Under this scheme, 28.5 lakh hectares of land will be included in the irrigation area. This scheme will benefit the irrigation-deprived areas of Chatra, Latehar and Garhwa districts and the farmers here will be able to get water for farming. Also, implementation of 89 irrigation projects under AIBP has been lagging behind for a long time, and will be expedited. This will help in irrigating 80.6 lakh hectare area. These projects require Rs.17,000 crore next year and Rs.86,500 crore in the next five years. Of these, 23 projects will be completed before March 31, 2017. The completion of these projects will greatly benefit the farmers. A dedicated Long Term Irrigation Fund will be created at NABARD at a cost of Rs.20,000 crore. For sustainable ground water resource management Rs.6,000 crore have been given at an estimated cost. At

least 5 lakh farms, ponds and wells in irrigated areas for years and 10 lakh compost pits for production of organic manure will be constructed by leveraging the allocations under MNREGA. The Soil Health Card Scheme aims to cover all 14 crore holders by March 2017. Soil and seed testing facilities will be provided to 2,000 model retail outlets of fertilizer companies over the next three years. Under the Traditional Agriculture Development Scheme, organic farming will be carried out in 5 lakh acres of area over a period of three years. Incentives are being given to increase the production of pulses. An allocation of Rs.500 crore has been fixed for pulses under the National Food Security Mission. 622 districts have been included in this. Chatra, Latehar, Palamu and Garhwa have been pulse producing areas, which will benefit from this scheme and pulse production will increase. The farmers of this region will be happy. Common e-Market Platform Integrated Agricultural Marketing e-Platform in 12 States will be dedicated to the nation on 14 April this year on the birth anniversary of Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar.

In comparison to previous years, a total of Rs 27,000 crore will be spent in the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the year 2016-17 including the states' share. A provision of Rs.5,500 crore has been

made in the Budget 2016-17 under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Farmers across the country should get the benefit of Minimum Support Price (MSP). States will be encouraged to undertake decentralized occupation. Online procurement system will be started through Food Corporation of India, this will increase transparency and convenience to farmers through pre-registration and monitoring of actual procurement and effective arrangements have been made for the purchase of pulses. Four new projects will be launched to increase the family income of farmers. Firstly 'Pashudhan Sanjivani' which is an animal health programme and provides for Animal Health Card (Nakul Swasthya Patra), Second, an advanced breeding technology, third creation of e-Pashudhan Hot which is an e-market portal to connect breeders and farmers and fourthly a National Genomic Centre for indigenous breeding. A provision of Rs 859 crore has been made for this. The production of honey is being increased. The total production of honey in the country is now 86,500 MT. Now 90% of domestic honey is exported.

In the budget for rural areas, drought and rural disaster affected areas will be taken up as a special block under Deen Dayal Antyodaya Mission. By May 01, 2018, 100% of the villages will be electrified,

for which provisions have been made in the budget. With this, all the electricity deprived villages including Chatra, Latehar, Palamu and Garhwa will get electricity.

A provision of Rs 2,000 crore has been made in the budget to provide LPG connections to poor families for women. To help poor families in case of serious illnesses, a new health protection scheme will be launched under which health cover up to Rs 1 lakh will be provided.

Under education and skill development and employment generation, Rs 1700 crore will be provided for setting up 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas, 1500 multi-skill training institutes and entrepreneurship education and training will be started in 2200 colleges, 300 schools, 500 Government Industrial Training Institutes and 50 vocational training centers through open online courses. A target of Rs.1,80,000 crore has been sanctioned for lending under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana.

The budget has taken measures to provide relief to small taxpayers, boost growth and employment generation, encourage domestic value addition to aid Make in India, raise additional

resources for agriculture, rural economy and clean environment, and promote construction of affordable housing.

I congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minister for presenting a comprehensive, complete and all-encompassing budget.

[English]

***SHRI RAYAPATI SAMBASIVA RAO (NARASARAOPET):** At the very outset, I would like to express my gratitude for allowing me to express my views on the General Budget for 2016-17.

I would emphasize that this Budget is one of its own kind. If we see the last 50 years Budget, I would say that this Budget has fulfilled the hopes, aspirations and desires of the country. The credit should go to our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

Before the Budget presentation, Shri Modi expressed his view that he is going to face an exam. Fortunately, Shri Modi has passed with distinction. I have no hesitation in saying this. When I say this, one should not think that it is an exaggeration. It has covered all the sectors, more specifically the farm sector. It has also done enough for women and youth. But what stands out is the focus it laid on the farming sector.

Having said that, I would not hesitate to say that the people of Andhra Pradesh have been let down by this Budget. A lot has been promised in the States Reorganization Act but when it comes to

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

reality, nothing has been given out to Andhra Pradesh. Hopes and aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh have been belied with the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh.

There is a need to set right the wrong. And the best way is to assist Andhra Pradesh financially to cope with the emerging issues, particularly creation of a new State capital, Amaravati.

I would like the Government to go back to the situation that prevailed before the bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh. Everything was promised before bifurcation. We were hoping that we should be taken care of by the Centre to tide over the financial crisis. After that, we were left in the lurch, so to say.

We are struggling to build a new State, with a new State Capital. It is anybody's imagination as to how much money is required to build a new Capital. But to our dismay, no help has come from the Centre, in spite of the promise before the bifurcation, during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections and later on. All our efforts and appeals have fallen on deaf ears. We are made to mend for ourselves. Is this how federalism should work? The Government has neither cooperation nor federalism?

In spite of several financial crises, Andhra Pradesh is making all out efforts to fulfill the promises made by the TDP during Assembly elections. We would not lie low in implementing the welfare programmes of the people of Andhra Pradesh.

Under a severe financial crisis, our State under the able administration of Shri Chandrababu Naidu Grau, the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, is inching forward to achieve excellence and greatness in every conceivable field. It may take years or decades but we would not allow the difficult financial situation to stop us from glory and achievement and growth and development.

If you see the data provided in the 14th Finance commission report, Andhra Pradesh is one of the States with a deficit in their budget.

There is a long pending demand of the people of Andhra Pradesh. I have been demanding for years now but every effort of mine has gone in vain. Even in this railway budget, a new railway Zone with Guntur as headquarters could not find a place. Hence, I would like to request the hon. Finance Minister to consider one of the prominent demands for the creation of a new railway zone with Guntur as Headquarters.

No financial package, even after repeated pleas of Andhra Pradesh, was announced in the Budget. We have been treated badly even in the Railway Budget. Though Guntur Railway Division was announced in 1997, it became fully functional from April 2003 with a motive to better administer the Railway network in east and central Andhra Pradesh, which is a most backward region. Even in the 2016 Railway budget, no major project has been taken up in this region since its inception. A number of projects are pending for clearance and sanction from the Railway Ministry.

If the Government wanted to provide justice to Andhra Pradesh and remove gross injustice meted out to us since bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, I expect the Finance Minister to announce a financial package to Andhra Pradesh so that the Government of Andhra Pradesh could perform better and fulfill the hopes and aspirations of the people of Andhra Pradesh by implementing welfare and pro-poor friendly schemes and programmes in the current year and the years ahead. I hope the Finance Minister will accede to our request.

In spite of financial issues, Andhra Pradesh could achieve the feat of being the 2nd best State in Ease of Doing Business of the World Bank Report.

Andhra Pradesh was supposed to receive Rs. 16,200 crore after bifurcation but we could receive Rs.2,303 crore only. Is it not injustice? I would request the Union Government to ensure justice to Andhra Pradesh without any further delay.

Coming back to the farmers' friendly budget, hon. The Finance Minister has set a huge target of 28.5 lakh hectares of irrigation with earmarking Rs.20,000 crore for NABARD. More funds should be provided for Polavaram. As we are facing a financial crunch, I would like to humbly request for the reimbursement of Rs.2,000 crore, which Andhra Pradesh has already spent.

Another feat of the Andhra Pradesh Government is that for the first time, it has successfully linked Godavari and Krishna rivers, which would pave water to the drought prone region of Rayalaseema. I would suggest to the Union Government to emulate this extraordinary feat of linking rivers across the country to fight drought and floods successfully and reduce the water scarcity during peak summer.

I would like to plead for special category status to Andhra Pradesh. In spite of promise in this regard, everything so far has gone to the contrary. I would request the Government not to wait further

and accord ‘special category’ status to Andhra Pradesh so that it would get more funds to cope with the financial difficulties being faced, more specifically in the creation of a new Capital city.

As the Government is aware, Andhra Pradesh has been ravaged almost every year by natural disasters. Vizag too faced the brunt of nature some years back which affected the coastal areas immensely. I would like to strongly urge the Finance Minister to ensure sufficient funds for facing future cyclones like the one Vizag faced, Hudhud cyclone, effectively.

Andhra Pradesh is putting all its efforts and resources to come up with a model Capital. We would not leave any efforts in achieving this feat. We have been demanding the Union Government to release funds very generously for building our new Capital Amaravati.

[Translation]

***SHRI PRABHUBHAI NAGARBHAI VASAVA (BARDOLI):** I would like to thank on my behalf the budget speech presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance in the House.

We are gearing up for the fundamental change of the country. The government has decided to resolve the problems which were hindering the country's economy from getting sufficient strength. Through the budget, the Minister of Finance has come forward with a clear vision of a new India. At the center of this vision are nine pillars and the main pillars are villages, the poor and farmers. These nine pillars are in the form of farmers, villages, social sector, education, infrastructure, financial reforms, good governance, treasury and tax reforms. To get rid of the dark shadow of global recession, Hon. Shri Jaitley Ji paid maximum attention and showed confidence in villages and farmers. In addition to this, the government also took care of the youth and took care of education, health and environment.

The basic spirit seems to be situated between economic and social balance. The aim is to improve the standard of living of the

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

common man and to spread hope. Many economists also believe that through the budget document on the economy, the Modi government has also arranged a strong shield for itself.

The pillars of the government are as follows:

1.	Agriculture	-	The income of farmers will be doubled in five years.
2.	Village	-	There will be no shortage of funds for MGNREGA.
3.	Health	-	1 lakh insurance to every poor family.
4.	infrastructure	-	The network of roads will grow rapidly, airports will also be built,

The Government has announced an allocation of Rs.2.87 lakh crore as grants to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission and this amount is 228 percent higher than the last five years. Deendayal Antyodaya Mission will be started in every drought-affected development block

and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana will be started in similar districts. Under the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission, 300 Rurban clusters have been announced to be developed. It has also been announced to electrify 100% villages by 1th May, 2018.Hon. The Minister of Finance has also approved two new projects namely National Digital Literacy Mission and Digital Literacy Abhiyan. He has also proposed a new scheme, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, to help Panchayati Raj institutions.

[English]

[*]**DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST):** I welcome the Government's initiative to have a National Law to control ponzi/illegal collective investment schemes in India. I would request that the Economic Affairs Department be asked to act as nodal department for it. Presently SEBI regulates such illegal/unregistered collective investment schemes. The Finance Committee of Parliament has also recommended such a National law. I hope the Government will introduce such a law in the April 2016 Session of Parliament. I would also request the Finance Minister and the RBI that Forensic Audit be made compulsory for all willful defaulters. Forensic audit be ordered for all Vijay Mallya's businesses, Kingfisher Airlines, United Spirits. The CBI and ED should investigate all money transactions by the UB Group including Diageo takeover of United Spirits. The Karnataka HC has sought investigation into transfer of Rs.4,000 crore to British Virgin Islands from United Spirits. The CBI and ED should find out the money trail. The new management of United Spirits has publicly said Mallya has cooked the balance sheet between 2010 and 2013 of United Spirits. PWC was United Spirits' auditor at the

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[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

relevant time. United Spirits should immediately make all investigation reports public and give it CBI and ED. PWC should answer allegations of Diageo of cooking account reports and give it to the CBI and ED. PWC should answer allegations of Diageo of cooking account books of USL. Diageo has given a lot of money to Mallya in offshore accounts. It should make all its money transactions with Mallya public. United Spirits is claiming ownership of a few properties currently mortgaged with Indian banks. All property transaction details should be made public.

[Translation]

***SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA (ALLAHABAD):** I support the budget while praising the budget presented by the Minister of Finance. Never before has such a budget been presented, in which so much attention was given to the poor of the village. The balance of income and expenditure was maintained properly.

I would like to make my view regarding all income tax payers that if the Minister of Finance considers this in public interest, it will be beneficial.

1. Assessing officers should not be given the authority of Discretionary Assessment this increases corruption.

2. After assessment the process should be completed within 1 year by filing a return to confirm the assessment from Appeal, Tribunal etc.

3. My Lok Sabha, Allahabad has been hit by severe drought and it has rained heavily this morning. For this area, special provisions should be made in the budget to help the farmers and provide drinking water

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

pipeline schemes to the entire area and special funds should be allocated to irrigate the existing lands through new irrigation schemes.

4. The provision to reduce Corporate Income Tax from 30 percent to 25 percent was announced in the budget. There are now 3 years left in this subject. Complete the budget announcement at the same time.

5. Arrangements should also be made to revive the closed industrial units in the Naini area of my Lok Sabha constituency, Allahabad, whether private or public sector.

From 6. mplad, an amount of 5 crore per annum should be increased or abolished. Strict rules should be made in this. From estimate to implementation and commission, local employees, officials and implementing agencies take 50-60 percent commission and profit. The actual expenditure is not even 40 per cent, the quality is also very poor. Therefore, an inquiry committee should form a separate investigation department from the CBI to investigate this matter so that this money can be utilized properly.

*__SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA (AMRELI):__ I support the budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister. Today there is a period of economic recession all over the world, but despite this recession, the government has announced the following welfare schemes in the 2016-17 budget.

For the first time after independence, this government has made this budget for the welfare of all the countrymen, especially for the village, poor, farmers and women. This is a budget for economic development. Every poor person dreams of having his own house. In this budget, all those provisions have been made which will lead to the development of the poor. In this budget, provision of insurance of Rs.1 lakh has been made for every poor person. Especially for BPL elderly, there is a provision of insurance of up to Rs.1 lakh 30 thousand. Keeping in mind the health of women, a provision has been made to provide LPG connection in the name of a woman. The women of the village are affected by pollution equivalent to 400 cigarettes when they cook food on coal or wood stoves, that is why this government has set a target of providing 1.5 crore LPG connections in the budget. For those who do not have their own house and live on

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

rent,, this budget has made a provision of exemption of up to Rs 60,000 for tax and for those who are going to buy a house for the first time, a provision has been made to give an additional exemption of up to Rs. 50,000 in interest for a house worth up to Rs. 50 lakh. The government is working towards doubling the income of farmers by 2022. A target has been set to connect roads in every village by 2019, for which the government has made a provision of 27 thousand crore rupees. Provision has been made to provide electricity to every village by 2018, this will accelerate the development of villages. An unprecedented increase of Rs.35,984 crore has been made under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sinchai Yojana. 40 thousand crore has been recommended for the 7th Pay Commission of the employees. From the point of view of health, dialysis facilities have been made free in district hospitals across the country. This government has made a provision to open 1500 skill development centers to reduce unemployment across the country. This government is focused on the progress of the poor, the prosperity of farmers and providing employment to the youth. In this budget, the government has laid more emphasis on food security, housing for all and such subsidies which must reach the most needy when they need them the most. It is a matter of pride that under Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana, more

than 21 crore accounts have been opened out of which 15 crore accounts are active, with a total deposit of Rs 32 thousand crore. This Government has launched three new schemes for providing social security namely 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.

In this budget, the Government has notified a new Urea Policy-2015, which aims to promote indigenous production and right use of energy. This will lead to production of 17 Lakh MT of Urea per annum over the next three years, thereby curbing the illegal use of Urea. There has been high production of urea in the year 2015.

Most importantly, the budget has set a target of irrigating 28 lakh agricultural hectares of land under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. In this budget, the government has already doubled the budget for agricultural welfare. A provision of Rs 38,984 crore has been made in the budget for agricultural welfare, in this budget a huge step has been taken for crores of farmers, under which soil health cards will be made for 14 crore farmers and through this farmers will understand what to sow in the field and which fertilizer to use. Last

year, in the history of India, the amount that has been decided to be allocated under the Mudra scheme in a single year will benefit nearly 3 crore people. Finally, I would like to say that under the leadership of the Prime Minister, this country has started taking off in the economic sector.

SHRI TARIQ ANWAR (KATIHAR): Madam Speaker, as we all know that budget is not just an account of expenditure and estimates. Along with this, there is a document which shows direction to the economy during the entire financial year in the changed circumstances.

13.12 hours (Dr. P. Venugopal in the Chair)

Chairperson Sir, this is the third budget of the BJP-led NDA government. From the government point of view, many such announcements have been made in the budget, which make one imagine good days. But after going into the depth of the budget, the confusion about whether good days are really going to come or not is cleared. Good days have come only for the RSS as they have switched from half shorts to full pants, but good days for the common man are nowhere in sight. The budget which is being called the budget for the upliftment of poor and rural India, the budget which is being

publicized as a farmer-friendly budget, is half-true. Actually, behind the scenes, it seems that this is the budget of big companies and investors. The budget has tried its best to hide this fact.

A day before the 2016-17 budget came out, the Hon. The Prime Minister had said that it is his testing time.With this budget, the eyes of 125 crore people are on him.First the budget was his exam and then he declared himself pass with good marks, himself the examining and himself the examiner. Is this budget really such that the Hon. Should the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance be applauded or appreciated? There is nothing like that. The same kind of intelligence has been displayed with this budget as has been displayed before.

Hon. Chairperson, the truth is that this budget will lead to inflation as the government has decided to significantly increase taxes in an indirect manner. Service tax has also been increased which will automatically increase the prices of many things. We all know that the medium and low - income group will be the worst hit by the increase in service tax. This time the government has imposed two cess on various services, one is agriculture welfare cess and the other is infrastructure cess. We all know that the unprecedented fall in crude oil prices has given a huge relief to the government on the fiscal front.

But consumers have got almost no benefit from falling oil prices; only one-fourth of the benefit has been given to the consumers. The government has taken full advantage of this by increasing the duty on petroleum from time to time. I would like to know from the Minister of Finance that why are the circumstances still such that it has become necessary to impose cess for agriculture welfare and expansion of infrastructure?

Hon. Chairperson, this time's allocations show that the government's biggest emphasis in infrastructure is on highways. Perhaps this government is not interested in improving the plight of rural roads in schools, hospitals and other social sectors. Why is there so much stinginess in rural development schemes? By allocating Rs 35,984 crore for the agriculture sector, it is being trumpeted that this budget is farmer friendly. If Hon. The Prime Minister and Minister of Finance are very concerned for the farmers, so one of my advice is to make arrangements to get one and a half times the cost of agricultural produce. Why don’t you do that? The BJP had promised the same in the Lok Sabha elections.Hon. The Prime Minister had promised to implement Swaminathan’s recommendations, but it was not fulfilled.

Hon. Chairperson, I want to tell you that we compare ourselves with China in everything; the support price of wheat in China is Rs 2500 per quintal and in India it is only Rs 1400 per quintal. What is the government doing to bridge this gap? The target has been set by the Hon. Prime Minister to double the income of farmers by 2022, whereas the mandate of this government is only up to 2019. In the second sense, by 2022, farmers have been left to God to commit suicide. Due to natural calamities like continuous drought, hailstorm and floods, farmers were hopeful that this government would come up with a loan waiver scheme at least this time considering the plight of farmers. But that didn't happen.

Secondly, I want to talk about MNREGA. The Prime Minister has repeatedly termed NREGA as a monument to the failure of the Congress. After all, what happened suddenly was that the government took the decision to increase the amount of MNREGA. Is the reason for this that the Prime Minister is afraid that if there is any reduction in the allocation of MGNREGA, the memorial of Congress may or may not be built but the memorial of BJP will definitely be built?

The poor workers of the country are looking towards the BJP government. MGNREGA workers are watching. There is no mention

in this budget about the increase in the daily wages of MGNREGA workers. I would like the Minister to talk about that also in his reply because the MNREGA scheme has been brought for the poor laborers but there is no mention of their wages in it.

Now I want to talk about black money here. The government, which promised to bring black money from abroad, has now come up with a proposal to convert black money into white. Whatever black money is there can be converted into white money by giving 45 percent. From this we can get an idea of how kind this government is towards those with black money.

In the end, I would like to place a few points before the House regarding the Economic Survey report that has come out.

[English]

The Economic Survey this year attempts to portray the Indian economy as one of growing promise and rosy health. Unfortunately, the true story that emerges is of an underperforming economy mismanaged by the BJP led NDA Government but bailed out by the falling crude oil prices. The Economic Survey points out that the Government is relieved that it has met its fiscal deficit target of 3.9 per cent. But the Economy Survey reveals that the Government has

missed its disinvestment target by a mile. Then the question arises, is the fiscal deficit target met because of the constructive action of the Modi Government or is it a result of the oil prices bonanza, at whose cost has this deficit target been realized? The tax revenue figures in the Economic Survey point out that indirect taxes grew by 34.8 per cent. This is because of the multiple hikes in the excise duties imposed by the Government as oil prices fell. Indirect taxes are fundamentally regressive and hurt the poor more.

This Government has worked to meet its fiscal deficit target by excusing the poor. Instead, it could have cut taxes, reduced inflation and provided a boost to the real incomes of the poor. Rural India is paying a heavy price for the Government's mismanagement. The Economic Survey highlights the need to reform agriculture. This is window dressing for this Government's aggressive neglect of the farm sector that shows up in the steep fall in numerous indicators from the Economic Survey. *[Translation]* There are a lot of things, I don't want to go into details. Looking at the Economic Survey report we can see in which direction the government is moving.

I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget.

[English]

***SHRI ARKA KESHARI DEO (KALAHANDI):** I express my views on the Union Budget 2016-2017. Hon. Finance Minister of India has presented a growth oriented Budget in this august house on 29th February, 2016. After going through the Budget, I found that a quantum jump of Government allocation to rural sector of Rs. 87,765 crores and the allocation of fund to MGNREGS of Rs. 38,500 crores with specific objective of digging wells and farm ponds about 5 lakhs and 10 lakhs compost pits in rural areas no doubt generate employment to rural farm labor but also conserve the excess rain water which could be used for farming at the time of water shortage.

The total budgetary allocation to infrastructure during the year 2016-2017 is about Rs. 2,21,246 crores. The total investment in the road sector including PMGSY is about Rs. 97,000 crores with an additional Rs. 15,000 crores to be raised by NHAI through floating bonds would necessitate an increasing demand for cement, steel and other materials used for construction of roads. This will create an employment opportunity for skilled as well as unskilled labor engaged in the road sector thereby pushing up the demand for goods,

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

commodities and food items in the economy. The cycle of growth continues to move at a much higher speed and has a “multiplier effect” in the economy.

The Hon. Finance Minister gives emphasis on the social sector by allocating Rs. 1,51,581 crores for education and health care. New health protection scheme which will provide health cover upto Rs. 1 lakh per family and an additional top up package upto Rs. 30,000 for senior citizens. National Dialysis Service Programme to be started under National Health Mission is a path breaking approach of the current year’s budget.

A dedicated long term irrigation fund will be created in NABARD with an initial corpus fund of about Rs. 20,000 crores with the sole objective of implementing 89 irrigation projects under AIBP and Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. This will definitely help the irrigation facility in the farm sector and also boost farm production. I can suggest here that the Government may give more emphasis on minor and lift irrigation projects as these projects need less funds and can be completed in a short time period. Interlinking of rivers will definitely solve the irrigation problem of the country.

The Government has initiated soil and seed testing facilities and promoted organic farming as well as setting up organic Value Chain Development in the NorthEast Region. Pilot project on Organic Farming may be developed in every district of the country to make people healthy and create consciousness about the adverse impact of use of chemicals, fertilizers, pesticides, insecticides which are rampantly used by farmers to increase agricultural production.

To provide LPG connection to BPL families an amount of Rs. 2000 crores has been allocated in current year's budget is a clear example of inclusive growth. The Government may also focus on generating clean energy through solar power, wind power and nuclear power as these are cheap green energy.

There is an allocation of Rs. 25,000 crores towards recapitalization of public sector banks. The Government may utilize infrastructure of village post offices to open bank counters at village level with minimum expenses. By doing this, the coverage of banking facilities can reach the door step of the remote pockets of our country. This can be truly called "Financial inclusion". The poor villagers need not be worried of going to nearest towns or district head quarters to

receive Government subsidies through DBT (Direct Benefit Transfer).

I represent Kalahandi Parliamentary Constituency which is one of the most backward regions of the State of Odisha. A true implementation of funds in infrastructure, social sector, Agriculture and irrigation sector may definitely develop the rural economy. New mechanisms, speedy transfer and implementation of funds can yield better results in the rural economy.

[Translation]

***SHRI VIRENDRA KASHYAP (SHIMLA):** Hon. Minister of Finance of the country, Shri Arun Jaitley, presented the 2016-17 Budget in the Lok Sabha on February 29, 2016 which I welcome. This budget seems dedicated to farmers-poor-rural people as it states that "efforts will be made to double farmers' income by 2022" and a provision of Rs 35,984 crore has been made for agriculture and farmers' welfare. "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana" has been strengthened if farmers get water for their fields and 28.5 lakh hectares of land will be brought under irrigation in the coming days. This includes Rs.2340 crore for development of Micro Agriculture (More Crop Per Drop), Rs.1500 crore for Integrated Water Supply Development Programme, Rs.2000 crore for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit and Flood Management Programme. The work of 89 irrigation schemes of AIBP, which has been lagging behind since last year and due to which 80.6 lakh hectares of land will be irrigated, will require Rs.17000 crore next year and Rs.86,500 crore in next 5 years. Plans are being made to complete it. Similarly, a corpus fund of Rs.20,000 crore is being created from NABARD and a provision of

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Rs.12,517 crore has been made from various provisions in 2016-17. Farmers will be benefited through 5 lakh farms, ponds and wells so that irrigation reaches even small holdings in every village. For the promotion of traditional farming, “Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana” has been launched under which emphasis has been laid on organic farming in 5 lakh acre area in three years.

The production of pulses has decreased in the last several years and due to that its prices have also increased. To increase its production, an allocation of Rs.500 crore has been fixed and 622 districts have been selected. Farmers will get Rs 15000 crore as relief through interest waiver on agricultural loans. This will reduce the number of suicides committed by farmers. To further strengthen the “Krishi Vigyan Kendras”, an amount of Rs. 50 lakh has been allocated for the award. To ensure that farmers sell their produce properly in the market and get a fair price for it, a plan is being made to integrate all the Mandi Samitis of the country and 585 regulated wholesale markets are being linked through a common e-market platform. It will commence on 14th April, 2016 on the occasion of 125th Birth Anniversary of Bharan Ratna Dr.Bhimrao Ambedkar.

“Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is a historic and important scheme of the Modi government for farmers. Under this, an important target of Rs 9 lakh crore has been set for farmers. In this, farmers will be paid 1.5 per cent on annual premium purchase, 2 per cent on Rabi and 5 percent on fruits and there will be no restriction. A provision of Rs 5500 crore has been made for effective implementation of the scheme. Whatever shortcomings there were in the earlier insurance scheme, efforts have been made to remove them and make it useful in the interest of farmers.

This budget is in the interest of the farmers. This year, more emphasis has been laid on providing a maximum budget in the Mahatma Gandhi NREGA scheme so that more employment is available there and permanent and sustainable works are done under that scheme. A provision of Rs. 38,500 crore has been made in this. This is 11 percent more than last year, the total amount for the development of villages is Rs.87,765 crore, including Rs.19000 crore for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and Rs.27,000 crore if the share of the States is also included. In this way, by improving the roads in rural areas, facilities will be provided and the farmer's produce will also be able to reach the market properly and on time. A

total of Rs.2,21,246 crore will be spent on construction of roads this year. This is an increase of 28% over the previous year. A provision of Rs 9000 crore has been made for “Swachh Bharat Mission”, which will inspire a healthy India through cleanliness in rural and urban areas. Under “Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana”, a target has been set to provide loans worth Rs. 1.8 lakh crores. Till February, 2016, loans worth rupees one lakh crores have been sanctioned to 2.5 crore people. Through this, loans ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs one lakh are being given to the poor people without guarantee. Similarly, a provision of Rs 500 crore has been made for SC/ST and women in the Stand Up India scheme. This time budgetary provisions have been made under SC, ST, TSP scheme.

- 18,542 villages left out of the country are being connected with electricity.
- A provision of Rs.655 crore has been made under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan to develop governance capacities for Panchayati Raj Institutions.
- Out of 16.8 crore rural households in the country, 12 crore households do not have computers.To increase digital literacy, it

is being enhanced under "National Digital Literacy Mission and Digital Literacy Campaign (DISHA).

- Along with a health cover of Rs 1 lakh for poor people to cover them against critical illnesses, an additional top-up package of Rs 30,000 will be given to people above 60 years of age.

An amount of Rs.38,832.63 crore has been earmarked in the Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan (SCSP) in 2016-17 and Rs.24,005.30 crore has been kept in the Scheduled Tribe Sub Plan (TSP), which is more than last year.

Special attention has been given to the health of women, especially rural women, so that cooking gas is available to them at a lower rate, the scheme of Rs 2000 crore will benefit 1.5 crore families.

From the point of view of health, more dialysis centers are being set up in the country so that the "National Dialysis Service Programme" is being started for the poor people who are suffering from kidney disease and whose number is increasing day by day. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana, 3000 stores are being opened in 2016-17 so that the poor get cheaper and better medicines.

The total expenditure in the 2016-17 budget is estimated at Rs.19.78 lakh crore, with Rs. 5.50 lakh crore as plan expenditure and

Rs.14.28 lakh crore as plan-different expenditure. Plan expenditure has been increased by 15.3% over the current year's Budget Estimates. The fiscal deficit is 3.5% in 2016-17 as compared to 3.9% in 2015-16 last year and the State share in taxes and duties has increased from Rs.5,06,193 Crore to Rs.5,70,337 Crore this year and if grants and loans and Central Planning Assistance are combined, it is Rs.9,20,358 Crore in the total (2016-17).As per the recommendations of the Fourteenth Finance Commission, an amount of Rs.2.87 lakh crore is being allocated to the Gram Panchayats and Municipalities of the country. This is 228 percent higher than the growth of the last five years. On average, each gram panchayat will get Rs 80 lakh and each municipality will get more than Rs 21 crore.

Therefore, it would be appropriate to say that this budget of the Modi government has been prepared by the Minister of Finance from the point of view of 'Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas', and this year more attention has been given to farmers, the poor, and rural areas. This year, we can aim for prosperity among farmers, villagers, and the underprivileged, striving to ensure prosperity across the nation every year. Therefore, I welcome this and congratulate the Minister of Finance and Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

[English]

*SHRI B.S. YEDIYURAPPA (SHIMOGA): Last year, while speaking on NDA's first Union Budget, I had emphasized on the need and justification for presenting a separate agriculture budget. But, without presenting a separate Agriculture Budget, Hon. Finance Minister has given the top slot for "Agriculture" and "Rural Development " among 9 pillars of his latest Visionary Budget. Therefore, I heartily congratulate Sri Arun Jaitely for his tremendous efforts.

Mahatma Gandhi had rightly said that, "*My idea of an ideal village is that of complete republic independence of its neighbor, for its necessities, and yet dependent for many others in which dependence is necessity. First concern of the village should be to grow its own food. Then only all communities will live together in harmony."*

Many of my friends from the opposition parties may claim that this is not a "Dream Budget" at all. But they can't disagree with me that this budget has put down its "feet firmly on the ground at a crucial

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

juncture where there is a rising distress among farmers, after back-to -back droughts across the country".

I always humbly recollect that I had presented 6 consecutive budgets in Karnataka and all my budgets' first and foremost priority was towards strengthening the farm sector. Along with the general budget presented during 2011, taking a step forward, for the first time in the economic history of our country, I presented a separate agriculture budget of around Rs.17800 crore.

I am not an economic expert, but hailing from a rural farming family, I am always conscious and aware of the difficulties of the farmers. Based on this strong belief, we all know Agricultural sector has the potential to generate more jobs and high income in the rural areas.

In the interest of food security of the nation as well as to prevent migration of rural people in search of jobs to the urban areas, I strongly feel that this budget has proved historical.

During first 1 1⁄2 years in power, Modi's Government has focused on infrastructure investment which would yield dividends for the poor and the rural economy in the long run. But the current budget's main stay on Agriculture and Rural Development will aid not

only doubling farmer's income in the next 5 years but also enhance the capability of transforming our villages as promised by our Finance Minister.

Major push to farm and rural sector has been given through the following:-

a) Funding of Rs.5500 crore to the recently launched crop insurance scheme "Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana" compared to Rs. 2589 crore allocation during last year.

b) Enhancing fund allocation to Rs. 38500 crore under MGNREGA Scheme.

c) Increased fund allocation of Rs.9 Lakh crore towards agriculture credit as against last year's allocation of Rs. 8.5 Lakh crore.

d) Overall allocation of Rs. 87765 crore towards rural development.

e) 2.85 million hectares coverage under " Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojna"

f) Covering 5 lakh acres under organic farming over next 3 years.

g) Rs.8500 crore allotment under "Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojna" with which promising to achieve 100% village electrification before May 2018.

h) Creation of long term irrigation fund under NABARD with an initial funding of Rs. 20000 crore.

i) Grant in aid of Rs.2.87 lakh crore to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities.

All such initiatives prove that this is the first time after independence that the Union Budget has been presented mainly for the farmers, poor and villagers.

All the vital statistics including current GDP growth has been pointing out the right direction at which the NDA government's policies are moving.

Apart from fund allocation towards agriculture and rural sector, other innovative schemes like" Jan Aushadi Yojna", assisting patients with dialysis care, allocation of Rs.1000 crore towards higher education, sanctioning of Rs.1 lakh crore under Mudra Yojna to cover 2.5 crore borrowers, initiatives to boost retail sector, boosting the Housing Sector, proposal to amend Bill under Company Act, provision of LPG connections to the poor, yet focus on reducing fiscal

deficit at 3.5% proves that Finance Minister has taken revolutionary and bold steps to bring the poor to the main stream in unexpected ways.

I conclude by stressing on my opinion that his budget displays prudency; it represents the victory of a sensible democracy. Hence, I once again congratulate Hon. Finance Minister for presenting a rural economy budget.

[Translation]

***SHRI RAHUL KASWAN (CHURU):** The Budget has taken special care of the concerns and problems of rural India, for the first time when a Finance Minister in his Budget speech focused on the agriculture sector and farmers. This budget will change the picture of the village. In the budget, emphasis has been laid on improving rural infrastructure. Large funds have been announced for agriculture and irrigation, promising to double farmer's income by 2022. This budget will be known for the transformation of villages, farmers, and the rural economy. For the first time since independence, an effort has been made to strengthen the rural economy through the budget. Agriculture is the foundation of our country, no palace can be built without a strong foundation. Our farmers are the most troubled and distressed in the present situation. Without it, it is not possible to make the country a superpower. After independence, the drive for self - reliance in agriculture enabled us to produce food grains, but when the stomach began to be filled, our policies made the food provider disappear. All our focus was on industry and service sectors.Agriculture, which has been neglected for a long time, has deteriorated. The biggest problem

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

for Indian farmers is that farming is becoming a loss-making deal for them day by day, their cost is increasing continuously, and there is no arrangement to get a fair price for their produce. Fertilizers and seeds are already expensive. How can the dream of improving the condition of farmers be realized without reducing the loss of agriculture?Our agriculture is dependent on the monsoon, the rural economy has crumbled badly due to two failed monsoons, and we have to increase the irrigation area. The global economy is going through a bad phase, due to which India's exports have been adversely affected. The decline in the agricultural sector is not taking the name of stopping, at present the condition of agriculture is very disappointing. Employment generation has declined drastically over the years. The capacity of employment generation in agriculture is more than the production sector, so if any government wants to solve the problem of employment, then betting on agriculture is the best solution, in these circumstances the Hon. The Minister of Finance has presented a wonderful budget. The focus of the budget is on agriculture and farmers. A provision of Rs 47,912 crore has been made in the budget for agriculture, farmers and irrigation. To improve the condition of the sector, this allocation is the highest ever and 84 percent higher than the previous year. Several schemes have been launched to increase

dairy production in rural areas. The minimum premium and the highest compensation for crop failure under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is a major improvement over the UPA government, which imposed high premium insurance in rural areas, with an allocation of Rs. 5500 crores in the budget.25 percent compensation will be released to the farmers with immediate effect. To bring the rural economy back on track, an allocation of Rs.87,765 crore has been made in the 2016 budget, which is 22% higher than the previous year, Rs.14000 crore has been allocated for drinking water in rural areas. While the two initial budgets of the government were more focused on the development of urban India, the present budget is for the development of rural India. In order to further accelerate economic growth, it is imperative that we reduce the distance between urban India and rural India, for this the government has taken several steps to strengthen rural infrastructure. Under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, roads have been constructed, and at many places, the railway line has to be crossed between them. How can that village be considered connected by road without rail under bridge or rail level crossing?Under MGNREGA, large ponds or ponds should be constructed for every farmer, there should be no limit on land and income. This will be a huge relief to the farmers. MGNREGA should

be linked to every farmer. In the agreement signed between Punjab, Haryana, and Rajasthan in the year 1981, the share of water of Rajasthan was fixed at 8.6 MAF. Even today Punjab is not giving our share of 0.6 MAF water. Similarly, the remaining 0.17 MAF for the Nohar Feeder and Sidhmukh Canal is not delivering water. The villagers are outraged, they are agitating. The canal was designed according to 8.6 MAF water, the canals and minor have been constructed accordingly. People had hopes, but due to the lack of our share of water, a dire situation has arisen in the area. Going beyond limits, the Punjab Government revoked the Water Agreement in 2004, which is currently under consideration by the Hon. Supreme Court. I urge the government to take necessary action to expedite the decision. The government has linked most of the schemes related to the poor through banks. This is a very good step. It will reduce corruption, but due to the shortage of banks in my area, the rural people are facing a lot of trouble. There is a bank branch between 25-30 villages, which villagers have to walk 15 to 20 km to reach. Due to the crowding in the banks, the villagers come home in the evening, they have to go back again and again, and only after many visits do they get access to the bank. I suggest that one bank branch should be opened between

each of the two Gram Panchayats so that the rural people can get relief.

***SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHOUDHARY (JALANDHAR):** Hon. Speaker, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget.

Whenever the general budget comes into the country,the poor and middle class people of the country have high expectations of it.I understand that during the UPA government many budgets were passed and many programmes were introduced for the benefit of the poor. [NREGA was brought in by the UPA government, which was a major employment scheme in the country. By the way, the Food Safety Scheme is also provided by our UPA Government.When Shri Jaitley presented the budget of the NDA, I understood that it is an anti-poor budget. There are middle class people in the country who were hoping that their income tax threshold would be increased. They had great expectations of it, it was not done. Our Prime Minister made big promises before and after the elections that the NDA government would give employment to the youth of the country and the unemployed. Every year two crore youth will be given employment.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

But unfortunately, there is no provision for that in this budget.In this budget, Finance Minister Sir did this by introducing the black-and-white scheme which said that people who have black money in the country can whiten black money by paying a 45 percent tax.It has happened, but nothing has happened to the poor people who were there.

There are about 70 million unemployed youths in the province. In the Depression of unemployment, they are trapped in the swamp of drunkenness.But it is a pity that nothing has been done in this budget for youth employment.This budget says that three big pillars have been erected in the economy of the country, of which the biggest pillar is agriculture.The amount that has been allocated in the budget for this, I think these are all twisted things. Which is being in paper is the same thing In the last budget, 13 thousand crore rupees of interest subsidy of the Finance Department has also been added to the head of this Agriculture Budget and it has been said that a very large amount has been put in it.A huge promise has been made that the income of farmers will be doubled in five years.

I am from the agriculturally dominant province of Punjab . I have seen the green revolution. The double production that happened in the

Green Revolution, I have seen it with my own eyes because my father was the Agriculture Minister of Punjab for a long time. I saw it all with my own eyes, but how it all came about. At that time Bhakra Dam was built, and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru ji inaugurated it. An Agricultural University was established in Punjab, Pandit Nehru ji went to inaugurate it. Large-scale fertilizer plants were set up and they were inaugurated. All of this doubled production.... *(Interruptions)* I understand what mechanism they have. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, five more Members are there from your Party who want to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHOUDHARY: With which they will double the income of farmers, I understand that this is all about slogans. In the Swaminathan report, the Prime Minister said, “It has not been implemented. I come from the Punjab province, where 25 percent of the irrigation is done by canal water, the rest we irrigate by tubewell and we have a water shortage. We signed the Termination of Water Agreement in the year 2004, I was also a member of the Legislative Assembly at that time. This Union Government is taking

a stand against SYL, their Solicitor General took the side of the Haryana Supreme Court here. I understand how agriculture will progress in this way. 110 blocks of my province have gone into a dark area, water has gone down, and there is no arrangement for that. So I think all these things are worth saying.... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I conclude, it is a very important issue. There are 25 percent Scheduled Caste people in the country, which is the SC sub- plan. It was decided in the previous government that money should be kept in the SC plan according to the population. This way 16.6 percent of money was made for SC, but you have kept only 11.42 percent. In this way, the entire money of the Scheduled Castes was not given, and even the money for agriculture was not given in full, so what is this budget? I want to talk about my constituency.... *(Interruptions)* You talk about Make in India, I want to say that till the time the small-scale industries of our country are not promoted, how will they bring Make in India?... *(Interruptions)* I have a suggestion. ... *(Interruptions)* I want to tell the Prime Minister that the country's industry should be saved because China is dominating and unless we impose anti-dumping duty on ready-made goods coming from outside, the goods produced in our country will not be able to compete with that. Similarly, the excise duty limit of the industry is Rs 1.50 crore for a long time, unless you

make it five crore, they will not be able to compete. If such freight equalization is not reimplemented then it will not be possible.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing would go on record now.

… (Interruptions)...[*]

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHOUDHARY: Similarly excise duty has been imposed on jewelry.... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing would go on record now.

…(Interruptions)...

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, five more Members are there from your Party who want to speak.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOK SINGH CHOWDHURY: Speaker Sir, I would like to conclude by saying: In the Ghazal, not only the bandishe alpha, but

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[*] Not recorded.

also the blood of the heart is needed for the effect.... *(Interruptions)* You have said it in passing.... *(Interruptions)*

***DR. BHARTIBEN D. SHYAL (BHAVNAGAR):** I support the best budget presented by theHon. Minister of Finance. I welcome that this is a budget that will uplift villages, poor people, and village farmers..

I thank the government of Prime Minister Hon. Narendra Modi and Minister of Finance Hon. Arun Jaitley for presenting this budget as an economic flight for the farmers and the common man of the village.

Today, the Prime Minister of India, Hon. Narendra Bhai, and the economy of India are being praised all over the world. The Prime Minister,Hon. Narendra Bhai and the Minister of Finance,Hon. Arun Jaitley has tried to reach out to the poor farmers, poor working people, and the lower-class communities of the country, including women, youth, and young women, through the budget. Through the budget, the government has made a verifiable effort to reach out to the lower and middle class of society, especially Dalits, Adivasis, the elderly, women, the disabled, and minorities.

Looking closely at the development mantra of the long vision of Prime Minister Narendra Bhai, “Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas”, in the

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

budget, Hon. Narendra Bhai ji has brought a new smile on the faces of the middle class, poor, women, elderly people of the village and the farmers of the country. The NDA government of Hon. Narendra Bhai has been passed in the eyes of the poor, Dalits, Adivasis, laborers, and farmers of the villages of the country.

The government has done the work of freeing half of the population of India from burning stoves in their homes. India plans to give cooking gas to the poor women of the country. The Government has made a provision in the year 2016-17 to provide a free gas connection in the name of women belonging to BPL families. Five crore women of India have been honored by making a provision of Rs 2000 crore to provide gas connections to the poor women of the country in three years. ‘Yatra Pujyate Naryastu, Ramante Tatra Devta . ‘ The words of sages have been fulfilled by making provisions in the budget for women.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley have made a provision of Rs 38.984 crore in the budget for the welfare of the farmers of the country. In the interest of the farmers of the country, for protection of the farmers, India has announced the Krishi Fasal Bima Yojana.In the interest of the country, the first

government in history has taken great steps for the farmers and farm laborers of the village.

In order to fulfill the target of irrigating 28 lakh hectares of land of the farmers of India, the Hon. The Minister has announced the Agriculture Irrigation Scheme. Soil health cards of 14 crore farmers of the country will be made, farmers will be trained and there will be no shortage due to an increase in the production of urea, fertilizer 17 lakh metric tonnes in the interest of farmers.

Today, the common people of the country, the poor people, and the farmers of the village are feeling that by presenting the budget, the Finance Minister in the NDA government of Hon. Prime Minister, Narendra Bhai, Hon. Arun Jaitley ji has tried to take some concrete steps for the common man, women, youth, farmers, elderly and disabled people of the country.

The budget proposes to reserve 50 percent of berths in the railways for the elderly and 33 percent for women.

Improving the standard of living of women, ensuring their rights, mitigating the misery of women, ensuring the protection of women, and ensuring adherence to the reservation as per the Act are the first goals of the government. The Government has made provisions in the

Budget for the health, education, protection, and socio-political status of women with respect to women, including the 586 million women and girls of India in the Gender of Mankind Budget.

I fully support the budget by approving the provision in the budget for many schemes in the history of the country in the same year under various schemes like Jan-Dhan Yojana, Swachh Bharat-Swachh Bharat for opening 3000 new centers of generic affordable medicines to reduce the medical expenses of the poor, providing Rs. 1700 crore for setting up 1500 multi-skill centers for employment and giving legal status to Aadhaar card.

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH (BHADOHI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, The budget which has been presented by the Minister of Finance at the direction of the Prime Minister of the Government of India is a budget for the village, the poor, the farmer, and the slum dweller, a budget for the dignity of women.

Sir, this is an agricultural and sage-dominated country. This is a country of farmers. But I am surprised that after the presentation of the budget, the debate started and the people on this side started debating on the budget and the first accusation they made against the budget was why the budget for farmers and agriculture was presented. Some people know that this country has been 68 years old since independence. This country is not only 68 years old, this country is thousands of years old. The history of this country is thousands of years old. It has an ideal and bright history. A lot of budgets have been presented. Budgets have been presented since 1952. When Nehru ji was the Prime Minister, his Minister of Finance Shri T.T. Krishnamachari presented the budget. Shri Morarji presented the budget. Shri Yashwant Sinha, who is the father of Shri Jayant Sinha, presented the budget. A lot of people presented the budget. When Shri Morar was prime minister, H.M. Patel had also presented a budget.

There was a sense of everything from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Assam, such a budget was also presented. But I can say that this is the first budget of all the governments that have come to this House after 68 years of independence. Therefore, as a budget for farmers, I salute the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance.

Sir, this country is not 68 years old, but thousands of years old. Someone said that the budget for agriculture and farmers was presented because this party lost in Bihar. Those who talk about presenting the budget because of losing and winning do not know the foundation of this country. This country is owned by farmers. I would like to mention here an incident from the Mahabharata period. There has been no bigger war than the Mahabharata. After the battle of the Mahabharata, Dharmaraja Yudhishthira went to learn Rajadharma from Bhishma Pitamah. When Dharmaraja Yudhishthira took his five brothers with him to Bhishma and asked him: 'Pitamah, the war is over, how will the Rajadharma be managed now? Please guide us. Pitamah had said at that time – Look Dharmaraj, greenery should be seen in the fields. See Dharmaraja, ponds should not dry up, ponds should be filled with water. Dharmaraja, keep giving cow milk at the doorsteps of every citizen of the country. Look Dharmaraja, While

performing the king's duty, ensures that no child remains crying without milk in the lap of a mother. There is no malnutrition. Bhishma had conveyed to Dharmaraja that upholding justice and not just executing it but also demonstrating it, was the essence of Rajdharma. There should be greenery in the field, the ponds should have water, the cows should give milk, the people should be happy, and justice should prevail. This is the recognition of an agricultural country and the biggest authenticity of being an agricultural country. This is the incident of Dwapar. This is also the incident of Treta. Once there was a drought and I have been repeatedly reiterating that it is a sage and agrarian country. The sages had told Janaka, the ruler of that time, that when the ruler plows, there would be rain and the creation would be preserved. There is no evidence of a ruler plowing till date. Janaka had plowed, leading to rain and the preservation of creation. Therefore, it is an agricultural-based country. Therefore, this government of the country is maintaining Raj Dharma while presenting the budget of the farmers. The Prime minister is therefore doing Rajdharma, and that is why the Minister of Finance is doing Rajdharma.

There are two kinds of people in this country. Jayant Babu, in this country a son grows up in the lap of a mother and a son grows up in the lap of a midwife. The son who is raised by his mother is the son of a farmer, and the son who is raised by his midwife is the son of a rich person. He does not know the pain of the farmer and does not know the affection of the mother. We are the people who were raised in our mother's lap. The Prime Minister of this country is a person brought up in the lap of his mother, he knows the pain of the farmers of this country, and he knows the affection of the mother of this country. He knows the hardship of the poor of this country, he knows the honor of the mothers and sisters of this country. Therefore, the budget that has been presented has been presented for farmers and agriculture, and Bihar is not related to it. Any son who grew up in the lap of his mother, when he sits in that chair, will present the farmer's budget, and speak in the interest of farmers and agriculture. The son of the midwife will never talk about the farmers.... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I will conclude. I am speaking at the time of my party, so I pray that my whole talk is heard.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Already six Members have spoken from your Party.

[Translation]

SHRI VIRENDRA SINGH: Sir, I am speaking at the time of my party. Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana was presented in this budget. As a farmer, I can say that the roads that will be built in the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana, the roads that will be built from the villages to the fields, will surely increase the production of the fields, as it will increase the movement of the farmers. Therefore, I welcome the roads to be built under the Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana and the funds given to it.

Similarly, the Pradhan Mantri Irrigation Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Irrigation Yojana will provide irrigation to 49 per cent of the farms in this country. The farm which is not irrigated, which is an irrigated farm, as a farmer I can say that there is hardly a crop in it. However, the solar irrigation scheme will reduce the cost of cultivation by thirty percent and the farmer will benefit by thirty percent. Therefore, I welcome the irrigation of 49 percent of the farms

in this country through the Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojana and salute the Minister of Finance.

Speaker sir, this country is a land of agriculture, hence this country is a land of sages and agriculture is the lifeline of this country. Four philosophies were composed here. Shri Jayaprakash Babu knows who has composed four philosophies, the sons of agriculture in this country are the shepherds. Who are those four philosophies, I want to tell you, that things will never be discussed in this Parliament. The four philosophies were composed by the shepherds of this country who are sons of agriculture. Who composed the Gita, the Gita was composed by Yogiraj Krishna, who was the shepherd of cows. Who composed the Quran, Muhammad Saheb, who was the shepherd of the camel. Who created the Bible, Jesus, who was the shepherd of the sheep? Who composed the Guru Granth Sahib, the first Guru who was the shepherd of the horse while being a horse rider. People who follow the philosophy of the composition of four shepherds are in this country. Shri Jayaprakash Babu, you tell me then where is intolerance in this country? In a country where four philosophies have been composed by four shepherds, this country is a farmer-dominated country and therefore this country is an agricultural country.

Sir, the construction of this country is being carried out by the coordination of Maryada Purushottam Ram, Yogiraj Krishna, and Shankar ji. Ram's dignity, Yogiraj Krishna's conscience, and Shankar's sacrifice together form this country.

Speaker Sir, let me finish, I will conclude in two minutes.

Sir, in this country the farmer commits suicide, why does the farmer commit suicide, and since when? In the year 1991, when Shri Narasimha Rao was sitting there and Dr. Manmohan Singh was sitting there when the policies of economic liberalization were implemented, farmers started committing suicide. I am an activist of the Swadeshi movement and can say this with authenticity. Why does a farmer commit suicide, he takes a loan, the farmer is self-respecting, and if he is unable to repay the loan, then he commits suicide to save his self-respect.

I humbly request all the people present in this House to decide once how the law will be made for remunerative price for the produce of the farmers. I have been repeatedly raising the question that if the budget of the railways can be presented separately, then why should the budget of the farmers not be presented separately, I can say that

we have seen a step in the budget of the farmers and agriculture presented by our government.

Shri Jai Prakash Narayan Yadav, wait a minute. I will finish my talk. I'll finish my talk in a minute. I am not saying anything bad. People sitting there say that this government is Black to white. Black-to-white people have learnt black-to-white in 60 years. Who are the people who turn black into white? Those who are caught at Boston airport in the US with one lakh 60 thousand dollars are black to white. This country wants to know, this parliament wants to know who are those people who are caught at Boston airport in America with one lakh 60 thousand dollars and released by giving an affidavit.. Who are those people who are caught in the Nagar case and never give an explanation to the country?This country wants to know.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing is going on record.

*… (Interruptions)...**

* Not recorded.

*SHRI RODMAL NAGAR (RAJGARH): The 2016-17 budget of the Government of India is indeed the budget of the soul of rural India, the budget of the poor and the farmers paves the way for the progress of the country through villages by bringing quality change in the country, ending poverty and enabling the farmers of the country. The target has been set to double the income of farmers in the next five years, for which Rs.35,984 crore will be given to the agriculture sector, Rs.20,000 crore for irrigation, changes in the law of agricultural markets, the concept of e-marvet by connecting major markets of the country, Rs.5,500 crore for agricultural crop insurance scheme, Rs.6,000 crore for groundwater conservation, Rs.1400 crore for pulses production and conservation, schemes to encourage waste manure, dairy, and food processing industries under Swachh Bharat will create rural employment and strengthen infrastructure.

If the direction is wrong, then no matter how fast the speed is, there is no meaning, but if the direction is fine, whatever the speed, the result will be certain. Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the direction chosen by Hon. Jaitley in the budget is correct. Today, 90 percent of the big notes in our country

* Speech was laid on the Table.

are running for Rs 500-1000, while we are working towards benefiting 70 crore people through food security within the country, so for whom is 90 percent of the big notes? Due to these big notes, along with promoting black money, and corruption, there is also a serious crisis in the security of the country, because whether it is terrorism or Naxalism, smuggling of drugs or Bangladeshi infiltration or counterfeit currency, illegal payments are made everywhere through cash. When we look at all the developed countries like the US, the UK, and China, big notes are nowhere to be seen. To solve this problem, under the leadership of Hon.Prime Minister,Hon. Minister of Finance has given a direction to connect the system with the banking system by connecting everyone with the bank through Jan-Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana, Aadhaar Card, Rupi Card, for which I thank the government and urge them to take steps towards withdrawing the 1000 note.

Indirect taxes have a huge burden on the common man, even the beggar along with the poor man is paying tax in some form or the other, I thank the Hon. Prime Minister, and Hon. Minister of Finance

for taking steps towards simplification of taxes, who are developing a cashless system.

Every poor person is being provided with health insurance of up to Rs. 1 lakh, which will be spent on the treatment of the poor, it is targeted to provide insurance benefits to one-third of the population of the country, National Dialysis Service will be opened in every district hospital and more than 3000 shops will be opened to provide affordable medicines to the poor and common man. An additional benefit of 30 thousand rupees will be given to the elderly above 60 years of age in health insurance. After decades, the resolution to provide so many more facilities in the field of health insurance is certainly unimaginable.

1500 skill development centers for education, provision of Rs 1700 crore for skill development, 15000 multi-skill training institutes, digital certification of schools and colleges, 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas are to be opened, which reflects the words and deeds of the Hon. Prime Minister.

Due to the good efforts of the Hon. Minister of Finance, while keeping the Indian economy stable during the global recession, GDP has increased by 7.6 percent and inflation has decreased by 5.4

percent, India's foreign exchange reserves have reached 350 billion dollars while inheriting the condition of the economy was very bad.

Edgarfiz has said, “On the one hand, governments make so many efforts to collect taxes, on the other hand, they print big notes, which becomes the biggest means of tax evasion, this is a problem in itself.

I therefore, request the government to expedite the excessive simplification of taxes and the ban on large notes, linking every individual with banking as soon as possible. I thank the government for working in this direction.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV (BANKA): Sir, thank you very much for giving me the time to speak. I stand up to participate in the debate on the Budget presented in Parliament. I believe that when the budget is made in this country, there are great expectations and high hopes. Naturally, there is hope, but the budget that has been presented, whether it is the general budget or the railway budget, I do not know what the government of this Centre has achieved in 18 months. Their budget is ineffective and air-borne. So it is futile and fruitless that today every household is crying tears from the budget. Inflation is rising. You said on the sting injury, you betrayed the mind, in front of the origin you said give me authority, give me the chair, give me power, we will reduce inflation. Today inflation has not come down, but the backs of mothers, sisters, and the poor of the village have been broken. Today, inflation is skyrocketing. Answer me, who will answer? Those who are in power, today you people spread a web of words. You give a big budget. Pulses have gone out of the plate of the poor. They are desperate for food. Today the situation is worse.... *(Interruptions)* You will speak, first, we will speak for a while, then you will speak. Stop now. They are making a vague revolution.

Sir, Shri Chaudhary Charan Singh used to say that the path of prosperity of the country, the path of happiness of the country, passes through the fields and barns of the farmers. When the farmer is prosperous, the village is happy, then the country will be prosperous, not that the country will be formed by glorifying a few industrialists. Such a country will not be formed. Industrialists should set up their industries. We should take care that farmers and agriculture, village and water systems, irrigation management, agriculture should be strong and farmers should be strong. Today there is talk of farming in the pot, there is talk of farming on the roof of the house. Today 16 thousand acres of land in the country is lying idle. Cultivate, irrigate, and build dams, irrigation should be managed in a state like Bihar.

Bihar should be given special status. The money of Bihar which has been stopped today, whether it is MNREGA Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana or education project, or Indira Awas, makes up for that money. Today, the bank has gone bankrupt, farmers are in debt, the nation is in an economic crisis, and industries have shut down. Today, let's talk about smart cities. No, no, we need smart villages, for the poor. Today the situation is worse than ever. Who is destroying the country, who is destabilizing the country? That is why those who talk

about good days, not good days, even if your good day has come, celebrate it, but in the year 2019 your bad day is going to come. Just like your khatiya has stood in Bihar, similarly your khatiya and batiya will stand in the country too. See, the time is coming. ... *(Interruptions)*

Chairperson Sir, have just spoken for two minutes, let's speak. No act of repentance matches the power of truth, and no wrongdoing equals the impact of a lie, one whose heart holds truth cannot be false. That is why the situation is worse today. Through you, we would like to say that... *(Interruptions)* Chairperson Sir, regarding the Shepherd School that he talked about, I express my happiness that the Shepherd's son brought laurels to the country and the world. The son of a poor, the son of a shepherd, born from the womb of a poor mother, born from the womb of a mother, born from the womb of a human being, the son of a shepherd, Lalu Yadav, if anyone did a social revolution in the country, then the name of that son is Lalu Yadav. ... *(Interruptions)* Chairperson Sir, let us be given only three minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Only One Minute.

SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Hon. Chairperson, there are four members, please be given a chance.

Dr. Lohia said, “Equality, socialism, poverty, backwardness, and women have to increase their strength. Dr. Lohia used to raise a slogan, 'Don't harass the farmers who don't make a profit, don't harass those who don't make a profit, what is the recognition of the small caste, do the work and endure the humiliation, starve on an empty stomach, stop the looting of prices, nine hundred less and no more than a thousand, sixty in a hundred for the backward. Let us tell you, he has been a socialist. ... *(Interruptions)* What does Mohan Bhagwat of RSS say? End the reservation. I am saying in the House... *(Interruptions)* Someone who puts his hand on this volcano will burn. ... *(Interruptions)* I will finish in just two minutes. ... *(Interruptions)* These are humanistic powers.

Chairperson Sir, the hunter will come, lay a trap, throw grain, and do not get trapped by greed. It has just been announced that our railway bridge, whether it is Digha or Munger, is incomplete and the state government has given strength and is already being built. Here we show that we are not in your program.

Here, the government is promising and it will fall into the pit. Therefore, neither Hindu, nor Muslim, nor Sikh, nor Christian, you will become neither Hindu nor Muslim, we are the children of man,

we will become human, and we will protect the country. We will increase brotherhood.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing is going on record.

… (Interruptions)..[*]

[*] Not recorded.

***SHRI JASVANTSINH SUMANBHAI BHABHOR (DAHOD):** On the instructions of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, I support the account of the country presented by theHon. Minister of Finance for the 2016-17 financial year, that this budget is actually in the interest of the farmers, to improve the standard of living of the poor, to provide urban facilities in the villages. At the time of the formation of this government, there was an atmosphere of inflation in the country, which this government has controlled and the inflation of the country has come down from 9.4 to 5.4.Today the foreign exchange reserves in our country are 350 billion US dollars, which is the highest ever.

In the earlier Krishi Fasal Bima Yojana, farmers did not get any special benefits and farmers used to get a nominal price for their crops, that too after many problems, due to which many farmers were leaving the business of farming and going to other businesses. This government has understood the suffering of the farmers and for this, the new Pradhan Mantri Krishi Bima Yojana has been implemented, in which the farmers will have to pay less premium and in case of crop failure, they will get more compensation and the difficulty in getting

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

the amount under the crop insurance scheme has been removed by this government. A provision of Rs 9 lakh crore has been made to provide timely loans to the farmers of the country, this will give loans to the farmers at a subsidized rate. The government has made a provision of 15 thousand crores for interest subvention. Due to the lack of adequate rainfall in many areas for many years, a situation of drought has arisen and the crop has been damaged midway to the farmers after working in their fields, for this the government has made many efforts to increase the irrigation potential in the country. Even today, out of 14 crore 10 lakh hectares of agricultural land in the country, only 46 percent of the land is irrigated. The government has earmarked Rs 12,517 crore to augment irrigation facilities and decided to restart the closed irrigation units. A provision has been made to give two-thirds of the amount released under MGNREGA for the construction of ponds and wells in the country. A target has been set to irrigate 28 lakh agricultural hectares of land in the country. Farmers in the country have promised to give soil health cards to 14 crore farmers to make their land fertile, so that the farmer will know about his land, what kind of fertilizer his land will need and which crop will be more in his field. It was decided to produce 17 lakh metric tonnes of urea in the country, which will remove the difficulties faced by the farmers in

getting urea. In this way, this budget will provide a golden opportunity for the development of agriculture. The government has set up the Department of Farmers Welfare along with the Ministry of Agriculture for the welfare of farmers. This will help in solving the problems faced by farmers.Rs 38,984 crore has been allocated for the welfare of farmers. If seen, this time the budget of agriculture has been doubled as compared to last year, it is likely to double the income of farmers in the coming five years. For this, farmers across the country are expressing their gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance.

The soul of India resides in the village and if the development of the village remains incomplete, then the country will not develop. The path of development of the country goes through villages. Keeping all these things in mind, the Hon. Minister has emphasized on rural development. To strengthen democracy in villages, Rs 2.8 lakh crore has been allocated for Gram Panchayat, with this each Gram Panchayat will get Rs 80-80 lakh for rural development. It has been decided to complete the incomplete work of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana connecting villages in the country. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana

have been launched, which are useful for the common man. In the Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana which was launched last year, 21 crore people in the country have opened accounts, which is a record in the whole world.

Nearly 70 percent of the country's population still lives in villages, where the majority are poor people with very low incomes who are unable to get proper treatment in case of illness. In this regard, the government has taken special care in its budget, for this, under the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, insurance cover of one lakh rupees has been provided to every person, through which rural people can get their treatment done properly. Kidney disease is increasing rapidly in the country, every year around two lakh people suffer from kidney disease, for this the government has proposed to build dialysis centers in every district, where poor people can avail free dialysis services.

New steps have been taken to provide LPG gas connections to the poor people of the country, under which 5 crore people below the poverty line will be given free gas connections and this year a provision of Rs 2000 crore has been made for this work. These connections will be given in the name of rural women in the country,

this will provide relief to women living in villages from the pollution caused by collecting wood for cooking and burning it.

There are 645 tribal dominated areas in the country, where tribal people mostly live in forests.8.2 percent of the country's population is from the tribal category. But their social and economic condition is quite pathetic. The government has made special efforts for this, the government has made a provision of Rs. 1200 crore for scholarship of ST category girl students and Rs. 600 crore for Van Bandhu Yojana. Van Bandhu Yojana was implemented in my home state Gujarat, it was completely successful there, on the same lines it was implemented at the central level. The government has made a provision of Rs 500 crore for skill development of SC and ST youth.

Under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, which was launched by the Hon. Prime Minister one and a half years ago, the work of constructing toilets in villages is progressing rapidly and 4 lakh permanent toilets have been constructed in primary schools for girl students across the country. The government has given justice to the former soldiers who protected the country through One Rank-One Pension. Under the Mudra scheme, Rs 1 lakh crore was distributed

among the poor in the country, which is a historic achievement and this year, 3 crore poor people will be benefited.

I come from Dahod district of Gujarat, which is located on the border of Madhya Pradesh and Gujarat. The villages here have been connected under the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, but many roads have not been connected yet. For this, I request the Union Government to provide more funds to my parliamentary constituency Dahod. There is an urgent need to speed up irrigation work in my parliamentary constituency. Adequate funds should be allocated to my parliamentary constituency for the scheme of providing drinking water to the people. My parliamentary constituency is tribal dominated, but they do not have any special arrangement for irrigation, they are completely dependent on rain water. For this, I will request the government to provide free electricity connections for irrigation to the tribal class in my parliamentary constituency. In my parliamentary constituency, people have not been given forest rights certificates even after being eligible to get them under the Forest Rights Act 2006. The government is requested to pay attention to this. In my parliamentary constituency the wages and material under MNREGA have not been paid yet. I demand an inquiry into this from

the government. Dahod district of Gujarat is backward in terms of literacy, for which maximum funds should be provided for work under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan.

In the end, I support the General Budget 2016-17 presented by the Hon. Finance Minister.

***SHRI RAJESHBHAI CHUDASAMA (JUNAGADH):** The general budget which the entire country was eagerly waiting for due to India's growing reputation among the common people, the industry and at the international level, has been presented in the Parliament. If this year's general budget is considered seriously, then this budget will generally be termed as an important step taken in the direction of social inclusion.

It includes rural development, initiatives for strengthening local self-governance, agriculture and farmers as well as the neglected and deprived sections of the society. For the opposition, which for the past one and a half years was calling the Modi government a friend of the corporate world, this budget is no less than a shock for them, because the budget is in favor of agriculture, farmers and the poor.

The opposition perhaps forgot that this government represents the public opinion of the poor, deprived and neglected people and will always come forward for their interests. This budget is implementing the principle of Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas. Whether you are in opposition or in favor, you will have to admit that such human

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

initiative and welfare towards rural development and farmers and agriculture sector has not been seen in any budget before.

The Union Budget 2016-17 can be termed as an important step towards real inclusive growth. While on one hand rural development has been adequately included in this year's budget, on the other hand serious attention has also been paid to other indicators of the economy. This time the roadmap and priority of the budget has been given with the slogan of Transform India to create greater impact on the economy and the lives of people. The government's approach in the budget is to ensure macroeconomic stability and prudent fiscal management and to boost domestic demand. Besides this, the need is to continue economic reforms and policy initiatives for public welfare and transformation in their lives.

This time in the budget, our Minister of Finance has given more importance to long-term issues including rural development, agriculture and infrastructure. A total of Rs 35,984 crore has been allocated for agriculture and farmers' welfare in the budget. Also, it has been announced that the Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme will be implemented in mission mode. It also said that about 28.5 lakh hectares of area will be brought under irrigation. A

dedicated long-term irrigation fund will be created in NABARD with an initial corpus of about Rs 20,000 crore. The programme for sustainable management of groundwater resources will be implemented at an estimated cost of Rs 6,000 crore through multilateral funding. There is a provision of about 15 thousand crore rupees in the budget estimates for interest subsidy to reduce the burden of loan repayment on farmers. Similarly, an allocation of Rs 5,500 crore has been made under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Taking substantial initiatives towards the dairy sector, four dairy projects have been announced in the budget. A provision of about Rs 850 crore has been made for Pashudhan Sanjivani, Nakul Swasthya Patra, e-Pashudhan Haat and National Indigenous Breed Genetic Centre.

Similarly, rural development was also in focus in this year's budget. An amount of Rs 87,700 crore has been allocated for rural development in the general budget. As per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, Rs 2.87lakh crore will be given as aid grants to gram panchayats and municipalities. The highest ever amount of Rs 38,500crore has been allocated for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme. It has been

announced in the budget that 100 percent villages will be electrified by May 1, 2018. A new digital literacy mission for rural India to cover about 6 crore more households over the next three years. Apart from this, a new scheme named Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan will be started with an allocation of Rs 655 crore.

The budget has allocated Rs 1,51,581 crore for the social sector, including education and health care. Under the new health protection scheme, every family will be given health security cover up to Rs 1 lakh, in which the elderly will get an additional top-up package of up to Rs 30 thousand. Around 3 thousand Jan Aushadhi stores will be opened in the country.

Many important steps have also been taken in the field of education. 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened in the country. Regulatory frameworks are to be developed to develop 10 government and 10 private institutions as world-class teaching and research institutions. Also, Higher Education Financing Agency is to be set up with an initial capital base of Rs. 1000 crore. An amount of Rs. 1804 crore has been allocated for the skill development scheme in the country and establishment of 1500 multi skill training institutes has been announced.

Taking a new initiative, a gift has been given to new employees in the budget. The Government of India will pay the contribution of 8.33 per cent for all new employees enrolling themselves in EPFO for the first three years of their employment. An amount of Rs 1000 crore has been allocated for this scheme.

Apart from social, health and employment, many provisions have also been made in the budget for the basic sectors of the country's economic development. The total investment in the road sector including Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana will be Rs 97 thousand crore this year. Also, about 10 thousand kilometers of national highways will be approved this year. A total of Rs 55 thousand crore has been allocated in the budget for roads.

In such a short time, I cannot cover all the aspects of the budget, but I will definitely say that looking at all these provisions and budgetary allocations, it does not give any occasion for criticism. Nevertheless, if some of our colleagues criticize it inside and outside the House, it may be due to their compulsion as opposition. Overall, the budget overview highlights it as an inclusive budget.

I want to conclude my speech with these words that this is just the beginning; the development of villages, farms and farmers is yet

to come. We hope that under the leadership of our able Prime Minister, the country will grow, farmers will prosper and there will be 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'.

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Sir, I am extremely grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the budget. I am putting forth my views in support of the Budget for the year 2016-17. ... *(Interruptions)*

The capable Minister of Finance has presented a budget of Rs. 19 lakh 78 thousand 60 crores in the House, which is Rs. 2 lakh crores more than last year. An increase of 14 per cent in income has also been mentioned in this budget. There is a provision of 15 percent more planning expenditure in this budget compared to last year. The GDP growth rate has increased to 7.6 percent. Inflation has also decreased drastically, it has come down from 9.4 percent to 5.4 percent. After accepting the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, the Centre has now increased the amount to the states by 20.8 percent as compared to earlier. The interest rate on loans has come down from 8 percent to 7.6 percent. This budget is being praised everywhere. In fact, for the first time such a budget has been presented openly for the villages, the poor and the farmers. 70 percent of the population in this country lives in villages. Till date, the money from government schemes has not reached the villages in proportion to the population. It has been seen for the first time that provisions have been made in

the budget to strengthen the foundation of the country. That is why it is being praised everywhere, but our opposition friends are criticizing it, but there is no fact in their criticism, their only aim is to oppose.

Speaker Sir, I would like to request through you that for the first time it has been seen that there is no difference between the words and actions of the Prime Minister on the promises he made to the country.He had said that the biggest challenge in our country is poverty, the challenge in our country is the problems of farmers, our country is facing the challenge of employment and training of youth. I would like to submit that as he had said, the first right on resources should be of the poor, the second right on resources should be of the farmer and the third right on resources should be of the youth, the budget has been presented in the same manner. The budget that has been presented is truly a budget that will strengthen the foundation of India. There are 27-28 such schemes - Jan Dhan Yojana, Housing for All Yojana, toilets in every house under Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Health Insurance Scheme, Accident Insurance Scheme, Pension Scheme, Crop Insurance Scheme, Farm Irrigation Scheme, Scheme to double the income of farmers in five years, Scheme to make youth skilled, Mudra Bank Scheme, Make in India Scheme, Made in India

Scheme, Digital India, Sukanya Samridhi Yojana, Setu Bharatam, Antyodaya Express, Deenadayalu Passenger Coaches, Free LPG Gas Connection, Scheme to open three thousand cheap medicine shops, Provision of bio-toilets in passenger trains, Smart City, Namami Gange, Scheme to provide electricity to every village by 2018, One Rank-One Pension, Special package to North-Eastern States, Corruption Free Government, Sabka Saath-Sabka Vikas, Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat. The aim of the government is to create an educated, clean and healthy India. This is a visionary budget and Antyodaya is its objective.

I would like to request you that I have been a member of this House since 2004. For the first time, I have seen a Prime Minister working 18 hours a day in 24 hours and he is concerned about how every minute should be spent for the development and progress of the country. The Prime Minister has only one dream that our country can become the leader of the world, our country can become self-reliant, every Indian can live with self-respect and hence this is his visionary budget.

"Whose feet do not crack,

How can he understand the pain of others?"

Because he was born in a very poor family. His mother used to work as a maid in the neighboring houses. His father used to sell tea. Born in that poverty, he reached these heights. That is why he feels the pain of the poor and that is why he is working. I want to say that our opposition people criticize a lot, they are in the opposition, they should criticize, it is their right, but they should not make fun of it. How can a person born in a poor family become the Prime Minister of the country? There is a mockery of this. If you wear good clothes, there is a mockery of you. If you give a good speech, there is a need to put a stop to this kind of mockery that has started. The country is doing better. Narendra Modi ji is the first Prime Minister who invited SAARC countries to his swearing-in ceremony, this was seen for the first time. He is the first Prime Minister who surprised the world by attending the family function of the Prime Minister of Pakistan. He is the first Prime Minister who provided unsolicited aid to a neighboring country like Nepal during a natural disaster. He is the first Prime Minister who has solved the border dispute of Bangladesh. Today, the Prime Minister is trying to take the country in a completely new direction. He had said that I am the person responsible for the upbringing of 125 crore people of this country.

14.00 hours

When the Prime Minister came to Parliament on the first day, he surprised everyone by bowing down on the stairs at the first door of the Parliament. When he was addressing all of us MPs in the Central Hall, he said that I have paid my obeisance to the temple of democracy in which 125 crore people are nurtured. I have come to reassure all those people. I want to develop everyone by taking everyone's support. He is moving ahead with the same subject. He had said that this is a government of the poor. That is why he said that the first right on resources should be given to the poor. Under the Jan Dhan Yojana, accounts of 21 crore people have been opened in the bank.

Today I want to say that for the first time the poor person is feeling that our life is being protected. For the first time the poor person is realizing that the government is planning to provide houses for us. For the first time, praising the work of the government, the poor man says that we are getting new employment opportunities.

Today, 1 crore 66 lakh, 5 thousand 300 Jan Dhan accounts have been opened in Madhya Pradesh. In my Lok Sabha constituency Satna, 6 lakh 97 thousand, 916 such accounts have been opened in banks. Housing for All scheme, Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima

Yojana has been availed by 2.94 crore people across the country. Similarly, one lakh 93 thousand people have benefited in Madhya Pradesh. In my Satna Lok Sabha constituency, 34 thousand 936 people have taken advantage of this.... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I need some time. I am telling you the basic thing about the budget which is being criticized that everything is on paper.It is not on paper, it is on earth. 10.66 crore people across the country have availed the benefit of the security insurance scheme. In Madhya Pradesh, 66 lakh 40 thousand 814 people have benefited. In my Lok Sabha constituency, 1 lakh 80 thousand 641 people have benefited. More than 10 lakh people took advantage of the Atal Pension Scheme. A large number of people have also benefited from this in our Satna district in Madhya Pradesh. There is a plan to provide free cooking gas to BPL families. Till now approximately 60 lakh people have received gas cylinders. But there is a plan to give it to 1.5 crore people this year. It has to be given to 5 crore people in three years. Truly, this is the first time that a poor person feels that this government is working for us. I want to tell you through you that for the first time a budget of Rs 35,984 crore has come for the farmers. A long-term fund of Rs 20 thousand crore has been prepared which will be used for the farmers' schemes. 21 thousand crore rupees were earned from the sugarcane of the farmers,

which has been returned to the farmers. Health insurance of Rs 1 lakh, additional insurance of Rs 30 lakh for the elderly, Rs 20 thousand crore for the Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme, similarly Rs 5.5 thousand crore for the crop insurance scheme, this has been seen for the first time. Five lakh new ponds will be built. New means of irrigation will be created. Organic farming will be done in 5 lakh hectares. A provision of Rs 500 crore has been made to increase the production of pulses. Information on new technology is being provided through Kisan TV. The work of providing 1.5 times assistance has been done by reducing the losses in natural disasters from 50 percent to 33 percent.

I am requesting you that for the youth, Make in India, in which 41 percent FDI has already come, Made in India will work to make them self-reliant. 76 lakh people have been trained so far under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas. There is a plan to train 1 crore people in a year. 1500 skill training centers are to be opened. A provision of Rs 1700 crore has been made for skill development. Mudra Bank Yojana is such a scheme under which till now 2.6 crore people have started their own enterprise by taking a loan of more than Rs 2 crore.

This scheme will work for five crore entrepreneurs in the coming time. A budget provision of Rs 1.80 lakh crore has been made for this.

I would like to submit that whatever provisions have been made in the field of agriculture, farming and education, I wanted to explain it in detail but there is a shortage of time.

I want to talk about Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh is the most progressing state in the country. The growth rate of agriculture is 24 percent but there should be more provisions in the budget for irrigation resources. The state government had proposed to include the canal on the right bank of the Bargi Dam in the national project; we want it to be included in it. The money for Indira Awas Yojana has not been spent, it should also be spent. In the case of EPF, the government has changed its decision, but in the case of jewelry, today jewelry traders are on strike across the country. Their strike definitely needs to be considered. Some other tax should be imposed in place of excise duty, Inspector State should not come into existence, our government is already in favor of this, the government should reconsider not promoting Inspector State. Rs 97,000 crore has been received for roads and similarly Rs 97,765 crore has been received for overall rural development.The money that has been given for national

highways, some national highways in my area should also be included in it.I would like to mention the name of one very important road, Damoh-Pawai-Satna-Semaria-Allahabad should be declared as new NH.Irrigation projects are incomplete, money should be provided for them.Satna airport is not operational, additional funds should be given to it to make it operational.I strongly support this budget.

*SHRI MD. BADARUDDOZA KHAN (MURSHIDABAD): We expected to see some allotment in SAGY. But not a single word is written in the budget speech, though our Prime Minister has inaugurated this Scheme. In this year also I received a letter from the Ministry, asking to submit the second name of Gram Panchayat. Till date, not a single rupee has been allotted to fulfill the requirements of SAGY.

It is also a matter of great regret that there is no mention of getting back black money from foreign countries. Also, there is no mention about the situation arising due to the huge amount of NPA of all our nationalized banks. The Government should take some stringent action to recover such bad loans from some individuals.

As we know this year also funds for ICDS are slashed. Throughout the country women are associated with this Scheme to look after the poor children regarding nutrition and education. But this sector is again neglected this year. I hope finally the Finance Minister will allot sufficient funds for ICDS.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

I am thankful to the Finance Minister that in the budget, he proposed for some initiative to be taken up regarding minimum support price for agricultural products. I request the Hon. Finance Minister to take some expert opinion so that the Minimum Support Price may be available to the actual small and marginal farmers.

It is a matter of serious concern to the farmers that allocation for fertilizer subsidy has decreased in 2016-2017, by Rs. 2,438 crore (3.4%). It will again affect the farmers badly. So, I request the Minister to increase the fertilizer subsidy for the interest of poor, small and marginal farmers.

*__SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR):__ I am grateful for being given the opportunity to express my views on the General Budget.

The current Union Budget 2016-17 has been presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance at a time when the global economy is going through a serious crisis.Global growth slowed from 3.4 percent in 2014 to 3.1 percent in 2015.Despite adverse global conditions, the Indian economy has maintained its strong fundamentals.For this, the Hon. The Minister of Finance deserves congratulations.Our government inherited an economy with low growth, high inflation and zero investor confidence in the government's ability to govern.

Hon. Minister of Finance has tried to convert challenges into opportunities.The financial years 2015-16 and 2016-17 have been and will remain very challenging for government expenditure.The 14th Finance Commission has reduced the Centre's share in taxes from 68 per cent to 58 per cent.Despite the massive cut in the Centre's share in taxes in FY 2015-16, the government has managed to improve budgetary expenditure due to the revenue surge.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

The money that the government has belongs to the public and it is the duty of the government to spend it wisely for the welfare of its people, especially the poor and the downtrodden. I thank the Minister of Finance for reiterating his commitment on this. While increasing the outlay on various social sector programmes, the government will launch three major schemes to help the weaker sections of the society. To protect the farmers from the adverse effects of nature, “Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana” has already been announced.In which the farmer will get maximum compensation in case of any loss by paying a nominal amount of premium.

A health insurance scheme is also being announced, which will provide protection against hospital expenses to one-third of the country's population. Under this scheme, the government will provide health cover of up to Rs. 1 lakh per family and an additional top-up package of Rs. 30,000 will be given to senior citizens of this category who are 60 years and above. The government is also taking a new step to ensure that BPL families are provided with LPG connections with the help of government subsidy. This will greatly improve the health of women and BPL families who suffer from the ill-effects of cooking on stoves. Apart from this, Hon. Jaitley Ji has emphasized on many

specific pillars in this budget such as focusing on doubling the income of farmers in the next five years, emphasis on rural employment and infrastructure, making India a knowledge-based and productive society through education, skill and employment generation, emphasis on infrastructure and investment, bringing transparency and stability and reforms in the financial sector, reforms in tax related matters, etc.Irrigation is a very important means of increasing agricultural production and productivity.Out of the total net cultivated area of 141 million hectares in the country, only 46 percent is irrigated.I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for paying attention to the issue and emphasizing on strengthening the “Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana”.Under this scheme, 28.5 lakh hectares of land has been included in the irrigation area.Apart from this, the government has reiterated its commitment to provide electrification to 100% villages by May 1, 2018. An amount of Rs. 8,500 crore has been provided for Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and Integrated Power Development Schemes.Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, a provision of Rs. 9000 crore has been made to improve the condition of sanitation and hygiene, especially in rural India.

The Hon. The Minister of Finance has taken special care of people of every category in this budget. That's why I support this budget.

[English]

SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI (CHIDAMBARAM): Hon. Chairman, Sir, *Vanakkam*. I express my sincere thanks to our beloved leader hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma, for giving me an opportunity to participate and speak on the Discussion on the General Budget, 2016-17. Sir, I request you to allow me to speak in English and in Tamil.

The Union Budget 2016-17 has come at a critical juncture. India is currently the fastest growing large economy in the world. But the growth is not translating itself into job and welfare benefits for the people of the country at the desired level. Unlike in past years, Planned Expenditure has actually been increased in the Revised Estimate. This would hopefully ensure that the releases to the State Government for the scheme expenditure would be speeded up before the end of the current fiscal year.

I express my happiness that the Finance Minister has accepted the suggestion made repeatedly by our hon. Chief Minister, Amma, to do away with the Plan and non-Plan distinction with effect from 2017-18 and focus, instead, on the revenue and capital outlays. This is the much needed reform.

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

*In the Public Sector, 1 Crore 76 lakh and 9 thousand people are permanently employed. Whereas in Private Sector 1 Crore 19 lakh and 70 thousand people are provided permanent employment. As per Economic Survey, during the year 2014-15, 235 PSUs earned a profit of 1 lakh 30 thousand Crore rupees. Total loss due to the loss making 77 PSUs was to the tune of 27 thousand 360 Crore rupees. But in the present Budget there is an announcement for selling shares of profit making PSUs and thereby earning 56 thousand 500 Crore rupees.Number of workers in Unorganized sector between the years 2005 and 2012 increased from 48 to 54.6%. That means 90% of workers are jobless. In this alarming situation, I wish to say in this august House that there is no announcement in the current Budget for creating employment in the Unorganized sector. Another important issue is relating to GDP. Even our GDP has been at 7.6 per cent for the past 25 years, but India continues to be in 130th rank as regards Human Development Index. As per Economic Survey, the subsidy to the rich stands at 1 lakh and 3 thousand Crore rupees as compared to

* .... * English translation of this part of the Speech was originally delivered in Tamil.

only 16 thousand 369 Crore rupees for the poor. Is it justifiable?. Only because of the policies of the Union Government, NPAs have increased. A major portion of these NPAs is with 30 important rich persons. But there is no mention about recovery of NPAs in the current Budget. Elections are round the corner in Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, West Bengal, Kerala and Assam. In this situation Hon. The Finance Minister has said that more funds are allocated to rural development, social sector and basic infrastructure development. It raises doubt whether this move is genuinely aimed at developing the social sector. It is estimated that during current and next fiscal total expenditure will increase by 10.8 per cent. In this scenario it is hard to believe the Hon Finance Minister's statement. For the important ICDS programme, the spending for the year 2014-15 was 16 thousand 415 Crore rupees. This was reduced to 13 thousand 636 Crore rupees in the year 2015-16. During the year 2016-17, in the Budget only 15 thousand 873 Crore rupees has been allocated for ICDS. I wish to say that the amount for the welfare of Children of the country under ICDS is very much insufficient.*

Hon. Chairperson, our hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has welcomed the emphasis made in this Budget on agriculture

and rural income. Doubling farm incomes in five years is a laudable objective, but it should be done in real terms. We welcome the allocation of Rs.35,984 crore for agriculture and farmers' welfare. The *Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana* to be implemented in a mission mode and 28.5 lakh hectares will be brought under irrigation needs to be appreciated.

The Finance Minister has also announced a dedicated Long Term Irrigation Fund, which will be created in NABARD with an initial corpus of about Rs.20,000 crore. The programme for sustainable management of ground water resources with an estimated cost of Rs.6,000 crore will be implemented through multilateral funding.

Five lakh farm ponds and dug wells in rain fed areas and 10 lakh compost pits for production of organic manure will be taken up under MGNREGA. The Soil Health Card Scheme will cover all 14 crore farm holdings by March 2017. Two thousand model retail outlets of fertilizer companies will be provided with soil and seed testing facilities during the next three years.

Our hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma is of the opinion that greater initiatives for drip and micro irrigation would

have been a more welcome move to increase the water use efficiency. The emphasis on expanding the area under irrigation is welcome.

Agriculture is the backbone of our country. Our Poet, Thiruvalluvar says:

"*Uzhuthundu vaazhvaare vaazhvaar, mattrellaam*

thozhudundu pin selbavar."

> *.... *.“Tillers Those who live by agriculture live, others lead a dependent life.” It is because of the farmers and their hard work that we are able to lead a happy life in this country. We should be thankful to the farmers.*

The Union Government, which is in process of building a corporate and Digital India, should not break the backbone of the nation and farmers. The rural economy contributes around 50 per cent of the Indian Gross Domestic Product and is already showing a sign of strain as the Government cuts the once generous subsidies that shielded farmers and villagers. The Farmers' income dropped nearly 50 per cent due to drought. They borrowed loans from banks for seeds and fertilizer but now they do not know how to repay the loan.

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* .... * English translation of this part of the speech originally delivered in Tamil.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member, please conclude. We have to accommodate others also and there is a paucity of time.

SHRI M. CHANDRAKASI : The well-being of farmers is vital to the nation's prosperity.

The farmer-friendly Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, with the biggest-ever Government's contribution to crop insurance and with lowest-ever premium rates for farmers is a very good scheme. Assistance to farmers affected by natural calamity has been increased by 50 per cent and eligibility norms have been relaxed.

Finally, I would request the Union Government to allocate funds for Tamil Nadu as requested by our hon. Chief Minister Puratchi Thalaivi Amma immediately provided financial support to lakhs of farmers in Tamil Nadu affected due to the damages and devastation caused by floods.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Dr. Bhola Singh.

Nothing will go on record except the speech of Dr. Bhola Singh.

*… (Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH (BEGUSARAI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I stand in support of the national budget presented in the House.

What I have found in tears, I have given it in songs

What I have found in tears, I have given it in songs

Yet I have heard that the world has some grievances against me.

Everyone has heard the tune that came out of the string

But which heart knows what the instrument has gone through?

We are flowers for others, we bring fragrance

But I have got only a stain.

This budget is a prayer to Mother India GramVasini.This budget is like lighting a lamp of hope in the lives of farmers which is full of darkness.The manner, style and manner in which the Minister of

* Not recorded.

Finance has given shape to the concepts of the Hon. The Prime Minister's budget is certainly praiseworthy and exemplary.

I wonder how many tons of paper have been spent on these shiny blouses and hairpieces,

How many tons of ink were used up

But those whose coffin was raised in the dark, for whom no one was there to lend a shoulder

Today I have become theirs.

My tears have become infamous in every city,

Today I became those who had no guard.

Chairperson Sir, presenting such a budget in the House was not a simple matter.Just like a fighter plane flies over the ruins, valleys and mountains and attacks the enemy camp, similarly, the Hon. The Minister of Finance has taken the step of taking this budget through the valleys and mountains full of ruins and social problems without getting injured and delivering a ray of hope to the huts of the poor and the houses of the farmers. I express my gratitude for this.

Chairperson Sir, the daughters of Vishkutiya Devi, Jhilevi Devi, Rusni Devi, Karo Devi, Kalavati Devi who live in rural life, used to go to the garden to collect leaves for burning and used to return to their mother's stove with the dry sticks but in doing so they used to become victims of rape.The eyes of the HON. The Prime Minister reached there and the Minister of Finance also reached there with the lamp of the budget.We are proud that the Minister of Finance of the Government of India has thought of providing gas stoves to such houses in accordance with the concepts of the Hon. Prime Minister.Today, the provisions for making arrangements for five crore people in three years, I think that today in every house, just like in Diwali, lamps are lit in every house, whether it is a hut, a mud house or a brick house, everywhere, the Minister of Finance has kept the Prime Minister's concepts lit and I can say that a bird takes a straw in its beak and goes to the nest in which it has two children and when it goes, a bird catches an arrow, the bird gets injured, even then, trembling, with a trembling beak, it feeds grains to its children, the children start screaming, the children and the bird say that I am injured, I have been hit by an arrow, but if I had gone like this, people would have pointed fingers at you that your mother has gone with

someone.But even in this condition I am in front of you so that my child, you do not have to remain demoralized in front of anyone.

Today our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance have taken a step.Hon. The Minister of Finance was injured, covered in blood, there were many attacks on him, but the Minister of Finance, covered in blood, appeared in this House, bringing flowers of hope for everyone, and concern for the future. I want to thank them for this.

I know that when I am here you are there. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Bhola Singh Ji, please conclude your speech now.

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Madam, I speak very little. Please give us five more minutes so that I can express my feelings before this Hon. House.

Madam, this budget has come as a ray of hope at a time when there is darkness in the world.There is economic recession in the world and China, which is itself going through recession, whose 1.5 million workers are being laid off, which is barely achieving a growth rate of 7 percent and what the previous governments gave us, did we not wish to take such steps through which we could tell the people but whatever limitations we had, we should also strive for sustainable

development within those limitations.There must be a concerted effort to give back to fundamental structures, to replace the dynamic budget and that is why the steps that we have taken through this budget have not been taken keeping in mind the depreciation of the rupee.We have not taken this step by putting our neighbor in trouble.We have not taken this step by spoiling our relations with the countries of the world.Today it is being said that in this darkness of the whole world, the economy of India is such that the budget of India in the 21st century, the economic condition of India, the form of development of India, will be a center of attraction for the world in the 22nd century.

Finally, I would like to conclude by saying that there was a fire in the forest; a bird went to the sea and kept extinguishing the fire by filling water in its beak.There were ten elephants bathing in the ocean. They were asking the bird, “Hey bird, how much water do you have in your beak? Will this water extinguish the fire?” The bird said that no, the amount of water in our beak will not extinguish the fire but when history will be written then it will definitely be written that there was a bird which was extinguishing the forest fire and our name will be among those who extinguished the fire and your name will be among those who set the fire.

With these words, I support this budget and say just two lines:

"There must have been some compulsions,

A man doesn't become foolish just like that,

You don't remember Kafa, I don't remember Jafa,

Life and death are these two songs,

You don't remember one,

I don't remember one. "

[English]

*SHRI G. HARI (ARAKKONAM): Generally the budget is presented exactly one year after the last one was introduced and the people's expectations on it are too much as it directly or indirectly involves their day-to-day life. But this budget shattered all such hopes of the people. Our Hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma while reacting to the General Budget has said that the budget 2016-17 lacks flavor as it does not have any specific announcements of schemes which will have enthused different segments including the States. The people in Tamil Nadu had higher expectations, which have not been met in the budget.

Mere announcement of schemes is not a big thing, but what is important is their implementation. While going through the budget, it was noticed that there has been no mention of the status of implementation of many schemes announced last year and the year before.

While reacting to the tax proposal contained in the budget, our beloved leader and Hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has

* Speech was laid on the Table

said that the tax proposals in the budget are regressive - there are direct tax concessions amounting to Rs. 1,060 crore mostly due to corporate income tax concessions, while indirect taxes worth Rs. 20,670 crore have been levied. This is a regressive approach which cannot be supported. However, our Hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has welcomed some of the announcements made in the budget such as the announcement of the scheme to cover five core poor families with LPG connections. Our Hon. Amma Government in Tamil Nadu is already implementing many similar schemes such as distribution of fans, mixies, grinders, etc.

Coming to the part of agriculture, I must tell you that the Government will have to raise allocation for the crop insurance scheme, as the gap between farmers' cost of farming and their loss, if any, is huge. Therefore, the Government should take note of it and allocate more for the crop insurance scheme, so that we can come to the rescue of several crores of our farmers who are the feeders of our nation when they suffer from any natural calamity.

As I said earlier, the announcement of schemes is not a big thing but what is important is their implementation and similarly allocation of more funds is not a big thing, we need to see its implementation. In

this budget also the government has allocated more funds for irrigation and the government has been raising its irrigation spending every year, but what is worrying is that we were not able to bring any extra area under the irrigation facility. Therefore, the question arises how higher allocation helps them. There should be a proper mechanism to ensure that the fund allocated in each year's budget is fully utilized and its accountability is ensured.

Tax reforms made by the Government in the budget are indicative of giving a much required fillip to the housing sector. The industry has been expecting initiatives that can directly translate into benefits for the end consumer, thus increasing the velocity of transactions and improving the market sentiment. The additional tax exemption of Rs.50,000 for the first time home buyers is certainly a welcome move and we can expect a far greater traction of growth in the affordable housing segment which is the need of the hour to ensure a house for all.

***SHRI A. ARUNMOZHITHEVAN (CUDDALORE):** I wholeheartedly express my views on the general budget for the year 2016-17. It is because of our beloved leader and Hon. Chief Minister Idhaya Dheivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma that I am expressing my views on a subject which is concerned to our 125 crore population and I owe a lot to my beloved leader Hon. Amma.

Our Hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has said that the budget 2016-17 lacks flavor as it does not have any specific announcements of schemes which will have enthused different segments including the States. The people in Tamil Nadu had higher expectations, which have not been met in the budget and the budget does not speak on the status of implementation of many schemes announced last year and the year before.

Our Hon. Chief Minister Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has welcomed the announcement of the scheme to cover five crore poor families with LPG connections and this will go along with many such schemes which are already under implementation in the State of Tamil Nadu such as distribution of fans, mixies, grinders, etc. Our Hon. Chief Minister has also urged the Union Government to ensure that

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* Speech was laid on the Table

the beneficiary identification under the subsidized LPG scheme is done in a way to ensure that states like Tamil Nadu which already have a sizeable coverage under LPG connections are not left out, since the families that still do not have such connections in the state tend to be amongst the poorest.

Our Hon. Chief Minister has also welcomed the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadi Yojana under which 3,000 new medical stores selling generic medicines are to be set up. This is similar to the Amma Marunthagam Scheme launched by our Hon. Amma Government very long back ago and many lakhs of people are benefiting out of it in the State. Our Hon. Chief Minister wanted the Union Government to cover the new Health Protection Scheme with the Chief Minister's Comprehensive Health Insurance scheme implemented in Tamil Nadu.

Our Hon. Chief Minister has said that there are direct tax concessions amounting to Rs.1,060 crore mostly due to corporate income tax concessions, while indirect taxes worth Rs.20,670 crore have been levied. This is a regressive approach which cannot be supported as our Hon. Chief Minister is always not in favor of taxing

the people again and again and putting additional burden on the people especially the poorer section.

The expansion of the soil health programme and the soil card scheme is recognition of the efforts launched by Tamil Nadu, which pioneered the soil health card programme. Our Hon. Chief Minister has welcomed the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana but the budget allocation of Rs.5,500crore appears grossly inadequate as the cost of farming and the loss of crop, if any, has a huge gap. Therefore, it is urged that the allocation under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana be increased, so that the Yojana can really become beneficial for the farming community.

***DR. K . KAMARAJ (KALLAKURICHI):** The budget has promised to create "transformative impact " on the economy and in the lives of our people. The budget is said to have been built on 9 pillars and each pillar has to be so strong so as to create transformation in the economy.

It is a good thing our Hon. Finance Minister has shifted the emphasis from "food security" to " income security" to our Indian farmers.

Let me go with the nine pillars mentioned in the budget.

i) Agriculture and Farmers " Welfare": with focus on doubling farmers' income in five years;

ii) Rural Sector: with emphasis on rural employment and infrastructure;

iii) Social Sector including Healthcare: to cover all under welfare and health services;

iv) Education, Skills and Job Creation: to make India a knowledge based and productive society;

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* Speech was laid on the Table

v) Infrastructure and Investment: to enhance efficiency and quality of life;

vi) Financial Sector Reforms: to bring transparency and stability;

vii) Governance and Ease of Doing Business: to enable the people to realize their full potential;

viii) Fiscal Discipline: prudent management of Government finance and delivery of benefits to the needy; and

ix) Tax Reforms: to reduce compliance burden with faith in the citizenry.

Let me take the first pillar viz., Doubling farmers income within 5 years. To double farmers income, agriculture has to grow at a faster rate which needs many logistic factors.

Let me start with my leader Hon. **AMMA's** reflection on this budget. Hon. **AMMA** has said that though India is a growing economy in the world, the budget has not provided a roadmap for employment and improved standard of living for the people.

The first one is irrigation. The data given by Hon. Finance Minister state that only 46% of cultivated area is under irrigation. The problem of Tamil Nadu is yet to be solved either in case of Cauvery

or in case of Mullaperiyar. We have a doubt whether Thanjavur, the so-called " Greenery of South" will continue to be called under this name. If these are not possible, how is it possible to double the income within five years? The underground water has been over exploited and hence water management is more essential. Number of studies have pointed out that unless major rivers of India are linked together, major parts of cultivable land will become desert. Our leader **AMMA** has very well said that increased financial outlay for irrigation in the budget is a welcome feature. Tamil Nadu has already over exploited the underground water and **AMMA** says that at the time of allocating funds for irrigation, the old mistakes should not be repeated and a special policy should be formulated for those states which have already used underground water and lacks river irrigation potential.

The next one is the "Price" of agricultural produce. There is a famous Paradox given by an economist viz.' Paradox of plenty in midst of poverty". Unless the farmers get good prices, whatever be the volume of harvest, the plenty will push down prices of Agricultural produce whereas the cost of inputs are on increase. The budget is silent over the pricing policy of agriculture prices.

Further, the budget assumes that growth is a mandatory factor and a push in investment creates multiple ripples in the rural economy and the income will be doubled. This kind of automatic nature of growth is not possible. Unless we have structural reform in the rural economy, this kind of doubling the income is not possible. Lopsided land holding structure, the land holdings being not distributed equally among all sections of social classes, the growth will lead to increase the income inequality in rural areas and the trickle-down theory will not work where structure rigidity continues. At present, in India, nearly 81% of land holdings are less than two hectares and 62% of land holdings are less than 1 hectare. With these tiny land holdings, the rural income will double and the income will percolate to landless and near landless.

The second pillar mentioned in the budget is about rural employment and infrastructure. Rs. 87,765 crores have been allocated for rural development and a sum of Rs.2.87 lakh crores as Grants and Aid as per the recommendations of 14th Finance Commission.

The major lacuna here is the administrative efficiency and the governance capacity of the existing local bodies. If these local bodies

are weak, non-transparent and dishonest, then the delivery will not lead to any transformation.

The most important task before the nation is the creation of 120 million new jobs in the next six years and the budget is silent over this except in the case of the National Rural Employment Programme and Skill India Programme. The first one is income generation at the subsistence level and the second one is making the people fit for a job without any plan to create a job.

I appreciate having introduced a number of Training programmes under "Skill India" . The budget has spelt 1500 multidisciplinary and multi-talent training centers. It is said in the budget that Rs.1700 crores will be spent on such programmes and it is suggested in the budget that in 2200 colleges, 300 schools, 500 ITIs, Entrepreneurship training will be given. All these are too good measures. However, at the stage of implementation, unless there is efficient machinery to monitor, the ripple created will not spread to the whole nation.

The Hon. Finance Minister has tinkered here and there on health policies. But what is required is a comprehensive medical insurance policy, through which any person belonging to any income group can get treatment in a corporate/good hospital. This is what is happening

in Western Countries. In other words, medical expenditure should be borne by insurance companies and the premium can be borne by the Union Government up to a certain income limit.

The Hon. Finance Minister is gracious enough to increase the amount of money spent on the Social Welfare and Education sector, the third pillars mentioned in the budget. But the point is, in terms of share in GNP, the expenditure on the social sector including education and health (Rs.1,51,581 crores) has come down from 1.2% in 2013 to 0.7% in 2015 to 0.6% in 2016. Again, the question is social discrimination and social rigidities may not lead to expected transformation.

I welcome the step of the Hon. Finance Minister for having withdrawn a tax on the withdrawal of P.F. (60%) which is the most regressive and unkind act which will definitely create dissension among salaried groups.

The most important pillar is Fiscal Discipline. The Hon. Minister has to be congratulated for maintaining a deficit at 3% and also for keeping the money supply under tight control. The Hon. Finance Minister has touched the subsidy payments and has taken steps to reduce subsidies and also strengthened direct payments to the

beneficiaries. The question is how to compute the exact income of the beneficiaries except in the case of a salaried group. Do we have any exact method?

On the one hand, the Finance Minister has hiked the indirect taxes which will reduce the disposable income of the poor and at the same time, the allotment for the social sector is reduced where they can enjoy the benefit. The taxation policy is very regressive and regrettable because it will definitely hurt the people at the margin.

It is also true that the Hon. Minister has done a few things to "Startup" industries and the new entrepreneurs.

Our problem viz. The problem of rivers which inundated Chennai city and Cuddalore district has not been fully compensated. An increase in indirect tax will hit the "Aam Admi". Minister is kind enough to give LPG connections after making the prices of all commodities go up because of indirect taxation.

The Budget has not spelt-out any long term plan for Health, Education and Employment. But less-than-expected support for bank recapitalization has disappointed. Services tax was left unchanged and long-term capital gains tax fears were left misplaced and the road development has been pushed forward.

In my opinion, the budget has a clear vision, but it lacks a proper mission. This budget is more theoretical and it is silent on the process of practice. In short, the budget has a few bright patches in the midst of dark regions. We can appreciate, if the Minister makes all his proposals practicable.

*SHRIMATI R. VANAROJA (TIRUVANNAMALAI): Our Hon. Chief Minister, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma while reacting to the general budget has said that the budget 2016-17 lacks flavor as it does not have any specific announcements of schemes which will have enthused different segments including the States. The budget has not been met with the expectation of the people of Tamil Nadu. Moreover, the budget also does not contain the status of implementation of many schemes announced in last year and the year before.

Our Hon. Chief Minister, Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has also said that the tax proposals in the budget are regressive- there are direct tax concessions amounting to Rs. 1,060 crore mostly due to corporate income tax concessions, while indirect taxes worth Rs.20,670 crore have been levied. This is a regressive approach which cannot be supported. However, our Hon. Chief Minister Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma has welcomed some of the announcements made in the budget such as the announcement of the scheme to cover five crore poor families with LPG connections. Our Hon. Amma Government in Tamil Nadu is already implementing similar schemes such as distribution of fans, mixies, grinders, etc.

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* Speech was laid on the Table

The expansion of the soil health programme and the soil card scheme is recognition of the efforts launched by Tamil Nadu, which pioneered the soil health card programme. Our Hon. Chief Minister has welcomed the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana but the budget allocation of Rs.5,500 crore appears grossly inadequate as the cost of farming and the loss of crop, if any, has a huge gap. Therefore, it is urged that the allocation under the Pradhan Mantri Fascal Bima Yojana be increased, so that the Yojana can really become beneficial for the farming community. Coming to the part of agriculture, I must say that the Government will have to raise allocation for the crop insurance schemes, as the gap between farmers' cost of farming and their loss, if any, is huge. Therefore, the Government should take note of it and allocate more for the crop insurance scheme, so that we can come to the rescue of several crores of our farmers who are the feeders of our nation when they suffer from any natural calamity.

Tax reforms made by the Government in the budget are indicative of giving a much required fillip to the housing sector. The industry has been expecting initiatives that can directly translate into benefits for the end consumer, thus increasing the velocity of transactions and improving the market sentiment. The additional tax

exemption of Rs. 50,000 for the first time home buyers is certainly a welcome move and we can expect a far greater traction of growth in the affordable housing segment which is the need of the hour to ensure a house for all.

*SHRI K. ASHOK KUMAR (KRISHNAGIRI): This is another budget in which I am allowed to express my views. It is needless to mention here that if I am putting forward my view points on the budget for 2016-17 presented by the Hon. Finance Minister, it is because of our beloved leader and Hon. Chief Minister Idhaya Dheivam Puratchi Thalaivi Amma who sent this ordinary person to this august House to represent Krishnagiri Parliamentary Constituency in Tamil Nadu.

Now all are aware that our Hon. Chief Minister has said that this budget lacks flavor as it does not have any specific announcements of schemes which would have enthused different segments including the states. The budget also does not speak of the status of implementation of many schemes announced last year and the year before. The people in Tamil Nadu had higher expectations, which have not been met.

Our Hon. Chief Minister, however, has welcomed the scrapping of distinction between plan and non-plan expenditure and also welcomed the budget's emphasis on agriculture and the objective of doubling farm incomes in five years. The decision to do away with the plan and non-plan distinction with effect from 2017-18 onwards

* Speech was laid on the Table

and focus instead on the revenue and capital outlays is in line with the suggestion made by our Hon. Chief Minister and our Hon. Chief Minister has welcomed it.

The fund allocations under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana towards uncompleted projects under the Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme would repeat the old error of skewing the fund allocations towards states which have a number of major and medium irrigation schemes pending completion, while depriving states like Tamil Nadu of funds, as they have already virtually exhausted the surface water irrigation potential, and accordingly our Hon. Chief Minister has expressed serious concern on it while reacting to the budget for 2016-17.

The budget provides for 100% foreign direct investment in food products. There is no doubt that the invasion of multinational companies into our food products segment would no doubt affect the domestic and traditional food product markets and, therefore, our Hon. Chief Minister has opposed such a move.

Now the government after government follows a pattern to levy cess on every item adding burden on the common people. Now there are several cess on many items and it now contributes to another way

of taxing. Therefore, our Hon. Chief Minister has strongly opposed such a move and wants such a move to be stopped.

The enhanced allocation in the road and highways sector by around 22% is definitely a positive for this sector. However, the privatization of the road sector is not a good move, and our Hon. Chief Minister has also opposed the privatization of the road transport sector.

The banking sector, especially the public sector undertaking banks have been demanding infusion of capital to remain competitive in the market. However, the allocation for bank capitalization of 25,000 crore rupees is only a patch on the Rs.1,80,000 crores that the Economic Survey has identified as the need of this vital sector. The banking sector has a major role to play in spurring private investment which is lacking and without which the all-round economic revival is not a possibility. Therefore, the Government needs to think about it very seriously.

[*]DR. MAMTAZ SANGHAMITA (BARDHAMAN DURGAPUR): The General Budget 2016-2017 placed by Hon. Shri Arun Jaitley apparently showing lots of concern regarding mass people mainly emphasizing on krishi and rural development needs appreciation.

New irrigation scheme, crop insurance, increasing funding for MNREGA and increasing budgetary allotment in MNREGA is appreciable. But, there are many places left out or unattended which is hampering general public interest. This is slowing down India's growth.

There is an increase in the number of senior citizens in the Indian scenario but there is very little allocation for welfare of senior citizens. The middle and lower middle class won't get any relief from this Budget. Taxation of PF return will pinch the entire salaried class. Moreover, there is very little provision of tax relief for the individual taxpayers. Tax on petrol and service taxes will be an extra burden for the middle class. 2% excise duty on readymade garments, 1% on petrol, LPG and CNG, 2.5% on diesel cars, 4% on higher capacity vehicles will exercise duty of 1% (without Central Vat credit) or

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[*] Speech was laid on the Table

12.50% (with Central vat credit) on artificial jewelry etc will pinch the pocket of middle class as well as small businessmen, auto and taxi drivers etc.

Health is wealth. Physically and mentally healthy citizens are directly involved in nation building and directly and indirectly responsible for the production of the country.

Unfortunately, the health sector allocation is neglected in the present Budget.

India's per capita spending on health care is lowest among BRICS countries. This Government is not taking the health sector judiciously. Being concerned about the dialysis Center is welcome but there are much more needy issues which are almost forgotten in this Budget. We all know India's main non-communicable health issue is cardiovascular disease and diabetes. Budget allocation regarding taking their problem and low cost health care forcibly is almost absent in this Budget. Another burning issue which is increasing health service burden and cost is cancer, especially cancer of genital tract and breast in women and cancer of lung etc. mostly in male. These diseases take the lives of almost a crore people in our country. This sector is not mentioned at all in this Budget.

Another pillar of Make in India is education. Budgetary allocation of education does not really reflect priority of mass education and top priority. Education budget may come down lower than last year's allocation. It is already less than 6% of GDP which is the minimum demand from the education sector.

Sarvasiksha Abhiyan is running out of funds, budget allocation was curtailed in previous budget and yet this budget does not show any improvement.

More Novodaya Vidyalayas are to be introduced but what about policies or allotments for existing Government and Government sponsored institutions?

Ten private and ten public higher institutions will be upgraded to World class level. Maybe a good gesture but it will only be beneficial for a limited number of students.

Allocation promise of Rs. 1804 crore for skill development is insufficient in respect of demography, workforce needs.

Announcement regarding Digital Literacy Mission for rural India is a good idea. But we must remember how feasible it is for rural India to make use of this technology in the future.

For healthy living in this world, we must maintain our forest lands and its habitats, clean environment. Unfortunately, in the last budget there was rather a budget cut in this sector. There is not much mention in this budget also.

Hope, the Finance Minister’s many new projects should come up fruitful but unless the vast public is benefited by more allotments for previous ventures and allotment for service and work, health and education all will go in vain.

[Translation]

***DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANGHAT):** Madam Chairperson, Bhola Singh Ji has said that the Prime Minister and especially the Finance Minister have lit the light and that light remains lit everywhere.But this light has reached till Bihar and after that it has not reached West Bengal.This budget has not done anything in the interest of our state, but I hope that when the budget will be announced next year, the Union Government will pay attention to our state.I am very grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this topic.

[English]

What was the expectation from this Budget 2016-17? Expectations in the domain of personal taxation, expectations for home buyers, expectations in the domain of TDS limit, structural reforms expected from this Budget, path of fiscal consolidation which was an important aspect, expectations surrounding the National Pension Scheme—all these expectations are not being fulfilled. Partly, a section of the society can gain something but a major share

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* Speech was laid on the Table

of the society is deprived of getting the benefits from this current Budget, 2016-17.

That is why, our Finance Minister of West Bengal, Shri Amit Mitra said that the Budget was directionless, and this is a Budget without any vision. This Budget is not people-centric, and there is nothing in the Union Budget for West Bengal.

I want to highlight some important aspects in relation to agriculture and farmers' welfare for which the Government has allocated a considerable fund of Rs.35,984 crore. Among these, 28.5 lakh hectares of land will be brought under irrigation; five lakh acres to be brought under organic farming over a three-year period; Rs.60,000 crore for recharging of ground water in India; Dedicated Irrigation Fund in NABARD with Rs.20,000 crore; and nominal premium and highest ever compensation in the case of crop losses under the PM Fasal Bima Yojana.

The Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitely in his 'Make in India' Budget speech laid more emphasis on agriculture and farmers' welfare with an aim to double the farmers' income in the next five years. He laid thrust on the rural sector and social sector, including health care, educational skills and job creation to make India a

knowledge based productive economy. He announced various allocations to agriculture and farmers' welfare sector with a total expenditure of Rs.35,984 crore. He also made announcements on infrastructure investment to enhance quality of life and bring financial sector and governance reforms to reduce compliance burden.

He added that nominal premium is also being implemented from this Budget. As key States including West Bengal gear up for assembly elections, it was not surprising that agriculture took the top slot in the Finance Minister's Budget for 2016-17. In his speech, Jaitley said that India was a bright spot in the global economy as he outlined his nine focus areas with social programmes and rural development taking at number 2 entry slots.

With agriculture being the main stage of the economy in States like West Bengal, Modi's Government thrust on rural development is bound to boost BJP in the poll-bound States and that is why they focus mainly on agriculture. Rising rural distress after back to back drought and having heavy defeat in Bihar have upset the calculus. The Government estimates that four of 10 Indians rely directly on farming for their livelihood.

Jaitley also assured that the Government intended to double the income of the farmers in the coming five years. He said a unified agriculture platform will be dedicated to the nation on the Birth Anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. The Government all the time is talking about Ambedkar; they take the name of Ambedkar; but they are not doing much for the people of Ambedkar. I request him to allocate proportionate funds for SC/ ST Sub Plans and place them everywhere in social strata – service sector, education sector, etc. The Government should secure their livelihood and respect them in a true way. By doing these things – not by installing monuments and memorials – they can really respect Dr Ambedkar. If you respect the down-trodden people, the depressed classes, SC/ST communities and improve the budgetary allocation for them, that will be the right way to respect Dr. Ambedkar.

The Government all the time gives emphasis on looking towards Eastern India. But what has the Government given to Eastern India, especially to West Bengal, the gateway of Eastern India? We have a long legitimate demand of setting up a Central Agricultural University in West Bengal. But this has not been taken up by the Government. West Bengal is the right place for setting up such a university because

it has good agricultural productivity. Almost all crops can be grown there and even in some of the horticulture crops West Bengal plays a leading role. Therefore, I urge upon the Union Finance Minister that when he is going to announce the next Budget, he should ensure that West Bengal gets a Central Agriculture University for the benefit of the people of the State.

Similarly, there is a need for Central Horticulture University. Some States of the Indian Union have Central Horticulture Universities. But in spite of West Bengal's position and contribution in the production of vegetables, flowers and fruits, there is no such university in my State.

If we compare the State of West Bengal with other advanced States of the Indian Union, the number of ICAR institutes is much less in West Bengal. So, we urge upon the Union Government to set up more institutes and sub-centres of CRIDA, IIHR, IIVR, Rice Research Institutes, etc. in West Bengal for boosting up agriculture production.

Another important thing, not related to agriculture, is Nabadwip, birthplace of Mahaprabhu Shri Chaitanya and renowned Vaishnav Dham. This should be taken up as a national heritage city. But that is also neglected by the Union Government. So, I once again request the

Union Government to look into the matter and accord national heritage town status to Nabadwip Dham.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Mandal, please conclude.

DR. TAPAS MANDAL: Madam, please give me two minutes.

A successful Budget is one which can benefit an economy, that too in such a way that all citizens are equally benefited. This Government's Budget is not for all. So, they should try to satisfy the aspirations of all sections of the people and also try to satisfy the aspirations of the people of West Bengal.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Mandal, please conclude.

DR. TAPAS MANDAL: Yes.

Lastly, I ask a question to the Union Minister. The Union Government presents the Union Budget every year. Will the Union Budget 2016 be able to stop farmers' suicide in India? The number of suicides committed by the farmers is ever increasing. So, some decisions in regard to certain matters need to be taken by the Government so that the percentage of suicides by farmers can be reduced subsequently and we can enter into a society where there will be no such incidents.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

Please conclude now.

DR. TAPAS MANDAL: Madam, please give me two minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have to complete in half a minute, not two minutes.

DR. TAPAS MANDAL: India has a serious problem. Indian farmers continued to take lives as monsoon failed in certain parts of India for the second straight year in a row. Parts of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Telangana and Odisha have been severely affected on account of poor monsoon and this has led to a continuous streak of farmers' suicide. Therefore, the Government has to focus on farmers' problems.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat.

[Translation]

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT (JODHPUR): Madam Chairperson, I rise to support the budget of the HON. Finance Minister. I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister, the Hon. Finance Minister and the Minister of State for Finance for changing the direction of the country's economy which was heading towards decline, by giving it momentum.

Madam, when the people of the country expressed their faith in the Bharatiya Janata Party, a full majority government was formed after thirty years. The economic scenario across the world at that time was such that America was recovering from the great recession. In Europe, except for countries like Germany, all other countries were going through a serious economic crisis or were in a bailout situation. Looking at Asia, China, which had recorded double digit growth for the last ten years, was going through a serious economic crisis. We all saw that China had not devalued its currency in the last thirty years, it had to devalue its currency twice in a week. In that situation, when a serious economic challenge was before us, the Hon. The Prime Minister's government had two types of opportunities. I represent the desert, I represent Jaisalmer and Jodhpur and the camel is commonly

found here. Whenever a camel faces a serious challenge, it occurs when a very strong storm blows. The dust flies with the storm and the camel faces a threat to its survival as the dust enters its nostrils. At that time, the camel has only one option to accept that challenge; either it takes the flying dust in its nostrils and accepts death or it hides its head in the ground and waits for the storm to pass by.

About the same situation it has been mentioned in many places in the Indian Puranas that when a pigeon sees danger in front of it, it closes its eyes. He sees that if I cannot see the problem, then perhaps the problem also cannot see me. This country was also facing a similar situation and the Hon. Prime Minister was facing such a situation at the time of that challenge when he had two options, either he could sit like a camel with his face buried in the ground and wait for that serious challenge, that storm, that economic crisis which the world is facing, to pass by. The second path was full of many challenges and thorns, that while facing those challenges, he should accept this serious economic crisis as an opportunity, by accepting it as a challenge, he should see it as an opportunity.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to thank from this floor of the House that the Hon. The Prime Minister has accepted this challenge.

I come from a village and it is said there that if a patient is treated by many Hakims and Vaidyas, his death is certain. The same situation was with the economy of this country. Many economists, I would not like to name them, from the Prime Minister to the Finance Minister and many others, were leading the economy of this country for the last ten years. They had created such a situation that the poor patient, who is treated by many doctors together and reaches his deathbed, was in such a condition. By rescuing the economy of this country from that situation, today the entire world is accepting that in the period of economic crisis the world is going through, only and only India is visible to everyone shining like a pole star. This change in direction and condition is the biggest achievement of this government. By changing the direction of the economy which was heading towards decline, even in this time of grave challenge and serious crisis, India has emerged as a shining star in the entire world. Madam, I would like to thank this Government, the HON. Prime Minister, the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Minister of State for Finance for that.

The budget is being discussed for two consecutive days in this House and everyone talked about the fact that this budget is dedicated

to agriculture. This budget is not only dedicated to agriculture, this budget is dedicated to the village, because as I said I come from a farmer's family and have been working in public life for 25 years. An engineer wants to make his son an engineer, a doctor wants to make his son a doctor, there are many lawyers in this House, they must have made their sons lawyers. There are many such people in this House who would have handed over the political legacy to their sons. There are many such people in this House who, despite being ineligible, might have handed over the political legacy to their son. But till date in 25 years I have not met a single farmer who wants to make his son a farmer. Because no one can understand the pain of farmers and agriculture. Politics was done in this country in the name of farmers. For 65 years, the farmers of this country were exploited economically and politically and were used as a political pawn. When the country became independent, 75 percent of the people were dependent on agriculture. 50 percent contribution to the economy was related to the agriculture sector, but unfortunately, after 65 years, today that contribution has reduced to only 12 percent. The agriculture sector was discussed in this House, the plight of farmers was discussed several times in this House. This subject has been discussed many times in this 16th Lok Sabha, but for the first time any government

has taken up the task of reviving and infusing new life into the agricultural system and the rural economy of this country.

Madam, this government presented three budgets. The first budget was presented as a supplementary budget and the second budget was presented last year and this is the third budget. If I look at these three budgets together, as an umbrella view, I remember Swami Vivekananda. Vivekananda gave the mantra - Stay awake, keep moving forward, keep moving forward until you achieve your goal.

Madam, he said get up, wake up and keep moving forward until you achieve your goal. So to wake up, as I said, the day our government was formed, the situation was such that our economy was in a dormant state and was like a patient who has gone into a dormant state because of the treatment of many doctors. We awakened it, through that budget we infused a new consciousness, and gave the message to the whole world that India's economy will no longer depend on anyone else. This government will work to revive the Indian economy by understanding the fundamentals of the Indian economy.

When the second budget was presented, we gave a clear message that now India's economy is ready to move forward. When we

presented the third budget, we indicated not just to India but to the entire world that the Indian economy has now started moving and the entire world believes that India is standing at the threshold of possibilities. India stands ready to lead the world from an economic perspective.

While I thank you very much, I will not juggle statistics, nor do I know how to juggle words, I only speak from the heart. I only talk about general public perception. The kind of perception that has been created in the society, the kind of perception that has been created in the country, today the whole country is applauding this, the whole country is thankful for this and believes that in the times to come, under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, India will emerge as a Vishwaguru and an economic power of the world. Thank you very much.

***SHRI HARIOM SINGH RATHORE (RAJSAMAND):** I congratulate and thank the government under the able leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley, India has been given a visionary and progressive budget for the year 2016-17. In this budget, along with fulfilling the present basic needs of India, arrangements have been made to present India before the world as an economically strong nation in the future. If we briefly introduce this budget then it can be said that the economy in the year 2015-16 has grown rapidly by 7.6percent. India has set new dimensions in the global slowdown economy and this has been appreciated by the IMF. Despite a 13 percent deficit in monsoon in the last two years and adverse global conditions, the load has achieved good growth. Foreign exchange reserves have reached an all-time high of around US$350 billion. In the year 2015-16, despite 55 percent higher transfers to the States as a result of the 14th Finance Commission awards, plan expenditure has increased at the Revised Estimates level as compared to the previous years.

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* Speech was laid on the Table

Here I would like to mention that the government has shown special sensitivity in the following areas in its budget:- Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, New Health Insurance Scheme to cover hospital expenses, Facility of LPG connection for BPL families

Continuing the District Reforms Programme, ensuring passage of the Service Tax Bill and the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Bill. Initiating the following key reform measures: providing statutory backing to Aadhaar platform to ensure access to benefits to eligible people, freeing transport sector from barriers and restrictions, providing market facilitation to encourage gas exploration and supervision, enacting comprehensive legislation to address problems of financial institutions, providing legal framework for dispute resolution and renegotiation in PPP projects and public utility contracts, introducing key changes in FDI funding and initiating key banking sector reforms and public listing of general insurance companies.

Along with the steps taken in view of the above economic reforms, the government has taken strong steps to make facilities available to the common people in different areas of the nation. A brief description of the areas in which these steps have been taken is

as follows: Agriculture and Farmer Welfare: Allocation of Rs 35,984crore for agriculture and farmer welfare, implementation of "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana" as a mission to improve water and irrigation facilities to every farm and providing irrigation facilities to 28.5lakh hectares of land under this. Earlier, 89 irrigation projects which were incomplete for a long time were approved by A.I.B.P. 20thousand crore for creation of dedicated long term irrigation fund through NABARD, provision of Rs. 6000 crore for multilateral funding for sustainable management of groundwater resources, start construction of 5 lakh farms, ponds and wells and 10 lakh compost pits for organic manure production through MGNREGA, inclusion of 14 crore farm holdings in Soil Health Card Scheme by March 2017, provision of soil and seed testing facility to retail outlets of 2000 models of fertilizer companies in the next 3 years, development of Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and organic value chain in North Eastern Region to promote organic manure, establishment of e-market system for wholesale markets through e-platform, provision of Rs. 19 thousand crore for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana by increasing allocation to Rs. 19 thousand crore, connecting the remaining 65 thousand eligible settlements with roads

by the year 2019, provision of Rs. 15 thousand crore in the year 2016-17 To assist tax farmers with interest subsidy in repayment of loans,

Allocating Rs. 5500 crore under the Prime Minister's ambitious crop insurance scheme dedicated to farmers, making a provision of Rs. 8850 crore for these dairy projects - (e-Pashudhan Sanjivani), (Nakul Swasthya Patra), (e-Pashudhan Haat), (National Indigenous Breed), (Genomic Center).

For development of rural areas:- Provision of Rs. 87700 crore for rural development, Rs. 2.87 lakh crore as grant-in-aid to rural and municipalities (to be given as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission), work to be done in every drought-affected and rural disaster-affected block in the form of Deendayal Upadhyaya Antyodaya Mission, allocation of Rs. 38,500 crore for MNREGA, development of 300 rural urban clusters under Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rural Urban Mission, 100 percent rural electrification by May 01, 2018, formation of district level committees under the chairmanship of Lok Sabha MP for implementation and monitoring of centrally sponsored schemes, allocation of centrally sponsored schemes on priority basis to reward villages with open defecation free scheme, inclusion of about 6 crore more families in a new digital

literacy mission for rural India in the next 3 years, renewal of National Land Record Modernization, Rs. 655 crore for a scheme called Rashtriya Gramin Swaraj Abhiyan (Rashtriya Gramin Swaraj Abhiyan) to make provision for)

For development in social sectors including health care:- To provide benefits for health and social upliftment to the people through various schemes.

In the field of education, starting 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan for providing quality education, developing 10 government and 10 private institutions as world-class educational institutions, provision of Rs. 1000 crore for higher education and financial support.

Allocating Rs. 10804 crore for skill development, setting up 1500 multi-skill training institutes, setting up National Skill Development Certification Board with the participation of industry and academia and providing entrepreneurial education and training through intensive open online courses..

Employment Generation:- Provision of Rs.1000 crore for paying 8.33% contribution for the first 3 years of employment to all new

employees enrolling in EPF, setting up of 100 model centers under National Career Service by the end of 2016-17.

Infrastructure and Mission:- The Government has allocated a very attractive amount in its budget this year for investment especially through various schemes to fulfill the basic needs.

From the economic point of view, the whole world is going through a period of recession. Even in such adverse circumstances, strong steps have been taken in this budget of the government to improve the financial sectors.

Various steps have been taken to provide governance and ease of doing business to encourage entrepreneurs to set up businesses in various sectors. The fiscal deficit stood at 3.9 percent in Revised Estimates 2015-16 and Budget Estimates 2016-17 and 3.5 percent respectively. This shows that the government has shown great prudence in financial management. Despite spending on various public welfare schemes, the government has been successful in keeping the fiscal deficit within a certain limit.

Apart from discussing these major points, the government has taken many other important steps, which can be highlighted as follows:- Providing relief to small taxpayers, promoting employment

and growth, taking important steps in the Make in India program, setting up attractive schemes with a view to increasing the pension received society, promoting cheap housing construction, raising additional resources for agriculture, rural economy and clean environment, providing certainty in taxation, simplification and rationalization of taxes, use of accountability certain technology.

In all these areas, the Hon. Finance Minister has displayed his understanding and foresight and the budget for the year 2016-17, on one hand, provides various opportunities for development to the people living at the last corner of our nation and to the industrialists who strengthen the nation economically and business-wise and has opened new avenues for all to strengthen themselves economically in a conducive environment. Here we can say that India is moving ahead towards establishing new records in this global race of economic era by finding solutions to its problems in the coming time. While giving my full support to this budget, I once again express my gratitude to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): Madam Chairperson, I rise to support and speak in favor of the budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance. I believe that at a time when the world is facing an economic crisis, maintaining the country's economy and increasing the GDP is a commendable job done by this Government. I congratulate the government which has kept the GDP at 7.5 percent. When this government was formed, at that time Modi Sahab's government made some commitments to the people of the country, Sabka Sath-Sabka Vikas, Make in India, Skill India, Cooperative Federalism, Jan Dhan Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana, through these schemes the people of the country saw a new change. Earlier, the country's development model was resulting in wealth being accumulated by a few people. In this country the rich were becoming richer and the poor were becoming poorer. Through these schemes, money reached the common people and I believe that the expectations that the people of the country had from this government were fulfilled. I would like to specifically say that in this budget, the villages have been taken care of, the farmers have been taken care of, the poor have been taken care of, and especially farming, which is considered the backbone of the economy, the crop insurance scheme that has been brought for the farmers is a very good

scheme. A provision of Rs 28 thousand crore has been made for the Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme, this is very good. Till now 46 percent of the land was irrigated, now 80 percent of the land will be irrigated and this will bring the farmers out of financial distress.

I feel like there's still a lot that needs to be done. This bandaging has been done, but the farmer is gone as a dead body, some measures will have to be taken to bring him back to life. I would like to give some suggestions regarding this to the Hon. Minister of Finance. First of all, my point is that until the farmer is not freed from debt, no matter how many facilities are given to him, they will be of no use to him. Sir Chhotu Ram had suggested some solutions like do one time settlement.

Whatever is the capital amount, take that much from them. He should not face trouble again and again, if he is made debt-free once, then I believe that the people of the country will never forget the favor of Modi Sahab's government throughout their lives.

Secondly, I think agriculture is going into losses. Some social reformers used to say that the best thing is farming, medium is business and the best is service. Agriculture had a 52 percent share in

the country's GDP. Now it is only 12 percent. I think that the Minister of Finance should form an expert committee to find out the possibilities of how farming can be profitable or how we can make agriculture profitable. An expert committee should be formed for this. At least if the formula given by the Swaminathan Commission for fixing the price is accepted, the farmer will be saved.

I would like to give a suggestion. Just like the railway budget is made separately, the agriculture budget should also be made separately. This will give a better opportunity to the farmers. This issue of diversification, less water, one drop one crop has been talked about by the Hon. Prime Minister. To make this practical, crops which require less water, like Basmati, should be cultivated. Basmati will be Tussaud if a market is created for it. Our Basmati was bought at Rs 14-15 hundred per quintal. Traders sold it for up to Rs 3 thousand per quintal. If Basmati Trade Corporation is formed, it would be very good.

Similarly, irrigation should be included in infrastructure. Irrigation is most important. If irrigation is taken into infrastructure, there will be curves and rain water will be managed, then I think what you want to do will be possible.

Integrated check post for export-import has been built at Wagah in our Punjab. Very limited items go out from it. When close to 300 items can be exported via sea route, why can only 60 or 65 items be exported via road route? I want to ask this. Some solution should be found for this.

Secondly, many good things have been said in "Make in India". There is an NFL factory in my constituency Nangal. There is a gas facility, pipes are installed, land is there and buildings are constructed. We only need Rs 250 crore, give it as guarantee. Extension of a factory worth Rs 6,000crore can be done for Rs 250 crore. All the urea that we import from Punjab, Haryana, Himachal, Jammu and Kashmir can be produced in this factory.

Secondly, the government has decided to celebrate the birthday of Guru Gobind Singh, which is his 350th birth anniversary, as a national festival. I want to say that today the best place in the country, the suitable place, the tourist range for everyone, is Anandpur Sahib. I think that with the Rs. 100 crore that has been arranged for it, some official trade or academy or a good tourism complex should be built there so that religious people can go there.

It has been discussed many times in the House that wild animals cause a lot of damage. For this, we have said many times that our government will provide half the money and the Centre will provide the other half. I believe that unless the farmers get mesh wire for their fields, their fields will not be saved. Animals destroy the crops. For this I definitely want to say that arrangements for this should be made.

In the end, we all talk about the security of the country. I want to say that unless you strengthen the border states, no matter how many measures you take for the security of the country, you will not succeed. Therefore, special incentives should be given to border states. Attention will have to be paid to setting up industries for border status. ... *(Interruptions)* Those doctors who do not go there out of fear, those masters who do not go to schools, special incentives should be given to them. You have said a very good thing about Shyama Prasad Mukherjee who has brought the Rural Urban Scheme. You are going to create 300 clusters, the first focal points were created in Punjab, for that also I would like to say that there should be some special incentives. Whatever they did in the villages, the norms for the width of roads for PMGSY should be changed so that we can take

advantage of it, and all the states can take advantage of it. I support the budget. Thank you.

DR. SATYAPAL SINGH (BAGPAT): Madam Chairperson, you gave me time to speak, I thank you very much for this. First of all, for the all-round development of the whole country, the government has presented the budget in a holistic manner, especially for the prosperity of the villages and the welfare of the farmers. For this budget, on behalf of crores of countrymen, I thank our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, Finance Minister Shri Jaitley Ji and Minister of State Shri Sinha Ji. I believe that the soul of Mahatma Gandhi is blessing the Prime Minister and the Government of our country a lot because Mahatma Gandhi had written in the year 1936 that the first duty of every patriot is to rebuild the villages and ensure prosperity of the farmers. When Mahatma Gandhi became convinced that this Congress was not of his thinking, was not of his ideas, his path changed. Many people would know that Mahatma Gandhi felt that this Congress should be dismissed and his foresight proved correct. When we compare some of the countries from the year 1950 to the year 2010 – Germany and Japan were almost destroyed in the Second World War, Israel became a new country in the year 1948 and India got independence in 1947.

Madam Chairperson, I would like to tell you something for the information of this House that in the year 1950, per capita income was the highest in the four countries of India, Israel, Germany and Japan. India's per capita income was US$353. Israel's per capita income was US$ 318, Germany's per capita income was US$ 236, Japan's per capita income was US$ 349, but in the year 2010, India's per capita income increased from US$ 353 to only US$ 470, Israel's per capita income increased 34 times to US$ 16070, Germany's per capita income increased 48times to US$ 22,470and Japan's per capita income increased 72 times to US$ 34,010. The leadership of this country never thought about the development of villages, farmers and workers. The result was that once people from all over the world used to come to this country to study, but now people here started going outside to study. I would also like to thank the government on behalf of lakhs of HON. voters of my Baghpat Lok Sabha constituency that after decades of neglect, the poor Chatak bird kept looking towards the sky, hoping that perhaps some drop of Swati Nakshatra would fall in its mouth, but in the last 60 years nothing has been done for this area. This is the first government which doubled our railway line for Baghpat area, announced electrification and gave a new railway line.

Madam Chairperson, I will not repeat anything said by the Hon. members here so that I can put forth my point in less time and also not get entangled in the web of statistics. But in the interest of the country, for the building of this nation, there are very important issues which I want to put before you. Jain Tirthankara Rishabhnath had said that if any society wants to progress, wants to move ahead, then three things are very important for it - Asi, Masi and agriculture, education, security and agriculture. If education is good then health will be good, if education is good then transparency will come, if education is good then anti-national slogans will not be raised in our colleges and universities. If education is good then books and articles will not be written against the culture of this country. The budget related to education has been increased by about six percent. Hon. Minister of Finance is sitting here. I thank him very much, but the condition of education in the country is still very terrible. Today our government statistics say that 60 lakh children do not go to school and we say that we have only 37 percent of people illiterate.

15.00 hours

These are the government statistics but the World Bank records and UNDP say that 70 percent of the people in India are illiterate. This

country says that one who knows how to write his name and sign his name is educated, but the world says that one should know how to read, write and even know a little bit of mathematics. According to that, 70 percent of the people in the country are still illiterate. 88 percent of people drop out. Only 12 percent go to college. 38 percent of graduates of this country study science, commerce, management, medical engineering and law.There are three thousand vocational training programs in the world and there are 400 in this country. According to government figures, 30 crore people are unemployed. Only four crore people have registered themselves. Our engineering, IITs, it is a matter of serious thought that in fourteen years, from 2001 to December 2014, our IITs, engineering colleges together got 127 patents in the world while only one MIT of America got 2,155patents. I would request the Minister of Finance that there is a need to pay more attention to primary education and higher education. Education is fundamental to the welfare of this country.... *(Interruptions)*

Madam, please give me some more time. I am not speaking about myself, I am speaking about the country. You will also get blessings by giving me time.... *(Interruptions)*

15.02 hours (Shri K.H. Muniyappa *in the Chair*)

We were talking this morning about the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education. But there is no such provision in this law that if parents do not send their children to school then any punishment will be imposed on them. If the state government and Union Government do not work then there will be penalties. There is a need to make such a provision in it. Unless there is compulsory education in this country that parents who do not send their children to school will be punished, nothing will happen. To bring such education, good investment will have to be made in the field of education.

Our friend Shekhawat ji was talking about Swami Vivekananda. I remember Maharishi Dayanand. He said that whether it is a prince or a princess, or the child of a poor man, there should be royal and caste rules to provide equal clothes, food and seat to everyone. Boys and girls must be sent to school from the fifth to eighth year onwards. Whoever does not send it should be punishable. There is a need to make such a law. We need to allocate a lot more budget to the field of education.... *(Interruptions)*

There is one thing common among the top ten most honest countries in the world. That is, there is value based uniform education. Can't we have the same syllabus, same curriculum from Kashmir to Kanyakumari? Can't you see that today different types of Kendriya Vidyalayas are running? Can't this type of education system be implemented in this country? To enhance education and skill development, only Rs 1900 crore has been given for skill development.... *(Interruptions)*

I want to talk about agriculture. I want to thank the Minister of Finance that the budget was increased a lot. The budget for irrigation was increased by 88 percent. But I want to say that the crop insurance scheme, if there is one insurance scheme for all the things of the farmers, like loss of livestock, farmer falling sick, damage to his house, when we go abroad then there is only one insurance for that, can we not think of one insurance for the farmers. I will request the Hon. Minister of Finance for this.

I would like to make one more request. I come from Baghpat area. This is a very important thing. In my Bag Patra area, sugar mills still have to pay Rs 396 crore to farmers. Can't we give Rs 400 crore directly to farmers? When we can waive off interest on Rs

19,000crore, can't we do this for the benefit of farmers? I specifically request this. The government still has a lot to do. The work is still left and the sight of the light of the angel is yet to be seen. Thanks a lot.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, there is a long list of many Members who want to speak. If you conclude within five minutes all the Members will get an opportunity to speak; otherwise, more than 50 per cent of the Members cannot get the opportunity. May I request you to kindly take not more than five minutes. If there are substantially very important points, you can take them up and I have no objection. But the time is very short. We should let all the Members get an opportunity.

[Translation]

***DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH):** I would like to thank the country's Hon. Prime Minister Hon. Modi Ji and the Minister of Finance Hon. Shri Arun Jaitley Ji from the bottom of my heart, because after a long time the budget presented by the NDA government has been different from the norm, in which instead of populist announcements the budget has been focused on agriculture and farmers.

Emphasis has been laid on Pradhan Mantri Crop Insurance Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Farm Irrigation Scheme, agricultural loan for the development of farmers, laying of network of roads in rural areas through Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and MNREGA.

The target of providing electricity to all villages by the year 2018 reflects the government's plan to strengthen the rural infrastructure.

Special attention has been given to the poor sections of the society in the budget. In the plan made by the government to provide cooking gas to poor women, poor women, especially rural women, have to bear the smoke equivalent to 400 cigarettes in 1 hour while

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* Speech was laid on the Table

lighting the stove. To save women from this, the government will provide free gas connections to poor families. For this, in the year 2016-17, 1.5 crore BPL families will be benefited. This scheme will also provide employment to the youth.

For the people of economically and socially backward classes, the government has made a provision of 20thousand 75 crore rupees to provide houses to the families living below the poverty line under the Pradhan Mantri Urban Housing Scheme under the Housing Scheme, which has been wholeheartedly welcomed by the people of the poor class.

In the budget, about 36 thousand crore rupees have been allocated for the agriculture sector with the target of doubling the income of farmers and along with this, a target has been set to distribute loans worth 9 lakh crore rupees to the farmers, which was 8.5 lakh crore rupees last year. Keeping in mind the increasing debt burden of farmers, a provision of Rs 15 thousand crore has been made for rebate in interest on agricultural loans.

An amount of Rs 5,500 crore has been allocated for the ambitious Pradhan Mantri Fasal Yojana of the HON. Prime Minister. In this,

farmers' crops will be insured at a very low premium rate and maximum compensation will be given in case of crop failure.

An initiative has been taken in the budget to make agriculture profitable through an irrigation scheme under the “Per Drop Per Crop” scheme through the Prime Minister Irrigation Insurance Scheme.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Vikas Yojana, 5 lakh acres of land will be brought under organic farming in 3 years. Under the National Soil Testing Scheme, soil testing and health cards will be provided to 14 crore farmers by 2017. Through all these schemes, the government plans to double the income of farmers by 2022.

Agriculture is the basic foundation of our country's economy. When the yield in farming is good, then the farmer takes the crop to the market and with the money received he buys a tractor, buys a house, sends his son or daughter for higher education, buys a vehicle, etc., which increases the demand in the market. With the increase in demand, the wheels of industries and factories start moving faster and the country starts moving towards industrial development. But, when the farmer sits down in despair after the crop is not good, the wheel of economic development stops.

Keeping this sentiment in mind, the government has focused the budget on agriculture and rural economy, in which, along with the farmers, the Gram Panchayats should also be taken forward rapidly in the race of development, to strengthen the Panchayati Raj system, now not only the cities but also the villages should become smart and prosperous, there should be good roads, clean water, clean schools, Panchayat Bhawan, community Bhawan and employment opportunities should also be available in the villages through MGNREGA, this will not only lead to complete rejuvenation of the village but will also stop the migration of people from the villages and the villages will also be equipped with all the facilities.

Efforts have been made to connect the villages of the country to the mainstream of Digital India by taking them ahead in the race of development from employment to digitalization, in which panchayats will get Rs 80-80 lakh for the development of the panchayat. For this, the government has made a provision of Rs 655 crore in the budget, which has been wholeheartedly welcomed by the rural people.

This time in the budget, the government did not announce the opening of big hospitals like AIIMS, but the decision to establish a health insurance scheme of Rs. 1 lakh for the poor and a dialysis center

in every district and the third decision to provide cheap generic medicines through about 3 thousand shops in the country is welcome.

In the budget, the government has decided to establish 1500 multi-skill training centers across the country with the aim of providing employment to the youth. A provision of Rs 17 crore has also been made for this. To connect the youth with the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the announcement of 100% tax deduction benefit on the profit earned by the start up companies for 3 years out of 5 years will give a big boost to the scheme in moving forward.

Skill India Mission aims to leverage the human population. Under this, 76 lakh youth have been given training. The proposal to upgrade the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana to skill one crore youth in the next three years is welcome.

For first time home buyers, an additional deduction of Rs 50,000 will be available on a loan amount up to Rs 35 lakh. The limit of deduction on rented houses has also been increased from Rs 20 thousand to Rs 60 thousand. This has also been wholeheartedly welcomed by the middle class society.

To increase the educational opportunities, there is a need to start Kendriya Vidyalayas in all the development blocks in all the states of the country.

Minerals are available in abundance in Tikamgarh-Chhatarpur parliamentary constituency of Madhya Pradesh. Where by opening industries based on these to increase employment opportunities, the youth of the region will get employment. There is iron in large quantities in the mountains of Hirapur, Bada Malhara, Bijawar, Kishangarh in this region. The work of iron production has been going on here since ancient times and iron furnaces have also been there for hundreds of years. Establishing a steel plant in Chhatarpur will lead to industrial development of this region and will also provide employment to a large number of people.

Bundelkhand is an agriculture based region and abundant government land is available here and the state government has also sent a proposal to provide land for the establishment of a Central Agricultural University here. With the establishment of Central Agricultural University in Tikamgarh not only will new opportunities for agricultural development increase but employment opportunities

will also increase. Therefore, assistance should be provided in establishing a Central Agricultural University in Tikamgarh.

In conclusion, I support the General Budget presented.

[English]

***SHRI B. VINOD KUMAR (KARIMNAGAR):** I welcome the increased allocation of Rs. 18,709 crore for agriculture but the amount should be even higher given its high potential to reduce poverty. The Finance Minister in his speech mentioned allocation of Rs.35,984 crore but the Ministry has received Rs.18,709 crore.

Presently, 46 million hectares area is not irrigated, of which Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana aims to irrigate 28.5 lakh hectares or approximately 3 million hectares. Therefore, PMKSY aims to irrigate only 4% of un-irrigated land. For the stuck projects under AIBP, the aim is to irrigate approximately 8 million hectares which is 10% of un-irrigated land. Thus, the Union Government aims to totally irrigate 14% of un-irrigated land. It should spell out the strategy for the remaining 86%.

I welcome the increased allocation at Rs. 20,158 crore to Human Resource Development, but it should be at least Rs. 30,000 crore for our needs. Also basic education is the foundation, so it should have more money. Presently, the amount allocated to higher education is

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* Speech was laid on the Table

Rs.15,425 crore, three times that of basic education which is Rs. 4,913 crore. This is inappropriate when the majority of Indians go for basic and not higher education. The ratio should be inverted and expenditure on basic education should be three times that of higher education.

I welcome the doubling allocation in the health sector i.e. from Rs. 7,719 crore in 2015-16 to Rs.11,360 crore in 2016-17. However, this is still inadequate. The Modi Government campaigned that it would increase health expenditure to 3% of GDP. The GDP of India is presently $ 2.08 trillion and 3% of this would be an astronomical amount of at least Rs.3 lakh crores. This may be excused as an election 'jumla' but the health allocation must be surely increased to at least Rs. 25,000 crore.

Expenditure on SCs, STs and minorities is too low. These cumulatively form nearly 40% of the country's population and are all in desperate poverty and backwardness. Allocation for Umbrella Program for development of SCs is Rs. 3,917 crore, for STs it is Rs. 1,759 crore and for minorities, it is Rs.1,245 crore. The total amount is Rs. 6,921 crore which is absurdly low for 40% of the population. It should be increased to at least Rs. 15-20, 000 crore.

Here a distinction must be made among minorities. As per Oxford Human Development in India Report 2011, Sikhs, Christians, Jains and Paris are the richest communities in India, even more than forward caste Hindus. Therefore, allocating money to them for development is not necessary. Development assistance must only be given to Muslims, Dalit Christians and Buddhists. The scheme must be modified to reflect this.

Allocation to the Ministry of External Affairs is too low at Rs.4,720 crore. India should have a bigger role in the world. The size of our diplomatic corps is miniscule at 900. Germany, a country the size of Rajasthan, has 6,550 diplomats in comparison. This needs an urgent expansion so they can defend the nation's interests abroad. Our diplomatic missions also need to be upgraded with better offices, etc. Thus the size of allocation should be at least Rs.10,000 crores.

The Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions has been allocated only Rs. 250 crore. If the State executes its functions properly it must invest heavily in developing its human resources. Government employees must be trained in the latest tools and techniques so that their productivity increases and they can handle the responsibilities expected of them. As this Ministry is meant for

upgrading government human resources, it must be given higher allocation of at least 1,000 crore.

The budget has earmarked Rs.900 crore for the development of judicial infrastructure in the states, merely Rs. 93.35 crore higher from Rs. 806.65 crores allocated in 2015-16. This is inadequate for the pressing demands of one of the three wings of the State. There is an urgent need for more courts, more judges, and more infrastructure. The judiciary is creaking under pressure and is on the verge of collapse. Therefore, the amount should be increased at least five times to Rs.5,000 crore.

The Ministry of Earth Sciences can be clubbed with the Science Ministry. The Ministry of Corporate Affairs has been given a pathetic amount of Rs.20 crores. It makes sense to merge it with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Ministry of Planning has been allocated only Rs.200 crore. It can either be abolished or merged with the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation.

More efforts must be made to bring rich people under the tax net. The execution capacity of all vigilance departments is very low. There is rampant corruption in customs and excise departments. The Government must fill up all vacancies immediately and strengthen

administrative capacity so that direct tax collection ability increases. Further, there must be ruthless crackdowns on tax evaders and a zero tolerance message must be sent out. As per the Economic Survey, only 4% of Indians pay income tax and this number must be increased.

Agricultural income tax has become a method of tax evasion. The Government must consider introducing tax on this for the very rich. The Government must introduce the Direct Taxes Code at the earliest. An inheritance tax should be introduced with a rate of about 3%.

The Government must also introduce public funding of elections. It is high time that the power of Big money is curtailed. A discussion must be initiated on the mechanisms for public funding of elections.

The massive Non Performing Assets of approximately Rs. 8 lakh crore should be tackled stringently. Banks should be held accountable for reckless lending and stringent action should be taken against defaulters. Bank recapitalization should be put on hold and no loan waivers must be given for rich defaulters.

The Government has made a big brouhaha about the 14th Finance Commission Devolutions, but there have been devolution of funds, not that of tax powers. The Government should initiate devolution of

tax powers themselves rather than just revenue in move with the overall tendency towards greater devolution.

The Finance Minister should also clarify whether Indians are still availing of aid under PL 480 (Title II). The USA has been donating agricultural commodities as outright grants. USAID has disbursed a total amount of US $ 11.00 million in 2009-10 as compared to US $ 11.93 million disbursed during 2008-09."

The Union is heavily dependent on borrowing. The largest amount of income (21%) comes from borrowing and other liabilities. Income from market loans alone are Rs. 4,25,181 crore, almost as much as income from corporation tax at Rs. 4,93,923 crore (as per Budget Estimates). Such high borrowing is bad for union fiscal management as large amounts of expenditure will be incurred in repayment of interest.

The Government must focus more on direct taxes as a source of income and less on indirect taxes as they have an inflationary effect and less on borrowing as they lead to wasted money in interest repayments. We need to increase the share of revenue from income tax to at least 20% and corporation tax to at least 25%.

A high reliance on indirect taxes is detrimental to the common man as it affects all, not just the rich. The share of revenue obtained from service tax is very high at 9% and efforts must be made to reduce this to about 6%.

The negative consequence of high borrowings can be seen from the fact that the second highest expenditure is on interest payments (19%) after the giving away the States' share of taxes and duties (23%). The Union needs to reduce its debt. Interest payments as a percentage of net tax revenue are at an all time high of 46.7% which was only reached during the Recession year of 2009-10.

I regret that despite repeated attempts, the Union did not grant national status to the Pranahita-Chevella irrigation project. It is also unfortunate that there is no mention about setting up an All India Institute of Medical Sciences and Indian Institute of Management as had been sought by the Telangana Government in the Union Budget.

The pleas to exempt civic bodies like Greater Hyderabad Municipal Corporation (GHMC), the Hyderabad Metropolitan Development Authority (HMDA) from income tax was also ignored.

A paltry and unrealistic Rs. 1 crore has been allocated to the tribal university.

Despite being a revenue surplus State and despite repeated requests there has been no relaxation for Telangana under Fiscal Responsibility and Budgetary Management (FRBM) norms.

Hon. Chief Minister of Telangana Shri K. Chandrashekhar Rao has also made a special appeal to the Prime Minister for sanctioning Rs. 30,000 crore for the development of backward areas in TS. This too was not granted.

[Translation]

SHRI NINONG ERING (ARUNACHAL EAST): Chairperson Sir, all the statements made from our Treasury Benches were very good speeches but they sounded like political speeches. Keeping my time in mind, I would like to speak about the North-Eastern States, and particularly Arunachal Pradesh. The Hon. Prime Minister had visited Arunachal Pradesh last year, he had talked about development and progress, about speed, but the way you have seen the budget speech of the Minister of Finance today, what he has done for the North-Eastern states, I will present it to you briefly through figures. There is no talk of statistics in today's speech. North Eastern states are different from mainland India, it has a lot of shortcomings, difficulties and problems. I will discuss the allocation you have made for the North East Council from the funds set aside by the Donor Ministry. This year, Rs 33,000crore has been talked about which is Rs 2000 crore more than last year. You say there will be a very long jump, there will be a quantum jump, in this we do not see any quantum jump.

Here we say seven sisters and Sikkim is the brother. By allocating Rs 2000 crore for so many states, they were expecting a huge jump. You will look at this limit once again. When you talk

about MNREGA that an amount of Rs 38,500crore has been kept, it is a very good thing. You yourself know that the Hon. Prime Minister had said that this is proof of the failure of the Congress. Similarly, all our programs are just a matter of copy and paste. You can take the Rajiv Gandhi Rural Electrification Scheme or Deendayal Scheme, Indira Awas Yojana or Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, you will also support all the work we have done, we have thought of something for the poor and the backward classes. I will not take much time. You want to misguide people. We want to tell this to people.

What is happening in MGNREGA in Arunachal Pradesh? Your government has completed two years. Earlier you used to say what did we get during our rule? In two years, it still gives the amount for 5 days or 10 days or 11 days under MNREGA. You will provide jobs worth Rs 2000 crore and remove unemployment, that will be your failure. We tried to bring all these plans. According to the report received through MIS, there is a problem in the telecom system. It is difficult to report in remote areas. For this, I would like to tell the Minister of Finance and the Rural Development Minister that we should provide convenience in this and try to ensure that the entire amount reaches there. Unless we reach this amount to them, this

amount, whether it is Rs 40 crore, 48 crore or Rs 1000 crore, is of no use.

I want to talk about the irrigation scheme. I had also talked about the Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme last time. China has set up huge power projects here, so what steps have you taken regarding them? What discussions have you had with China about that? When you stop the Brahmaputra river and set up four power projects, then all the north-eastern states including Assam will face water shortage. I want to ask what plan have you taken in this or what type of international agreement have you made? Please answer this also in your reply.

You have allocated an amount of Rs 6 crore for tourism in our North-Eastern states. Now you see how you will be able to bring development in each state with this amount of money? Similarly, when you talk about development, transportation should also be included in it.Now, with an amount of Rs 150 crore, how are you planning to build a road there? We need an answer to this as well.

Speaker Sir, although we have many problems, but I would like to say to the Minister of Finance that:

Relationships are not those in which you talk everyday,

Relationships are not those in which you are together everyday,

Relationships are those in which no matter how much distance there is,

But we remember him in our hearts.

Our Arunachal Pradesh, called the Land of the Dawnlit Mountains, is a gift of nature to all of you in the North-East, what kind of development will you bring if you leave it? You talk about the Bangladesh connection. You say Look East, At East, but that is just rhetoric. The type of speech you give is just rhetoric, unless you increase the rate of development, unless you put more money into it, there will be no change in it. We demand a project worth Rs 2,000 crore in NEC but you will give only Rs 700 crore in it, then what kind of development will come?

Chairperson Sir, you and we belong to the same party, so you should have given us more opportunity to speak, but I still thank you

very much that by giving us our time limit you gave us the opportunity to present our area's views. I have a special request to the Minister of Finance that you must pay attention to our Arunachal Pradesh, especially where China has so much dominance. Thank you.

***DR. YASHWANT SINGH (NAGINA):** Thank you for giving me the opportunity to express my views on the General Budget. This is the first budget since independence which has been prepared keeping in mind the individual's thoughts towards the country. Today, farmers of the country are committing suicide every day somewhere or the other, the reason for which is the long-term neglect of the Congress government at the Centre towards the problems of farmers. The mission to complete 23 projects with Rs 1700 crore this year for providing water to 54 percent of the country's non-irrigated land and at the same time to complete 89 projects with Rs 86,500 crore in a period of five years is equivalent to giving life to the farmer. The work of water management under the Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme and Deendayal Antyodaya Mission is special in itself. By depositing minimum installment for the farmer, compensating the loss from insurance with Rs. 5500crore under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana will definitely prevent farmer suicides. Farmers will have the right to sell their produce across the country through the integrated agricultural marketing e-platform. This time, more allocation has also been made for the loans available to farmers.

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* Speech was laid on the Table

Pandit Deendayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana is a step towards dispelling the darkness of centuries by electrifying 18000 villages, which did not have electricity supply till now, by the year 2018. The villages are going to be transformed with Rs 80 lakh for the development of every village and Rs 21 crore for municipal bodies. Along with this, development of 300 rural clusters on urban lines under Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rural Urban Mission is an important scheme in itself.

This is the first budget which has a mission to provide LPG connections to 1.5 crore poor families belonging to BPL category. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, a provision of Rs. 9000 crore has been made and there is also a mission to reward villages for making them toilet-freeges.

Illness is a curse for a poor person. Our Government has announced to provide insurance cover of Rs. 1 lakh for poverty and critical illness along with an additional top up package of Rs. 30,000 to the persons above 60 years of age. Every district hospital should be equipped with dialysis and private institutions can also easily install dialysis machines, for this tax exemption has been given. A very large section of the country is made up of laborers, whose life depends on

their daily earnings. The government has kept the allocation for MNREGA at Rs 38,500 crore. Here I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Prime Minister that the MNREGA wages are much less than the normal wages, it should be increased and by separating the allocation for wages from the material allocation, NREGA workers should be given 150 days of employment in any case. Separate provision should be made for the material and the scheme should be linked to various departments. According to the data till now, workers get employment for less than 50 days. Fisheries industry, animal husbandry industry, dairy industry, honey industry and other industries should be promoted at the government level and linked with MNREGA.

By investing more than Rs 1 lakh crore in the road and transport sector, stalled projects have been completed. With a total investment of Rs. 97000 crore, highways and all rural roads will be strengthened and unprecedented changes are being made in the railways. Approval of 10,000 km of highways in a year and upgradation of 50,000 km of state highways as national highways is a special step. Similarly, important programmes are being made for the upgradation of waterways, airways and rail routes.

Pradhan Mantri Mudra Bank, Kaushal India, Skill India, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, all these are such steps through which employment is generated for unemployed youth after training them. Under this scheme, last year more than 2.5 crore people have been given employment generation opportunities by giving them loans and a target of Rs 180,000crore has been set for the year 2016-2017.

Keeping the poor in mind, converting 3.0 lakh out of 5.35 lakh fair price shops into automatic shops, making them Aadhar based, is a major step towards corruption prevention. The budget in itself is pro-poor, but I would also like to say here that the poor people of the country clean gutters, risk their lives on tall buildings and do the most difficult and smelly jobs. Their jobs are done by private hands, which do not provide full wages, there is exploitation at every level. Even after death the family does not get any help. I request that a separate budget provision should be made for the death or disability of such poor people. I conclude my speech with these words.

SADHVI SAVITRI BAI PHULE (BAHRA ICH): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me the time to speak on the General Budget for the year 2016-17. I also thank our Minister of Finance, Hon. Arun Jaitley ji, who has presented a very good general budget. Today in the House, I express my gratitude to our Lok Sabha Speaker Madam who called women representatives from every corner of the country and organized a women's conference in Delhi. He worked to advance women's dignity, self-respect and right to education.

Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to say that this work should have been done long ago, but the doors to education were closed for women. Earlier, a law was made in which it was written that 'Stri, Shudro Vidya Naadhyatam'. Knowledge should not be given to women and Shudras, but I salute Mahatma Jyotirao Govindrao Phule, born in Pune, Maharashtra. He educated his wife and Savitri Bhai Phule ji established a school and worked to educate women and girls despite facing many difficult circumstances. Taking inspiration from HON. Savitribai Phule ji, women have reached the position from Panch to Prime Minister and His Excellency the President. Not only this, today through the House, I want to bow down to the feet of Mata Savitri Bai

Phule ji and demand that a holiday be declared on her birthday and Women's Education Day be celebrated in her name.

I would like to inform the House that if Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar had not made provision for reservation for women in the Constitution of India, women would not have got the opportunity to reach here. In this very house, Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar had torn and thrown away the page on which was written - Stri Shudro Vidya Na Adhyatam (women and women are not educated). Women should not impart knowledge to Shudras. Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar worked to empower women by passing the Women's Code Bill in the Lok Sabha. Today, I pay my tribute to the actions of Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar, due to whom women got the opportunity to progress. Not only from Panch to Prime Minister and President, but women have got the opportunity to advance in the executive, judiciary, legislature, this is all thanks to Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar.

Today the general budget of 2016-17 is being discussed here. The budget that the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji has brought in the general budget is in the public interest and social interest. This budget has been presented keeping in mind the

Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, backward castes, women and children, that is, everyone. I express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister of the country, Narendra Modi, who, having grown up in poverty, has presented the budget keeping the poor in mind. For this, I am deeply grateful on behalf of my countrymen and the people of the region. Whether it is the Jan Dhan Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Mudra Yojana, the Irrigation Scheme, the Sukanya Yojana, the Beti Bachao Beti Padhao Yojana, the Kisan Kalyan Yojana, the Health Scheme or the Skill Development Scheme, by implementing all these schemes, the work of providing employment to the people of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, Backward Caste, minority community, who are weak and helpless, has been done and work has been done to take them forward.

The budget presented by Hon. Narendra Modi is opposed by the Congress Party people in the Rajya Sabha and in the Lok Sabha. After 68 years of independence, the Congress Party has ruled the country for 50-55 years. ... *(Interruptions)* I am a Scheduled Caste woman, I do not speak again and again, I should be given an opportunity to speak.

Chairperson Sir, I want to say that the Congress Party has ruled this country for 50-55 years. What did the people of Congress Party give to the people of our society? During independence, people of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, minority class and backward caste made sacrifices and freed the country. When our country was becoming independent, they had a hope that if the country becomes independent then we will also become free, we will get two meals a day, clothes to wear, house to live in, land for farming. But it has to be said with great sadness that even after 68 years of independence, 30 percent of people are still trapped in the chains of slavery and there has been no change in their condition and direction. What was given to the Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe, minority class, backward caste and weaker section of general caste in this country? They kept taking votes and ruling the country by giving loans in the name of poultry farming, loan in the name of goat rearing, loan in the name of pig rearing, loan in the name of sheep rearing, loan in the name of donkey rearing.... *(Interruptions)*

I should be given time to speak, I have not been able to say anything about my area. I want to say that the condition of the Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe people is the same even today

that they are forced to earn their daily bread by peeling the skin of dead animals, cleaning dirty drains and carrying filth on their heads. If Baba Saheb Bhimrao Ambedkar had not made provision for reservation for the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Minority Classes and Backward Castes in the Constitution of India, the condition of our society today would have been the same. Despite Baba Saheb Ambedkar doing so much, the people of the Congress Party always looked at Baba Saheb with an inferiority complex and lowly spirit. During the tenure of 50-55 years, not even a single statue of Baba Saheb was installed in the country. The Congress Party has never respected great men. If anyone has done this, it is the Bharatiya Janata Party, it is the Hon. Narendra Modi who has done it.

SHRI RAHUL SHEWALE (MUMBAI SOUTH CENTRAL): Sir, you have given me time to speak on the General Budget, I have stood up to speak in support of this budget.

I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for making very good provisions in this budget for the upliftment of farmers and to compensate for the losses caused due to natural disasters. But all these schemes are for landholding farmers but landless farmers are not going to get any benefit from this scheme. I request the Minister of Finance to make some provision for landless farmers in this budget, like under MNREGA, employment should be provided to landless farmers in every village and financial benefits should be given to them. Number of landless farmers in India, state wise There are a huge number of landless farmers, 56 percent, in the whole nation and their population is up to 40 crores. Only in Tamil Nadu it is 73 percent, in Kerala it is 72 percent, in West Bengal it is 17 percent, in Punjab it is 65 percent, in Madhya Pradesh it is 55 percent, in Maharashtra it is 53 percent, the landless farmers are 56 percent. Therefore, some scheme for landless farmers should come through the Union Government. I urge the Hon. Minister of Finance to declare a pension scheme for landless farmers. There is no scheme for landless agricultural laborers

in the 2016-17 Budget. As per the data I mentioned earlier there are 40 crore farm laborers. Instead of leaving them at the mercy of MNREGA, a pension scheme of Rs. 4000 should be started for them after the age of 50 through the Union Government. In this budget, a provision of Rs 15000 crore has been made for the loan waiver of farmers, which is very less. If you look at Maharashtra alone, keeping in mind the suicides that happen by farmers there, this budget should be increased to Rs. 30000 crores. There is a need to provide relief to the farmers by setting up a National Farmer Commission as per the order of the Supreme Court and by making provision for an assured income for them.

This year we are celebrating the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar and under this birth anniversary year, we have also declared various schemes through the government. But the budget for social justice debate has been allocated less this year. There is no provision in this budget for the welfare of tribals. They need a road map. In this budget, as a powerful program for the welfare of SC/ST, provision of a monitoring committee should be made so that its complete implementation is done properly and the percentage of SC is 15.8 and that of ST is 8.8, if the entire budget is seen then it is a

budget of Rs 19 lakh crore. If seen against the population, SC should get a budget of Rs 3,32000 and ST should get a budget of Rs 1,70000. For the self-reliance of the unorganized labor, comparatively Rs 99 crore has been reduced in the budget of 2015-16, it should be increased. The provisions made for the disabled welfare programme have also been reduced compared to last year.

Disability law should be implemented, for which provision of Rs 79 crore was made last year, it has been reduced. Last year, there was a provision of Rs 9 crore for scholarship after matriculation, which has been reduced to Rs 7.2 crore and last year there was a budget provision of Rs 31.55 crore for NHFDC, which has been reduced to Rs 27 crore. I request the Minister of Finance that there should be no cuts in any budget scheme for the welfare of the disabled.

Sir, I come from Mumbai and Mumbai is the economic and commercial capital of our country. Special attention is required for the development of Mumbai. This requires improvement and development of infrastructure in road, rail and sea sectors. Recently, the Make in India program was successfully conducted by the Hon. Prime Minister in Mumbai. At the inauguration of the programme, people from different sections of the country were invited to

contribute towards the Make in India programme. In this context, I want to say that if Mumbai has to be made an international and economic business hub or an international financial hub, then a special fund should be created for Mumbai. Whatever infrastructure projects there are in Mumbai, be it solid waste management, roads or any other infrastructure project, when we submit them to the Union Government, Mumbai does not get funds because the state's quota is exhausted. My special demand is that Mumbai's infrastructure should get funds. 30-40 percent of the revenue generated for our country through Mumbai comes from the citizens of Mumbai. If special funds are given to Mumbai, it will help in making it an international finance hub. I request the Minister of Finance that last year the Central assistance to all the states was increased by 10 per cent, out of which one percent should be given to the infrastructure of Mumbai because citizens from every part of the country live in Mumbai. A special development fund should be created for Mumbai and help should be provided by the Union Government.

I would like to request the Hon. minister that tax exemption should be given to infrastructure projects because if we build smart cities then there is a need to help in developing infrastructure there. If

tax exemption is given on contractor's material and project then Smart City project can be successful. Regarding health in Mumbai, I want to say that the ESIC hospitals need to be upgraded and the project of Mumbai Metro Blood Bank which is being done by the Union Government should also be completed as soon as possible. A health university for all the hospitals related to Mumbai Municipal Corporation should be established in Mumbai. Regarding education in Mumbai, Kendriya Vidyalayas should be established as their number is very less. Arrangements should also be made for the hostels that exist. Mumbai is known for Bollywood. We get tax from Bollywood, when the Make in India program was in Mumbai, then to encourage them, a 50% discount should be given in production tax. All the movies today which do business of 50 crores or 100 crores should have a tax ratio on their sales, and the tax on their production should be reduced by 50 per cent. There is a place for the Sports Ministry in Kandivali, Mumbai; a Sports University should be built there.

Today the movement of gold traders is going on throughout the country. This movement has been supported by Shiv Sena. I would like to tell the Hon. Minister of Finance that there is one percent excise

tax, it should be reduced, if not then this tax decision should be stayed till GST is implemented.

[English]

***SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR):** The Budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, for the year 2016-17 is, to some extent, disappointing. Lot of Members of Parliament have participated in the discussion and have stated many factors with regard to the General Budget 2016-17. Few Members have welcomed the Budget and majority of the Opposition Members who spoke from the Opposition side have opposed the Budget. I oppose the Budget for the following few reasons.

In my observation and perception, this budget is highly prejudiced, partial, passive, paradoxical and pathetic. The Budget we find is that it is more of a corporate-friendly budget than a common-man friendly budget.

The Finance Minister's tax proposals result in a revenue gain of approximately Rs. 19,000 crore through an indirect tax gain of Rs. 20,000 crore, and a direct tax loss of Rs. 1000 crore. This shows that the Government has given concessions for upper strata, for business

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* Speech was laid on the Table

class while it has imposed a burden on the common man. Is it not then correct to call this a pro-rich and pro-corporate Budget?

The Budget allocations for the poor, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, women and children have drastically reduced. Therefore, this budget is highly prejudiced against the poor , SCs, STs, women and children.

When the global prices of crude oil and petroleum have come down considerably, the inflation is contained and we have a comfortable Foreign Exchange Reserves. In such a favorable situation, the Finance Minister is not serious about fiscal consolidation. So, this Budget is absolutely passive. And instead of passing on the benefits of oil price decline to consumers, the Government has hiked excise duties on petrol and diesel, mopping up thousands of crores of additional revenues.

The chasm between the haves and have-nots is growing day by day. After this budget, the rich will become richer and the poor will become poorer. The Finance Minister is giving more money to the rich and less money to the poor. So, this budget is symbolically paradoxical.

In a welfare state, development cannot be measured only on the basis of high-rise buildings, smart cities, high-speed trains, digital India, Make in India, etc. In fact, the yardstick of development should be on the basis of people's education, employment, health-care, fooding, housing, etc. These things are not visible in this budget. Hence, this budget is dismal and pathetic.

The Government of India has not mentioned anything about the Minimum Support Price (MSP) to the farmers who grow agricultural products. Agriculture is the backbone of the country. Much importance should be given to the encouragement of the farmers to grow more to meet self-sufficiency in food production. But, unfortunately, the Hon. Finance Minister has not given any attention towards this side. As of now, the country is not sufficient in food production. Knowing fully well about the situation, the Hon. Finance Minister has failed to provide any importance to this sector, though they have been declaring that agriculture is also one of the priority sectors in the country.

The Finance Minister is now silent on his 2014 announcement of 'health for all' and free drugs and diagnostic service. This time, the Finance Minister has allocated a sum of Rs. 39,533 crores to the

Ministry of Health which is very meager in meeting the demand of the people's medical needs. When we are encountering dreaded diseases like H1N1, AIDS, etc., this is a very small amount and needs to be increased to at least Rs. 50,000 crores.

Now, this budget has nothing for the middle class. No tax rebate for the middle class, only some tax saving bonds for them. The Finance Minister himself says, "The Middle class will take care of themselves". If this is the attitude, time will tell us who takes care of whom? This is very important and to be noted.

MGNREGA is not killed. But the Government is reluctantly funding it. The Finance Minister has allocated Rs. 38,500 crores only for MGNREGA which is not sufficient. Keeping in view the volume of backlogs and unpaid wages in all the states, this allocation is very meager and impractical. With this reluctant funding, MGNREGA will die in the near future.

Skill development is something on which we have to lay emphasis. We have the world's largest youth population totaling to about 360 millions and more than 10 millions are added every year. The highest level of skilled people that we need is in infrastructure with 105 million followed by auto and auto components (35 million),

building and construction (33 million) and textile industry (28 million). To train a 360 million workforce, we need 4200 billion dollars by 2020 and what we are spending now is very much below normal. So, this needs to be increased and industry, service sector, PSUs have to be roped in and utilize their resources for skill development.

Our PSU Banks are not performing well. All put together, NPAs or distressed loans, it comes to around 20 per cent. Maybe that, even in 2008, at the worst crisis, none of our banks suffered; none of the banks were closed. But now the thing has come to that precipice that, maybe, the banks will suffer heavily. World-over they suffered, but in India they did not suffer. Now, it seems that our banks will suffer.

Lastly, I request the hon. Finance Minister to increase the MPLADS funds to Rs. 15 crore so that the Members of Parliament can take up more developmental activities/works in their constituencies and help the people.

*SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): This year's budget truly reflects the Government's intent to transform India through its own novel initiatives like Skill India, Start up India, Make in India and Digital India and Swachh Bharat Programmes.

This can be termed as the best general budget in the decade as it put the highest thrust on Indian agricultural and rural development which by one stroke demolished the false criticism of Shri Narendra Modi's Government as Suit *Boot Sarkar*. This budget is hailed by all sections in the country and the media, even making remarks that this budget has really nothing that can feed opposition parties to raise their voice against the Government.

The 7.6 per cent growth in the GDP at constant market prices in 2015-16, according to the advanced estimates of the Central Statistics Office, compares favorably with growth in the previous three years; 7.2 percent in 2014-15, 6.6 percent in 2013-14 and 5.6 per cent in 2012-13.

There is a reason why India has been referred to as a bright spot in the world by the IMF amongst the global economic slowdown. The

* Speech was laid on the Table

reason is lower inflation, lower current account deficit, and robust foreign exchange reserves.

The Indian economy has held its ground firmly amidst global headwinds, with our foreign exchange reserves at the highest ever level of US $ 350 Billion, and the current account deficit (CAD) declining from US $ 18.4 Billion in the first half of last year to US $ 14.4 Billion this year. The CAD is projected to be 1.4 % of GDP by the end of this year.

Even with the combination of the 7th Pay Commission, implementation of OROP and the global economic slowdown, it is commendable that we have stuck to our fiscal deficit target. The fiscal deficit in RE 2015-16 and BE 2016-17 have been retained at 3.9% and 3.5% of GDP respectively. Budget documents assure that the fiscal deficit target in 2015-16 (despite being lower in nominal terms), will be achieved, without any reduction in expenditure.

The headline WPI inflation declined much faster than the CPI inflation, following the global trend of declining commodity prices. WPI inflation has been in the negative territory since November 2014 and it averaged (-) 2.8 percent in 2015-16 (April-January), as compared to 2.0 per cent in 2014-15.

The headline inflation, based on the CPI (combined) series, dipped to 4.9% per cent during 2015-16 (April-January), as against 5.9 percent in the year 2014-15. Food inflation measured in terms of Consumer Food Price Index (CFPI) declined to 4.8 percent during 2015-16 (April-January), as compared to 6.4 per cent in 2014-15.

The growth in agriculture, industry and services is estimated at 1.1 per cent, 7.3 per cent and 9.2 percent in 2015-16 as opposed to (-) 0.2 percent, 5.9 percent and 10.3 percent respectively in 2014-15. This shows a pick-up in industrial growth, driven by manufacturing which is estimated to grow at 9.5 percent (in 2015-16), as compared to 5.5 percent registered in 2014-15.

The performance of key industrial sectors based on the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) reveals a pickup in industrial production in the first three quarters of 2015-16. Growth in IIP in April-December 2015 was 3.1 percent, higher as compared to 2.6 percent in the same time period last year. As per the sectoral classification of IIP, the electricity sector grew by 4.5 percent, manufacturing by 3.1 percent and mining by 2.3 per cent during April -December 2015-16.

In 2015-16, as per the advance estimates, the services sector accounting for 53.3 per cent of India's gross value added at current basic prices, is estimated to grow at 9.2 per cent (at constant prices).

Imports of petroleum, oil and lubricants (POL) declined by 41.4 per cent in 2015-16 (April-January) to US $ 73.1 billion, as compared to US $ 124.8 billion in the corresponding period of previous year, mainly due to the decline in international crude oil prices.

On a BoP basis, there was a net accretion to India's foreign exchange reserves by US $ 61.4 billion and US $ 10.6 billion respectively in 2014-15 and 2015-16 (April- September). Buoyant remittances (private transfers) supplemented the lower crude oil prices in reducing the current account deficit, and lower but the significant capital flows-resulted in a sizable capital account surplus. This resulted in an increase in the stock of foreign exchange reserves, which stood at US $ 350.3 billion at end September, 2015. The stock of foreign exchange reserves was US $ 351.5 billion as on February 5, 2016.

There was a considerable increase in the number of basic saving bank deposit accounts (BSBDAs) during the current year under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. BSBDAs reached 441 million at

end September 2015, as against 398 million at end March 2015. The total number of banking outlets increased from 553,713 at the end March 2015 to 567,530 at end September 2015. Three schemes were launched in 2015 in the insurance and pension sectors for creating a universal social security system for all Indians, especially the poor and the underprivileged. The schemes include the Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, the Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Bima Yojana and the Atal Pension Yojana .

The total allocation in this time's budget is Rs. 35,984 crore. Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana is to be implemented in mission mode. The primary objectives of PMKSY are to attract investments in irrigation systems at field level, develop and expand cultivable land in the country, enhance ranch water use in order to minimize wastage of water, enhance crop per drop by implementing water-saving technologies and precision irrigation. 28.5 lakh hectares will be brought under irrigation. Further a dedicated Long Term Irrigation Fund will be created in NABARD with an initial corpus of about Rs. 20,000 crore.

As we know, groundwater is an overly exploited resource, thus the programme for sustainable management of ground water

resources with an estimated cost of Rs.6,000 crore which will be implemented through multilateral funding is urgently required.

The Soil Health Card Scheme which will guide judicious and only required level of inputs into the soil will cover all 14 crore farm holdings by March 2017.

To reduce the burden of loan repayment on farmers, a provision of Rs. 15,000 crore has been made in the BE 2016-17 towards interest subvention.

A new Krishi Kalyan Cess, @ 0.5 on all taxable services w. e. f. 1 June 2016 has been introduced. Proceeds would be exclusively used for financing initiatives for improvement of agricultural and welfare of farmers. Input tax credit of this cess will be available for payment of this cess.

Allocation for the rural sector is Rs. 87,765 crore. Rs. 2.87 lakh crore will be given as Grant in Aid to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. A sum of Rs.38,500 crore is allocated for MGNREGA.

300 Rurban Clusters will be developed under the Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rurban Mission which will end the mass migration from rural to urban areas by transforming rural areas to economically,

socially and physically sustainable spaces. The Mission aims at development of rural growth clusters which have latent potential for growth, in all States and UTs, which would trigger overall development in the region. These clusters would be developed by provisioning of economic activities, developing skills and local entrepreneurship and providing infrastructure amenities.

This Government has also promised 100% village electrification by 1st May, 2018. Allocation under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana increased to Rs.19,000 crore and will connect the remaining 65,000 eligible habitations by 2019.

Allocation under Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana is Rs. 5,500 crore. Under this Scheme, premium rates to be paid by the farmers have been brought down substantially so as to enable more farmers to avail insurance cover against crop loss on account of natural calamities.

The Government of India will pay a contribution of 8.33% for all new employees enrolling in EPFO for the first three years of their employment. Budget provision of Rs.100 crore is made for this scheme.

100 Model Career Centres will be operational by the end of 2016-17 under National Career Service. Those who will benefit from this includes unemployed candidates seeking jobs, students seeking career counseling, candidates seeking vocational/occupational guidance, illiterate, underprivileged sections of society, blue-collar workers seeking placements and guidance, persons with different abilities (PWDs), ex-servicemen, veterans/senior citizens, etc., and Employees seeking suitable candidates.

The Government's emphasis is on Start-up India and the focused approach to liberalizing rules and procedures governing small businesses. The Government of India has proposed a simpler presumptive taxation scheme for businesses with a smaller turnover (up to INR 20 million), which obviates the need to conduct detailed assessments and considerably simplifies taxation of such businesses. The Government further encouraged Start-ups by proposing to simplify the Companies Act, 2013 and enabling registration of a company within a day's time. The Budget has affirmed that profits for three out of the first 5 years for Start-ups, set up between April 2016 to March 2019, would be eligible for 100% deduction.

Every block under drought and rural distress will be taken up as an intensive Block under Deen Dayal Antyodaya Mission. The objective of the scheme is to uplift urban and rural poor through enhancement of livelihood opportunities through skill development and other means.

Total investment in the road sector, including PMGSY allocation, would be a whopping Rs. 97,000 crore during 2016-17. Total outlay for infrastructure is Rs. 2,21,246 crore. The allocation of Rs. 55,000 crore in the Budget is for roads. An additional Rs. 15,000 crore is to be raised by NHAI through bonds.

Taking cognizance of the fact that many airports especially in tier II and tier III towns remain underutilized, the Government has formulated an Action Plan for revival of unserved and underserved airports which will be drawn up in partnership with State Governments.

100 % FDI will be allowed through the FIPB route in marketing food products produced and manufactured in India. This move will help retailers such as Marks and Spencer, Tesco, Walmart and IKEA to set up food-only retail outlets. A much welcomed move and a landmark liberalizing policy .

In order to promote affordable housing, 100% deduction for profits to an undertaking in housing will be there for flats up to 30 Square meters in four metro cities and 60 square meters in other cities, approved during June 2016 to March 2019 and completed in three years. MAT to apply has been introduced. They are also exempted from service tax on construction of affordable houses up to 60 square meters under any scheme of the Central or State Government including PPP schemes,

Further deduction for additional interest of Rs.50,000 per annum is available for loans up to 35 lakh sanctioned in 2016-17 for the first time home buyers, where house cost does not exceed Rs.50 lakh has also been introduced.

In this year's budget, the Finance Minister announced an allocation of Rs.72,394 compared to Rs. 68,963 crore for last year, which is a 4.9 per cent increase in the education budget. In last year's budget, Rs. 42,219.5 crore and Rs. 26,855 crore was allocated for the school sector and higher education sector respectively. In this Budget, Rs. 43,554 crore (approx 3 percent increase) is allocated for school education and Rs. 28,840 crore (approx 7.3 per cent increase) is allocated for higher education.

The Government will develop 10 private and 10 public institutions to become world class. This is a welcome step towards empowering select institutions of excellence to compete at the global level.

Allocation of Rs.1,700 crore for 1500 multi-skill development centers, target of skilling 1 crore youth in the next 3 years under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana and allocation of Rs.500 crore for promoting entrepreneurship among SC/ST are welcome steps. The Digital Literacy Mission for rural India with a target to cover 6 crore new households within the next 3 years will transform rural education. If this scheme is implemented successfully, it can play an important role in increasing literacy in rural areas. The Government's effective usage of technology for imparting education in the remote parts can be a game changer for a large country like India.

Creation of a Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) has been announced with an initial fund of Rs.1,000 crore. HEFA will be a not-for-profit organization that will leverage funds from the market and supplement them with donations and CSR funds, which can be used for improvement in infrastructure in top institutions. The

creation of this agency has been appreciated and welcomed by many educationalists.

Overall, this has been a very well received budget by all classes of society because of its inclusive outlook.

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR):** I heartily welcome the General Budget for the year 2016-17 presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley. I have full faith that this budget will play an important role in writing a new chapter of good governance, poverty alleviation, socio-economic change and employment generation under the leadership of the successful Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. Be it poverty alleviation, tourism sector, new social initiatives, human resource development, energy and environmental conservation and management, or the question of resource mobilization, or qualitative improvement in management systems. The Hon. The Minister of Finance has demonstrated his vision, planning acumen, leadership, and remarkable efficiency across all sectors. This budget is based on the principles of integral humanism, propagating the idea of Antyodaya. In the words of India's great thinker Pt.0 Deendayal Upadhyaya - ***Hegel put forward the theory of thesis, antithesis and synthesis, Karl Marx used this theory as a basis and presented his analysis of history and economics, Darwin considered the theory of survival of the fittest as the only

* Speech was laid on the Table

basis of life but we have seen the fundamental unity of all living beings in this country. If we observe closely, each scheme of this budget has been made with the objective of bringing about a change in the social and economic life of the last person in the society. If we observe closely, each scheme of this budget has been made with the objective of bringing about a change in the social and economic life of the last person in the society.

I believe that any ambitious project requires **a clear vision and creation and implementation of** an action plan. Success depends on how these two matters are better incorporated. By establishing a unique coordination between these two in this budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance has taken a unique initiative to realize the dream of building a prosperous nation. 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. Economic experts of the world are comparing India as a shining center. The efforts to reach out to the last person in society with the basic mantra of *'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas'* have now started showing results.

While on one hand we can boast of the world's fastest growing GDP rate of 7.6percent, on the other hand, as a result of economic reforms, we have been able to leave China behind. Unprecedented success has been achieved in controlling inflation by keeping the inflation rate at 5.6 percent. The country has a new record of $350 billion in foreign exchange reserves which is a reflection of our successful economic policy.

Hon. The Minister of Finance has laid the foundation of a successful budget this year on the basis of 9 pillars. They are (1) Agriculture (2) Social Programmes (3) Rural Development (4) Education and Skill Development (5) Infrastructure Development (6) Financial Reforms (7) Ease of Doing Business (8) Fiscal Discipline (9) Tax Reforms. The three sectors given the highest importance in this Budget are (1) agriculture sector, (2) rural sector, (3) infrastructure development, and (4) social sector.

For the first time, a record amount of Rs 38,500 crore has been allocated for the MNREGA scheme. Whereas in 2015 this amount was 34,699 crore and earlier in the year 2014 this amount was 33000 crore. An amount of Rs.2000 crore has been allocated for LPG connections for BPL families. An allocation of Rs.9000 crore has

been made for the Bharat Swachhata Abhiyan. LPG connections will be provided to 05 crore people (below the poverty line) in the next two years. The goal is set to open three thousand Jan Aushadhi Centers to make generic medicines available to poor people. A target has been set to open three thousand Jal Aushadhi Centres to provide generic medicines to poor people.

An amount of five hundred crore has been allocated to SC/ST and women entrepreneurs for setting up new ventures under Standup India scheme. This will benefit 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs. National Gram Swaraj Abhiyan is being run to achieve sustainable development goals by strengthening Panchayati Raj institutions, under which a provision of Rs 655 crore has been made. National Digital Literacy Campaign has been launched to take the Digital India program to every village. Under which there is a plan to cover 6 crore rural people in the next three years. There is a need for 3.4 crore dialysis stations for the poor in the country. Dialysis centers will be opened in all the district hospitals by the government under the National Health Mission on PPP mode under the National Dialysis Service Programme. In order to reduce the cost, provision has been made to give exemption in custom duty and excise duty on dialysis machinery.

Under Prime Minister's ambitious scheme Mudra Bank, loans worth Rs 1 lakh crore were provided to 2.5 crore people. The target is to increase it by 90 per cent to Rs.80 lakh crore in the coming years.

There is a provision to open 1500 new skill development centers under skill development for which an amount of Rs. 1700 crore has been allocated. Under the new initiative of entrepreneurship development, training will be provided in 2200 colleges, 300 schools, 500 ITI's and 50 vocational (employment oriented technical) centers. Under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, there is a proposal to open 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas in the country in the next two years. An agency has been set up for higher education financing with an investment of Rs. 1000 crore to promote infrastructural development in educational institutions.

For the convenience of all students, teachers and higher educational institutions, there is a provision to create an online repository of all certificates so that all certificates can be obtained easily. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, there is a proposal to provide employment to one crore youth in the next three years. For which a National Board of Employment Certification

Development Agency will be established. There is a plan to establish 1500 new skill development centers in the country at a cost of Rs 1700 crore.100 model employment centers will be set up in the country and arrangements for keeping all shops and business establishments open for 24 hours will be considered.

History is a witness to the fact that for the first time in India, so much importance has been given to infrastructure development. The 10 years of the previous Congress government have faded in front of our last two years. A provision of Rs 218000 crore has been made for rail and road infrastructure. The target has been set to electrify the whole country by May 01, 2018, for which a provision of Rs 8500 crore has been made. A provision has been made to approve 10 thousand k0m0 of national highways in the year 2016-17. This work is much more than the total work done in the last two years. Apart from this, there is a proposal to upgrade 50 thousand k0m0 of state highways of various states into national highways. In the highway sector, 70 projects of 8300k0m0 were pending due to various reasons. Due to the tireless efforts of the government, 85 percent of the projects have been restarted. An amount of Rs 800 crore has been allocated for the development of national waterways. There are 160 airports in the

country which can be developed with an investment of Rs 50 to 100 crore. The government will develop some of these airports in collaboration with governments. Apart from this, 10 non-operational airports will be developed in collaboration with the Airports Authority of India.

It is not a coincidence but the result of our hard work day and night that in the last two years, under the leadership of the successful Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the government has realized that prosperous farmers are the basis of prosperous India. Our government has taken many important steps to ensure the participation of farmers in the progress of the country. The government produced more coal, generated and distributed more electricity and distributed more LED bulbs.

Our government believes that farmers are the backbone of the country's food security. An amount of Rs 35,984 crore has been allocated in the budget for the development of agriculture sector and farmer welfare. A target of 28.5lakh hectares of land has been set for the Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme. For this, there is a plan to spend Rs 17 thousand crore next year through 89 irrigation projects, while a provision of Rs 86 thousand 500 crore has been made

in the next five years. A target has been set to double the income of the farmers of the country in the next five years. A long-term irrigation fund will be established for which a corpus of Rs 20,000 crore is planned to be created with the help of NABARD. Under the Traditional Agriculture Development Scheme, a target has been set to do organic farming on 5 lakh acres of land for which a provision of Rs 412 crore has been made. Soil Health Card: The target for March 2017 has been set for examining the soil of 14 crore farmers of the country and giving them appropriate advice. A provision of Rs 8.5 lakh crore has been made for agricultural loan. A special plan has been made to convert the waste collected during Swachh Bharat Abhiyan into compost manure. A provision of Rs 5500 crore has been made for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. There is a provision of Rs. 850 crore for livestock development in the country including Pashudhan Sanjivani, under which apart from the plan to promote, conserve and develop native breeds, arrangements will be made for animal health and e-Pashudhan Haat.

Crores of people in the country do not have a roof to live under. It is our good fortune that the Prime Minister not only realized the seriousness of this problem but also a roadmap has been prepared to

solve the problem. The NDA government is committed to implement its ambitious scheme "***Housing for All***" to provide a roof over the head to millions of homeless people in India. **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 provide subsidies of Rs 1 lakh to Rs 1.8 lakh for the economically weaker section and low income group of the society. To benefit the middle class, a plan has been made to simplify housing loans and provide more tax concessions. In this series, a decision has also been taken 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.

Today when the world is struggling with economic recession. Terrorism is posing a challenge to humanity with its increasing magnitude day by day; the nation is suffering from 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 have discussed poverty, where the country's progress should have been discussed, today where you should have discussed Make in India, should have talked about passing the GST, should have given suggestions for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, where you should have given your feedback on the Kisan Bima Yojana, there you are singing the tune of Kashmiri separatists. **Pt0. Deendayal Upadhyaya, the visionary and great thinker of independent India, said and I quote – *A nation is a group of people who live with one goal, one ideal, one mission and consider a particular territory as their motherland. If either the ideals or the motherland are missing then a nation cannot be possible.***

I have heard the views of my opposition colleagues in this Budget Session of the House. I felt somewhere the opposition has deviated from the main issue. Issues of national interest were ignored by raising the issues of Hyderabad and JNU. Where meaningful discussions

should take place in the Parliament and efforts should be made to see how we can get the pending GST passed. We should have been concerned about how we can promote foreign investment, instead we are wasting the precious time of the country, this Parliament and our citizens by getting embroiled in unnecessary controversies. I want to introduce the first principle of political philosophy created by the culturally conscious Deendayal Ji to those friends who raise unnecessary issues related to J0NU0, Hyderabad and others. In his words - "***The human group living in India and feeling affection towards it is one people. Their life system, art, literature, philosophy all are Indian culture, hence this culture is the basis of Indian nationalism. India will remain united only if there is loyalty to the culture.*** When the philosophy of the rulers of the country, their values, their culture are so great, then the question of discriminating against anyone on the basis of caste, color, religion and social aspects does not arise.

There is a provision to bring a comprehensive code regarding resolution of financial firms. Further, providing statutory basis for a Monetary Policy Framework and Monetary Policy Committee through the Finance Bill, 2016 would give a new impetus to trade

reforms in the country. Many complaints have been received regarding illegal deposit accepting schemes in the country. A comprehensive central law will be brought to deal with these. As soon as the budget was presented, its positive impact was seen on the business world and the stock market. One of the many reasons is the decision to allocate Rs 25,000crore for recapitalisation of public sector banks. The sanctioned amount under Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana has been increased to Rs. 1,80,000crore, which is a very important step. In order to bring about comprehensive reforms in the insurance sector, government-owned general insurance companies will be listed on the stock exchange.

Under the leadership of the successful Prime Minister Shri Modi Ji, this government, being serious about its election promise, is determined to stop black money in the country. Our government wants to have a stable and secure taxation system and reduce black money. There is a big problem in the country that many people have hidden their income, due to which the country is suffering a huge loss due to non-receipt of taxes. Our Government has provided that the domestic taxpayers may declare such income or undisclosed income shown in the form of any asset by paying tax at the rate of 30%, surcharge at

the rate of 7.5% and penalty at the rate of 7.5% which is 45% of the total undisclosed income. No legal action will be taken upon making the declaration. The surcharge imposed at the rate of 7.5 per cent on undeclared income will be called Agriculture Welfare Surcharge, which will be used for agriculture and rural economy.

Dispute resolution has been a big challenge in the country, in view of this a new dispute resolution scheme will be started. There will be no penalty in cases of disputed tax up to Rs 10 lakh. To address the challenge of underreporting of income, penalty rates will be increased to 50 per cent of tax in case of underreporting of income and up to 200 per cent of tax in case of misreporting of income. It is expected that these steps will bring about significant improvement in tax collection. A time limit of one year will be fixed for disposal of petitions of taxpayers seeking waiver of interest and penalty. On payment of 15 percent of the disputed demand, the Assessing Officer shall mandatorily issue a stay order on the demand till the appeal is pending before the Commissioner of Income Tax (Appeals). In order to strengthen the Appellate Tribunal, 11 new benches of Customs, Excise and Service Tax Appellate Tribunal will be established which will facilitate speedy resolution of disputes.

As you are aware, you had announced in the budget for the year 2014-15 that a separate study center for the Himalayan region would be set up. This distinguished institute was widely welcomed throughout the country for its study on various aspects of the Himalaya. Scientists, policy makers and common citizens of the country have welcomed the establishment of this innovative institute. Unfortunately there is much delay in setting up this institute. Even after more than a year has passed, it's clear draft is not before us. I understand that funds have not been allocated for this. It should be established as Himalayan International University. I humbly request you to please get this center established. I also request you to waive off the loans of all the people affected by the terrible disaster in Uttarakhand. Apart from lodge, hotel owners, taxi owners and people associated with the tourism industry, the regional farmers are also facing a serious financial crisis. In such a situation, thousands of people will get relief from their loan waiver. Haridwar should be developed as a world spiritual center. There is a need for a special strategy for agriculture and horticulture to bring about a change in the socio-economic life of the Himalayan states including Uttarakhand. For this, these states require a financial package to set up a special mission under which special focus should be laid on organic farming,

increasing production in horticulture, storage, processing and marketing.

I want to demand from the government that steps should be taken towards giving an industrial package to the state to bring the industrial development in Uttarakhand back on track. The state got positive results from the industrial package given by Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee's government in the year 2003, but due to the premature termination of this package, the pace of development there has been completely blocked.

Once again, I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance on the development-oriented budget and express hope that the dream of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi of a prosperous and best India will come true.

***SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU):** This budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji is full of confidence and will further strengthen the progressive Indian economy. The presented budget is an initiative to create a corruption-free economy by establishing a balance between fiscal deficit and domestic demand. Today the eyes of the world are fixed on the Indian economy because despite the global recession, the economy is a ray of hope not only for us Indians but also for foreign investors. During the last few years we have been successful in maintaining our growth rate at 7.6 percent. This is an exemplary example for other developed and developing countries of the world.

Our Macroeconomic Vulnerability is less than big economies like China, Brazil and other developing countries. Our Macroeconomic Vulnerability has improved by 5.3 percent since 2013, while China's vulnerability has improved by 0.7percent and Brazil's by 1.9 percent. It is a symbol of our confidence that our fiscal deficit is 3.5 percent and our foreign exchange reserves are $350billion.

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* Speech was laid on the Table

The soul of our country resides in the villages and through this budget an attempt has been made to create immense possibilities of development in the agricultural and rural areas. The effort to double the income of the farmers of the country in the next five years through the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, implementation of Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana in mission mode, establishment of platforms for traditional agricultural marketing and dairy projects etc. is a commendable step. A total allocation of Rs 35,984 crore for agriculture and farmer welfare and Rs 87,000crore for rural development reflects the government's commitment to the development of villages .Modernization of National Land Records will increase the utility of our land. This will also prove to be an important effort in the direction of (Utility Audit). Every block affected by drought disaster will be recognized as a special block under Deen Dayal Antyodaya Mission.

Many important steps have been taken by the government in the field of employment generation. The Government of India will pay the contribution for the first three years for new employees enrolling themselves with the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation. With

this, deduction under section 80 G of the Income Tax Act will be available to all taxpayers who are registered under this Act.

There has also been talk of establishing new dimensions of employment for every Indian youth through skill development. By encouraging the youth, a class of employment creators is being created in the country. Start-ups set up between April 2016 and March 2019 will be allowed 100 per cent profit deduction for three out of five years and worldwide profits earned from patents developed and registered by a person resident in India will be taxed at only 10 percent.

The government has announced in this budget that gas connections will be provided to poor rural and urban families, which is a commendable step. This step reflects the sensitivity of the government towards all sections. If we look at the medical field, now even poor families will get the benefit of an affordable dialysis scheme in every district. Establishment of 3000 medicine distribution centers under Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana will prove to be an important step towards providing affordable treatment to poor people.

Our Government shows its strong commitment towards the development of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. For this, a Stand Up India scheme has been started for these sections. Under this scheme, such hubs will be established which will inspire such entrepreneurs to adopt (global best practices). In the 125th birth anniversary year of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar, a framework has been prepared for the empowerment of Scheduled Caste and Scheduled Tribe entrepreneurs.

The government has paid special attention to the development of human resources. Regulatory Framework is being prepared to develop ten government and private institutions as world-class teaching and research institutions. This will work to give a new identity to the level of higher education of our country at the global level.

My suggestion is that there should be participation of all sections of the society in these educational institutions also. The move to establish a digital-depository for school leaving certificates, college degrees, mark sheets etc is welcome. This is a commendable effort towards creating a talent pool in our education sector.

In the field of infrastructure, decisions taken by the government like development of national highways, state highways, ports and

airports will contribute significantly in improving the standard of living of common Indians. For this, Rs 2,21,240 crore have been allocated respectively. Asset recycling is an idea through which new infrastructure can be developed. The government will disinvest the established infrastructure projects and develop new infrastructure using the capital obtained from it and this will also create employment. The government has made provisions for special relief for small taxpayers in this budget. In order to reduce the tax burden on individuals having annual income of Rs. 5 lakh, provision has been made to increase the tax exemption limit from Rs. 2000 to Rs. 5000 under section 87 G. Apart from this, the proposal to increase HRA for employees living in rented houses from Rs. 24,000to Rs. 60,000is a laudable step.

The general public has been given great relief by the government through various tax proposals. This is not only a big step towards employment generation but will also help in increasing the growth rate. Startups and industries coming under Make in India have been given exemption by making changes in the tax.13 cess levied by various ministries, where revenue collection is less than Rs 50 crore in a year, will be abolished.

A deduction of Rs 50,000 per annum on additional interest has been made on the loan of Rs 35 lakh sanctioned for purchasing a house for the first time under the Housing for All scheme. Thus, the government has tried to establish a stable and predictable tax system in this budget. A stable and assured taxation will enhance investor confidence in our economy.

Our banking system is like oxygen for the country's economy. Special attention has been given to promoting capital investment and organizational reforms in the banking and insurance sectors. A provision of Rs 25,000crore has been made in this budget for the recapitalization of banks. Government-owned general insurance companies will be listed on the stock exchange, which is a very important decision.

Care has been taken to focus on enabling legislation. The government has proposed to build model shops. Which the states can adopt voluntarily and the work area for small entrepreneurs can be kept open. The presence of the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and Bankruptcy bills in the budget indicates that the government has not abandoned these issues.

Hon. The Minister of Finance has mentioned the amendment in the Companies Act 2013 so that registration of new start-ups can be done easily. A Public Utility (Disputes Resolution) Bill has been proposed to speed up resolution of issues related to infrastructure projects and Public Private Partnership (PPP) projects.

A resolution code for financial trading companies has been proposed. This code will ensure orderly closure of financial trading companies in case of insolvency. But the biggest announcement of the government is that Aadhar will be given legal status and systems like Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) will be institutionalised.Hon. The Minister of Finance has clarified that Aadhaar will not be made the basis for domicile or citizenship. This step has proved the talk of bringing in illegal immigrants through the back door to be baseless.

Our government has taken up the task of Transforming India to improve the living standards of the common people. An initiative has been taken to establish a favorable system for disinvestment in the country and a transparent and quick government decision making mechanism.In this way, the government has paid full attention to the development of all sections and all areas of the country.

I believe that by taking advantage of these provisions of the budget, my Lok Sabha constituency, which includes underdeveloped districts like Palamu and Gadhwa, can be brought into the mainstream of the country. Special efforts will be made to improve the living standards of the residents in these drought affected districts by generating employment as well as by exploiting the available regional resources.

Thus, this budget is a commendable step taken towards the development of villages and in this budget, talks have been done about the development of all sections and everyone and schemes and policies have been announced accordingly. Therefore, I support this budget.

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA ALIAS HARISH DWIVEDI (BASTI): Hon. Chairperson Sir, first of all I congratulate and thank the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance for this historic budget of the year 2016-17. The coincidence is very good. I also got the opportunity to give a speech in the last budget and at that time the Hon. The Minister of Finance was present and even today the Hon. The Minister of Finance is present here.

I have been elected from Basti district of eastern Uttar Pradesh. After coming to Parliament, I have observed that in the last 60-65 years, there has not been as much discussion about farmers and the poor as there has been in the last one and a half years. The discussion is being done by such people who have run the government of the country for about 55-60 years and have run the government in different states. Those who had the responsibility to take care of the farmers, those who had the responsibility to take care of the laborers, those who had the responsibility to take care of the poor, but if we look at it today, after the Bharatiya Janata Party government came to power in 2014 under the leadership of Hon. Shri Narendra Modi, I became an MP and when I started going to the area, all kinds of demands came before us. The biggest demand that came before us was

that people would say that MP ji we have voted for you, I have made you MP, in my villages till now poles, wires, transformers etc. have not been installed, electrification has not been done, please get our villages electrified. I called the officials and said that many people come to us, poles, wires, transformers etc. have not been installed in their villages, electrification has not taken place, there is no light in their villages, you tell me in how many villages these can be installed, I will arrange for installing them from my funds. You too will be surprised to hear the figures given by the officials of our district. Approximately 6500 villages, including Purva-Purvi and Toli-Tola, have not been electrified in the last 68 years. When I asked the officials how many Purva-Purvi there were in total, they said there were about ten and a half thousand. I asked them to find out the percentage and the officials said that about 63-64 percent of the villages do not have poles, wires and transformers. Every person thinks this, every leader thinks this, all the opposition leaders are giving speeches, they have won from big families, they have also come on the basis of their family background. His father must have thought that our son will be an MP, our daughter will be an MP, a Minister, a Prime Minister, but nobody thought that the people who voted for us, who lived in poor villages and brought us to this position,

their son should also be able to study in light, he should be able to sleep under the fan's air, he should also get comfort. As soon as our Prime Minister and our Minister of Finance came, they said that our government will complete the work of electrification in all the villages by the year 2018 under the Deendayal Gram Jyoti Yojana. There will be no such village, no such Purva, no such house left, where there will be no pole, wire and transformer. I am not just talking about the budget. I am saying this practically. I have delivered poles, wires and transformers to 4200 villages.

There was talk about the Jan Dhan Yojana. HON. Modi ji did not stop it, Hon. The Minister of Finance did not stop it, if our government comes then we will get the accounts of the poor opened. After our government came to power, accounts of 22 crore people were opened in banks. Accounts were opened for those who had never visited a bank because they did not have money. If there is no money they will not go to the bank and their account will not be opened. Our Government said that we will open accounts with zero balance and not only that, we will also provide accident insurance of up to Rs one lakh, life insurance of Rs 30,000 and arrangement for overdraft of Rs five thousand has also been made. Our Prime Minister did not say

this, our party did not say that, Hon. leaders of Congress! When our government comes, we will work, you do not work. Now in the coming times, the kind of arrangement our Prime Minister has made, the Hon. The Minister of Finance has brought Mudra Bank. In my own district, just yesterday I brought data from Basti. There were 3400 unemployed youths who had no money, they were roaming around unemployed, they were unable to get money to do any work, for them our government made the arrangement of Mudra Bank. Around 2.5 crore youth across the country have got employment through Mudra Bank, out of which 3400 youth from Basti district have got employment. In the coming times, I will also try to help 15-20 thousand youth of our district get self-employment through Mudra Bank and manage the expenses of their families.

Sir, I am talking about BPL card holders. Who would have thought that in the houses of the poor, food is cooked on wood, food is cooked on cow dung cakes and fire is produced. Nowadays, an advertisement of the Government of India is coming in which it is being said that the effect of smoking 100 cigarettes on a person is equal to the effect on a woman cooking food on the stove at home for one day. Nobody thought that if food is cooked on gas in every poor

person's house, then there will be no disease caused by the smoke. When there will be no disease, then the money spent on medicines will not be spent and that person will be happy. Our Prime Minister and Minister of Finance took a pledge that there will be no poor person in India who will be left without a single penny, whether he is a BPL cardholder, Antyodaya cardholder or APL cardholder; our government will provide free gas connections to BPL cardholders. I am not saying this just because there is such a scheme; I have provided connections to 40 thousand BPL card holders in my district. Right now the Petroleum Ministry has made a plan that we will provide stoves to those who do not have money to buy them and in the future we will adjust the cost of the stove from the subsidy that the government is giving them on gas. What I mean to say is that the way people discuss and talk about poverty, today the budget is being discussed, when the budget comes then naturally the whole country's eyes are on the budget. I have all the statistics. At the time of budget presentation, all kinds of criticisms take place in the entire country. All the student organizations, labor organizations, farmer organizations etc. organize protests, demonstrations etc. After the presentation of the budget, when I went to my parliamentary constituency, many labor organizations, farmers' organizations and

young people came to me and said that the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance has presented such a budget that today all sections of society are happy. Everyone feels that this is a budget for farmers and for the poor. Hon. The Minister of Finance is sitting here, I will conclude my speech by talking about my area.

Chairperson Sir, I had made a request to the Hon. Minister of Finance in the first budget speech as well; I am making the request today too. There is a big problem of farmers, especially sugarcane farmers, in Uttar Pradesh. In our district too, there are lakhs of farmers who are dependent on sugarcane. They sell sugar cane but do not get their payment. The Government of India had given a package, money was given without interest to the sugar mills to make their payments, but the payment for the sugarcane of many farmers is still pending. A special package was given for this, this is what I demand. I request the Minister of Finance to make an announcement to set up an industrial zone in eastern Uttar Pradesh with tax exemption for ten years. I received the blessings of the Hon. Minister of Finance, due to which I could reach here. The party blessed me. I have made a request to the Hon. Minister of Finance in person and today I make it publicly as well. I told the Hon. Minister of Finance that you should visit eastern

Uttar Pradesh, especially Basti district. When you go to Basti, your attention will naturally be drawn towards the problems there, the problems of the farmers, and the problems of eastern Uttar Pradesh.

Chairperson Sir, you gave me time to speak, so I conclude by expressing my gratitude to my party and to you. Thank you.

[English]

***SHRI MULLAPALLY RAMACHANDRAN (VADAKARA):** This is the third budget presented by the Hon. Finance Minister.

The earlier Budgets of NDA presented by Shri Arun Jaitley ji had generated great hopes and expectations in the minds of all sections of society. It was projected as the first step towards "Achhe Din - Better Days" as promised by the Hon. Prime Minister who, from day one of his campaign, had given a promise that better days are a stone's throw away.

If we look at the state of the economy, one can, without any doubt, say that our economy is in bad shape. Whatever the Prime Minister and Finance Minister may claim in public, the economists, businessmen and bankers say that the picture is not as rosy as is portrayed.

The Finance Minister and Prime Minister claim that the revenue collection has improved but in reality the fiscal deficit is going to rise. It will not be possible to meet the tax collection targets as claimed by the Finance Minister. According to the Report of the Controller and

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* Speech was laid on the Table

Auditor General, tabled in Parliament, the country has Rs.7 lakh crore of outstanding direct tax dues which are difficult to recover. The report also strongly reprimanded the service tax collection department for not maintaining accurate and updated records. Has the Hon. Finance Minister taken cognizance of this report and what proactive steps are being taken by him to bring the country back from financial mismanagement?

The external debt of the country is at an all time high of 31.7 lakh crore. The corporate debt has increased to 41% this year from 35% in 2014. What about the export? There is a shocking decline in exports.

It was on the issue of rising prices of essential commodities and corruption that the NDA Government was elected to power. What were the promises given by you during the last election? Could you fulfill any of the lofty promises? No. You have thoroughly failed to control the price of essential commodities as also to curb corruption.

The international price of crude oil was 104 USD per barrel when the UPA Government left office. Now the crude oil price is 38.5 USD per barrel in the international market. Why is the Finance Minister silent about the benefits to the exchequer by way of this sharp fall in

price of petroleum products in the international market? Has the Finance Minister made any realistic assessment of the benefit of the exchequer? Whether this Government has passed on the benefits to the common man? No. Absolutely not.

Your very talk about revenue collection and financial deficit is quite misleading. Even when the price of petroleum products was very high in the international market, the UPA Government, with its excellent financial management, was able to provide subsidies enjoyed by the people. Has this Government even thought about passing on the benefit to the Aam Aadmi? That is the question being asked by the people.

In your last budget, you have cleverly concealed the fact that additional revenue initiatives have yielded rich dividends for the Government as you were able to mop up an extra Rs. 36,500 crore in excise collection from April to August with bulk of the amount coming from the petroleum sector. There were four hikes in excise duty on petrol and diesel between November 2014 and January 2015. This has generated an additional revenue of Rs. 30,000 crore in the first five months of the current financial year.

You have generated another Rs.300 crore extra revenue due to hike in clean energy cess from coal. And Rs. 3500 crore in April-August 2015 on withdrawal of excise duty concession on automobiles and consumers goods. This is how you have portrayed a rosy picture.

The staple food of the common man is mainly pulses -but it is beyond his reach now. We always talk about *dal-roti*. The poor people of the country get nutrition and protein from pulses. Why has the production of pulses gone down? Because you have neglected farmers and the agriculture sector. There was a savage cut in the allocation for agriculture in your first budget. This resulted in gloom and panic in Indian villages. Never ever in the history of Independent India such a large number of farmers have committed suicide during such a short span of twenty two months. It is a tragedy. The average income of over a majority of India's farm households is less than Rs. 5000 and 52% of families who depend only on agriculture are in deep debt. They mainly depend upon private money lenders who lend at exorbitant rates. Our Public Sector Banks are indifferent towards the farmers. Your economic management is in total shambles and you have no perception whatsoever about agriculture.

Everyone knows that agriculture is the backbone of our economy. Your callous and cavalier attitude towards agriculture is going to doom our Indian villages.

Your wrong import policy has totally ruined the commercial produce like Rubber. More than 10 lakhs rubber cultivators are put to hardship and misery due to fall in price following indiscriminate import of rubber. Who are you going to help? The industrialists and the corporate houses? Not the small and marginal farmers of rubber. Hon. Finance Minister, can you please do something about the plight of the rubber farmers? The attitude of the Government is criminal.

You talked so much about corruption and you have put all the blame on the last Government for what has happened in the country. Despite all your charges and counter charges, we are proud to say that we have taken every single step to take the corrupt persons, including Ministers, to task. We had the courage to send some of the Ministers behind the bars even when the fragile UPA Government was about to collapse. That was the strong stand taken by the UPA Chairperson Shrimati Soniaji and then Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh.

We have sought to discuss during last year's Monsoon Session, the issue of unprecedented corruption indulged in by prominent Chief

Ministers and leaders of BJP. We thought that this Temple of Democracy is the apt forum to raise such issues. Yes, we have stalled the proceedings of the House and we have no regret about that. Being responsible representatives of the people, we were trying to use the constitutional means of discussing the matter on the floor of the House. But you did not allow it. Who is to be blamed?

Shri Narendra Modi ji spoke on the rooftops during the last general election that huge black money is stashed abroad and the paramount duty of NDA would be to bring the money back to India. He also promised the *Aam Aadmi* that an amount to the tune of minimum Rs.15 lakhs would be deposited in the bank accounts of every Indian. It was a lofty promise that you have given to the teeming millions of our country who undergo abject poverty and want. You have misled them. You lured them to cast their valuable votes in your favor. The *Aam Aadmi* of this country has positively responded to your false promise. Yes you were bribing the people with false promises.

Never ever has any Prime Minister or other political leaders committed such an electoral fraud on the people. What have you got to say about this matter? The Prime Minister and Finance Minister

should answer. Can you please enlighten as to what you have done to bring black money stashed abroad except the steps initiated by the previous Government. The Hon. Finance Minister is playing a political gimmick and befooling the people.

Utter neglect in the rural sector is manifested in your decision to cut allocation for the rural sector in the last budget. MGNREGA was a step in the right direction to eliminate poverty and unemployment in the village. Millions of people in the village, especially women folk, have benefited from the scheme. We could see hope shining in the eyes of our villagers. Here also, your attitude towards MGNREGA is with a *mala fide* intention of phasing out the program gradually. The country will not forgive you for this.

This Government talks much about 'Make in India' and promised to generate jobs for the youth. India is a young nation and you are fully seized of the vote bank of the aspiring young Indians. You have promised them one crore employment during the first year of your assuming power. Which are the sectors generating employment opportunities to the youngsters? They are the manufacturing sector and service sector. If we look at the manufacturing sector alone, it is worse, growing at 2.64 per cent. Core sector industries grow at 2.33

per cent in the first half compared to 5.07 per cent in the first half of the last year. Could you generate employment opportunities in the service sector? No Sir. The younger generation is in total panic and they are in despair.

The Prime Minister and the Finance Minister always talk about development and growth. Development is meaningless if it does not generate jobs in India where 70% of the population live in poverty. The Budget does not contain recommendations to boost job creation in agriculture and industry.

There is a savage cut in many areas and food security is down by Rs. 5000 crore; Fertilizer subsidies are cut by Rs.2000 crore; Ministry of Women and Child Development and the Ministry of Minority Affairs suffered because of the savage cut. Nirbhaya Fund has been slashed from Rs.1000 crore to just Rs.500 crore. Plan outlay for environment and Forest Ministry is cut by 66%.

Export is one area from which we earn foreign exchange. India has never achieved high growth without strong exports. But the worst performer is export. At the end of September 2015, merchandise exports have declined by 17.7 per cent over the last year. October 2015 marked eleven consecutive months of negative growth. Except

readymade garments (2.26%), every other manufactured goods witnessed a decline in export.

You have forgotten about the health and education sector. You talked so much about the Millennium Development Goals of the UN. How are you going to develop the human resource of this country through education? You have totally ignored Sarva Siksha Abhiyan.

India is fast becoming the capital of lifestyle diseases according to WHO. How do we redeem this situation? Have you ever thought of millions of our villagers who do not have access to healthcare? Your cut in these sectors is dreadful.

You speak so much about Jan Dhan Yojana. You claim that it is your baby. No Sir, it is the financial inclusion program launched by the UPA Government. Again, the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan was nothing other than Nirmal Bharat launched by the UPA government.

I am happy that you have now endorsed the Aadhaar Scheme introduced by the UPA Government. What was your response at that time? Did you support the financial inclusion plan of UPA. No. Did you support Aadhar schemes? No!!! you stalled proceedings of both the Houses days together on this issue. Please don't forget recent history.

Our former Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh described Hon. Prime Minister Shri Nareandra Modi as a good event manager and an excellent salesman. Yes Sir, you are good at selling old wine in new bottles.

This Government is talking about FDI and the Prime Minister is talking so much about 'Make in India'. How is it going to come about? Former Governor of RBI and eminent economists say that investment will come to a place where peace and tranquility is not prevailing. What does it mean? In an intolerant society, please don't expect development and growth.

May I ask the Hon. Minister whether the Ministry of Finance and RBI are working in tandem? They are pulling in different directions.

Our banking sector is in a deep crisis as the non-performing assets of nationalized banks are galloping. During the last one year, the NPA of nationalized banks has grown by more than Rs.27,000 crores. SBI and 17 other nationalized banks formed a consortium and had given a loan to the tune of more than Rs.7000 crore to one private airline company which has not paid back a single pai and now willful defaulter is absconding from the country. This is only a tip of the

iceberg. The Hon. Finance Minister owes it to the nation to explain the details about the other willful defaulters who defrauded the country to the tune of the lakhs of crores.

Recently, the Hon. Finance Minister had an elaborate meeting with the Chairmen and EDs of various nationalized banks. The entire nation is anxious to know about the steps being taken to improve the condition of nationalized banks.

Some of the corporate houses are happy about this Government and your last budget, because you had given an economic bonanza to the tune of Rs.2.50 lakh crores to the corporate houses. Yes Sir, this entire nation knows this Government is being run by the corporate houses and none other can expect anything from this Government.

We totally differ with your economic policy. It will only ruin this country.

[Translation]

***SHRI PASHUPATI NATH SINGH (DHANBAD):** I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji for presenting the General Budget for 2016-17in the House, which is commendable. With the global economy going through a severe crisis, global growth has slowed from 3.4 percent in 2014 to 3.1 percent in 2015. Financial markets have been hit and global trade has declined. Despite these adverse conditions at the global level, the government of India's future and efficient leader, Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has maintained its strong base in the Indian economy. Due to our inherent strength and the policies of Shri Arun Jaitley ji, there is immense faith and hope among the people of India. The International Monetary Fund has called India a "shining beacon" amid a slowing global economy. The World Economic Forum has said that India's growth has been exceptionally high. You have achieved this feat in spite of adverse circumstances and in spite of the fact. We inherited an economy with low growth, high inflation and zero investor confidence in the government's ability to govern. By turning these difficulties and challenges into opportunities, you have demonstrated your and the

* Speech was laid on the Table

Bharatiya Janata Party's dedication towards the country. Compared to the last three years of the previous government, when the growth rate had declined to 6.3percent, looking at the current achievements, the GDP growth rate has now reached 7.6percent. During the last three years of the previous government, consumer price index inflation stood at 9.4 per cent, despite a decline of 4.4 percent in world exports as compared to a growth of 7.7 percent in world exports.

Due to the efficiency and tenure of the government, an effort has been made to reduce the inflation related to Consumer Price Index to 5.4percent, which has provided great relief to the people. Our foreign position is strong. The current account deficit has narrowed to US$14.4billion this year from US$18.4 billion in the first half of last year. This year it is estimated that it will be 1.4 percent of GDP. Our foreign exchange reserves are around US$ 350 million, which is the highest ever and a world-class achievement.

It is the ultimate duty of our BJP government that our country's leader Shri Narendra Modi along with Shri Arun Jaitley should make financial assistance schemes and programs wisely and intelligently for the welfare of our common people, especially the poor and the Dalits. Who are in the interest of the country and move towards progress. A

similar health insurance scheme is also being announced, under which one-third of the country's population will be given protection against hospital expenses. It has been said that the facility of LPG connection will be provided with the help of government subsidy. This will greatly improve the health of women and those BPL families who are suffering from the ill effects of cooking on the stove. Which will prove to be a good initiative. In this direction, the agenda of 'Transform India' is a message of a good initiative for the countrymen. In which it has been said that focus will be on agriculture and farmer welfare, doubling the income of farmers in the next five years, emphasis will be laid on rural employment and infrastructure, social sector, including health care, inclusion of all in welfare and health care sector, education, skill and employment generation, making India a knowledge based and productive society, financial sector reforms, bringing transparency and stability, basic fundamental needs have been looked at, which is a very good step. You have said that the profitable use of allocations under MNREGA would be done by creating at least 5 lakh farms, ponds and wells in rain-fed areas and constructing 10 lakh compost pits for organic manure. This will prove really useful. You have said that a national level competition will be organized among 674 Krishi Vigyan Kendras with a total prize money

of Rs. 5 lakhs. The objective of this competition will not only improve the efficiency and performance of these centers but will also encourage the government and non-government organizations running such Krishi Vigyan Kendras. In this budget, along with taking care of businessmen, middle class people, women and the elderly, the people of Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribe category of our country have also been taken care of.

So, with this I conclude my proposal and request the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji that I come from the state of Jharkhand. This is a very backward state. There is wealth in this place but the people here are very poor. If seen from a comparative point of view of other states of the country, the picture is that from the point of view of average annual per capita income, this state stands in the last row. The government should be concerned about removing the economic imbalance. I support the general budget with thanks.

SHRI RAM KUMAR SHARMA (SITAMARHI): Sir, I stand up to speak in support of this general budget on behalf of my party Rashtriya Lok Samta Party.

This budget is different from all the budgets presented till date. Today some people criticize this budget because till date they have not brought any budget for the problems of farmers. This is a commendable budget. The slogan of our Hon. leader Narendra Modi is – Sabka Sath and Sabka Vikas. This is the budget that will make this slogan a reality. This budget is going to materialize the slogan that was raised during the Lok Sabha elections. Today this budget is actually a budget that will improve the condition and direction of the farmers. I express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Finance and Minister of State for Finance for taking the decision to change the condition of farmers. It has been decided to double the current income of farmers by the year 2022. On one hand, this is a budget which will stop the incidents of farmers committing suicide. On the other hand, this is a budget which will put the country on the path of all-round development. The decisions announced by the government for the welfare of agriculture and farmers are commendable. This is a budget

which gives priority to doubling the income of farmers as well as employment and infrastructure creation in rural areas.

The role of irrigation in improving agriculture cannot be denied. There are 141 million hectares of cultivated land in the country, of which 46 percent is irrigated land. It is well known that the yield rate of irrigated land is hundred percent more than the yield rate of non-irrigated land. If proper arrangement of water is made for agriculture in the country, then the income of the farmers will automatically double. I express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Finance that this budget will play an important role in achieving the target of the Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme, in which this budget will definitely play an important role in doubling the income of the farmers. Presently, under the scheme a target has been set to bring 28.5 lakh hectares of land under irrigation. Along with the success of the scheme, the prosperity of the farmers will strengthen the food security of the country. Financial assistance to farmers is also possible through the animal husbandry industry. I am happy that the government has decided to spend Rs 850 crore to promote animal husbandry in this direction, through which facilities will be provided for veterinary services, animal breed improvement and animal

purchase. Animal husbandry is a simple traditional industry for farmers, which requires neither additional capital nor additional management. Therefore, I suggest that agriculture based industries, especially cottage industries, should be encouraged in rural areas so that problems like increasing air pollution and health, water and housing in cities can be solved and at the same time the goal of employment for every hand can also be achieved. Handloom industry, oilseed crushing industry, papad-pickle etc. industries will get a boost and can be run in rural areas with limited capital on the produce of rural areas. In the current budget, a provision has been made to spend Rs 87 thousand 765 crore, in which emphasis has been laid on school education, health, employment generation and road construction. The Minister of Finance has expressed deep concern over the medical system of the country in para 52 of his budget speech, according to which every year lakhs of poor families are still living below the poverty line. To deal with this serious situation, the government has decided to implement the health care scheme. This is a commendable step by the government.

Sir, through you I want to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance towards my area. I come from Sitamarhi, the land of Mother

Janaki, the mother of the universe. Minister of Finance, I would like to request you that the rivers of Nepal cause a lot of devastation and a lot of water flows and affects other districts as well. I would like to request that proper arrangements for irrigation be made there and Sulis Gate be constructed so that the land of Sitamarhi can be irrigated and the water that flows there can also be properly utilized. With these words, on behalf of my party Rashtriya Lok Samata Party, I support this revolutionary and historic budget which has been presented for the farmers.

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH-WEST DELHI): Sir, I would like to begin my speech by thanking the Hon. Minister of Finance for the promise we had made to the country that our government has been successful in achieving fiscal consolidation. The credit for this goes to the vision of the Hon. Minister of Finance and while the global economy is going down, our growth rate is increasing. We have achieved good growth rates in all sectors. I was delayed in reaching here because our rural areas in North-West Delhi have witnessed heavy rainfall, hailstorm and storm, due to which the crops have been completely destroyed. I will start my speech by saying that the thrust of this budget is on the upliftment of farmers. I will start with the upliftment of farmers as compensation for crop loss may not be enough, I will request the Minister of Finance to provide a rehabilitation package for this. Secondly, the money goes to various departments and various development works, but whether it reaches the right place or not, this needs a lot of attention and discussion.

Sir, recently a student Rohith Vemula committed suicide in Hyderabad University. This created a lot of uproar in the whole country and all the progressive forces, secular forces and others made a lot of noise and tried to put the entire blame on our Government, as

if our Government's deeds were responsible for that suicide. Therefore, it is important to mention here that before this, eight students had committed suicide in the same university. Is our government also responsible for the suicide of eight students in Hyderabad University?When the first student committed suicide, then the second, then the third and the fourth committed suicide, if some steps had been taken at that time, the Rohit Vemula incident could have been prevented. If all the money that is sent to universities and UGC had been applied, then all the Rohith Vemula's who are alive today; though Vemula of Hyderabad is no longer alive, many Vemula's like him are still alive today. Even today there are thousands of schools in the country where upper caste children do not eat mid-day meals with Dalit children. This is not a new tradition, it is a tradition from the past, we have inherited it.

Apart from this, whether it is the case of suicide by a student in AIIMS, Delhi, Kanpur IIT or other colleges, many such incidents have been happening, but what are the reasons behind them. It is very important to understand its reasons. I would like to draw the Hon. The Minister of Finance considered the fact that misuse of the Budget is also the reason behind this. If this budget had been applied and utilized

properly then perhaps this kind of atrocities and discrimination would not have happened in universities and campuses. I am talking about the budget of 2011-12 In that year, Rs 814 crore was given under the Scheduled Caste Special Component Plan, whereas only Rs 87 crore reached. The remaining money was invested as capital expenditure in Grants in Aid to Capital Assets. This means that out of Rs 814 crore, only Rs 87 crore could be reached. This was also one of the main reasons for Rohit Vemula to commit suicide because he was not getting scholarship and this was going on for a long time. Currently, approximately Three thousand students in western Uttar Pradesh were being prevented from appearing in the exam. Through some intervention, they were granted permission to sit for the examsNow, their accounts have been sealed because the scholarships sent from the Union Government should be disbursed by the state government. Until the funds are received, their accounts will remain sealed, and they will not receive their certificates.

Sir, in the same manner, for the year 2012-13, an amount of Rs.1047 crore was allocated to UGC under Special Component Plan and the expenditure was Rs.107crore and the rest was spent as capital assets and Grant in Aid. In the same way, the funds that have been

sent from the Centre up to now have been misused. That has been the main reason.

Sir, in addition, there is a need to discuss the issue concerning Jawaharlal Nehru University and Hyderabad University that has come to the forefront in this country. In 2013, a meeting of the National Monitoring Committee for SC, ST, OBC was being held, in which I was also present. The UGC Chairman and MHRD Secretary were also present there. At that time, it was revealed that the UGC had spent only three per cent of the SCP funds. Coincidentally, I was also in that committee, this was in January 2013. The Chairman of UGC was also there. At that time it was thought that only 3% of the money given for scheduled costs had been spent. It should have been converted into a scholarship in some way by March and the entire amount should have been spent, but it was not spent. This thing has been going on for a long time that only three percent of the money is spent. Allocations are made for SC, ST students in the budget, but they are not spent. This is a matter of great sorrow. Today in Delhi only 5.2 percent boys from Scheduled Caste have been able to graduate, whereas 31.4percent boys from General Caste have graduated. So the percentage of graduated boys from Scheduled Caste is very less. If we

look at the girls, then 1.3% is of scheduled caste girls and the general category is 26.2% of socially advanced caste girls. This has happened because of Congress.

I would like to especially request you that in the same way, the money that is given here should be used for construction of hostels. Today, there is an urgent need in this country that hostels should be built for SC, ST students, which is not being done. I would request the Minister of Finance to make a provision.

[English]

*SHRI C.R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAUR): This is indeed a great pleasure to congratulate Hon. Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley and his Deputy, Dr. Jayant Sinha for giving us the forwarding-looking, visionary budget for the second successive year. I congratulate my Prime Minister and the Government for giving this country a well-crafted budget, and I am very much hopeful that this General Budget will take the Indian economy forward. This year's budget reflects the visions and leadership of our Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji, who is consistently giving the country's economy a new thrust by bringing back the policy focus on the rural economy and agriculture, and strengthening the backbone of India's progress and economic development.

As Hon. Finance Minister aptly explained that "money with the Government belongs to the people and the Government has sacred responsibility to spend it prudently and wisely for the welfare of the people, especially the poor and downtrodden". Such statements resound the highest level commitments that our Government led by the Prime Minister attaches to welfare and benefits of the *Aam Admi*

* Speech was laid on the Table

and *Aam Aurat* of the country. Ever since our Prime Minister formed the Government, he has only one mission at hand, that is, how to transfer the country by getting rid of the status of developing country and aiming for a developed country status. This year budgetary proposals have given enough scope for the country to transform itself based on nine distinct pillars. The nine pillars are (1) Agriculture and Farmers' welfare; (2) Rural Sector; (3) Social sector including Health care; (4) Education skills and job creations; (5) Infrastructure and investment; (6) Financial sector reforms; (7) Government and the Ease of Doing Business; (8) Fiscal Discipline; and finally (9) Tax reforms.

I come from one of the under-developed regions in Rajasthan, Nagaur Constituency, hence I am conscious of difficulties that poor farmers face in their daily lives. Therefore, my interventions will be around on those pillars which have huge relevance for the common man.

The Government is completely clear from the first day in its five years term that the focus would be absolutely on strengthening the country's agriculture and farmer's welfare. The Modi Government is firmly standing behind the rural poor; it intends to increase the 'food

security' and 'income security' of our farmer community by 2022. The total allocations to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers welfare has been revised upward to Rs. 35,984 crore with additional budgets of approximately Rs. 16,700 crore more than the Budgets of 2014-15. This is the testimony of higher Government priorities for the sector. The Government realizes the importance of irrigation in farmer's lives. As the last 66 years of irrigation history suggests, most Congress led Governments have not attempted to universalize the irrigation in the country. Out of 141 million hectares of net cultivated area in the country, only 46% is covered with irrigation. The flagship IABP scheme, due to lack of funding, has not delivered the results. The NDA Government would like to complete most of the projects in a time-bound manner.

A dedicated Long-term Irrigation Fund is being conceptualized with an initial corpus of about Rs. 20,000 crore to infuse more funds to the irrigation sector. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana has received nearly Rs. 790 crore in 2016-17 (BE) to 2015-16(BE). In order to increase agriculture productivity, the focus should be towards enhancing agriculture and farm productivity in arid and semi-arid regions. In the arid and semi-arid regions, groundwater plays a

significant role on farm's productivity. This year has evidently placed importance on ground water by allocating Rs. 6000 crore for its sustainable management. I would like to congratulate the Government for the prominent reference to the Soil Health Card Scheme in this year's Budget. The Prime Minister himself inaugurated the Soil Health Card in my State to provide all information about the nutrient level of soils and judicious use of fertilizers. Besides, under the Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Department, four new projects have been proposed. These are 'Pashudhan Sanjivani', an animal wellness programme and provision of Animal Health Cards - Nakul Swasthya Patra, Advanced breeding technology, creation of 'EPashudhan Haat', and National Genomic Centre for indigenous breeds, with an allocation of Rs. 850 crore in 2016-17 BE. Besides, the Government has also looked for new financing mechanisms to raise additional funds for the agriculture sector. There is a proposal of Cess (Krishi Kalyan Cess) at 0.5 per cent on all taxable services, which would be exclusively used for financing initiatives relating to improvement of agriculture and welfare of farmers. Further, there would be another 7.5 per cent surcharge of the undisclosed income to be called as Krishi Kalyan surcharge and will be used for agriculture and rural economy.

Government's other priority area for the budget is the rural sector. Ever since, the 14th Finance Commission has come out with its recommendation, a sum of Rs. 2.87 lakh crore are in the pipeline as Grant-in-Aid to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities for transforming villages and small towns. The Government is very much sensitive to rural distress due to drought resulting from climate change. In this context, the role of NRLM and NREGA play a significant role. This year's budget has outlined significant allocations for the livelihood mission and MGNREGA having staggering growth of Rs. 1700 crore and Rs. 6000 crore respectively over 2014-15 (BE). Rural electricity, rural road through (PMGSY), rural housing (IAY) have received significant budgetary allocations than previous year's budgets. The Union Government has reaffirmed its commitment to electrify 100 per cent villages by May 1, 2018. The Union Budget 2016-17 has allocated Rs. 8,500 crore for Deendayal Upadhayaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and Integrated Power Development Schemes. This year's budget has also attached a significant allocation to Swachh Bharat Abhiyan (both Gramin and Urban). The total allocation for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan - Grammen and Urban (G+U) is Rs. 11,300 crore with SBM (G) at Rs. 9,000 crore and SBM (U) at Rs. 2,300 crore in 2016-17 (BE). This is a significant jump from 2015-16 (RE)

wherein the overall allocation for sanitation was Rs. 7,525 crore. This allocation is in sync with PM's vision of making India Swachh from day-one of its governance. Such priority will make the country free from open defecation very soon.

This year's budget has attached huge priority to the social sector including education and health sectors. Finance Minister has rightly invoked the words of Swami Vivekananda - "no amount of politics would be of any avail until the masses in India are well educated, well fed and well cared for", Prime Minister for long has persisted with delivering the message to the well-off consumers to 'live-it' gas subsidy for the benefits of the rural masses.

LPG connection will now reach to 50 lakhs households below poverty line by 2016-17. It will benefit rural women significantly in their household activities and promote women's health. There has been a significant level of increase in the total allocations under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare. In order to address the development deficits in the health sector and the shortages in Infrastructure and availability of healthcare personnel in the country, there is a need to increase India's public spending on health to significantly higher levels. Government is taking huge initiatives to

meet the spending shortfall in this sector. This year, there has been a Rs.5000 crore increase over 2014-15 (BE). For the poor, an increased level of out-of-pocket expenditure is of significant concern. A new health protection scheme is there for poor and economically weak families against unforeseen out-of-pocket expenditure with a health cover up to Rs. 1 Lakh per family. For senior citizens of age 60 years and above belonging to this category, there is an additional top-up package up to Rs. 30,000. Further, this year's budget has also reinvented the Jan Aushadhi Scheme, which was introduced in 2008 and not really taken off since then. The allocations for the scheme have increased in 2016-17 (BE) over 2015-16 (RE). The announcement of 3000 Jan Aushadhi stores is a welcome step but some of the main problems plaguing the scheme, viz. doctors not prescribing generic medicines to the patients and the non-availability of medicines under generic names, still need to be addressed. This year's budget has also focused on the dialysis and reductions of its costs. A National Dialysis Services Programme has been proposed in this budget. Funds will be made available through PPP mode under the National Health Mission to provide dialysis services in all district hospitals.

Education, Skills and Job creations have been a huge priority for the NDA Government. The sector has always been a matter of concern in the context of not imparting quality education, lack of world class infrastructures, and the existing educational infrastructure not living up-to markets demands of employability, etc. This year's Budget has made provisions to establish 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas in remaining uncovered districts in the next two years. Our Public and private educational institutions are not competitive at the world levels, either teaching or research levels. There is a need for creating an enabling regulatory architecture at the higher education level. This year's budget has created a Higher Education Financing Agency (HEFA) with the initial capital base of Rs. 1000 crore to finance world class infrastructures in the country's institutions. Besides, this year's Budget has also given priority to the "Skill India Mission". Towards this, under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the Budget proposes to set-up 1500 Multi Skill Training Institutes across the country with annual outlays of Rs.1700 crore for this initiative. This is Modi Sarkar's mantra that if youth of this country get adequate infrastructure and skills, they will create new innovation for this country.

To sum up, I am completely seconding the budgetary proposal as proposed by our Finance Minister to take the Prime Minister's vision forward. This year's budget, I should characterize as the most forward looking budget in recent history. For this, I must congratulate our Prime Minister.

[Translation]

***SHRIMATI JAYSHREEBEN PATEL (MEHSANA):** I am expressing some of my views in support of the General Budget presented by Shri Arun Jaitley. Even before today, many budgets were presented in the Lok Sabha, in all of them only the details of income and expenditure were seen. But in this budget presented by Shri Arun Jaitley, the vision of the economic policy of the government has been presented before everyone. The economy grew at a rapid 7.6 percent in 2015-16. When the world is going through a recession. This current budget can be termed as a budget that will accelerate the pace of change in India as it aims to transform the country into a developed and prosperous economic power. For the first time, agriculture, rural development and irrigation have been given priority in policies. Compared to previous budgets, this is a professional budget with a technological base. This is a budget of big ideas aimed at inclusive growth of the economy. The essence of the Budget lies in the nine core priorities of the government, which form the strong pillars of the broader economy. These are the nine main pillars: Agriculture and farmers' welfare to double the income of farmers in five years.

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* Speech was laid on the Table

Strengthening of rural areas with emphasis on rural employment and infrastructure. Emphasis has been laid on the social sector along with health services for all the vulnerable sections. Priority given to education, skills and employment generation, investment in infrastructure and for improving living standards and capacity building, to make India a knowledge-based and productive society. Financial reforms to bring stability and transparency. An environment of good governance and ease of doing business has been created to enable people to achieve success as per their capabilities. This is commendable. India can remain the fastest growing economy in the world. Needless to say, the target of limiting the fiscal deficit to 3.5 per cent of GDP reflects the government's firm intention to maintain fiscal discipline. An amount of Rs 21 lakh crore has been allocated in the budget to boost the infrastructure sector with the aim of taking forward the economic reforms. Therefore, I would like to congratulate Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley for presenting a budget that brings a smile on the face of the common man. After all, the common man has been forced to endure one incompetent government after another since independence.

Our previous governments simply did not have the political will to take this nation to glorious heights. When the country was surrounded by many kinds of crises due to the wrong economic policies of the previous governments, then instead of improving the health of the economy and healing the wounds, the then Minister of Finance kept showing his mastery in presenting anonymous budgets. But in this budget of Shri Arun Jaitley, we have faced challenges in dealing with the fundamental reforms.

The target of doubling agricultural income by 2022 can be achieved. In addition to providing adequate water, electricity and resources to the farmers, the government should also introduce technological improvements in agricultural equipment.

It is clear from the main points of the budget that Modi ji's Make in India campaign is more or less dependent on the budget to some extent. Its focus is on farmers and the agriculture sector. Because this will help farmers and poor sections to raise their standard of living. Steps like LPG subsidy, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, insurance for senior citizens and irrigation reforms will improve the health of rural India. Overall, there is something for everyone in this 2016 Budget. Improving the health of infrastructure and the rural

economy will have a spillover effect on other sectors as well, boosting the overall economy. Therefore, the Finance Minister deserves congratulations for keeping the deficit under control and focusing on the progress aspects.

If we continue with this kind of progress and our growth rate reaches 8 percent, it will be a victory for the people of this country, especially our youth, who desperately need new productive employment opportunities.

This budget is a development oriented budget. I approve of this budget.

Some of my demands for the development of Gujarat are pending with the Union Government. Please look into it. Gujarat which has today become the engine of development of the country. Today 42 percent of the population of Gujarat lives in cities. Planned urban development has been achieved in Gujarat due to the efficiency of the urban development bodies1. Those urban bodies should be exempted from taxes. Abhay Ghat- Appropriate assistance should be provided for the Samadhi of Late Shri Morarji Desai. The remaining funds should be provided for completion of construction of Dandi March Heritage Route Project from 2005. The remaining amount of Rs

260.61 crore of the Professor Vaidyanathan Committee's restructuring package under the Agriculture Ministry should be given to Gujarat. Funds should be allocated for the RMS campaign under HRD.

Sugar mills of the cooperative sector and small farmer cooperative societies of the cooperative sector should be given income tax exemption. Funds should be sanctioned for construction of spillover houses under Indira Awas Yojana under the Ministry of Rural Development. Funds should be allocated under Swachh Bharat Mission (Rural) scheme under the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation. Subsidy should be provided for the development of ship building under the Ministry of Shipping. Assistance should be provided in the development of the salt industry and welfare schemes of Agariyas under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. In the last general budget, provision for AIIMS in Gujarat was made, but where it should be established is still pending. This process should be expedited.

*SHRIMATI KAMLA PATLE (JANJGIR-CHAMPA): For the first time, a government has given priority to the villages, poor and farmers of the country in the budget. For this, I thank the Prime Minister, Hon. Narendra Modi and the Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley from the bottom of my heart.

Keeping in view today's situation and tomorrow's needs, an attempt has been made to bring the slogan "Chalo Gaon Ki Or" to reality by balancing agricultural productivity, rural and urban development with rural demand.

In the field of agriculture, provision has been made in the budget for establishment of fund for irrigation, ground water resources management, construction of ponds and wells in rain fed areas, Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme, increasing crop yield, Traditional Agriculture Development Scheme, Value chain based organic farming scheme, agricultural loan, Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, promotion of dairy industry, increasing production of pulses, establishment of Integrated Agricultural Marketing "E-platform" for marketing. With the promotion of agriculture the country will become

* Speech was laid on the Table

self-reliant and the standard of living of the villages and the poor will rise.

An amount of Rs 2.87 lakh crore has been set aside for the development of villages and cities, which will provide an average assistance of Rs 80 lakh per Gram Panchayat and more than Rs 21 crore per urban body. Schemes like NREGA, Swachh Bharat Mission, Digital India, Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, Pradhan Mantri Road Scheme, Highway Scheme, upgradation of airports will bring about revolutionary changes in the country.

In the field of social health, measures like health insurance cover up to one lakh rupees, provision of generic medicines in three thousand Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendras, opening of dialysis service centers in all the district hospitals of the country, providing LPG connections to women of 1.5 crore BPL families, education for youth, skill development, efforts for employment generation have been mentioned. Priority has been given to small entrepreneurs, start-ups, SC/ST hubs.

Some States of the country faced severe droughts and floods. Most of the districts of Chhattisgarh state were also affected by drought. Baloda tehsil of my parliamentary constituency Janjgir-

Champa is also in the drought area. There is no irrigation system here. The Hansdev left bank canal passes through here but irrigation is not possible due to the water level being 50 to 70 feet below the surface. I want that about Rs 70 lakhs should be included in the budget for the MP Adarsh Village Jabalpur Parasahi Lift Irrigation Scheme from near the Jerve of this canal. Similarly, water has been supplied from this canal to Sipat NTPC for the past many years, which is about 25 km away.

I demand that the country's only natural crocodile park, Kotmi Sonar, which is located in the Akaltara assembly constituency of my parliamentary constituency, be developed as a national park.

Recently, the state road going to Odisha state via Raipur-Baloda Bazar-Kasdol-Sarsiwan has been given the status of National Highway. Provision should be made in the budget for making it a four lane road and for reconstruction of broken bridges on it.

Establishment of National Tribal University proposed by Chhattisgarh State Government and setting up of regional office of NAC, giving special package for construction of new capital, keeping the steel industries of the state alive, high melting point scrap (HMS-

l., H.M.S.-.l l) I demand to allow the import of and to provide inland transportation subsidy for the industrial activities of the state.

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting a balanced budget, in which special attention has been given to agriculture, rural economy, employment generation, social revival and infrastructure etc. Also, an attempt has been made to achieve the target of fiscal consolidation even in extremely difficult circumstances. The opposition has repeatedly criticized our government by saying that it is a supporter of the corporate world, but the way the Hon. The Minister of Finance has tried to reach out to the marginalized sections of the society through this budget by understanding the gap between Bharat and India, it certainly silences our opposition colleagues. Very important announcements have been made in the field of agriculture. The government has allocated Rs. 36 thousand crore for the agriculture sector to double the income of farmers in five years. A loan facility of Rs. 9 lakh crore has also been made available to the farmers and a provision of Rs. 15 thousand crore has also been made for waiver on the interest on this loan, which has been done by the Hon. Minister of Finance. Rs. 5500 crore has been allocated under the crop insurance scheme and the premium rates in this scheme have been kept very low so that more and more farmers can come under the

ambit of the crop insurance scheme. Even when the crops are damaged, they should be given maximum compensation in that situation. Keeping in mind the rising prices of pulses and their decreasing production, the government has allocated Rs 500 crore to promote the production of pulses. Even launching a digital agriculture market has also been proposed through this budget. Under this, the government has also made arrangements to connect all the agricultural markets of the country online. Through this online market, farmers will be able to earn profit by selling their crops at the right price anywhere in the country. The Hon. The Minister of Finance has said this.

It has also been announced that all 14 crore farmers will be given Soil Health Cards for soil testing by the year 2017 and for this two thousand mini soil labs will be built. This has been announced by the Hon. Minister of Finance. We have also read in the budget that five lakh acres will also be brought under the ambit of organic farming. A target has also been set to construct five lakh wells and ponds under MNREGA. I welcome all these announcements, but I have some apprehensions, which I would like to be resolved by the Hon. Minister

of Finance. I urge him to address these concerns in his statement and shed light on them.

My first question is that there has been talk of doubling the income of farmers, but what is the government's road map for doubling that income? Will the income of our farmers increase in line with inflation in five years and does the government have any plan to increase the agricultural growth rate by two and a half times to increase their income? How will the government do this? Our government is making a provision of nine lakh crore rupees for agricultural loan, but today the problem of farmers has become that they are committing suicide due to debt and especially the state I come from, Uttar Pradesh, has a region like Bundelkhand, where most of the farmer suicides are happening due to debt. I want to know from my government that if you want to give a loan of Rs 9 lakh crore, then why is there no talk of waiving the farmers' loans? Does our government have any policy in that regard too?

Why are the insurance premium rates for Rabi and Kharif crops kept different? I would also like to seek clarification on this from the Hon. Minister of Finance. The biggest problem is that the assessment of our crops is done by insurance companies. Often the damage that

has occurred cannot be properly assessed. In such a situation, how will the government ensure that our farmers get the benefit of the crop insurance scheme and the insurance companies do not take away the benefit?

As far as making agricultural markets online is concerned, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Finance that till now only 12 states have agreed and not all states are ready for this, so how will this problem be solved? As far as digging five lakh ponds and wells is concerned, encroachment on pond and well lands remains a very serious problem and I think this problem exists in almost every state, so how will we face this challenge? I would like to know this from the hon. Minister.

What will be the blueprint of the announcement of building two thousand mini soil labs? In which states will these be established first and how will the states be selected and how will they be established? From the health point of view, the Union Government has talked about setting up dialysis centers in every district with the participation of the private sector. I also welcome this, because the way the number of kidney patients is increasing today, people have to come to big cities and it costs them a lot. In such a situation, if a dialysis center is

established in every district, then definitely our people, the general public will get a lot of benefit from it. Along with kidney, tuberculosis is also a big problem and there are a large number of its patients in India. I would like to request the government to make some provision for this also.

The Rs. 1 lakh insurance scheme for the poor is also a good initiative because 70 to 75 percent of the diseases can be solved with the amount of Rs. 1 lakh. The idea of providing cheap generic medicines by opening 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras is also welcome. In this regard, I request the Hon. Minister that these 3,000 Jan Aushadhi Centres should be opened first in the most backward areas of the country, so that the poor and needy people can take advantage of these cheap medicines.

All I want to say in the field of education is that India is the most backward country in the world educationally. In the last three decades, governments have established a large number of schools to promote education and have tried to ensure that every child goes to school. Every child has started going to school but the quality of education still remains a big challenge. I appreciate what my government has said in this budget about improving the quality of education. I

welcome the proposal to open 62 Navodaya Vidyalayas. I also welcome the opening of world-class higher education institutions. With a view to employment generation, there is a provision of Rs 1,700crore in the budget for setting up 1,500 skill training centers, which is also commendable.

I want to conclude by saying that my government has reached the farms and barns despite wearing suits and boots, a work which the UPA government could not do even after wearing a Khadi kurta. Thank you very much.

[English]

***DR. KULMANI SAMAL (JAGATSINGHPUR):** This budget, as claimed by the Minister of Finance, is to transform India by focusing upon macro-economic stability and management of country's economy, ensuring fulfillment of domestic demand and to make economic reforms and policy initiatives in right track in order to proceed in the direction of growth and development. In this regard, I would like to focus upon three areas namely, Agriculture, Education and Health, which play a major role in strengthening the society in the direction of inclusive growth of our country.

First of all, I would like to focus upon budgetary allocation on the backbone of our Country's life and economy, i.e. Agriculture. The Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley has allocated Rs. 35,984 crore for agriculture and farmer's welfare. In his statement, Shri Jaitley has categorically mentioned that the farmers are the backbone of the country's food security. Hence so many projects have been initiated along with proposed plans to implement Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. Under this project, 28.5 lakh hectares of land, as projected by the Ministry, could be irrigated. Including this Krishi

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* Speech was laid on the Table

Sinchai Yojana, various other schemes were also initiated for the development of agriculture along with the income security of the farmers all over the country. It is interesting to note that in spite of action taken by the respective Governments and in spite of funds being allocated for the development of agriculture as well as farmers, we are experiencing decline in agricultural productivity along with different types of problems faced by the farmers every day. It is alarming to note that in 2014-15, it was reported that around 6000 farmers all over the country committed suicide. Hon. Minister of Agriculture might have the idea that in 2004 alone, over 18 thousand farmers committed suicide in our country. We are residing in a country where around 60% of its people depend directly or indirectly upon agriculture. And it is a matter of concern that suicide committed by farmers holds a sizeable number, i.e. 11.2% of all suicides in India. So my view is, just allocating funds under the Budget is not at all enough to augment the agriculture sector or to stable farmer's income security, rather we have to focus upon appropriate implementation of such schemes.

It is a matter of concern that most of the illiterate and uneducated people are involved in agricultural activities, who do not have any idea

about the advantages of different types of schemes relating to farming and cultivation. Since they do not know the benefits of most of the schemes, they should be assisted as to how they can approach the concerned agencies to fetch maximum advantage out of the funds as well as subsidies meant for them under agricultural schemes. For example, in this budget, the Soil Health Card Scheme, Pramaparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, etc. are to be implemented, but I am in doubt about the exposure of farmers in rural areas to the benefits of such schemes. Take the case of Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana, on which Rs. 5500 crore have been allocated, the schemes like 'Pashudhan Sanjivani', 'Nakul Swasthya Patra', E-Pashudhan Haat' and National Genomic Centre, etc. for which the Government has allocated Rs.850 crore. But are we really concerned whether the farmers know about these schemes? Until and unless the advantages, the benefits of all these schemes are shared with the farmers, the idea to develop the farming sector cannot materialize. Might be our step motherly activities towards the agricultural sector have put this sector behind the Service Sector and Industrial Sector in the economic scenario of this country. So, I would like to emphasize upon the point that it is necessary to make all the farmers aware about the benefits of such schemes.

In this regard, I urge upon the Government to open different agencies to assist the farmers directly to get an idea about the benefits of the schemes. However, I feel good that compared to allocation of around Rs. 23,000 crore in last year in respect of agriculture, allocation of Rs. 35984 crore in this financial year could definitely address the problems of farmers. However, keeping in view the recent loss of crops in different states due to natural calamities like untimely heavy rain, hailstorms, floods, drought, etc. in more than 15 states, the Government should have initiated for enhancement in the amount of funds under insurance scheme relating to Agricultural Sector to address the rough patch of farmers and stop the increasing incidents of suicide committed by them.

Secondly, the Government has allocated Rs. 1,51,581 crore for the social sector including education and health care. In the education sector, the Government has proposed to open 62 more Navodaya Vidyalayas along with strengthening the quality of education under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Scheme. It is a matter of fact that India having a population of 1.3 billion holds an important place in the global education industry. The country having more than 36,000 higher education institutes is one of the largest higher education systems in

the world. But it has been mentioned in the Economic Survey of India 2015-16 that there is a declining trend in the percentage of enrolment in Government schools in rural areas. In 2007, enrolment was 72.9 percent which got reduced to 63.1 percent in 2014. Keeping these statistics in mind it is necessary to strengthen the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan by allocating a good amount of funds to have more enrolment in primary schools. But the Department of School Education and Literacy has got an allocation of Rs. 43,554 crore in this Budget as compared to Rs. 42,186 crore as per the revised estimates for 2015-16. And, in respect of Sarva Shiksha Yojana, only 2.27 % increase has taken place. In this budget, only Rs. 2320 crores has been granted on this head. So, how can you manage with this amount to address both the points, i.e. the decline in enrolment in government schools and improvement in quality of primary education? So it is high time we should utilize the potential of our education system to maximum level.

Further, I would like to state that we are lagging behind in the Human Development Index as per the report of the United Nations in 2015. So, allocation for education is inadequate if we take the report of the United Nations Human Development Report, 2015 into

consideration. We have put ourselves at 130th position among 188 nations listed in the United Nations Human Development Index. In this budget, allocation for creation of a Higher Education Funding Agency is only Rs. 1,000 crore. Question comes to my mind that currently the outstanding educational loan is around Rs. 50,000 crore. Then how the purpose of Higher Education Funding Agency could meet the expectation only with the fund of Rs. 1,000 crore. The Government could have thought of allocating more to this Funding Agency just to address the problems faced by the poor students pursuing higher education.

In regard to the initiative of the Government to improve the quality of primary education, I am of the view that we launched the Right to Education Act, 2009 with a number of hopes and expectations, but I apprehend that we are gradually losing the direction of the same Act because of half-hearted implementation and execution. Further, it is also my query that in respect of how many schools or institutions, the proposals are going to be applied. If at all it is applicable for all the schools and institutions, then it is the time to think over whether the allocation for purpose in the Budget is appropriate or not. So, I would like to urge upon the Government to

do the needful with heart only if it is truly thinking to do some improvement in the quality of education. I appreciate the announcement of the Minister regarding the move for digital literacy combined with the promise of 100 percent electrification in order to provide knowledge dissemination efforts to approximately six crores of people in rural as well as sub-urban areas of the country, which could directly or indirectly help the goal of education. It is absolutely a good idea but again I doubt the mechanism of implementation and appropriate execution.

I would like to state further that as per the Report of Global Competitiveness, 2015 published in Economic Survey 2015-16, our country's capacity for innovation has been lower than that of many countries. Even in the quality of scientific research institutions, we score lower than China and South Africa. And it is also seen that we are scoring poorly on University and Industry collaboration on Research and Development as compared to BRICS countries. Hence, I request the Government to take suitable measures for maximum benefits out of the schemes they intend to put on the board to develop the primary and higher education system. So, I feel, we need to focus upon our education system more, if we want to fulfill the clarion call

of the Prime Minister, 'Startup India', 'Stand up India', 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat', etc.

As a physician, I would like to emphasize upon the Health Sector of our country. In the Health Sector, the Government in this Budget has proposed to implement various projects like three thousand stores under Prime Minister's Jan Aushadhi Yojana which will be opened in 2016-17. The 'National Dialysis Service Programme' is to be started under the National Health Mission through Public and Private Partnership mode. I would like to state here that the PPP programme focused especially on dialysis. The Government has recognized the financial burden and inaccessibility related to non-communicable diseases. However, solutions to the challenges faced by a large section of the population related to the absence of preventive care and increasing financial burden while accessing healthcare for diseases, such as diabetes and oncology, is not clearly indicated in this Budget. Hence, in this regard, I want to know from the Government whether they are going to implement the PPP mode of investment in all the areas of the Health Sector or stick only to areas mentioned in the Budget.

In this respect, I would like to focus upon the budgetary allocation of Rs.19000 crore towards National Health Mission and Rs.2450 crore towards Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana and only Rs.470 crore towards Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Yojana. I am aggrieved at the inadequate allocation towards the Health Sector because the Health Sector is one of the important sectors in which there should be enough facilities to address the problems of public health, clinical health and health insurance. I want to mention why the recent scenario relating to health in our country is a challenging task. As you know, because of the growing population, rise in non-communicable diseases, changing demographics and increasing healthcare awareness, we are lagging far behind in providing health oriented needs to our people. You see, the number of healthcare professionals and infrastructure facilities in Hospitals especially in rural areas, is not adequate to address the growing population and a number of diseases of the country. It is a matter of the fact that the country shares about 20 percent of the burden of global diseases. But, in terms of global infrastructure share, India has only 6 percent beds and 8 percent doctors, which is not sufficient to address the prevailing healthcare needs. So, we need the right policy framework and appropriate infrastructure development. The BJP Government in its

election manifesto had emphasized on modernization of Government hospitals along with upgradation of infrastructure and latest technologies. But, till the date, it has remained as a daydream. So, I urge the Government to take care of this sector. One more important thing I want to focus upon is the allocation in respect of the scheme for Child Development which is under-resourced in this Budget 2016-17. The Budget does not offer much solace with the allocation for Integrated Child Protection Scheme (ICPS) which is down by 1.3%. The Integrated Child Protection Scheme has been allocated only Rs. 397 crore in 2016-17 compared to the allocation of Rs. 402.23 crore in the 2015-16 Budget. So in the scenario of an increase in crimes against children, the lack of attention to child protection is very discouraging.

In respect of my State Odisha, I would like to state that allocation for agriculture, drinking water and sanitation, housing and urban development, livelihood improvement programmes and road infrastructure sectors, etc. has been increased. But, it is not adequate to address the problems since Odisha is a poor state and is always affected by natural calamities which directly or indirectly affect every aspect of the State thereby putting an adverse impact on its economy.

So, I request the Government to think over the issues of my State and take necessary steps in this regard.

The allocation for Tribal Welfare has also been stagnant in respect of my State over a period of time. In Odisha, around 22% of its population are tribals and most of them are yet to be exposed to the outer world and mainstream society. So, it is necessary to bring them in the path of Development in order to fulfill the call of the Prime Minister, 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas'. So, I request the Government to allocate more funds in this area to my State for Tribal Development.

I also urge upon the Government to expedite implementation of Sagarmala Project and develop the Paradip Port region in my Parliamentary Constituency, Jagatsinghpur in Odisha.

16.00 hours

[Translation]

SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL (SAHARANPUR): Chairperson Sir, I rise to speak in support of the General Budget 2016-17. The then Prime Minister of this country, late Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri had said 50 years ago that economic issues are most important for us. It is extremely important that we fight our biggest enemies, poverty and unemployment. Today, after 50 years, due to the efforts of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Hon. Finance Minister of India Arun Jaitley ji, these sentences are moving towards becoming true. Ever since the NDA government has come to power, the budget has come before the country not just as a budget but as a reform document. A document that will lay the foundation for economic reforms. If we talk about the budget of 2016-2017, the way it is a farmer, poor and development friendly budget, the kind of bold steps that have been taken in this budget, no amount of praise would be enough for them. I am surprised when some Hon. members raise questions on such a visionary and path breaking budget. Those people who spoiled the budget of this country for 60 years are asking questions today. They are asking questions that

"You ask questions with pain

You too are doing amazing work

After seeing me you asked me how am I

Let's think about something

How can there be sadness in the city of heart?

You ask me this question too

Now what example should I give you?

Every cruelty you inflict is unmatched."

16.01 hours (Shri Pralhad Joshi *in the Chair*)

[English]

Mr. Chairman, Sir, as the hon. the Finance Minister very rightly said about the previous year's Budget that we have spent more, we have earned more and we have maintained the quality of the fiscal deficit. This is the essence of this particular Budget. This is the essence of what our Government is striving to do. The quality of the

fiscal deficit can be achieved in either of two ways -- either you spend less or you earn more.

The previous Government, in order to maintain the fiscal deficit, used to spend less, used to resort to major cost cutting in very important schemes, and which is why we have this state of affairs in our country today.

Sir, our hon. Finance Minister has resolved to reduce the fiscal deficit to 3.5 per cent, which I feel is indeed a very, very bold step. We should be unified in applauding the hon. Finance Minister for this extremely brilliant Budget. We have not compromised on our spending; we have not compromised on making any cuts. On the contrary, there has been a 15.3 per cent increase in public investment. Given the additional responsibility of adhering to the One Rank One Pension commitment as also the commitment to the 7th Pay Commission Recommendations, I would like to congratulate the hon. Finance Minister for giving us such a stupendous Budget.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, the fiscal mood has been kept upbeat. We know that the global economy is suffering and struggling. If we talk about the USA, if we talk about the European countries; and if we talk about Japan, we know that they are experiencing low growth. If we

talk about China, they are also struggling with debt and economic slowdown. Whereas our country, with the previous Budget and with this particular Budget, has resorted to macro stability and would, indeed, stand out amongst the emerging markets in the time to come.

Mr. Chairman, Sir, there is something for everyone in this Budget. *[Translation]* Be it a poor person, a farmer, a youth, a woman, an entrepreneur, a businessman, a Dalit, an backward person, or a person from any class, our government has made an effort to wipe the tears from everyone's eyes.

I do not want to go into the statistics...*(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL: Give me two more minutes.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude in one minute.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI RAGHAV LAKHANPAL: So, I do not want to get into those figures. Our Government has focused on rural development; on

providing electricity to every household; on giving the largest budget for MNREGA; on concentrating on the rural sector; on concentrating and on pushing entrepreneurial activity by its various schemes; and then when someone says this is a political Budget, I say if good economics is equal to good politics, then so be it. Then, let it be a political Budget. But you are trying to politicize everything. This is not the right way to go about things. There is a humane effect to this Budget. Is it not right to provide LPG to five crore households? Is it not right to set up the National Dialysis Service Programme? Is it not right to have a health protection scheme? The problem with the previous Government was that the UPA ideas never permeated into actual policy and the main difference between the previous Government and our Government is execution. Implementation - Our Government does not just make plans, it brings the plans to the ground, sets a timeline and completes the schemes to provide benefits to the public.This is our national religion. I just want to add by saying that all the promises that our hon. Prime Minister and the hon. The Finance Minister has been fulfilled. I will conclude by just saying that a leader takes people where they want to go. A great leader takes people not necessarily where they want to go but where they ought to be and the greatest leader in this world, our Prime Minister, hon. Shri

Narendra Modi Ji is taking us where we want to be and also where we ought to be.

With that, I conclude my speech and I strongly support the Budget 2016-17, while demanding more facilities for my constituency, Saharanpur, which has already been given a doubling of railway lines. I request that in the years to come, a Central University is set up and also an AIIMS facility is set up.

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16.06 hours

SUBMISSION BY MEMBER....Contd.

Re : Immediate intervention and assistance to farmers affected by unseasonal rains and hailstorms in entire north India

[English]

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Panel Chairman Sir, in the morning, there was a mention about hailstorm and untimely rains in the northern parts of India. It will take time to collect all the details. The hon. The Agriculture Minister has come to the House now. He will just briefly inform us about the position.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): Sir, the Meteorological Department had predicted on 8th March, 2016 that an intense Western Disturbance would affect North-West and Central

India. Subsequently, a press release was also issued on March 9, forecasting rain, strong winds and hailstorms in North-West and Central India. Its duration was stated to be from 11 to 13 March. The period for Central and Central along with East India was said to be 12 to 14 March. Due to that disturbance, the regional meteorological office reported that Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Punjab, Haryana, Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh witnessed heavy rainfall and strong winds along with hail storms in some places. How much of the area was affected is not within the purview of the Meteorological Department. He cannot give this information. But after the matter came up this morning, Venkaiah ji told me. Yesterday I was also in Uttar Pradesh. Agriculture Ministers or officials of all the concerned States, I have spoken to the Agriculture Ministers of four States, and officials in other places. Madhya Pradesh reported that hail storms caused damage in 264 villages.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Another incident happened last night.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: He might have told you something except the one at night, I don't know. Today it was reported that a hailstorm has caused damage in 264 villages. But since it is such

a large state, it is natural that it will take a day or two. It has been told that information regarding the area will be given after three-four days. Similarly, we talked to the Agriculture Minister of Rajasthan.

Agriculture Minister of Punjab, Agriculture Minister of Uttar Pradesh, they told that we will give the report in three-four days. As far as Delhi government is concerned, most of the news has been seen in Delhi.Assistance has never been given to Union Territories under NDRF, Union Territories were not included in NDRF. Till date no assistance has been given to any state from the National Disaster Fund. We would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the Prime Minister for establishing the Union Territory Disaster Fund. We have spoken to the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and have also sent all the norms. Give details and memorandum of the damage that has occurred inside Delhi. The Government of India will also help the government here. We are waiting and are in constant touch to get details from the states about how much damage has occurred in which area. Our team is ready. As soon as we get the details, our team will immediately go and whatever assistance the states need will be provided.

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16.13 hours

GENERAL BUDGET (2016-17)– GENERAL DISCUSSION DEMANDS FOR GRANTS ON ACCOUNT (GENERAL), 2016-17 DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS (GENERAL), 2015-16 –Contd.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV (BADAUN): Sir, I was listening to the speeches of all the Hon. members of the ruling party. The speeches were being made to such an extent that the economy of the whole country has become prosperous and there is no such plan of progress and development left which has not been implemented by this government through the budget. The juggling of figures is very strange. Schemes were started for the benefit of farmers and for the welfare of farmers; starting from the Agriculture Insurance Scheme, many things were discussed. Hon. Agriculture Minister, your own department estimates that the country needs at least Rs 18,000 crore for agricultural insurance, but you have made a provision of only Rs 5000 crore. You can yourself guess how many percent of farmers will be insured and who will be left out? You have said that you will double the income of farmers in the next five years. We are also

farmers' sons. Our father is also a farmer. Minister, you can answer later.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I want to clarify about the state.

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE (SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH): Sir, as far as the previous government is concerned, whatever would have been the budget allocation, whatever amount a farmer had taken as insurance, it would be paid on demand. This is a general provision. All the farmers in the country are engaged in this campaign to get themselves insured, till now only 20% farmers get themselves insured, our campaign is to get 100% farmers insured. There is no shortage for this in the state treasury and full support will be provided by the state.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Chairperson Sir, you are a Minister of the Government of India, we do not want to interrupt you. The same thing had happened a year ago in April-May when there was a hailstorm, many things were talked about at that time also. At that time, Uttar Pradesh had demanded Rs 7,500 crore but you gave only Rs 2800 crore. Minister Ji, please accept this. You said that you will double the income of farmers in the next five years. Hon. Minister, please tell me, I am also a farmer's son, I do farming, how will this

happen without increasing the support price? When you will not provide support price more than the cost of crops, then what magic wand do you have with which you will double the income of farmers. The Hon. Agriculture Minister or the Hon. The Minister of Finance may answer this question in whatever way they wish. There has also been talk of increasing the budget of the Agriculture Department. I completely disagree with your manipulation of statistics. You have shown the budget of the Agriculture Department as Rs. 35,000 crores in which Rs. 15,100 crores is the credit budget which used to go to financial institutions in all the previous budgets. This was not included in the budget of the Agriculture Ministry. By increasing it you are trying to do numerical magic. As far as the support price of farmers is concerned, I would like to say that Hon. Minister, this is your third budget. You will present two more budgets during your tenure. You had said in your election manifesto that we will increase the support price of farmers by one and a half times. Now we definitely want an answer from you as to how to do this.

You praised the agricultural irrigation scheme a lot. I think all the speakers from the ruling party spoke about this. You made a provision of Rs 5717 crore in this. I want to say with pride in this

House that the budget of the Irrigation Department in Uttar Pradesh alone is Rs 12,800 crore, whereas this scheme is for the entire country. ... *(Interruptions)* Whatever we did in four years is in front of the people of the state. ... *(Interruptions)* We will talk one by one. ... *(Interruptions)* By giving only Rs 5717 crore you are talking as if complete transformation has taken place. Here many friends discussed Bundelkhand. You tell me whether Rs 5717 crore will bring any big change in the drought problem of Bundelkhand? Hon. Minister, are you not aware of this? Don't you have all the plans from GPR onwards? You should realize this.

Chairperson Sir, we want to talk about the weaker section. You reduced the subsidy in fertilizer security. You reduced the subsidy on fertilizers. You have reduced subsidies in all such schemes for the poor. In this way I can say that there is nothing special in this budget. I can definitely call this budget a magic of figures or jugglery of figures. As far as many schemes are concerned, today I want to appeal to you on behalf of the poor people that you are giving only Rs 70 thousand under Indira Awas Yojana. I can say with great responsibility that no house can be built for Rs 70 thousand. In Uttar Pradesh, the Samajwadi Party has made a provision of Rs 3 lakh 5 five

thousand in the name of Lohia Housing. We want you to match the Uttar Pradesh government in this matter. ... *(Interruptions)* The services for the poor... *(Interruptions)* Many friends from Uttar Pradesh are here. A provision of Rs 3 lakh 5 thousand has been made. ... *(Interruptions)* I am finishing my speech in two minutes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please finish your speech in one minute.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: We have just started. Please do not do this much injustice. You are passing such a huge budget, please give us some more time to speak. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister's reply is scheduled at 6 o’clock. Still we have a list of 25 Members, who want to participate. Therefore, I request you to conclude your speech.

[Translation]

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Along with this, earlier the Government of India used to give 90 percent share in the central schemes and the state governments used to give 10 percent share. You reduced it. Now 60 per cent will be given by the Union Government

and 40 percent by the State Government. I want to make the Minister of Finance realize that out of all the ongoing schemes, the state government will not be able to complete even a single scheme on its own. All the ongoing schemes will come to a complete halt. Now this government has promoted Sansad Adarsh Gram a lot. ... *(Interruptions)*

Speaker Sir, you are also struggling with this problem and we are also struggling. You did not make provision for even a single rupee in the budget for Sansad Adarsh Gram, while you are talking of building Sansad Adarsh Gram and also discussing other villages. In this way, there are many such problems facing the country, which should be included in this budget. Now the GST bill has not been passed, but you have increased the service tax. The movement of all the jewelers and traders is in front of you. Today the country is facing many such problems. I would appeal to the ruling party MPs not to show such dreams to the country. You have already talked about Shining India once before, so don't try to show such dreams. The result of that time is also in front of you. If you still do not proceed with caution, the coming consequences will be before you. Therefore, once again, I would like to request the government through you that you first

remove the service tax and increase the support price of the farmers by one and a half times.

Speaker Sir, I conclude my speech with the hope that the Hon. The Agriculture Minister and Minister of Finance will pay attention to these things. If they do not pay attention then the people of the country will respond to this. Thank you very much.

SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH: The HON. A member has raised a good topic of irrigation. This is a very good topic. You are right that its budget is only Rs 5700 crore. But if you look at it completely, it is written that a core fund of Rs 20,000crore has been created by NABARD for irrigation.

It is further written that 89 big projects in the country are pending for 15-20 years. Out of these, a provision of Rs 12,751 crore has been made in the budget to complete 23 projects this year. As far as assistance to the state is concerned, you have discussed NDRF, you will remember that in 2009-2010 also there was severe drought in the entire country and in Uttar Pradesh. At that time you had asked for Rs 12,000 crore and got Rs 515 crore. Since we have come, the norms have changed. Rs 7,500 crore was asked for and we gave Rs 2,800 crore. You see how much difference there is. In 2015-2016, you had

asked for Rs 2,057 crore, we have given Rs 1,300crore. What a huge difference there is, only Rs 500 crore out of Rs 12,000 crore, that means the norms have changed in this way, more assistance has been given.

Third thing is, your government has made a budget of Rs 12,000 crore, it is a good thing. But we give 60 percent share. It is natural that if all states are combined, even if all states contribute money, then where does the money come from? It will either be from the state's resources or it will not be from there. I would like to conclude by bringing to your notice that the Minister of Finance will explain in detail the share in central taxes. Your state received Rs 63,000 crore in central taxes in 2013-2014. This year, Rs 99,165 crore has been received, this money is for this work. There has been a huge increase in contributions to the states.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Hon. Speaker Sir, I want to say something.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No.

Only Shri Chandulal Sahu’s speech will go on record.

… (Interruptions)...[*]

[Translation]

***SHRI RAMSINGH RATHWA (CHHOTA UDAIPUR):** I am thankful to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance, who presented the budget of 2016-17 related to the development of the country. I request the Hon. Minister to accept some important suggestions. The Hon. The Minister has retained the interest limit at Rs. 10,000 for small income earners under Section 80tta. I request the Minister to increase this limit to Rs 20,000. In the budget, the limit for medical treatment under 80D has been fixed at Rs 30,000 for senior citizens and Rs 25,000 for other citizens. I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance to increase this limit from Rs. 30,000 to Rs. 50,000 for senior citizens and from Rs. 25,000 to Rs. 30,000 for ordinary citizens, because medical expenses are very high nowadays. Under Section 10 of the Income Tax Act, a provision has been made to provide travel allowance of Rs 1800 per month to the common citizens, which was earlier Rs 990. I would request the Hon. Minister

[*] Not recorded.
[*] Speech was laid on the Table

that the travel allowance of Rs 1,800 is very less. Please increase it to Rs 2,500.

Under Section 44 AD, if the income of a taxpayer is Rs 1 crore, then he will have to pay 8 percent income tax on his turnover. In this section, this limit for the trader has been increased to Rs 2 crore. Hon. People in the consulting and legal profession have been deprived of this section, due to which they have to get their own audit done and maintain their accounts. I would request the Hon. Minister to include legal, medical, technical consultancy, engineering and consultants also under this section and bring them under the ambit of income tax of only 8 percent up to Rs 2 crore. This will benefit middle class citizens.

[English]

***SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR):** Hon. Speaker Madam, I could not get an opportunity to speak on General Budget, kindly allow me to associate with Nand Kumar Singh Chauhan. I would further like to say that this Budget is dedicated to "Rural India". In this budget, attention has been given to youth, women, especially farmers and laborers.

Increase of 94% for farmer and agriculture sector from 22928 crore to 44,485 crore is the highest ever Budget of 38,500 crore for MGNREGA, 19,000 crore for PMGSY, 20,000 for National Rural Health Mission, 97,000 crore for roads, 1,02,000 crore for rail network. New opportunities for employment and entrepreneurs. Start up India and Stand up India are good examples of this.

One Rank One Pension for ex-serviceman is a welcome step which was pending for the last three decades. We could see a positive response from all corners and everyone appreciated the General Budget.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Chandulal Sahu.

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* Speech was laid on the Table

[English]

SHRI CHANDULAL SAHU (MAHASAMUND): Hon. Chairperson, this budget is the best budget. This budget is the best because it is made for farmers, villages and the poor. In this budget, by making good arrangements for agricultural welfare, the Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme has been implemented for all the farmers. An amount of Rs 38,984 crore has been arranged by the government for this scheme. It is said about farmers that they are born in debt, grow up in debt and die in debt. To solve this problem, to provide convenience to farmers and to increase their production, the Agricultural Irrigation Scheme is welcome. Many irrigation schemes which are pending in my Gariaband district will all be completed under this scheme and the farmers will be prosperous. A provision has been made in this budget that the income of farmers will double in the year 2022. This is a budget providing relief to the farmers.

Regarding farmers, it is said that in reality the farmer's son does not want to do farming. Breaking this myth, special incentives have been given to farmers in this budget. Therefore, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister of Finance and the Hon. Prime Minister very much. Along with this I would also like to say that small shopkeepers and

businessmen get trapped in the clutches of moneylenders. To get rid of them, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Bank Yojana has been implemented. Under this, there are small businessmen, who can run a good business by taking loans as per their requirement. According to this, around 5 crore people will benefit from this and hence the budget provision has been made.

Crop insurance scheme which was till now implemented for farmers. The farmers who took loans were insured, but they did not receive the insurance amount. In this budget, by making provision of 1.5% and 2% for Kharif and Rabi crops, the insurance of 20% people has been made 100%. Certainly this will improve the economy of the farmers. Only when farmers produce well, will the economic condition of our country improve.

Along with this, for those poor people who do not know about banks, by implementing the Prime Minister Jan Dhan Yojana, a system of opening accounts at zero free of cost has been made, which has brought awareness among the people. People's trust in the bank has increased. There is a connection with the bank and in this way, an arrangement has been made to open an account under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana and deposit the extra money saved in it.

Along with this, arrangements of Soil Health Cards have been made for the farmers. Farmers do traditional farming. Seeing the fertilizer applied by the farmer in the neighborhood, they apply the same amount of fertilizer without knowing the fertility capacity of their land. What fertilizer should be added to my land and in what quantity?They did not know this till now but through this card every farmer will know how much fertilizer he needs to put. Therefore, farmers will benefit a lot from this card scheme.

Along with this, I used to discuss with people about what should be added to the budget. People used to say that the way money is given by the government to the urban areas, money is given for the railway buildings for the development of villages, but Mahatma Gandhi's sentiment was that the rural system should be strengthened and they should also be given financial power. I want to say that through this budget, by giving Rs 80 lakh to each Gram Panchayat, a system has been created so that the Sarpanch of the Gram Panchayat and the head of the village can sit together and solve the basic problems and needs of the villages.

Along with this I would also like to mention some things related to my area.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude your speech by telling about your area in one minute.

SHRI CHANDULAL SAHU: Sir, there are many pending irrigation projects in my area which are pending due to lack of permission from the Ministry of Forest and Environment. The 12 pending dams of Mahasamudra should be completed. Apart from this, many families come to us for recommendations in the Kendriya Vidyalaya which is run by the Union Government. I want that the money given by the government to the state government and the schools run by the state government should be managed well and the traffic rules should also be taught in them because accidents happen because most of the students do not know the traffic rules. Therefore, this should also be included so that people know from the beginning how to be careful while driving. Thank you.

*SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE (MAVAL): The Budget for the year 2016-17 was presented in the House on 29th February by the Hon. Minister of Finance and like every year, this year also people have given their opinions on the Budget and we also know that every person has a specific expectation regarding the Budget. The public listens to the budget carefully to know what kind of relief will the government provide to them and what will be the new tax slab.

I know that this is for the construction of ponds so that the budget does not put an additional burden on the public, but despite this the government has to take some tough decisions and this budget seems to be something like this.

Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is a scheme launched by former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee and through this, work is being done to connect villages with roads and in this budget, the government has made a provision to allocate Rs 19 thousand crore for this scheme for the financial year 2016-17, but the thing to be noted is whether this allocation is sufficient for the financial year 2016-17 because the previous dues of the contractors are still pending and many villages of the country have to be connected with roads

* Speech was laid on the Table

under this scheme. Hence there is a need to provide more funds for this scheme.

India is an agricultural country and in our country farmers are also called food providers but Indian farmers commit suicide due to the burden of debt and the government has allocated Rs 1500 crore in the budget to stop this and reduce the debt burden of farmers. This shows that the government is farmer friendly and in view of this, the government has also allocated Rs 5500 crore for the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme in this budget and I believe that these farmer welfare measures will definitely make the farmers of the country progress and prosper.

To promote the agriculture sector, a provision of Rs. 400 crore has been made in this budget for Traditional Agriculture Development Scheme, Organic Chain Farming and it has been decided to prepare five lakh acres of land for organic farming which is a commendable step of the government and along with this, a budget of Rs. 20 thousand crore has been given with NABARD to implement the scheme for farmers and agriculture and the government's target is to double the income of farmers by 2022, I thank the government for this.

India is a country of villages and even today our roots are connected to the villages but providing electricity to these villages is the aim of our government. Our government has so far electrified a total of 5553 villages and a provision of giving an amount of Rs. 2.7 lakh crore to villages and municipal corporations for electrifying these areas has been made in this budget. I congratulate the government for this.

The government has allocated Rs.17 crore for Skill India and Rs.55000 crore for highways which will provide both growth and employment.

If we talk about tax, then this budget has not been as good for the middle class as the middle class person was expecting. Because the government has increased the service tax to 15 percent and this is going to have a bad impact on people's pockets. Therefore the government needs to reconsider this.

Every year the government increases the tax on bidi, cigarette, cigar, gutkha whereas these things are not necessary for human life and whatever tax the government collects on these things, it should use that tax money to make the public aware of the dangers caused by all these things and I believe that instead of imposing or increasing tax

on all these things, the government should impose a complete ban on the production of these things.

The people of the country felt that at this time the government will increase the limit of exemption in income tax so that the common man can spend some more on himself, but no such decision was taken by the government and by not giving any exemption in tax limit to the people, it has been kept as it is. My suggestion to the government is that this exemption limit in income tax should be increased to Rs 4 lakh so that salaried people can get relief.

So, in the end I would like to say that the Hon. The Minister of Finance has tried to present a balanced budget by allocating funds for various measures and schemes but if the income tax exemption limit is increased, then it would definitely be a commendable step.

[English]

***SHRI RABINDRA KUMAR JENA (BALASORE):** I would like to present an objective examination of the Union Budget 2016-17 - my submission shall be structured in the following manner: first, I'd like to underline the general intent any Government Budget should be based on; second, I will outline the backdrop against which the Budget was presented; lastly, and most importantly, I'll like to analyze whether the Government has been able to constructively address the challenges facing the economy (the 'backdrop' performance, if I may) while substantially conveying policy intent with clarity (the 'general intent' problem, so to say),

What a Government Budget should convey assumes specific significance with regard to India: while technically, any Budget is supposed to be a document simply presenting receipts and expenditure forecasts, India's Budget presentation has largely been a policy note of the incumbent Government of India, meant to trace out its intended policy measures to push India towards a higher growth trajectory ("What even is growth?" is something I shall arrive at later) -given that the Government has virtually inherited this convention and has

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* Speech was laid on the Table

made no visible attempts at challenging it, this Budget should therefore be rightly analyzed as a policy document, and not just as an accounting presentation (like many other countries' budgets). I now come to the general guidelines the Budget should be framed on: while this framework in relation to guidelines (in its entirety) is often backdrop-dependent, there are certain uniform goals our Budget should work towards -1. Reducing poverty in a time-bound manner, 2. Improving the ease of doing business to create jobs, and 3. Making consistent strides towards equality in opportunity, both economically and socially. These objectives are interlinked, and the Budget 2016-17, an opportunity for the Government to showcase its vision in relation to achieving the India our forefathers had dreamt of, is clearly a missed opportunity.

I now turn to the backdrop against which the Budget was presented: owing to two deficient monsoons and falling commodity prices, Indian agricultural growth has stagnated (in negative territory in 2014-15 and 1.1% in 2015-16); weak global demand (owing significantly to China's slowdown, which presents an opportunity to India to gain investors' attention) has resulted in India's exports falling consistently for the past 11 months, a devastatingly disappointing

performance by India's standard; and widespread accusations in relation to social injustice being perpetrated by the present dispensation (followed by well-meaning statements by the Chief Economic Adviser and the Governor of the RBI, hinting at strong positive correlations between 'tolerance' and economic development); the question, therefore, to ask is: "How has the Budget delivered on these front? The answer, disappointingly, is that the Government has failed at all, and my third phase of the submission shall elaborate on why I believe so.

The credibility of the promises made by the Budget, firstly, is undermined by certain performance indicators in relation to 2015-16 Budget: Revised Estimates (RE) (Capital Expenditure) for 2015-16 is lower than the Budget Estimates (BE) 2015-16 by 3.9% - all schools of thought in Economics converge on one agreement for sure: capital expenditure, by increasing capacity, fuels long-term economic growth and is essential to keep a nation on a fast-paced growth trajectory. But underperforming in this respect, the Government has clearly sent worrying signals, both in India and abroad. While the Government's move to increase its 2016-17 BE for Capital Expenditure over the 2015-16 RE by 3.9% is welcome, the devil lies in delivery, and I

earnestly hope the Government meets the all-important Capital Expenditure target for 2016-17.

While it is commendable that the Government stuck to the fiscal roadmap in 2015-16 at (3.9%) and has a BE for 2016-17 at an even lower 3.5%, this analysis lies on overoptimistic revenue targets from one-time sources (like disinvestment, where the Government failed miserably in 2015-16) and not through sustainable revenue-generating avenues.

We now turn to allocation for the backbone of the Indian economy, agriculture: funds allocated for the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers' Welfare (DoA) have been raised from the revised estimate (RE) of Rs. 15,809 crore in 2015-16 to a budgeted estimate (BE) of Rs. 35,983 crore for Financial Year 17, a significant increase of 127%. However, it is extremely important to note that much of the increase (Rs. 15,000 crore) is due to interest subsidy on short-term credit, which was Rs. 13,000 crore earlier and was shown under the Department of Financial Services. Adjusting for that, the nominal increase in allocation to farmers is just 33%.

In relation to women and child development, where spending fell by Rs. 1,188 crore in 2015-16 relative to 2014-15, the budgeted

increase in spending in 2016-17 is just Rs. 56.23 crore. As a result, spending on the all-too-important Integrated Child Development Services, which fell from Rs. 16,415 crore in 2014-15 to Rs. 13,636 crore in 2015-16, is now budgeted to receive only Rs. 15,873 crore.

Strikingly, 100% Women-Specific Programmes saw a significant downward revision (Rs. 11,388.41 crore against Rs. 16,657.11 crore) (RE vs BE 2015-16) - 46% lower.

The Government's stance on education is very worrying: While there has been a slight increase in the allocation in absolute terms, the budgetary allocation for education has declined, both as a percentage of GDP and as a percentage of the total Budget. It was 0.5% of GDP and 3.8% of the revenue expenditure for 2015-16, and it is down to 0.48% of GDP and 3.7% of the Budget Estimates this year.

That the allocation for the infrastructure-intensive Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has gone up from Rs. 15,187 crore in 2015-16 to Rs. 19,000 crore in 2016-17 is a positive move and shall definitely contribute to the upliftment of village economies by providing connectivity to rural areas and generating jobs.

The budget promises to raise farmers' incomes by 15% a year. Even if output increases by 3% a year (highly ambitious target, that

too), agricultural prices will have to rise by 12% a year. That figure signals worse inflation than India has seen in five decades. And if all prices proportionately increase, what will the farmers get out of the price increase in farm produce?

The Government missed its Income Tax Collection target for 2015-16 (9.4% lower) and relied on indirect taxation to ramp up tax collection. As we all know, indirect taxes are regressive: the poor are hurt more, and despite stark differences in their abilities to pay taxes, the poor and the rich are taxed at the same rates.

After the backlash, the Government ultimately announced the withdrawal of the Budget proposal on taxing the Employees Provident Fund. The drastic proposal had sought to make up to 60% of savers' corpus withdrawn from the EPF tax-free if invested in annuity (automatically implying that the remaining 40% is taxable). The period return on the annuity was also to be taxable. I firmly believe that employees should have the choice of where to invest, and that the objective of encouraging people to join the pension scheme could well be achieved through other means, and it's extremely important that the Government henceforth hold wide consultations and arrive at decisions (with wide ramification) through consensus-building.

While the Budget moves in the correct direction in relation to our rural economy, the thrust is definitely not enough: setting unachievable targets (like increasing farmers' incomes by 100% in 5 years) for short-term gains does not bode well for budget-making as a process, and more importantly, for the spirit of democracy; ramping up indirect taxation and hurting the middle class is as regressive a step as imaginable and betrays the mandate the people of India provided the Government with. With no clarity in relation to the long-term policy objectives of the Government and clear roadmaps for achieving proposed solutions to India's economic social woes, the Union Budget 2016-17 clearly leaves a lot to be desired.

*SHRI LADU KISHORE SWAIN (ASKA): The Finance Minister presented the General Budget in the House for the Financial Year 2016-17, which seems promising for the rural sectors, including agriculture and rural infrastructure. However, the truth is somewhat different while looking at the budget papers. It was expected that the current budget would have provisioned more for the rural sector, at least to give a boost to the farming sector which was badly hit by the drought last year, where almost half of the country was under severe drought. While looking at the growth performance of the agricultural sector, which constitutes the mainstay of livelihood for the majority of our population, has declined sharply from 4.2% in 2013-14 to -0.2 % in 2014-15. Following two consecutive drought years in 2013-14 and 2014-15, output of a number of crops such as rice, wheat, oilseeds, cotton, pulses and groundnut has fallen in 2014-15 compared to the previous year.

It has been found that the overall increase of the Union Government budget from Rs. 17.85 lakh crore in 2015-16 RE to Rs. 19.78 lakh crore for the next financial year. However, the overall magnitude of the Union Budget shows a marginal decline from 13.2%

* Speech was laid on the Table

of GDP in 2015-16 RE to 13.1% of GDP in 2016-17 BE. In absolute numbers, the total size of the Union Budget is projected to an increase of Rs. 2 lakh crore. But, out of this increased outlay, almost two-third would be in areas of Non-plan spending (particularly on account of higher interest payments, pensions and defense spending) while one third of it would be in Plan spending (including the social sectors and infrastructure sectors). Similarly, the gross central tax to GDP ratio is projected to be 10.8%, which is at the same level as that of current year's revised estimate. This indicates, there is no such increase in tax-GDP ratio on one hand and the target of Fiscal Deficit to GDP pegged at 3.5%, which shows the fiscal conservatism of the Government not to spend more.

Further, in the wake of significant changes in the country's federal fiscal architecture, the claims of the Union Government that it has shared huge amounts of resources, following the Fourteenth Finance Commission recommendation , with the State Governments doesn't reflect the case. As one would have remembered, following the restructuring of plan financing (there is reduced central assistance to states in the major plan schemes), which equalizes the higher devolution of resources received by the States from the Finance

Commission recommendations. Due to changes in the country's fiscal architecture, 2015-16 has been the year of uncertainty about the fund sharing pattern in Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS). The NITI Aayog Committee of Chief Ministers has finally resolved some of these debates by recommending a 60:40 fund sharing pattern between the Union Government and the States for most of the prominent social sector schemes like, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Mid-Day Meal, National Health Mission, Integrated Child Development Services and Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, among others. The greater degree of autonomy of flexibility now available to the States (in terms of setting their expenditure priorities), combined with the reduction in the funding share of the Union Government in a host of CSS, implies that the priorities in the State Budgets would have stronger role now in determining the overall allocation of budgetary resources in a range of development sector in the country.

However, the Union Government needs to take note of the existing social and regional disparities along the internal security problems in the country. The Union Budget 2016-17 could have played a crucial role in addressing these disparities by allocating more resources in areas and for the sections of population that are lagging

behind, particularly poorer states of the country, including Odisha for better coordination of socio-economic development of the nation.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA (HASSAN): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I do not want to take much of your valuable time because the Chair had already informed all of us to complete our speech within five minutes. I have been waiting since morning. I do not want to say anything beyond the time allotted to me and I should complete by mentioning only 2-3 things to the hon. Finance Minister.

More than one thousand people have committed suicide in Karnataka. I do not want to quote the numbers in the other States. What is the remedy that you are going to give to them? This is all that I want to know. In the future, what are all the programmes that you have announced? There are 38 programmes, and I do not want to debate on all these issues. More than one thousand people have committed suicide. Our hon. The Prime Minister came to Belagavi to address the farmers. I do not think that he has mentioned anything about the farmers who have committed suicide. You were also there.

Drinking water is a major problem. I am not going to say that this Government alone has taken steps to provide drinking water. In the last 65 years, whoever was in office, have they not done anything? We should not unnecessarily criticize each other. They have also done something. I can quote several instances. When was the Bhakra-

Nangal Dam constructed? Are we still able to complete the Indira Gandhi Canal? The Accelerated Irrigation Programme was initiated by me in 1996. A copy of the speech is here, but I do not want to say that we have done it. The circumstances forced us to make such decisions. So many major and minor irrigation projects were pending. That is why we had taken the decision, not for the sake of one State or the other. Let me be plain about it. I do not want to cross the limits.

Sugarcane growers are now in a bad situation. More than 110 sugarcane growers have committed suicide in Mandya, which is one of the major sugar producing areas. Unfortunately, the sugarcane growers numbering more than 110 have committed suicide. In the whole State, in every district, they are committing suicide even today. After the announcement of all these programmes, I do not know how best the Union Government will come to their rescue.

On the recovery of loans by the banks, on NPAs, so much debate has taken place; the name of one gentleman from my Home State was also taken. However, you have clarified something yesterday and I welcome it. At least, the Government of India is taking some steps in that direction. A farmer who takes a loan of Rs. 50,000, Rs. 60,000, Rs. 70,000, Rs. 80,000 or even up to one lakh rupees from the banks

are the ones who are committing suicides. How many of them have been covered by the Scheduled Banks or the Cooperative Banks? Their number is not more than 30 per cent; and the remaining 70 per cent is dependent on the moneylenders. I welcome the announcement of Mudra Bank. But will we be able to cover all the farmers to the extent of 100 percent? Let us discuss this. We are all coming from the farming community, including you and myself. I am not going to claim that I am the champion of the farmers' causes. I am not going to say that. All of us are equally interested in them.

This morning Shri Rahul Gandhi raised the farmers' issue through an Adjournment Motion and the hon. The Speaker has given the ruling that it can be taken up in some other form. The point is that the entire House is concerned about the farming community because basically we are farmers. This country cannot give a go-by to the farming sector, whatever may be your approach to make India a powerful country in the whole world. Even today, more than 58 per cent of the population is dependent on the farming sector, whatever may be the development over all these years.

Sir, the Commerce Minister is sitting here. You have not put any taxes on beedi, but you have put heavy taxes on cigarettes. Our people

are growing tobacco, whether it is in Belgaum, Mysore or Hassan. Why do you put such restrictions? Is cancer being caused by smoking only? Those people who are not smoking, are they not suffering from cancer? It is all right if you want to ban it, but think of an alternative crop and provide them an alternative avenue for their livelihood. If the Government wants to take some steps, you should think about the alternatives for them. When this matter came up some five years back, you abolished *Ganja*. Similarly, tobacco can be abolished and that is all right. If you take that example as a model scheme, you must think of some alternatives. Madam, who is in-charge of the Commerce Ministry, is sitting here. If you take Silk, for example, you have put a 30 per cent tax on the import of Silk, just to curb the Silk coming from China. Our sericulture farmers today are committing suicide in Ramnagar, Kolar and so on. We are all coming from a farming community. We are actually suffering. People are criticizing us as to why MPs from Karnataka have no voice. I am not taking any sides here. All of us are equally interested.

He has said that the hon. The Prime Minister has now announced a programme of insurance. Potatoes grown in more than 15,000 hectares have been completely destroyed. I tried my best to change

the seeds. Our people are dependent only on Punjab. We wanted to change the potato seeds. We want to get it from Holland. The seed from Holland is the best one. When Shri Sharad Pawar was the Agriculture Minister, he had said that there was a powerful lobby. We tried our best. I was there as the Prime Minister hardly for ten months. What were the schemes that we had provided? You are now thinking that you can directly give funds to the farmers.

I just would like to take two minutes to mention how much benefit we had given to the farmers at that time. I took oath as the Prime Minister on 1st June. The Budget was presented to this House on 19th July, 1996. The Vote of Confidence was on 11th June. I took a decision on 15th June to reduce the rate of Dianium phosphate and phosphatic fertilizers. It was an additional burden of Rs.2,800 crore. The Finance Ministry had put a lot of objections by saying that unless the provision is made in the Budget and approved by the Parliament, it could not be done. I overruled all these things. For sprinkler irrigation and drip irrigation, we had provided subsidies to the extent of 90 per cent to the women cultivators. I can send the Budget copy. We had given the subsidy to the extent of 50 per cent on tractors and power tillers. The growth of agriculture had risen during that year.

One can go through the Report of the *Economic Survey* of the next year. It was 9.6 per cent. One can go to the Library and read the Report of the *Economic Survey*.

He has talked about completing the 26 projects. In my humble opinion, I feel that it is practically impossible. Even in the case of Narmada Dam, they have not utilized the water completely. The World Bank was insisting and because of Shrimati Medha Patkar, the project was stopped. I made some decisions to increase the height of the Dam. Even today it has not been completed. I can quote several instances as to what we had done during the short span of time. The Tehri Dam project was stopped. We had overruled all the objections raised by the local leaders. Shri Sunder Lal Bahuguna had sat on *dharna* and hunger strike for one month. We tried to persuade him. We have completed that project.

You are not neglecting the farmers. I am not going to say that you are. But you have to take certain steps. Thirty-eight programmes were announced. But the basic issue is, what exactly is the reason that farmers are committing suicide? Are we in a position to provide funds for the agricultural sector at the time when farmers want to sow the seeds? Timely money availability is not there. As regards fertilizers,

you wanted to see that usage of chemical fertilizers is reduced. I agree with you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Devegowdaji, please conclude.

… (Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He knows what to say. You need not intervene. It is between the Chair and him. You please sit down.

SHRI H.D. DEVEGOWDA: Sir, you are also fighting, you came with us to meet Madam. I am not going to say you have neglected. There is no need for anybody to take credit. Let all the 28 Members, this side or that side, take the credit.

Do something to save the farmers from this crisis. No farmer is a willful defaulter in my humble opinion. I will give you a small example. When I was the Prime Minister I asked Late Kurien, who gave Rs.100 crore, to start a milk society for women in Karnataka. Today there are 4,000 milk societies. No milk society organized by women is a defaulter. You have to find out ways and means to provide jobs in the local area itself.

Yes, you want to create jobs. What type of jobs? Jobs in the service sector are all being outsourced. Go to the airport. In State

Governments today, Class IV employees are being outsourced for Rs.8000. You have accepted the 7th Pay Commission Report. The Principal Secretary or the Cabinet Secretary who was getting Rs.1 lakh earlier is going to get Rs.2.9 lakh now. What is the fate of the Class IV employees? They are being paid Rs.8,000. What is the cost of living? We are all human beings. The Prime Minister's dream is that poverty must be removed irrespective of caste or creed. Can we achieve that? We can speak volumes on these issues.

As regards the voluntary disclosure scheme, we also introduced this scheme because we had no money at that time. Now at least the Prime Minister has gone almost all over the world and tried to persuade them to invest in India. Japan is coming forward to invest in the so-called railways. I do not want to speak about that. The point is to generate money within India itself. Only one issue made me take that decision. Hon. Wolfensohn, World Bank President, came to India. He raised an objection that we were diverting the money lent by the World Bank, deviating from their conditions. At that time there was a controversy between him and myself. I said, you cannot. We are going to fix the priority. Whatever conditions the previous Government agreed to, I would not agree. Then he said we cannot get

any funds. Then I told Chidambaram to introduce the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme. We got Rs.36,000 crore black money and the revenue was Rs.10,800 crore.

Now, you are going to apply the same thing. I would caution you on only one thing. The Prevention of Corruption Act is also going to bring within its purview the benami transaction. You have brought it under the Voluntary Disclosure Scheme also. Please clarify that position to the House when you are going to reply.

Hon. Chairperson, now I conclude because there are so many speakers. I thank the entire House for having allowed me to speak a little more than what the Hon. Chairperson had permitted me. Thank you.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRI RAJEEV SATAV (HINGOLI):** During the heat of the 2014 elections, there were some slogans:

- "The country has suffered enough from inflation, this time it is Modi government"
- "Let's make our dreams come true together, this time Modi government"
- "We have waited long enough for employment, this time it is Modi Government"
- "Enough of atrocities on farmers, now Modi government is hitting them"

Now that the summer of 2016 has arrived, Modi ji must also be thinking that if the same statements were made today, how would they have been:

- Inflation in the country has crossed 17-month high, what should the Modi government do?

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[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

- Agricultural growth rate has gone from 4 percent to beyond zero, how will the farmers be saved?
- The government does not measure the number of jobs, then how do we know how many people are waiting for employment?
- Industrial production has gone negative, what should the Modi government do?
- Exports have dropped from $315 billion to just $227.7 billion, but what can the Modi government do?
- Manufacturing is not going beyond 17% of GDP, how will business happen with Make in India?
- Dollar will cross 70 rupees, it doesn't matter, is this Modi government?

It is worth noting that Modi Ji used to talk of double digit growth during the elections, Arun Jaitley Ji used to talk of 8.5percent till last year, and now Arvind Subramaniam Ji talks of 7 percent growth rate in the Economic Survey. The projected growth rate has fallen from double digits to 7 percent in 20 months, that too when crude oil is at its lowest level in several decades.

Of all the major ministries, the only one whose allocation has decreased compared to last year is Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

On hearing the inflation rate of 5.5-6 percent, it seems that it is okay, it is not that much, but if you talk to any economist, he will express the same concern that at a time when the world is running at 0-0.5percent inflation rate, if at that time you have 5.7 percent inflation rate and there are signs of it crossing 6 percent, then these are definitely not good days.

Looking at the prices of essential commodities today, it is clear that this government has completely failed in fulfilling this promise. The level of inflation is the highest in this country for the farmer who grows crops by farming in the village.

The prices of pulses have increased more rapidly in one year than they have in the last 10 years. Pulses are the invariable source of protein nutrition for the poor people of this country. If you go to the market and show any pulse at Rs. 200-220 per kg, it would be a big thing. Despite so much inflation the government is sleeping. Seeing this the question arises whether the government is helping some big

conglomerates? Seeing this the question arises whether the government is helping some big conglomerates?

Modi Ji had said in Mann Ki Baat on 28th February that the budget is his exam, but it seems that Modi Ji and his government have a habit of writing a lot of answers in the last five minutes of the exam. Half of the announcements of last year were implemented in the cabinet meeting held 2 days before the budget and there were some announcements of last year which have remained as “work in progress” this year – Modi ji did not answer some questions in last year’s exam.

Modi ji talks about India's democratic dividend in his every speech. Let us talk about the fact that 65 percent of the population in India is below 35 years of age. But are they able to provide employment for them? Modi and BJP had said that if they come to power, they will create 1 crore jobs in 5 years... What happened to that promise? The government should first make the number of jobs as transparent and public as the census or GDP figures are public. It's a shame that the jobs data in India for 2016 is also not reliable.

This year the government has woken up to the condition of farmers. It's a good thing. But the Modi government should also think

that while the agriculture growth rate was 4 percent during the UPA regime, today it has come down to 0 percent. Last year, 3228 suicides occurred in Maharashtra alone. Who is responsible for that?

In the last 20 months, in the name of prosperity for farmers, the Modi government has only changed the name of the Agriculture Ministry. In our country, 46 farmers are committing suicide every day. Is this the work that will bring prosperity to farmers? Is changing the name of a ministry in Delhi a function of the prosperity of farmers? According to this government, the reason for farmer suicides are love affairs and impotence. In the name of prosperity for farmers, the Modi government brought the Farmer Rebellion Land Acquisition Bill. A bill which his own MPs were not ready to support. Is snatching away farmers' land for a few industrialists the prosperity of farmers?

The allocation for backward classes in this year and previous years of the Modi Government is neither in accordance with their population nor the allocated amount is used in the complete year. Special Component Plan (SCP) and Tribal Sub Plan (TSP) were provided for the Scheduled Castes and Tribes in 1979-80. I was shocked to see the allocation figures for that provision.

In 2008, when the whole world was going through a financial crisis, India was the only democracy which was moving on the path of development with a growth rate of 8 percent plus.Today BJP pats its back but unlike today then the global indicators were not favorable for development. Look at the irony of time, today when petrol should cost us only Rs 23 per liter, the government charges us Rs 60 for it.

Whatever the government says, we have suffered enough due to inflation. The government reduces the price by Rs 10 when the international price falls by $100. Who is trying to benefit from this? It is worth noting that if the international price of wood oil was the same today as it was during the UPA regime, only God knows what the level of inflation in this country would have been.

Modi ji had said in this very house (27 February 2015) “My political wisdom says, never stop MNREGA… I can never make such a mistake, because MNREGA is a living memorial of your failures… It is a memorial of your failures, and I will keep beating the drum of this memorial with fanfare…” Today, the same “monument of failure” has been allocated Rs 38,500 crore by the Modi government.

A month before coming to power, Modi ji said - "on Aadhaar, neither the team that I met nor the PM could answer my Questions on

the security threat it can pose. There is no vision, only political gimmick" Today his government is running on the basis of that Aadhaar. Today the same government wants to give constitutional support to Aadhaar. It is a different matter that bringing such a bill by bypassing the Rajya Sabha is an example of the government's bulldozing style of working.

I would like to humbly put forward some of my suggestions. The government is requested to look into them;

1. Today our country needs infrastructure the most. Leave aside small towns, even metropolises like Mumbai shut down after some rain. India is in dire need of a quantum leap in infrastructure and the infrastructure cycle is stalled.

2. Farmers need MSP plus 50% profit not only in wheat and rice but also in 10-15 crops. Emphasis needs to be laid on implementation.

3. The biggest scams in our country happen in PDS.. 40 percent of the grains go missing every year. Theft is increasing every year in PDS and the poor have to buy essential goods from the markets while the middlemen gobble up everything.

4. India's renewable energy companies need to be protected from foreign regulation. Only then will these companies be able to take care of India's energy needs.

5. India needs police reform urgently, the Government of India needs to make a policy on this along with state governments.

6. Laws are needed for the protection of Indian workers who are working in factories. The Government of India along with the state governments needs to make a policy on this.

7. What this country needs is not land acquisition but a functioning land market.

8. The Union Government will have to stop the practice of imposing 'cess' for every work. 1 lakh 40 thousand crore rupees is lying unused in the government account. Why is that money not effective in the development of the country and why is the government imposing new cess? Agricultural development should not be a mere duty but a national religion.

Today the situation is such that one-fourth of our budget is spent only on payment of interest. 1/5th of our budget is spent on various means of our defense. Neither are we able to pay attention to health nor to education, which the citizens of our country expect from us.

Our farmers and laborers are not even getting MSP in the market. At the same time, prices in the markets are at their peak. All this is happening when a record amount of grain is rotting in FCI godowns.

Our youth are not getting employment and the youth of our own country are creating and buying companies abroad. This country needs to create 1 crore jobs, otherwise, we are heading towards a democratic disaster rather than a demographic dividend at a faster pace than we think.

I will end my speech with some lines from Mirza Ghalib, all the Cabinet Ministers along with the Prime Minister please pay attention-

We live by your promise,

So let this lie go,

that you don't die of happiness,

If there was trust.

***SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI):** For the first time in the history of independent India, through this budget, an all-out effort has been made to ensure the country is in the process of building a prosperous, great and glorious India. At present, under the able leadership of our Prime Minister, not only has our international reputation grown tremendously, but every citizen of the country has been infused with new energy, new enthusiasm and new vigor. For this, I heartily congratulate the Hon. Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitley ji and the Minister of State for Finance Shri Jayant Sinha ji.

I am fully confident that this budget will play an important role in writing a new chapter in good governance, poverty alleviation, socio-economic transformation, employment generation and advancement in the agriculture sector. The call of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas given by our Prime Minister will add to the all-round development of India through this budget. The concerns and problems of rural India have been given special consideration in the budget. This is the first time in history that a Minister of Finance has focused specifically on the agriculture sector and farmers in his budget speech and has set a target to not only increase but also double the income of

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

farmers within a fixed time frame. The current budget is committed towards the development of rural India and it is right because even today a large population of ours lives in villages. To give further impetus to economic development, it is necessary that we continuously reduce the gap between urban India and rural India. Taking steps in this direction, the government has taken several steps to strengthen the infrastructure of rural areas. The government has also provided a substantial amount of funds for the MNREGA program, which has emerged as a major source of employment in villages, and efforts have been made to use this scheme to strengthen the rural infrastructure. Apart from this, focus has also been laid on irrigation schemes. This is a very important step in view of the constantly falling level of underground water; this will not only provide water to irrigated fields but will also enable better management of water, which will have positive long term results.

All the small things have also been taken care of in the budget presented by the Minister of Finance. Which is very important from a long term perspective. One such scheme is to provide LPG to all households. This will not only benefit the environment but poor women will also get relief from many diseases caused by using wood

as fuel. Similarly, a target has been set to provide electricity to 18,500 villages of the country by May 1, 2018, which is welcome.

Similarly, the emphasis has been laid on Start Up India to accelerate the pace of job creation, which is a right step, the priority of the government at this time is to create employment opportunities for the youth. Employment generation is being eagerly awaited and hence the youth are also paying a lot of attention to the budget. In this direction, the Union Government has decided to provide tax exemption along with various financial facilities to the new entrepreneurs to promote private entrepreneurship. It is hoped that this initiative of the government will accelerate employment generation in the country and the expectations of the youth will be fulfilled. The Stand Up India scheme has been created to promote entrepreneurship among SC/ST and women. For this, while Rs 38,833 crore has been kept under various ministries for the welfare of SC category, the government has given Rs 7,350 crore this year in the proposed budget under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment as compared to Rs 6,580 crore last year. In this, Rs 2,791 crore has been kept for SC scholarship, Rs 1200 crore for ST children and Rs 600 crore for Van Bandhu. With this budgetary allocation, this section will be able

to provide employment to people themselves instead of working for someone else. This is a very useful effort visible in this budget.

With the objective of providing employment to the youth, the government has made a provision of Rs. 1700 crores for setting up 1500 multi-skill training centers across the country. This scheme will benefit 2.5lakh entrepreneurs. Seeing the changing pace of life, today we see scope for some change in almost all the areas, which is the result of adaptability towards all directions. This is the reason why today we have reached the stage of digitalization in all areas including cities. Many important steps have also been taken in this direction under the leadership of the Prime Minister. Today we are taking advantage of various digital services like e-banking, e-ticketing, e-commerce. Now optical fiber cables are being laid to make internet access easy in every village, which is somewhere the result of the digital thinking of the current government and the necessary steps taken in that direction. E-Hospital is also a revolutionary step in this revolutionary budget, which launches a nationwide scheme for dialysis to strengthen health communication efforts in India to accelerate the outcome and impact of health programmes and activities. Today, due to the rise in kidney related disorders in the

country, the number of such people is increasing for whom dialysis becomes a compulsion. In this budget, the government has decided to provide health cover of Rs 1 lakh to every family in the country. If there is a senior citizen in the family then this amount will be Rs 1 lakh 30 thousand. This step of the Minister of Finance will help many needy people in getting their treatment done. Under this, the government has proposed to The government has proposed to provide 30 thousand crore rupees under this head, through which three thousand Jan Aushadhi Kendras can be opened in 2016-17 to provide cheap generic medicines to the poor in the country and money has also been arranged in this budget for infectious and non-infectious diseases, AIDS, TB, blindness prevention, family planning and other items. The health budget is much better than previous years. I am happy that the government has taken care of the patients both directly and indirectly. In this budget, dialysis has been made free directly; 2.5lakh people across the country will get the benefit of National Dialysis Service.

In his budget, the Finance Minister has tried to accelerate the country's economy by focusing on highways and infrastructure. The Minister has generously opened the doors of the treasury for the road

transport sector. In fact, increasing the number of road highways will not only improve connectivity but will also create employment opportunities and have a positive impact on the economy. The government has also made provision of funds to restart closed airports.65 percent of the 70s tuck projects in the road transport sector are back on track. In this budget, the Road Transport Ministry has received Rs57,900 crores as against Rs 45,500 crores. The main reason for this is the living example of the dedicated working style of our Road Transport Minister, HON. Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji, for this I thank Gadkari Ji.

The Prime Minister's economic vision has now become more clear in the Budget 2016-17. In fact, this is a budget to empower young India to change the image of India. This budget advances the belief that youth and entrepreneurs can play an important role in changing the fate of the economy and the country. Not only this, it will also provide an alternative to the traditional economic model of dependence on only a few big corporate groups for investment and jobs, hence the main emphasis under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana is on investment in improving the efficiency of more than one crore youth in the next three years. Through this it has also

been ensured that the obstacles in the way of access to capital for entrepreneurs in rural areas can be removed. 76 lakh youth have already been trained under the Skill Development Mission and as per the budget proposals, this number will further increase with the establishment of 1500 multi-skill training institutes. The decision to give tax exemption to companies who will give jobs to unemployed people at a salary of up to Rs. 25000will also help in increasing employment generation in the country.

This budget is for the villages, the poor, the farmers and the youth; it will improve their economic and social condition. The special thing is that this time in the budget, the provision of 0.5 percent agriculture welfare cess and 7.5 percent cess on black money deposited in the government treasury will give more impetus to agriculture schemes.

For the first time after independence, top priority has been given to the agriculture sector by making a provision of Rs. 36 thousand crores in the general budget. Rs 5.717 crore has been given for irrigation, through which 5 lakh ponds and wells will be constructed across the country.Rs 362 crore has been given to improve the health of the soil. There is a provision to provide soil health cards to all 14

crore farmers by March 2017 and Rs 297 crore has been allocated for organic farming in the budget, which is 19% more than last year. To make the National Food Security Mission successful, a target has been set to increase productivity. Rs 1,700 crore has been given under this head. Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah, Sarve Santu Niramaya has been made successful in this budget by allocating Rs 500 crore for pulses production.

There is a special focus on farmers in this year's budget. This budget is committed towards the development of rural India and it is right too, because even today a large population of ours lives in villages, the village roads will not have any hiccups now, the way the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana is being implemented now, it was not the case earlier. 27 thousand crore rupees are to be spent under this scheme and connecting 65 thousand new settlements with roads is a golden gift for the villages.

Farmers, poor and deprived people have been taken care of in the budget. I congratulate the Prime Minister and both our Minister of Finances for their foresight. In this budget, emphasis has been laid on the social sector, skill development and employment generation. This budget will fulfill the expectations of the general public.

Hail soldier, hail farmer, hail youth...

Let us all together make our India great...

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH (BIJNOR): Chairperson Sir, I am grateful to you that you gave me the opportunity to speak on this important subject.

Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Budget for the year 2016-17. When the Minister of Finance of a strong and majority-dominated Prime Minister will present his budget, it will definitely be on the basis and belief that the Indian economy should be strengthened in some way and the lives of the poor and farmers living in villages and the children who want to study should improve. Keeping this in mind, the Hon. The Minister of Finance has set some standards which he has described as the pillars of our economy, which include rural development, agriculture, social sector, education, employment, tax reform, inflation control and financial discipline. My predecessor was just saying that many similarities are visible in this budget. Having such similarities is a good sign. If the foreigners who want to invest money here feel that our economy is stable and there are no changes or fluctuations in it, the good policies that the previous government brought in are continued by this government as well and Deve Gowda Ji was also saying just now that the scheme that Chidambaram Ji had brought in for black money, its continuity has been maintained in this

budget. This is a very auspicious sign. But the same thing was said by the Vice President of our main opposition party that when I listened to the speech of the Minister of Finance, I could hear Chidambaram ji's plans, I was shocked and shaken. This is not a matter of surprise, it is a matter of good fortune. Shashi Tharoor ji has also said almost the same things in his speech. He distorted a lot of poetry. If I say that many lions were killed that day by Shashi Tharoor ji, it will not be wrong. The bickering, reluctance and negotiations between the ruling party and the opposition will continue. I would like to present a Sher (couplet) to my opposition friends-

I believe that love has to be hidden, love,

Come secretly some day to show it to me.

Even if it is out of resentment, you have come just to hurt my heart.

Come again to leave me alone.

When the interest of the country is concerned and the Prime Minister sits at that place after getting absolute majority, the feelings

that he will have in his mind for bringing about economic reforms will be the same which were in the mind of Rajiv Gandhi 31 years ago and 31 years ago Rajiv Gandhi was also sitting there. If there is that continuity in this budget then it is a matter of good fortune. Economic recession is spreading all over the world. Only India has a growth rate of 7.6percent; there is no improvement in the economy of BRICS nations either.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

[Translation]

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Hon. Sir, I would like to discuss two topics.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You finish your point in one minute, please do it.

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: First education is, because education but very less my colleague companion say gotare. After making education accessible to all, we have to focus on its quality, the Minister of Finance said this in his speech. He wants to ensure that there are adequate numbers of teachers in schools. Vajpayee ji had

started this program in the year 2001as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan. At that time 57 percent of children used to drop out from school. ... *(Interruptions)* Sir, I am a BJP MP, we are 282. The whip does not even let us speak.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There are many speakers right now.

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: We have got this opportunity to speak with great difficulty, please give us some more time.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: A long list of Members is there. Please conclude.

… (Interruptions)

[Translation]

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: I will conclude my speech by speaking on education. In 2016, 97 percent of children of school going age were enrolled in schools and the dropout rate has fallen from 57 percent to 4.1 percent. Activity based learning is being added for class one and class two, reading period has been included, reading period has been specified in the timetable and this model has been

taken from Sikkim. It was also operated with great success in Tamil Nadu, Karnataka and Gujarat.

Sir, a policy called Saransh has been brought for school children, in which parents, school teachers and the students themselves are together... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: I have just started speaking. I wish to speak only on education which no other Member has spoken about. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I understand that but there is a long list of Members. What can I do? Please conclude in half a minute.

[Translation]

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: So that there can be positive supervision in the activities of children, improvements are being made in the basic education of all children on the basis of 'Study India, Grow India'. Study material has been prepared for teachers and children. Training of teachers and their related work like separate training for the Principal and separate training for the teachers who are teaching

the children, infants in class one and two. Develop a digital education institution and if a teacher is introducing any new experiment through video, then upload it so that other teachers can also see and benefit from it.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude now.

… *(Interruptions)*

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Allow me to at least finish on basic education. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: There is a system here; there is discipline here.

[Translation]

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: Retired people and our NRIs should also help in this. This is mainly what it was done for.

[English]

I would only like to compliment the Tamil Nadu Government, Sir. … *(Interruptions)*

I am concluding. Allow me to conclude. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You have to conclude within 30 seconds now.

Kunwar Bharatendra Singh, please conclude now.

KUNWAR BHARATENDRA SINGH: I only wish to conclude by saying that anybody who has India first in their hearts and I hope all of us are very fortunate. It is not only the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. The Finance Minister but also all of us who have got elected to this august House are very fortunate. If all of us hold in our hearts that we should really make this august House an instrument of change and if we really support it and support change and rise above our partisan politics, I am sure, we will be able to change the picture of our great nation and make it lead and become the *dharm guru* of the next century.

[English]

[*]**SHRIMATI RITI PATHAK (SIDHI):** I would like to support and welcome the efforts made towards changing India i.e. the important reforms made in the General Budget 2016-17 and say-

A budget that respects everyone.

Of the village, the poor, the farmer.

Of flight to India.

That is, Budget 2016-17 is being seen as a major change in the field of agriculture and irrigation. While the allocation for agriculture has been doubled by 84 percent, the amount for farmer welfare has been increased from Rs. 15,309 crores to Rs. 35,984 crores, a long term fund of Rs. 20,000 crores has been created for irrigation, due to which it can be expected that the income of farmers will double in the next 5 years.

If it comes to health and family welfare, then health insurance of Rs 1 lakh per family is being given under the Health Protection Scheme. In this also, senior citizens are given additional health insurance of Rs 30,000.

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[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

To promote higher education, Higher Education Financing Agency has been established with Rs. 1000 crore. Apart from this, our government is going to take a unique initiative towards re-establishing India in higher education on the world stage, for which 10 government and 10 non-government sector institutions are being made world-class in studies and research.

In the field of social security, the government has created a social security platform through Aadhaar, where a new law has been made to provide subsidies and other financial help to the needy. Many such new experiments, which appear to be successful, have received a major share in this budget.

Now if we classify this budget sector wise then its benefits become clear. Like more allocation has been made for weaker sections by the Ministry.

Farmers will benefit from the following provisions:

- Complete insurance at a very low premium under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.
- E-platform for Agricultural Marketing to help sell the produce.

- Better irrigation facilities, long-term irrigation fund, better management of groundwater resources and more wells and ponds under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.
- Allocation of Rs 15,000 crore to reduce pressure on repayment of loan interest.
- Promotion of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana to connect the roads of villages.
- Soil Health Card to provide information about what to sow.
- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee R-Urban Mission launched to develop infrastructure in villages.
- Direct benefits to the needy through social security platforms from the government, eliminating middlemen.

As far as the poor are concerned, they will benefit from the following facilities:

- Health insurance plan up to Rs 1 lakh.
- Free LPG connection to every family.
- Youth will be made skilled through the Prime Minister Skill Development Scheme.

- The government is helping in getting a job through EPFO assistance.
- Shyama Prasad Mukherjee R-Urban Mission to improve infrastructure in villages.
- Special focus on quality education for children in government schools.
- Direct benefits to the needy through social security platforms from the government, eliminating middlemen.
- Cheap medicines will be provided through Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana.
- Electricity will be provided to all villages by 1 May 2018.

The government has made the following arrangements for the youth:

- Access to world-class universities with the help of new regulations and Higher Education Financing Agency.
- Direct scholarship benefits through social security platforms.
- The government has created a digital vault to store school leaving certificates, degrees, other academic awards and mark sheets.

- The dreams of entrepreneurs were benefited through schemes like Start Up and Stand Up India.
- The number of jobs has increased due to employment generation steps.
- Skill development through Multi Skill Training Institutes and National Career Service.
- Better road and rail connectivity.

The following measures will create a favorable environment for entrepreneurs:

- 100 per cent exemption in profits for start-ups for the first three years.
- Target to provide loan of Rs 1 lakh 80 thousand crore through Mudra Scheme.
- Changes in the Companies Act to provide a better environment for start-ups.
- Eco system and rules and conditions are also easy in the new start up policy.
- The turnover limit under Section 44 AD of the Predictive Taxation Scheme has been increased to Rs 2 crore.

- Under the proposed bankruptcy law, it will be easier to close down industries.
- Applications for waiver of penalty and interest will be settled within one year.

The government has taken the following measures to benefit the middle class-

- Price Stabilization Fund for stability in the prices of pulses.
- Exemption on interest up to Rs 50,000on home loan, along with benefit of tax exemption in housing projects.
- Opportunity to become digitally literate by registering in Digital Literacy Mission.
- The exemption limit under section 87A of Income Tax has been increased from Rs 2000 to Rs 5000.
- The limit of exemption under Income Tax Section 80GG related to house rent has been increased from Rs 24,000 to Rs 60,000.
- Better facilities in the field of road transport.
- Tax exemption on withdrawal of 40 percent of the money from the National Pension Scheme, also the employer can contribute more to the pension fund.

- E-Sahyog scheme implemented to resolve errors in Income Tax returns.
- National Dialysis Service Programme keeping in view the health needs of the public.
- Central law to deal with illegal money hoarders so that they can invest their savings safely.
- Direct benefits to the needy through social security platforms from the government, eliminating middlemen.

The following steps have been taken to provide benefits to the market-

- Investments in unlisted companies will be eligible for long term capital gains tax in 2 years.
- Favorable environment due to strong and adequately capitalized banking sector.
- No change in long term capital gains tax for listed securities.
- Stable and accurately estimated tax regime increased confidence in India.
- Strong corporate bond market and improved electronic platform.
- Make in India boosted by changes in customs and excise duty.

- Easy resolution of tax related matters under Dispute Resolution Scheme.
- General insurance companies will be able to be listed on stock exchanges.
- Benefit through Securitization Trust.
- 100% FDI in asset reconstruction companies is fully approved.

[English]

*ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): The budget 2016-17 appears to be more farmer friendly and infrastructure development oriented. According to the Finance Minister, the income would be doubled in 5 years. He also promised to implement programs to achieve this end. Large allocations have been made to infrastructure development. But a close analysis of the budget declarations reveals that there is nothing to cheer for the growers of cash crops.

To keep the promise of doubling the income of farmers in 5 years, it is required to raise farmer's income by 15% a year. Even if the farmers can increase their output by 3% a year, agriculture prices will have to rise by 12% a year which will worsen the inflation. Therefore, without introducing specific schemes targeted for increasing the income of the farmers by means of increased productivity, decrease in cost of production and ensuring high market price, the present announcement also will remain as a promise as in the case of earlier declarations and announcements for the agrarian sector.

* Speech was laid on the Table.

When we analyze the budget announcements, it would reveal that the agrarian economy, especially the cash crops and plantation crops sector will not be benefited. As we are all aware that because of the problems faced by the growers of cash crops like Rubber, Cardamom, Coffee, Tea, etc. due to the fall in the price of Rubber, the growers are finding it very difficult to survive. The price of Natural Rubber has fallen from Rs. 250/kg to Rs. 85/kg during 2011-2016. The Rubber growers are not getting the cost of producing the commodity, so is the case of cardamom and the cash crops. Now cardamom is fetching only Rs. 400/kg against the production cost of Rs. 750/kg. The Tea and Coffee Sector is also having the very same issues. As a result of price fall, all these sectors are in distress. The poor laborers and the small scale growers are really in a deep crisis. They are not in a position to send their children to schools, repay the loans availed from various financial institutions, avail treatments for ailments and meet all other financial commitments incidental to their survival as human beings. Though the economic and social scenario has become so hostile, the Government is not taking up the responsibility to mitigate the hardship of the people. The respective State Governments, representatives of the people including Members of Parliament and all other stakeholders have represented the Government to introduce

targeted programmes to address the issue faced by the growers of rubber, cardamom and other cash crops. But unfortunately, the budget 2016-17 did not make any efforts to address the issues of this sector, instead the allocation to the Commodity Boards, Rubber Board, Spices Board and Coffee Board have been reduced drastically. The allocation of the Rubber Board has been reduced from Rs. 161.75 crore to Rs. 132.75 crore, for Spice Board that is reduced from Rs. 95.35 crore to 70.35 crore and for Coffee Board it is reduced from 136.54 crore to 121.54 crore.

The functioning of the Commodity Boards especially Rubber Board and Spices Board is a matter of frustration. The Rubber Board is functioning without a full time Chairman. Though the Spices Board is having a full time Chairman, the activities of the Spices Board especially that relating to the development of cardamom and its marketing which is the mandate of the Spices Board under the provisions of the Spices Board Act 1986, are not being undertaken as if the same was done during the past. I had occasion to raise this matter earlier before, especially the withdrawal of the Spice Board from the development of small Indian cardamom which is being grown in the high ranges of Idukki district of Kerala State. The lesser allocation of

funds to the Commodity Boards will affect the very activities of the Rubber Board and Spices Board in the development front including the dispersal of subsidies for re-plantation and other allied activities.

It is the common case of all the Political Parties that an amnesty scheme should be brought in to mitigate the hardship of the Rubber and Cardamom farmers. All the political parties and other stakeholders have represented the matter before the Government but the budget proposals have disappointed all of them. In fact, we have requested for a Rs.1500 crore amnesty scheme for the Rubber growers and Rs.500 crore amnesty scheme for the Small Indian Cardamom Growers to tide over the crisis which they are facing at present due to the wrong policies of the Government which has been followed since the introduction of globalization and neoliberal economic policies. It is not the farmers but the Government which has failed to protect the interests of the agrarian economy while entering International treaties of trade including ASIAN agreement, GATT, WTO agreement, etc. Therefore, it is the responsibility of the Government to protect the interest of the farmers, laborers and others who are depending on the agrarian economy by introducing targeted schemes and programs for ensuring the sustenance of the sector.

I urge the Government to raise the allocation of the Commodity Boards especially that of the Spices Board and Rubber Board. I also request the Government to allocate more funds for development of cardamom especially the small Indian Cardamom which is being grown in the high ranges of Idukki district in Kerala. I also hope that the Government will introduce amnesty schemes for the growers of Rubber and Cardamom to avoid farmers suicide in large scale.

[Translation]

***SHRI VIRENDRA KUMAR CHOUDHARY (JHANJHARPUR):** This budget of 2016-17 is in the interest of the poor people and farmers of the village. A provision of Rs 9000 crore has been made for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan in this budget. Under the same MNREGA scheme, Rs 38,500 crore were given, which no government had given till date and is the biggest amount till date. Rs 87,765 crore has been given for rural development. About eight thousand crores more have been given than the previous budget. Our government is the government of farmers and poor people living in villages.

Rs 19,000 crore has been given for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana and including states' share, Rs 27,000 crore has been given.Rs 38,500 crore has been given for MNREGA, which is 11 percent more than last year. This year the target is to build five lakh ponds and five lakh wells. A provision of Rs 8,500 crore has been made in the power sector. The target is to provide electricity to all villages by May 2018. To promote skill development, 1,500 multi-skill training centers will be opened at a cost of Rs 1,700 crore. The aim is to provide LPG

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

connections at subsidized rates in the name of female members of families living below the poverty line. One and a half crore families, lakhs and crores of families have benefited under the Jan Dhan Yojana. In the field of insurance, insurance has been provided in the interest of the poor and the farmers. Such as Crop Insurance Scheme, Pradhan Mantri Mudra Scheme, Atal Pension Scheme, Security Insurance Scheme giving health cover of Rs 1 lakh, additional top up package of Rs 30 thousand for senior citizens. In the field of education, a digital depository of school-college certificates, degrees, and mark sheets will be created. 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened, apart from this our government has set a target to develop 10 government and 10 non-government universities at the international level.

In this budget, our government has given big relief to kidney patients and poor patients. The target is to open dialysis centers in every district of the country and 300 Jan Aushadhi centers across the country. To reduce the inflation of pulses, a fund of Rs. 500 crore has been given to increase the production of pulses and Rs. 900 crore has been given separately to maintain stability in the prices of pulses. In the end, this budget has been prepared keeping in mind today's situation and tomorrow's needs.

I support this budget.

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget for the year 2016-17. I come from Bihar, our party is very small, we have two MPs. Please at least give us six-seven minutes to speak. We have a government in Bihar, so we want to put forward some of our points here.

Sir, like every year, the budget has been presented this year also. I thank the Minister of Finance because his thinking and attitude towards farmers is very positive. But the budget that has been presented, it is not like that during the UPA government there was a development-less budget and your government is presenting the third budget. The village is still watching whether this third budget that is being presented will lead to development or it will be devoid of development. We come from Bihar. During the elections in Bihar, the Hon. The Prime Minister had promised in Gandhi Maidan, Patna, on the issue of special state status to Bihar. He had said that if our government is formed in Delhi then I will give special state status to Bihar.

Sir, the Prime Minister is not present here, the Minister of State for Finance is present here. We will request him that Bihar is a backward state and Bihar is constantly being discriminated against. Bihar is a backward state, just as Odisha is a backward state, the backward grants that we used to get have also been cut. If you do not give special state status to Bihar, you saw the result of the Bihar elections, you presented your budget twice, you had hope but the people of Bihar rejected you. We request the Hon. Minister to make arrangements to give special state status to Bihar. Just now former Prime Minister Deve Gowda ji was speaking on the condition of farmers, today farmers in the country are committing suicide. It has been said in the budget that we will remove the plight of farmers. The Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme has been brought. I would like to say through you that the condition of the farmers is such that there is no consistent change in the system; the farmer is still where he was. Suicides are continuously happening by farmers. The Agriculture Minister was also sitting here right now, he has gone away. We come from Bihar, in Bihar, northern Bihar is affected by floods and southern Bihar is affected by drought. Till date the Indian Government has not made any effort regarding the water that comes from Nepal to North Bihar.

I would request the Hon. minister and the Hon. prime minister that if the river projects are not made after talking to Nepal, then certainly the floods in Bihar will not be resolved and the entire responsibility for this will be on the Hon. prime minister. He had made many promises; he had also said that he would convert the kutcha houses of the poor into permanent houses. Looking at the budget that has come, it is clear that in comparison to the previous budget, there has been a cut of 54 percent in Indira Awas in this budget. Somewhere or the other the poor are being discriminated against. Just now some friends were telling me that no provision has been made for Dalits in the budget. I would like to request and appeal to you that the amount given for Indira Awas Yojana was continuously increasing during the UPA government but ever since the NDA government has come to power, it is being continuously reduced. We will request and appeal to you that the 54 percent cut be made up.

Sir, in Bihar, the Prime Minister had repeatedly said in the Motihari meeting that there are closed sugar mills, no provision has been made in the budget for the farmers who were continuously struggling there. I would like to say through you that seven sugar mills are closed in Bihar, they should be restarted. This arrangement should

definitely be made. Poor people are continuously dying due to inflation, in the market tur dal is available at Rs. 250 per kg, tomatoes are available at Rs. 90 per kg. I would like to tell the government that you should make a policy for inflation. Thank you very much for the time you gave.

*__SHRI HARI MANJHI (GAYA):__ This general budget is mainly based on agriculture, which is related to farmers and the poor. Emphasis was laid on doubling the income of farmers and 100% foreign investment was approved in the agriculture sector and an allocation of Rs 35,984 crore was made in this budget. In which Rs 5,500 crore will be spent on Pradhan Mantri Crop Insurance Scheme and Rs 5,300 crore will be spent on Pradhan Mantri Agricultural Irrigation Scheme.

Emphasis has been laid on the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, a provision of Rs 97,000 crore has been made in this budget. In which Rs 5,500 crore will be spent on National Highway roads. Due to which 50 thousand kilometers of state highways and 10 thousand kilometers of national highways will be constructed and the state highways will be converted into national highways.

Rs 87,765 crore has been allocated to the Rural Development Department in this budget. Under the Swachh Bharat Mission, emphasis has been laid on cleaning the villages. An amount of Rs 38,500 crore has been allocated in this budget for the Mahatma Gandhi Employment Guarantee Scheme. Due to which 5 lakh new

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

ponds will be constructed in the villages under this scheme. This will provide employment to the workers. Rs 33,150 crore has been given for the Jan Aushadhi Yojana under the Ministry of Health. Through which 3,000 Jan Aushadhi stores will be opened to provide generic medicines to the poor at low prices.

An amount of Rs 2.87 crore has been given on the basis of the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission for strengthening the Gram Panchayats under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

Similarly, this budget is in the interest of the poor and Rs 2,000 crore has been allocated in this budget to provide LPG gas connections to women of poor families and Rs 1,000 crore has been allocated for providing higher education and quality education and 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened across the country. Rs 1,700 crore has been given in Skill India Mission for skill development of youth and a target has been set to provide electricity to all villages by May 1, 2018.

This general budget is employment oriented and development oriented in the interest of the country.

SHRI RAJENDRA AGRAWAL (MEERUT): Sir, you gave me the opportunity to participate in this discussion, I am grateful for this. Just three days ago, interrupting this discussion, our Minister of State for Finance had mentioned the limitations of resources. I would like to mention a little about that. Our total receipts are worth Rs 14 lakh 44 thousand 156 crores. This is our calculation of total Rs 19 lakh, 78 thousand, 60 crores including deficit and borrowings etc. of Rs 5 lakh, 33 thousand, 904 crores. Out of these, the revenue expenditure is Rs 17 lakh, 31 thousand 37 crores.

17.00 hours

We cannot tamper with it much. The capital expenditure is Rs 2 lakh 47 thousand 23 crores. I would like to mention that in this, we have to pay around Rs. 4 lakh 92 thousand crore as interest. These are the things, these are the limitations, whenever our opposition or anybody talks about it, it is very important to keep these figures in mind that how can the interest liability be reduced, our government has reduced it by 0.2 percent and how can our income be increased? Unless income increases and liabilities decrease, as per the budget of a common citizen, I can say that till then we will not be able to run everything properly. All the provisions of the budget have been made

with the objective of increasing our income, reducing our liabilities, and investing money in development work in an appropriate manner. From that perspective, a very balanced budget has been presented, keeping every sector in mind. For this, I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance.

Another thing that happens to save money is corruption. If corruption occurs then money gets depleted. The provisions of this Government, the efforts of this Government have reduced it, hence we have more availability of money than before. The time constraint is a bit disturbing.

Secondly, regarding this budget, I want to say that there is a vision of totality present in this budget. We talk about electricity. Everybody needs electricity. The need for electricity is increasing. If we use fossil fuel, pollution is created all over the world and also in our country. It is the specialty of our government that by making better use of the solar energy option, we have ensured the supply of electricity and have also taken measures to reduce pollution from the world and the country. Overall, a vision of totality is present within this budget.

17.02 hours (Shri Anandrao Adsul *in the Chair*)

There is a problem of water, there is a problem of water pollution. The availability of pure water is decreasing. Our Government, thinking over all these matters and the Minister of Finance taking cognizance of this, has decided to repair our water bodies under MNREGA and has allocated funds for them. That is, the Government has taken a holistic view of what the impact of any scheme if it is made anywhere and how to address it.

I would like to make a small request that there is a strike going on by businessmen related to gold. If it is considered to be one percent exercise then they don't have any objection. The objection is that they are being exploited by the system. I request the Minister of Finance to please ensure that even while increasing their income, they are not exploited.

In the end, I want to say one thing that nowadays our Congress people are very much involved with the freedom of expression, their commitment is visible and they can go to any extent for this. Especially wherever their young leaders go, it is their compulsion to go there. Right now the youth leaders have gone till JNU, they can go beyond that also. However, these dedicated advocates of freedom of

expression and their party had imposed an emergency in 1975.I was also in jail for 21 months. At that time I had written a small poem. I concluded my request by reciting it, because the path is very long and the problems are many." O traveler, keep moving. You have to fight and deal with the toughest challenges today. You have to create history through continuous and tireless hard work. By lighting the lamp of life, you yourself remain luminous. Take the faith in your heart to win, O traveler, keep moving. O traveler, keep moving. "I extend my heartiest congratulations and hope that next year's budget will continue in the same direction and increase employment opportunities, strengthen the rural economy, increase its strength, increase resources within the country and reduce deficits. Thank you very much.

[English]

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, I sincerely thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the discussion on the General Budget. At the outset I would like to compliment the Government, especially the hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister on presenting a balanced Budget meeting the expectations of different sections of society. It is all the more a very Herculean Task given the global economic situation. The reaction of the stock market after the Budget is a testimony to the way the people of this country have received the Budget.

Sir, I would like to further compliment the Government for the spirit with which they have received the criticisms and suggestions and effected the required modifications to the Budget. I specifically refer to the following initiatives announced by the Government, namely, withdrawal of tax on PF withdrawals which will benefit a large number of salaried class consisting mostly of lower and middle level employees; implementation of the *Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana* to approximately cover 50 percent of agricultural land holding at a nominal premium of 2 per cent for Kharif and 1.5 per cent for Rabi crops; introduction of a new health insurance scheme to protect

against hospitalization; increasing the assured amount from Rs. 50,000 to Rs. 1,00,000 and by a further sum of Rs. 30,000 in case of senior citizens; providing cooking gas connections for BPL families. I specifically welcome the allocation made for the rural sector. An amount of Rs. 87,765 crore has been allocated to this segment which I represent in this House. I welcome the Government's proposal to enhance the total investment in the road sector including PMGSY allocation to Rs. 97,000 crore. I also welcome the proposed Plan expenditure by 15.3 per cent. However, in spite of the best efforts of the Government to provide a well balanced Budget, there are certain gray areas which require further consideration of the Government and necessary modifications may be announced.

The enhancement of a clean energy cess on coal by Rs. 200 per tonne will push up the cost of power generation. In fact, we demand that the clean energy cess be completely withdrawn. The allocation of Rs. 1804 crore for skill development is meager and has to be enhanced. A major chunk of global reduction of petroleum prices has been appropriated by the Union Government by way of additional taxes without passing on the benefit to the consumer. I request the Government to pass on the benefit of reduced global prices of

petroleum to actual consumers so that whenever there is any increase in the global prices, consumers will not murmur in paying the increased prices. On ethical grounds, I request the Government to evolve a policy of co-relating domestic prices with global prices.

Sir, I would also like to invite the attention of the Government to the increased Central Excise Duty on petrol and diesel by way of surcharges and cess denying the devolution to the States. A large number of additional taxes, cess and surcharges are being freshly levied in this Budget apparently for giving a push to agriculture. The last two years of this Government witnessed the lowest growth in Minimum Support Prices for Paddy and Cotton. We cannot expect to double the income of farmers in the next five years without correspondingly increasing the MSPs matching the actual cost of production on one hand and increasing the access to bank credit to farmers to 100 per cent from the present 40 per cent.

Sir, it is a matter of concern that despite such a massive campaign on Make in India, our imports of manufactured goods are increasing every month. I would like to request the Government to take serious initiatives to arrest this trend. At the cost of repetition I demand, on behalf of my Party, that the Union Government honor all the

commitments made in the AP Reorganization Act, 2014 including the grant of a special category status and speedier implementation of the Polavaram project.

I would request the hon. Prime Minister to rise to the occasion keeping aside the technicalities in view of the heartburn of the people of Andhra Pradesh. We are only requesting to implement the provisions of the Bill and the commitment made on the issue in the House proceedings.

This Government should honor the statement made in the House by the earlier Government in response to the demand by the then Opposition who are now in power. This is an extremely sensitive issue and silence any longer on the part of the Government is not warranted and it may lead to undesirable consequences.

Hence, I earnestly request the hon. Prime Minister to kindly address this issue at the earliest.

Lastly, I wish to highlight an issue concerning the people connected with jewelry, namely, the increase in excise duty of one percent on jewelry.

Thousands of artisans and employees in the manufacturing industry will be affected by this measure. Jewelry is not an investment

but a sentimental item in the lives of the people of this country and especially women.

Jewelry is a high volume and low margin business. I may remind you that the earlier Government has tried to impose this hike twice and withdrew the same on facing resistance.

I would request the Government to withdraw the hike which will please all the artisans and skill workers.

[Translation]

SHRI KESHAV PRASAD MAURYA (PHULPUR): Chairperson Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the budget speech. First of all, I congratulate the Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of Finance on my behalf and on behalf of my party, for which I have no words to congratulate them.... *(Interruptions)* Since I come from a village, I come from among the farmers, in this year's budget, whether it is for the village, for the poor, for the farmer, for agriculture, for health, for employment, for irrigation, for education, for the elderly or for the youth, there is no such area which has not been taken care of in this year's budget.

I just got a chance to go to the village. Congress has become very nervous after the presentation of this budget. He felt that maybe some solution would be found in 2019. But this time the budget has closed the doors of Congress not only for 2019 but till 2024 because the UPA government has been indulging in corruption, Hon. Modi ji's government has worked to stop it. More than 20 crore accounts have been opened in the country under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. Earlier, the work of looting through these accounts and depositing money in Swiss banks was done. Now this Government

has made an arrangement that whoever indulges in corruption will be sent to Tihar Jail instead of depositing money in a bank and enjoying his life.

This time the government took steps from the health point of view. Earlier, a smart card worth Rs 30,000 was made on the basis of which medical facilities were provided. I just went to the village. After going there, I saw that there is a health insurance card of Rs. 1 lakh, a top-up of Rs. 30,000 for the elderly, and a crop insurance scheme. Now the farmer will not need to be sad. This message has been given through the budget of the Minister of Finance and the government of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. This time, to transform the village, the government has decided to give Rs 80 lakh per village. Now the villages will be transformed with this budget. The systems are being decentralized. Now, development will take place in the right manner. Villages will be prosperous due to development.... *(Interruptions)* We are new members. You give time to senior people to speak, it would be good if you give us an extra minute or two.... *(Interruptions)* I read the newspapers the next day after the budget was presented. Newspapers wrote that the government moved towards the villages. When such news came in the newspapers, our Congress colleagues

got worried. They felt that the way Modi Ji's government is working and promoting the poor, villages, farmers and youth in every field, whether I talk about mothers and sisters of the Bharatiya Janata Party-led government, talk about the security of the country, talk about Make in India, Digital India, start-ups, talk about railways, talk about roads, talk about houses for the poor, talk about skill development, talk about all such schemes or cheap medicines, the way this government has taken many steps through all such schemes, I support this budget and congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the Hon. Minister of Finance on behalf of my region and the farmers of the region. This budget will definitely bring prosperity to the country, poverty of the poor will be eradicated and the country will be free from corruption. The country will reach number one under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister. I have written a few lines for my Congress colleagues. When they were in power, they looted sports, looted railways, looted the poor, looted farmers, looted the entire India, looted coal, looted phones, what all things should I mention. They looted the entire country, the youth, and I support this budget.

[English]

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN (THRISSUR): Mr. Chairman, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the discussion on the General Budget 2016-17. On behalf of my Party, the Communist Party of India, I would like to say that the emphasis on agriculture and the rural sector in the Budget for 2016-17 suggests that it has been clearly influenced by the prevailing political climate in the country. It has been done in the background of the ruling party's rout in Delhi and Bihar Assembly elections after the last Lok Sabha elections and keeping in mind the prospects in the forthcoming Assembly elections in five States, Assam, Kerala, Tamil Nadu, West Bengal and Puducherry. But the realization of the Budget's noble objective lies in its implementation.

The agriculture and farmers' welfare has got Rs. 35,984 crore in this Budget, which is just 1.81 per cent of the total expenditure of Rs. 19.78 lakh crore and the focus is on doubling farmers' income by 2022. For farmers who are already in distress, five years is a long time away. The peasants are committing suicide basically because of their failure to pay back the loans that they have taken from moneylenders.

According to the official estimates, over 12,000 farmers had committed suicide during the year 2014-15. A provision of Rs. 15,000 crore has been made in the Budget towards interest subvention to reduce the burden of future loans repayment. But there is no provision in the Budget for writing off their present loans.

The Government has already written off Rs. 1.14 lakh crore of bad loans taken by the corporate houses during the years 2013-15. The Finance Minister has promised that the NPA issue will be tackled during the year, which means much more NPAs will be written off.

The Finance Minister claims that he has allocated the highest ever amount of Rs. 38,500 crore in 2016-17 for MGNREGA as against Rs. 34,699 crore allotted in 2015-16. But it is lower than what was spent last year, which was over Rs. 41,000 crore. Moreover, the number of man-days of the employment provided has come down to less than 40 per household as against the promised 100 days and there is an accumulated arrears of wages amounting to more than Rs. 6,500 crore. So, the actual allocation will be Rs. 32,000 crore for 2016-17 and at the end of the current year, there will be a larger amount of arrears of unpaid wages.

There is no mention of increase in public health spending in the Budget. It stands at 1.2 per cent of the GDP. Creation of Dialysis Centres in the District Hospitals will help in tackling the rising chronic cases of renal failures but it has to be ensured that the facilities are well maintained and are always functional.

The decision to open 3,000 *Jan Aushadhi* Stores across the country to provide affordable medicines is a people-centric move but it should be ensured that generic medicines are tested and of the best quality.

Expenditure on Integrated Child Development Scheme has been drastically cut for the second year in a row from Rs.15,483.77 crore for 2015-16 to Rs.14,000 crore in 2016-17 although the Supreme Court wanted the scheme to be enlarged and universalised.

Sir, these are some observations I could mention about the Budget 2016-17 within the meager time available to me. Thank you very much, Sir.

***SHRI HEMANT TUKARAM GODSE (NASHIK):** We are listening to the media about increasing the MP's remuneration allowances from Rs.1.40 lac to Rs.2.80 lac per month. But instead of increasing MP's remuneration allowances, it is necessary to increase MPLAD funds from Rs.5 crore to Rs.25 crore per year.

My Nashik constituency consists of 455 villages, 1 Nashik Municipal Corporation, 4 Nagarpalikas and 1 Deolali Cantonment Board. Now, we are getting Rs.5 crore as fund for Local Area Development for such a large constituency for one year, which means for five years it will be Rs.25 crore. If I decide to use MPLAD fund for only rural area villages for all over five years i.e. Rs.25 crore for 455 villages, I can give only Rs. 5.49 lac for one village in five years and nothing for the urban area i.e. Nashik Municipal Corporation, 4 Nagarpalikas and 1 Cantonment Board.

Nearly 50% of MPs consist of more than 75% of rural areas i.e. about 1000 villages in their constituencies. Generally, people either from rural or urban areas select their representative expecting that basic necessity work would be done by the MP from MPLAD fund within five years in their area which is not possible from the

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

government scheme. More basic necessities are needed in rural areas. Also, the urban people have expectations of the same work by the MP in their area.

I request hon. Finance Minister that instead of increasing MP's remuneration allowances, increase the MPLAD Fund from Rs.5 crore to Rs.25 crore per year. So the MPs can satisfy the people to some extent.

***SHRI P. SRINIVASA REDDY (KHAMMAM):** The Union Budget 2016-17 was a big disappointment for the Telangana state governments, which was looking forward to a host of benefits for the youngest state of the country. The only consolation was a mention about the tribal university for which Rs.1 crore was allotted. Rs.20 crore for IIT-Hyderabad, Rs.15 crore for INCOIS, Rs.62 crore for the Centre for DNA fingerprinting and Rs.60 crore for the Advance Research Centre.

The budget was silent on the vociferous demand made by all parties of the region to accord special status to Telangana. There are eight backward districts in Telangana, but the Centre has not made any announcement in this regard.

The people of Telangana who eagerly awaited the announcement of national project status to Pranahita-Chevella in the budget have been left totally disappointed.

I have been requesting the Government time and again to set up a steel plant at Bayyaram in Khamman district and the 4000 MW coal

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

based project in Telangana. But, the Union Government has ignored them again.

Since the Government had forcibly merged 7 Mandals of Bhadrachalam Division of Khammam District of Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, the Government should consider a special package for their welfare, rehabilitation and resettlement. So far, no rehabilitation measures have been taken.

There was a proposal during the UPA Government to establish a Campus of Indian School of Mining, Dhanbad in Khammam District, but no effort has been made to fulfill the long cherished desire of this mineral rich region.

Hence, I request the hon. Finance Minister to initiate steps to address the genuine problems of people of Telangana in the present Budget and render justice to the Telangana State.

***RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM) :** It is often said that you can convince anyone in the world if you manage to keep the people of India happy with a union budget of the government. The nature of the task is so huge and daunting that people seldom promise to deliver what is expected of them. In such a scenario, in spite of the global economy being in turmoil, the Finance Minister has presented an outstanding budget and that has lived up to the hype and expectation of the billion people of this great nation. The budget was flawless and so much so that even the opposition found it hard to criticize the budget. The Minister has ensured that this is a farmer and middle class friendly budget and that has given a string that this government is not anti-poor and anti-farmer. Let's look at what makes this budget truly a people budget.

Growth of the economy accelerated to 7.6% in 2015-16. India has been hailed as a 'bright spot' amidst a slowing global economy by the IMF. Foreign exchange reserves touched the highest ever level of about 350 billion US dollars. Despite increased devolution to States by 55% as a result of the 14th Finance Commission award, plan expenditure increased at RE stage in 2015-16 in contrast to earlier

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

years. These have resulted in ensuring that the faith in the Indian economic system stayed intact under the leadership of the hon. Prime Minister and the Finance Minister.

Going through the Government's road map, it reassures us that the government is committed to deliver on what it had promised to set up. Government plans to focus on ensuring macro-economic stability and prudent fiscal management, boosting domestic demand, continuing with the pace of economic reforms and policy initiatives to change the lives of our people for the better. This is highly important for the stability of the markets and economy. Focus on enhancing expenditure in priority areas of farm and rural sector, social sector, infrastructure sector, employment generation and recapitalization of the banks will ensure that the growth is not stopped. Strengthening of the weaker sections of the society and the renewed pitch to pass the GST bill has been a great move and will ensure that India remains the focal point of world growth.

The Finance Minister has mentioned that the government has a total of nine focal points for the growth of India. I want to mention why these are important and let us look at what they focus on.

Farmers form the majority of our work force and it is important that the government keeps them happy and ensures their development. A ruined farmer is a nation's curse. The government allocation for Agriculture and Farmers' welfare is Rs.35,984 crore which is unforeseen. Irrigation is a problem which needs to be addressed and the dedicated Long Term Irrigation Fund will be created in NABARD with an initial corpus of about Rs.20,000 crore which will go a long way in helping. Farm insurance has been announced which is an outstanding achievement of the government and allocation under Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana worth Rs.5500 crore is very encouraging though more must be allocated.

If India wants to grow then the growth must be rural driven and not urban driven. Therefore, renewed vigor was needed to ensure rural growth is kick started. Total allocation stands at Rs.87,765 crore. The move to grant 2.87 lakh crore to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities will empower the third tier of governance in India and that is highly important to ensure the last mile development. Rural employment has been a challenge but Rs.38,500 crore allocated for MGNREGA, which is the highest ever and if spent fully, will ensure that the impact of bad monsoons and unseasonal rains will not affect the farmers to

that extent. 100% village electrification by 1st May, 2018, is a landmark step that the people will be ever grateful for. I am personally grateful for the setting up of District Level Committees under Chairmanship of the senior most Lok Sabha MP from the district for monitoring and implementation of designated Central Sector and Centrally Sponsored Schemes as we will be able to answer our voters in a better way of what schemes are being implemented.

Rs.2,000 crore allocated for initial cost of providing LPG connections to BPL families will considerably increase the health status of the people who still use traditional means of cooking. I am specifically grateful for the 'National Dialysis Services Programme' to be started under National Health Mission through PPP mode as my constituency has a huge history of kidney ailments and this will help them immensely.

India is the youngest country in the world and we have to make use of the demographic dividend to our advantage. Move to set up 1500 Multi Skill Training Institutes will ensure the skilling of our population which is important. I request the Minister to allot one such center in my constituency. The move by GoI to contribute 8.33% for all of new employees enrolling in EPFO for the first three years of

their employment will help in the increasing of employment in a great way.

Rural connectivity is the need of the hour and the total investment in the road sector, including PMGSY allocation, of Rs.97,000 crore during 2016-17 will help realize this dream of former Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee. The performance of the government is outstanding in this regard and India's highest ever kilometers of new highways were awarded in 2015. There is a plan to approve nearly 10,000 kms of National Highways in 2016-17. Action plans for revival of unserved and underserved airports to be drawn up in partnership with State Governments will ensure air connectivity is provided.

Companies all around the world want to start business in India and therefore the constitution of a task force will help realize this dream of making India the best country to do business in. I personally would like to commend the move to ensure Automation facilities 3 lakh fair price shops by March 2017 and amendments in Companies Act to improve enabling environment for start-ups.

The government has stuck to its fiscal path which is highly important and gives a positive sign to the investors and the global

agencies. Moves like abolition of plan and non-plan expenditure and move to have sunset dates for all schemes will ensure timely delivery of services to the people.

Raise in the ceiling of tax rebate under section 87A from Rs.2000 to Rs.5000 to lessen tax burden on individuals with income up to Rs.5 lakhs was well received and the increase in limit of deduction of rent paid under section 80GG from Rs.24000 per annum to Rs.60000 to provide relief to those who live in rented houses is something that will immensely help the middle class salaried people who are the only ones to properly pay their income tax on time.

The renewed vigor of this government to Make in India will give huge impetus to manufactures which will in turn help growth. The Finance Minister's move to ensure housing is affordable will help put a roof over the heads of millions of Indians. The move to ensure accountability via technology is something that I would like to commend personally.

In spite of the budget being pro-poor and friendly, it was disappointing to see nothing significant allotted to Andhra Pradesh. I would like to make a renewed pitch for the grant of special status for Andhra Pradesh and for financial packages. We are in the process of

constructing a new capital, we need funds to construct the capital. Andhra Pradesh, post the unscientific separation, is trying to build a new capital, a new city Amaravati. Despite repeated assurances, the Union Government has failed in dishing out any sort of assistance to the state of Andhra Pradesh towards the same. Our hon. Chief Minister Shri Nara Chandra Babu Naidu Garu is pulling out all stops to ensure the already bruised state gets a world class capital. The plans are ready, but the only thing that is lacking is the assistance from the center. As per the state government estimates ,there is a need of Rs.1,00,213 crores but the Union Government has released only a fraction of that amount, about 1000 crores. This is of utmost importance as you know even to kick start basic governance functioning we need capital city infrastructure in place. The work towards the construction of the capital city has just begun and to ensure that the work does not stop we need a steady flow of funds. Telangana did not face such a problem as they inherited our capital city but we have to bear the additional burden of constructing a quality capital city from scratch. Therefore, I request the government to please give the assistance that the state deserves.

Overall, this is a pro-people budget and I am in complete support of it.

***SHRI D.K. SURESH (BANGALORE RURAL):** As far as overall the current year's union budget is concerned, I would like to mention that since the BJP has an absolute majority and formed a stable government at the Centre, people of the country have great expectations from its budget. But the General Budget presented by hon. Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitely has not mentioned any significant steps to solve the problem in agriculture, infrastructure, employment and other problems.

Hon. Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitely in his budget speech mentioned that "public money should reach the poor and the deserving without any leakage." The government's move to introduce a law to give statutory backing for Aadhaar is a welcome step. Better late than never, the government anyhow realized the intention of the UPA government in bringing the Aadhaar card with an aim at expanding access to financial services to deserving people of the country.

Another important thing I would like to mention is that the proposal of tax on EPF withdrawal was taken back by the union

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

government after receiving a number of representations from various sections, including Members of Parliament.

I would like to point out that the government should take steps for a comprehensive review of such a new proposal before making any announcement.

The NDA government claims that agriculture and farmers' welfare was a pillar of the government's agenda to transform India and it would strive to double the income of farmers by 2022.

In the 2016-17 Union Budget, the target for agricultural credit in the coming fiscal is an all-time high of Rs.9 lakh crore. While allocating Rs.35,984 crore for agriculture and farmers' welfare, Rs.5,500 crore has been allocated for effective implementation of the Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana and Rs.15,000 crore for loan interest subvention. The budget also announced an online procurement system to be undertaken through the Food Corporation of India, and other schemes for irrigation, conserving soil fertility and connectivity from farm to markets.

In this regard, I would like to point out that making announcements itself is not enough to achieve the target. As we have seen even in the third quarter of the current financial year the yield

has no result. Instead, the government should ensure the budgetary allocation is fully utilized for the purpose meant for within the stipulated time.

With regard to irrigation, the union government in its budget mentioned that 89 languishing projects under Accelerated Irrigation Benefits Programme (AIBP) will be fast-tracked to help 80.6 lakh hectares. Anyhow, it is a welcome step as the AIBP scheme was implemented by the UPA government itself. Now the NDA government is taking up the projects which were undertaken under the scheme. According to the budget estimates "these projects require Rs.17,000 crore next year and Rs.86,500 crore in the next five years. We will ensure that 23 of these projects are completed before March 31, 2017," I hope the government will take all necessary steps to ensure timely completion of these projects.

At present, our country has only 46 percent of the 141 million hectares of net cultivated area in the country covered by irrigation. The Finance Minister announced that Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana will be implemented in a mission mode with an aim to irrigate 28.5 lakh hectares.

With regard to the Namma Metro project, the budget has earmarked only Rs.667 crore for carrying out works related to Phase-II. The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited had requested a sum of Rs.1,080 crore for the same. Since people of Bengaluru are facing difficulties in having better urban transportation due to increased population in the city, I would urge upon the union Finance Minister to look into it and consider allocating the requested funds to enable the BMRC to complete the Metro project on time.

As far as education is concerned, there is no significant announcement about any massive outlay for education, health and social welfare. Creation of a Higher Education Funding Agency (HEFA) has been announced with a fund of Rs.1,000 crore. It looks like it will be mostly used to redress the problems of students seeking educational loans. Current outstanding educational loans may be around Rs.50,000 crore. It is not clear how a fund of Rs.1,000 crore will resolve the massive requirements of educational loans.

As per the UN Human Development Index, 2015, India is lagging behind. But the Union Budget presented by the Finance Minister does not show adequate commitment and financial allocation towards it to remove this malady. The United Nations Human

Development Report, 2015 has ranked India in 130th position among 188 nations listed in the UN Human Development Index. Among BRICS countries , India is left behind by Russia, Brazil, China and South Africa.

The Budget has announced that 62 more Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened in the next two years. There are thousands of government schools functioning without proper school building, there is no quality education due to poor infrastructure, lack of teaching faculty in those schools. But there are no indications how millions of government schools will be improved to provide quality school education. Right to Education (RTE) was launched in 2009 with a lot of noble expectations, but the RTE scheme is losing its steam due to half-hearted implementation and lackluster execution.

During XII Fifth Year Plan, it was expected that Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) will lift our school education and higher education from the current stagnancy and will help our schools, universities and colleges to attain respectable standards. The budget proposal does not talk about RTE, RMSA and RUSA.

The NDA Government has been giving emphasis on skill development since its formation; a provision of Rs.1,700 crore has been made for setting up 1,500 multi skill training institutes. It has been announced that 10 million youth will be provided skill training under Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY) during 2016-19. A Digital Literacy Scheme has also been announced in the budget to cover 60 million additional households.

I would like to point out that the banks are discouraging the use of education loans for higher studies. Talented but poor students are facing difficulties to pursue higher education. I would like to say that the proposed higher education financing agency would be an economic spring for the Indian education sector. Setting up a dedicated agency would give the thrust that is needed today. Hence, I would suggest that the government should fix the target to banks in this regard. So, that it would benefit both the students as well as the financing system.

Another important point I would like to make is - we hardly have any university in the top 500 universities of the world. We have a serious dearth of original research and focus on such areas is forthcoming. Development of world-class teaching institutions is a

dire need for the rapidly developing India. In that direction, it is a good step from the Government for enabling a regulatory architecture to provide to 10 public and 10 private institutions to emerge as world-class teaching institutions. I hope it will help the Higher Education sector which has been sluggish for the past few years and will get a much-needed stimulus to grow further.

The e-commerce sector in India has seen extraordinary growth, due to internet and mobile penetration, leading to an increased online consumer base. Our indirect tax system is equipped with conventional transactions involving goods and services, without focus on transactions executed online. In the absence of a defined framework on indirect taxation of such online transactions at present, e-commerce companies usually operate as marketplaces for facilitation of sale of goods or provision of services. So, there is a need to bring online transactions into the area of e-commerce taxation.

I would like to point out that the Union Government has not responded to setting up of a AIIMS like hospital in Karnataka state. I submitted a request to sanction AIIMS as a hospital at my Ramanagara district, Harohalli Industrial area in Kanakapura Taluk, which is part of my Bangalore Rural Lok Sabha constituency. The

suggested area is surrounded by Taluks such as Ramanagara, Channapatna, Kanakapura and Magadi which have a sizable working population and they will also benefit from this super specialty hospital.

India's public spending on healthcare is just 1.3% of the GDP. With 75% of the population outside the health insurance ambit, the government needs to put the spotlight on health insurance. As per the latest records of the World Health Organization, patients in India pay for 58% of the total healthcare expenditure. So, I would like to request the government to create better healthcare infrastructure in all the government hospitals in the country.

The union government has earmarked Rs.38000 crore for MGNREGA scheme. I would like to point out that as per the reports there are a significant number of job seekers who have not got the mandatory 100 days of work. I would like to suggest to the government that apart from allocating funds to MGNREGA, there is also a need to ensure that mandatory 100 days of work is made available to uplift the poor from the clutches of poverty.

People voted for the BJP government believing Shri Narendra Modi ji's promise of "better days" in India's 2014 general election but

the very people are feeling disgusted about the way in which the NDA government is just making tall promises and nothing is visible on the ground. People have lost their hope on the NDA government even though this year's budget promised more aid to the countryside. Growing discontent in rural India, where two-thirds of the country's 1.3 billion people live, is seen in every part of the country as there is no significant change taking place since the new government came to power.

The severe drought has led to widespread distress in many states including Karnataka. The state government of Karnataka has declared drought in 27 out of 30 districts as it received 35 percent deficient rainfall. According to reports, over thousands of farmers suicides have been reported in various parts of the country. Hence, I impress upon the Union Government to make it mandatory to provide short term crop loans to farmers in nationalized banks. It would help to prevent farmers to borrow money from private money lenders and also put an end to incidents of farmers committing suicide.

The drought has also triggered a serious water crisis in the region. The water levels in reservoirs have decreased to alarmingly low levels. The weak monsoon coupled with this crisis has affected fodder

availability for cattle. The state government is making all efforts to supply water through tankers to villages and started fodder banks to save the cattle. With the drought conditions failing to abate, the state government requested the intervention of Centre for the financial assistance of Rs.3803 crores. So far the Centre has approved Rs.1540 crores. Hence, I request the Union Government to release the required money to Karnataka to take up drought relief activities at the earliest.

[Translation]

***DR. SUNIL BALIRAM GAIKWAD (LATUR):** The Union Budget 2016-17 was presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley, keeping the common man in mind. Some very good decisions have been taken in this budget like starting "Dialysis" centers in all the civil hospitals of the country. This is a very big thing. Today the big problem of "dialysis" is arising all over India. Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji has taken a decision in the interest of the general public by starting this facility at low cost in the civil hospitals of every district. I thank the Hon. Prime Minister very much. Another important decision for health has been taken in this budget. Seven to eight “generic” medical stores will be started in every district. Medicines are being made available at low prices to 3000 medical generic stores. It is just starting in my constituency Latur. The Hon. The government has done the work of providing these cheap medicines not only to the patients of "government" government hospitals but also to the patients of private hospitals. I thank Hon. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley ji and Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji very much.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

SHRI DILIPKUMAR MANSUKHLAL GANDHI (AHMEDNAGAR): Chairperson Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the General Budget for the year 2016-17. First of all, I would like to thank and congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley and Minister of State Shri Jayant Sinha ji. In this Parliament, the budget has been presented every year since independence till now and every government has tried to work in its own way. But the atmosphere of confidence in which Arun Jaitley presented this budget for the third time has to be appreciated. After this Government came to power with absolute majority, the cleanliness drive was started. This government started with toilets, Jan Dhan Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Yojana, Life Security Insurance Scheme, Atal Pension, Mudra Yojana, Skill India and Stand Up India. Now what was going to happen with the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan? There was so much filth in this country, it needed to be cleaned up. There is a saying in our country that Lakshmi comes only where there is cleanliness. Our Prime Minister started the cleanliness campaign and the Prime Minister, the President, all the ministers and all the chief ministers of this country supported it. With this a big cleanliness campaign started. Along with this, the Prime Minister raised the image of India by

touring the world, due to which many investors came to our country. Even before this, people were prohibited from opening accounts in banks, but with what confidence could this be said? In one year, 22 crore people have opened accounts in banks. The Prime Minister had said that we will open accounts with zero balance, but the self-respecting people of our country deposited Rs. 35 thousand crores in banks. Now where was this Rs. 35 thousand crore? He was in the pocket of a common farmer, laborer and a woman who washes utensils. His sugar box and tea box contained the money, which he deposited in the bank. Due to this, there was confidence among the people and an atmosphere of trust was created in the country.

I would also like to thank Arun Jaitley for creating a separate banking system for the Mudra scheme. Now we cannot provide work to everyone, but he gave everyone the self-respect to stand on their own feet. Even in the Jan Dhan Yojana, he created prestige by giving Rs. 5,000 to the common man. Gave him the credit card. Till date slogans of eradicating poverty have been raised in the country, but people's poverty has not been eradicated. But a scheme was implemented to give Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 10 lakh without any guarantee and without any property to the people who have the passion to work,

have the courage to stand on their own feet, have the ability to show some skill and do some business. Today every such soldier of our country who has become owner of Rs. 10 lakh has done so only through the Mudra scheme.

I feel proud to say that the Mudra Scheme was inaugurated by the Hon. Speaker. ... *(Interruptions)* There are 16,743 beneficiaries in my constituency. We have distributed Rs. 155 crore so that they can stand on their own feet. All this is happening practically. From this point of view, the government has brought many schemes, but the Mudra scheme has given confidence to the common man that he can stand on his own feet, do business and take the country forward. This feeling is now developing in them.

I now come to the subject of remuneration of artistes in the Ministry of Culture. The budget is Rs. 16,50,00 crores. These people perform different types of arts in the country and try to earn their livelihood. Honorarium has been given to 3,500 artistes but the budget is still Rs. 16,500 crore. I request that a provision should be made to increase the budget so that artists can get encouragement.

I once again congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister, Arun Jaitley ji for the budget. Thank you.

*__SHRI NANA PATOLE (BHANDARA-GONDIA):__ The General Budget for the year 2016-17 presented before the House by the Government led by the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, has a comprehensive and visionary budget. This budget will prove beneficial for the national interest and the countrymen. This budget has been welcomed by the countrymen. The biggest thing about this general budget is that this budget will prove helpful in the progress and development of India. I wholeheartedly welcome this and express my gratitude to the government for this budget. In India, only 50% of the agricultural fertile land has irrigation facilities and the remaining 50% is dependent on rain, for which the government has provided ample benefits to the farmers by introducing agricultural irrigation related schemes in this budget, this will reduce the farmer's dependence on monsoon. Agriculture related insurance scheme, tax exemption to farmers and common people and in rural areas, Hon. Minister of Finance has made special announcements for skill development and employment generation and has provided employment and self-employment opportunities to the youth of rural areas. In the general budget, the government has made provisions for

* Speech was laid on the Table.

education and employment and youth empowerment. I would like to request the Hon. Minister that for the rural and extremely backward areas of the country including Vidarbha of Maharashtra, where there is lack of education and amenities, the government needs to bring special schemes for the benefit of the local residents. There is a need for the government to be committed to solving the problems of remote and extremely backward areas such as lack of drinking water, means of agricultural irrigation, and educational institutions.

Under the Agricultural Crop Insurance Scheme, there is a need for prompt assessment of damaged crops; prompt and appropriate compensation to the victims; and assessment by drones. Under skill development, youth need education along with skill training; employment generation and self-employment; skilled entrepreneurs; start-up-stand India; and youth and women entrepreneurship is also required in backward rural areas.

Skilled and unskilled ratio in MGNREGA should be 50:50; every farmer should be given 200 days wages in a year under MNREGA; prompt and full wages to workers; and prompt action is required on incoming complaints.

There is a need to take prompt action on the irrigation scheme under the Hon. Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme; reduce dependence on monsoon; provide facilities like irrigation and electricity in inaccessible areas; and provide quick benefits to small farmers.

[English]

***KUMARI SHOBHA KARANDLAJE (UDUPI CHIKMAGALUR):** I support the General Budget 2016-17 presented by the hon. Finance Minister. The Budget has unveiled a big focus on revival of rural demand through a carefully drafted focus on the agricultural sector that should strive to increase agricultural productivity. Some of the key focus areas, among others include unified agriculture market, promotion of soil health cards on a mission mode basis, expanding the net cultivable area under irrigation and routing fertilizer subsidy on a pilot basis through the DBT Scheme. The Budget has also underlined a specific focus on the social sector, that is, Education and Healthcare. The new Health Insurance Scheme and tax rebate for Senior Citizens for the pension scheme will provide succor in a country that has no comprehensive social security in place.

The Government's thrust to reorient its interventions to double the income of the farmers by 2022 seems very appealing. The Budget speech promises doubling the "income security" to farmers in the next five years. Proposals regarding Krishi Kalyan Cess of 0.5% on all taxable services for financing initiatives relating to improvement of

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

agriculture and welfare of farmers, and the Krishi Kalyan surcharge to impose 7.5 per cent on undisclosed income towards agriculture and rural economy are welcome. While cesses are meant for complementing or supplementing the additional requirement for a specific purpose, the Government has been using cess money as a replacement of the existing allocation rather than supplementing.

Budget 2016 focused on improving the quality of life for a majority of the population that lives in villages and small towns, with agriculture as its main occupation. Against the backdrop of slackening global demand, the Government aims to create a robust local market for the goods that India produces and services that it provides.

The Government committed Rs.2.21 lakh crore towards improving infrastructure, including the construction of roads, highways and railway lines. It also outlined a plan to partner with States to revive 160 defunct small airports. Around Rs.3,000 crore per annum will be spent over 15-20 years to develop nuclear power within the country, which is energy-starved with demand for power projected to rise exponentially. "The huge investment planned in infrastructure will create new jobs and strengthen their purchasing power. "It will

also create demand for commodities like steel and power, and boost economic growth."

The decision to allow up to 100 percent FDI through FIPB [Foreign Investment Promotion Board] in marketing of food products produced and manufactured in India is progressive and will help in farm diversification, reducing wastage and encouraging the industry to produce locally." "This far-reaching reform will benefit farmers, give impetus to the food processing industry and create vast employment opportunities. ""Some good initiatives around agriculture reforms, social sector spending and rural electrification will help in growing rural income and create demand for various kinds of products and services."

"Budget 2016-17 seems promising for India's youth -whether it is about the quality of education, focus on skill development, improving teaching and research outcomes, emphasis on job creation or creating ease of business to promote entrepreneurship.

A person earning Rs.1.2 crore a year will pay roughly Rs.1 lakh more as surcharge due to the hike. Our Government continues with the philosophy of making the high income earners pay more.

India is poised to become a roaring tiger on the strength of its vast domestic market and economic fundamentals. It is imperative that we use this opportunity to take the bold steps and the needed calculated risks to tide over the sluggishness in the rest of the world. It is my opinion that India is the point of inflection and this Budget has decidedly determined the coordinates of that inflection point in a positive manner.

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the General Budget for 2016-17.

Sir, the hon. The Finance Minister's vision and determination has not been properly reflected in this Budget. There are only some small signs of relief, emphasis on PMGSY and a new scheme namely, National Dialysis Services Programme which is good. These things deserve support from all sections.

While discussing financial management, a close scrutiny on expenditure is very much required. Quoting C&AG, *The Times of India*, has given a report. Considering the time constraint, I do not want to quote it fully. It says that if you look at the spending pattern in the first nine months of the current financial year, it presents a different picture. Ten Ministries have not spent even half of what was allocated to them till December, 2015. At the other extreme, there are seven Ministries which have spent over 90 per cent of their funds although one-fourth of the year was still remaining. What is the reason for this paradoxical situation? This is a very important aspect which we have to look into.

In the Budget, the Finance Minister announces new programmes and fund allocation is increased to some sectors. But, unfortunately, the implementation process is very poor. This report says that in the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, the expenditure in this period is only six per cent, in the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation, the expenditure is 18 per cent, in the Ministry of Labour and Employment it is 29 per cent and in the Ministry of Minority Affairs, it is 38 per cent. Why is it so? This has to be examined. I feel some Departments are interested only in submitting proposals for increased allocation of funds and they are not at all bothered about the expenditure. With regard to minority affairs, I feel there is a conspiracy going on as to how to create stumbling blocks in implementing the minority development programme in our country. The implementation process is very poor in this sector. Many petitions are pending before Maulana Azad Foundation for scholarship schemes etc. This has to be specially examined.

Sir, para 104 of the Budget Speech of the Minister is very good and I congratulate him for that. It says ‘for good governance, we have to capitalize on the country’s unity in diversity. To strengthen understanding of each other, it is proposed to create a closer

engagement between different States and the Districts in a structured manner. *The Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat* Programme will be launched to link States and Districts.' This is what has been stated here. But what exactly is happening here?

I would like to tell you about these new things. You are saying, unity, diversity and all kinds of things. Regarding Aligarh Muslim University and Jamia, the Government of India has given an affidavit in the Supreme Court that they are going to withdraw the minority status of these two Universities. But it is quite unfortunate. These two Universities have given tremendous contributions in the preservation of secularism and the progress of this country. Why have you taken this stand? The Government of India has given such an affidavit. I would like to tell you that the Government is violating the Constitution. The Constitution guarantees certain minority rights. You are encroaching on that. In this way, how are you going to materialize your dream of 'Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat'?

Similarly, you have to take special care of minority rights. This Government's strategies are deadly against the minorities. That is to be seriously intended to; otherwise our dreams, not only the Minister's dream, Mahatma *ji*'s dream, unity in diversity, all these things will be

spoiled. I appeal to the Government to take a serious view in this regard and ensure justice to the deprived sections of the society, especially the minorities. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

***SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA):** Thank you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the Union Budget.

This budget came at a time when every citizen of the country is going through a difficult time. The farmer is going through a period of drought. The businessmen are worried due to recession in the market. Exports are falling and youth are not getting employment. What can a common citizen, suffering from this attack from all sides, expect from the government and its budget? He hopes that his income will increase, he will get relief from rising prices, he will get job opportunities and his life will become easier. After that, people of lower and middle class expect that essential items will become cheaper and medical expenses will reduce. There will be tax relief. If demand increases in the market then business will increase. The general budget of the year 2016-17 has given a big shock to all sections. While many big announcements have been made in this budget regarding the poor and farmers, the service tax has increased from 14.5 percent to 15 percent. This will make every service

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

expensive. Air travel, railway tickets, cable, cinema, insurance policy, mobile bill, hotel food, gym and other essential facilities will become expensive. People who were expecting a better budget have been disappointed. The middle class will face the most trouble. This will also empty the pockets of the poor people.

Sadly, this budget has only disappointed everyone. Whether you take domestic investment or talk of a favorable environment for foreign investment, whether you look at domestic production or increase in exports, there is disappointment and failure everywhere. This government which always talks about the people of big cities suddenly realized that more than 60 percent of the population of India lives in villages. Today, attention is drawn to farmers, agriculture and the poor. There is no harm in this, it is a good thing. History is witness that every policy and every scheme of our previous governments believed in inclusive growth for the benefit of farmers and to eradicate poverty.

It is easy to say that a lot has been said in the budget for the agriculture sector and farmers, but it has not been told how this will be implemented. The dream shown in the budget is to double the income of farmers in the coming five years. It is like the promise of

bringing back money and putting Rs. 1515 lakh in every pocket. How will this be possible without increasing the support price of crops and without reducing the crop cost? Only the minister can tell how the farmers will benefit by cutting the fertilizer subsidy by Rs. 2000 crores. Jaitley ji does not want to tell which magic wand will he wave and everything will happen automatically? There should be some road map, right?

In the name of farmer welfare, 0.5% Cess has been imposed which will fetch 5000 crore rupees. It will be taken out from the farmers' pockets and spent on them.

How surprising that there is no mention of farmers committing suicide in the Budget Speech. The Finance Minister says that he has given the biggest ever fund of Rs. 35,984 crore to agriculture. The truth is something else. This government, which is an expert in juggling numbers, has shifted the Rs. 15,000 crore 'interest subvention' from the Finance Ministry to Agriculture. That is, the actual allocation to agriculture is only Rs. 20,984 crore which is less than the budget amount given by the UPA in 2013-14. 86 percent of the farmers in the country are small and marginal farmers. Nothing has been kept for them in the budget. Gladly, when something good

was remembered, UPA's A.I.B.P. The scheme was revived and Rs. 17,000 crore was kept for completing 89 major irrigation schemes, which is very less. If it is distributed among the states, their share will be nothing. We say that this scheme should be completed in 3 years.

There is a lot of noise in the rural areas. The situation is that rural demand has fallen to its lowest level. Labour Bureau data shows that for the first time in the last 50 years, the income (wages) of unskilled casual workers fell by 2.14 drastic cents per annum in real terms between November 2013 and November 2015. In the last 5 years from 2013, it has grown at the rate of 6 percent per annum. This is due to the increase in rural demand and government expenditure in rural areas.

NREGA remains a topic of discussion at present. The Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance understood the importance of this scheme. This is the only source of demand and increased wages. We welcome the allocation of Rs. 38,500 crore for this scheme, but it is also important to mention that the UPA had allocated Rs 40,100crore for this scheme in 2010-11. Hon. The Minister of Finance says that expenditure has been reduced. I am saying that in the last 5-7 years, the minimum wages in MNREGA have increased by more

than 40%. If your budget allocation is at the level of UPA, then how will the financial and physical progress take place and how will man-days increase? Your Chief Economic Advisor himself says that during the UPA regime between 2005 and 2012, the pace of poverty reduction has been the fastest in the history of India. This was twice as fast as the previous decade. More than 15 crore people were lifted out of poverty in these 8 years. You will have to do the same through your efforts to improve the condition of the poor.

Repackaging of Nirmal Bharat Abhiyan and making it Swachh Bharat Mission. and increasing allocations by 150 percent. Its launch is welcome. But if we look at rural and urban areas together, it is 5 percent less than RE 2015-16. You have to accept that this is a political budget. On one hand the government wants to please the people by presenting the election budget before them and on the other hand it wants to attract 'Moody' to build its credibility abroad. Big name and small vision. The names of UPA's schemes were changed and big empty promises were made. The good results that are visible today are due to the correct policies of the UPA government and the NDA government also accepts this, but is shy of telling this to the public.

This budget is also disappointing in the field of education, skill development and health. Your advisors are also supporting us. It seems that everything is happening because of privatization. For the welfare of the people, only UPA's schemes are good. Changes in the budget have been made keeping in mind the elections in 5 states. It is not in the interest of the general public. There is a provision of Rs 1000 crore in this budget to meet the financial needs for higher education. The Budget for 2016-17 continues the trend of massive cuts in funds for key social sectors such as education, health and welfare as was done in last year’s Budget. Last year's cuts were so deep that it would be misleading to use the previous budget as a basis for comparison to assess this year's allocations.

Hon. the Minister of Finance also did not say anything about the 330 state universities and 35,829 colleges in his budget. These educational institutions cater to the needs of more than 90 percent of the students and are currently in a dilapidated condition. You should use the money you save from Crude Oil (Petroleum) for education and health. A central university like Gulbarga, which should have at least 40 departments, currently has only 10. This is happening due to the low budget in the field of education. Our country is a democratic

country. In this, high quality primary education is necessary for empowerment of citizens and to remove inequalities in development. In this regard, it is the responsibility of the government to invest at least 6 percent of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in the field of education; but at present this investment is less than 1 percent which is a matter of concern. Almost the same situation exists in the health sector. In the healthcare industry, the government did not pay any attention to the issue of increase in import duty on medical equipment and devices. This will increase the cost of healthcare by and will affect the poor the most. An insurance scheme has been implemented for the people of the country, but this does not mean that the government should turn its back on healthcare. The outlay for National Health Mission has been increased from the previous Rs. 19,135.37 crore to Rs. 19,437 crore in 2016-17, an increase of only 2 per cent. Almost the same situation is with the National Health Mission and Mid Day Meal Scheme. The budget of the Ministry of Women and Child Development was cut by almost 52 percent last year. This year, 30 per cent more grants were offered than the revised version of the previous budget, creating an illusion that the budget for this work has been increased, which is not the case. This shows that for the sake of show, the government says one thing and does something else.

This budget has expressed a commitment to providing electricity to all villages by May 2018, but allocation for schemes like the Gram Jyoti Yojana has been reduced by about 33 percent compared to last year. Other significant cuts include the Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan and the Tribal Sub-Plan; which have been allocated only 7 percent and 4.4 percent of the total plan outlay respectively, which is about Rs. 75,764 crore less than their share determined on the basis of demographic ratio, which also shows what is the mood of this government towards Dalits and backward classes.

The total NPA of all the public sector banks in the country is Rs. 4.7 lakh crore and only Rs. 75 thousand crore has been allocated for this for three years, whereas an allocation of at least Rs 1.8 lakh crore was required for the banks. It is surprising that the government remained silent on the issue of the defense budget. Nothing was told to the public. (xiii) 2015-16 At the end of, 40% of the capital budget (Rs. 37,000 crore out of Rs. 93,675 crore fund) remained unspent which could not be spent in any of the January-March 2016 quarter. Hence, Rs. 15,000 to Rs. 20,000 crore (15 to 20 percent) will have to be returned. Is this right in the field of defense? The government wants to remain silent on key issues and the defense sector has also not been

given adequate attention. Due to the fall in the value of the rupee, purchasing power also fell. Due to inflation, weapons, ammunition, and defense equipment become expensive by 12 to 15 percent every year in the international market. To show less budget, even the defense sector was not spared. The pace of modernization in the defense sector is very slow. At least 3.0 percent of GDP should be spent to replace old weapons and equipment, which is currently only 2.3 percent. An amount of Rs. 6000 Crore has been projected for sustainable groundwater resource management. This however, needs to be supported through regulatory legislation to ensure sustainable extraction. A special package for Andhra Pradesh was announced but nothing has been done yet. The provision that was made for the previous areas was also removed.

[English]

The Union Budget 2016-17, addresses the key issues of indoor air pollution in rural households by emphasizing on improved access of subsidized LPG to BPL rural families- an allocation of Rs. 2000 crore has been made. Given the practical difficulties of putting in place the supply chain quickly, it would have been prudent to also focus on other options including improved cookstoves using locally

available biomass. There are major reductions in some of the key programmes related to children belonging to minorities like 'Pre-Matric Scholarship for Minorities' (reduced by 10.48%), 'Post Matric Scholarship for Minorities' (reduced by 5.19%), 'Scheme for Providing Education to Madrassas/Minorities' (reduced by 68.04%), 'Incentive to Children of Vulnerable Groups among Scheduled Castes' (reduced by 90%). 'Deendayal Disabled Rehabilitation Scheme' also saw a significant 25 percent reduction against the previous year's allocation.

[Translation]

All these things that have come in the budget, it is clear that this government is indirectly still a suit-boot government and by just showing the statistics of farmers, women, backward classes and students, it is creating an illusion among the public that there has been a boost for them in the budget. In reality, the government is not putting anything in the plates of the poor and is not taking anything out of the pockets of the rich.

The reality is that the third budget is also disappointing.

***SHRIMATI DARSHAN VIKRAM JARDOSH (SURAT):** I support the Union Budget 2016-17 presented by the Hon. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley.

The hopes and expectations of the residents of every region of India have increased with the coming of this government. People are having a stronger faith in the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the confidence that this Government will be able to fulfill the expectations. That is why the schemes announced by the government in the social sector last year have received full support and love from the public. Whether it is the Jan Dhan Yojana, Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana, Atal Pension Yojana or 75 lakh people giving up gas subsidy or other schemes, the way people have supported the government shows that if the government genuinely desires development, then the public also joins in the same way and makes those government schemes successful. My city Surat is known for diamonds, textiles, zari, the charming nature of Surat people, their unique lifestyle and food, their always eagerness to help people etc. Turning a problem into an opportunity is the hallmark of Surat. Talking about diamonds here,

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

there are 7 DTC holders. Around 4500 small and big units work to cut diamonds. Which has a turnover and export of around Rs. 2 lakh crore. Diamond provides employment to 5 lakh people directly and 25 lakh people indirectly. I would like to thank the Prime Minister and at the same time, our diamond entrepreneurs have very enthusiastically provided the security cover of these schemes to almost all their artisans.

The Government did not stop at just this, but I also welcome the health insurance scheme that it is going to implement in this budget. Under this scheme, a plan is made to provide security regarding hospital expenses to one third of the population of the country. Which I welcome. Due to which the common man and poor families will have no hesitation in taking the best health facilities for their health. I believe that the people will accept this scheme with enthusiasm and excitement and will cooperate in taking India's development forward. The scheme of providing cylinders in the name of women to BPL families will not only improve health but will also raise the economic status, the respect of women in their families will increase and this health insurance scheme will also bring a change in the outlook of people towards life. I also welcome the Government's initiative of

launching a National Dialysis Service in the healthcare sector which will provide relief to kidney patients and their families.

My city is also known for clothes where there are 6 lakh power looms, 400 processing houses, more than 1 lakh embroidery machines, 4 crore meters of cloth are produced daily by around 6 lakh directly involved and 4 lakh indirectly involved artisans of my city. Programs like Skill India, Startup India, Stand Up India promote enthusiasm and excitement among the youth and students of my city. Due to these programs, employment opportunities will also increase in the city because Surat is such a city where hardly any person from any district of the country does not work. These programmes will have a positive impact on the employment of people, especially in the textile and diamond sectors. Those who call every plan as our plan do not have the courage to accept their negligence in implementing the old plan. This is an example of that. During the government of Hon. Atal Ji, the Textile Upgradation Fund scheme was started by Shriman Kashirambhai Rana, who represented Surat. Today, the financial benefits that people get from this scheme help them in taking their business forward. But your government did not release the money for this scheme. It is a matter of joy that this government has released a

package of around Rs. 12 thousand crores. I especially want to thank them because my city will probably benefit the most from this.

At the same time, my city which was once considered among the dirty cities, today stands firmly among the best cities in the world. So I express my gratitude to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Government for including that city in the Smart City. Surat which was known as the golden idol, will now be known as Smart Surat, Beautiful Surat. By including it in the Smart City, facilities in Surat city will increase and tourism will benefit a lot. I am confident that the citizens of my city will meet the expectations of the state and Union Governments based on the standards you have set for Smart City.

I welcome and support the budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance.

***SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY (RANCHI):** Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Hon. The Minister of Finance has presented the 2016-17 budget and I support it. In this presented budget, the priority of the government is centered on the majority of farmers, women, youth and weaker sections of the country; more attention has been given to their welfare. The government has aimed to increase the income of farmers through this budget. In order to achieve the objective of enhancing the basic amenities in the rural system of the country, many schemes for the villagers have been included in this budget. India is situated in villages and the goal of development of the country can be achieved through rural development. Today farmers in the country are very discouraged, due to drought and floods there has been a loss of 50 percent in the income of the farmers. Hon. The Minister of Finance has been kind to farmers and agriculture. Apart from farmers, small taxpayers have also got relief from this budget. People with income less than 5 lakhs will get a benefit of Rs. 3,000 from this budget, 2 crore people will benefit from this.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

The government has made a provision of Rs. 87,700 crore for the development of the country's villages. A provision of Rs. 2 lakh 87 thousand crore has been made in this budget for the development of Gram Panchayat and other bodies. This will make the rural area development oriented. MNREGA is doing a good job in stopping migration from the villages of the country. There are some shortcomings in it. It is very important to improve it. In this budget, there is a provision to spend Rs. 38000 crore on MNREGA. Good work is being done on ponds and rural roads in the villages. It has been announced that all the villages which are still in the dark due to lack of electricity will be electrified. 27 thousand crores will be provided for the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana to connect the villages of the country with roads. This will make it easier for farmers to transport their produce to the markets. This will help farmers avoid selling their produce to profiteers and middlemen and farmers will be able to get a higher price than the cost of their produce.

In the budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance, priority has been given to agriculture and farmer welfare, for which an allocation of Rs. 35,984 crore has been given to the agriculture sector 28.5 lakh hectares of agricultural land will be irrigated through the

Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme for the farmers suffering from drought in the country. I come from the Jharkhand region where farmers have suffered from drought for many years. After sowing seeds and applying fertilizers to the crops in their fields, due to lack of water, it is very important to pay special attention to irrigation to get profitable prices for their crops, which is clearly visible in this budget. The fertility of the land is decreasing due to the use of chemical fertilizers in farming. To increase the crop yield, the government is providing Soil Health Cards to farmers. For getting the land tested from time to time and for getting the soil cards issued, Rs. 14 crores have been given.

In order to ensure that farmers get a higher price than the cost of their produce, there is a plan to set up an e-platform for agriculture marketing. This will provide farmers with an opportunity to sell their produce profitably through digital means. To provide relief from natural disasters and unseasonal rains, the government has started the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. Under this scheme, farmers will have to pay less premium but will get maximum compensation for the loss incurred by them. For this, the government has made a provision of Rs 5500 crore. There is an extreme need for loans for development.

Earlier, farmers had to depend on money lenders for loans and these moneylenders work to suck the blood of the farmers. To provide relief from this, the government has increased the target of agricultural loan to Rs. 9 lakh crore and has given Rs. 500 crore to increase the production of pulses and oilseeds. This can stop the rising prices of pulses.

Education and health are very important in increasing the development of the country and keeping the people happy. There are still many places in the country where the literacy level is low. The government has made a provision of Rs. 22500 crore for the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan Rs. 1,000 crore has been kept in this budget for higher education loan. There is still talent in the rural areas of the country and in order to discover talent, 62 Navodaya Vidyalayas will be established in those areas where there are no Navodaya Vidyalayas. HAIFA i.e. The Education Financing Agency is being formed through which Rs. 1000 crore will be invested to improve the structure of higher education. This organization will operate on a no profit no loss basis. It is proposed to allocate Rs. 28010 crore for the National Education Mission in the budget.

Many measures have been taken in this budget to promote the skill development work of the Hon. Prime Minister and till now 76 lakh people have been trained due to the efforts of the government. Under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, it is proposed to establish 1500 institutes and an amount of Rs. 1700 crore has been kept for this. The National Board has assured to provide training to one crore youth. It will help in the development of the country. There is a provision to spend Rs. 9700 crore on food along with education i.e. mid-day meal scheme. There are many news reports about irregularities in mid day meals in the country. Strict investigation should be done in this regard.

Many provisions have been made in this budget to maintain the health of the people of the country. The number of patients in the country is increasing by 2.2 lakh every year. The Union Government is planning to start dialysis services in the district hospitals of the country through this budget as the poor and middle class are not able to afford the cost of dialysis. Through this budget, there is a plan to launch a new health security scheme in which every family will be covered with Rs. 1 lakh.

In the budget, the Minister of Finance has given the gift of LPG to the women of BPL families. A target has been set to provide LPG to five crore BPL families in the next two years. This will help in reducing the pollution caused by burning wood. It is estimated that burning a wood stove for one hour produces smoke equivalent to burning 400 cigarettes.

My home state Jharkhand is repeatedly getting hit by drought due to which the condition of the farmers here has become very pathetic. In this regard, I request the Minister of Finance to please provide more funds separately for the irrigation schemes running in Jharkhand so that the farmers can get water on time for farming. The condition of rural roads in Jharkhand is much worse than other states and during the rainy season the villagers have to face many difficulties. Jharkhand needs a lot of funds for the development and construction of roads. My parliamentary constituency is situated in the middle of Jharkhand. Vehicles going from one end of Jharkhand to the other pass through Ranchi, due to which there is jam on the roads of Ranchi for hours and many accidents also happen. To reduce traffic in Ranchi city, Ranchi Ring Road is being built which is pending for a long time, for this help should be provided at the central level.

The whole effort of the government is that old people, handicapped people and widowed women etc. should get the facility of widow pension but in reality it is not happening. In this regard, provision has been made that old people, handicapped people and widowed women who have BPL card will be able to get this pension facility, if these categories do not have BPL card then these categories cannot get old age pension, handicapped pension and widow pension. It is sad to inform the Government that BPL cards are not being made for these categories due to which the needy people are being deprived of the facilities of old age pension, disability pension and widow pension. It is sad to inform that people who are not eligible for BPL card have BPL card and people who should have BPL card do not have it. The Government is requested to use the latest technology in issuing ration cards through the budget and cancel the fake ration cards.

I want to draw the attention of the government towards the plight of National Highway 33. This national highway connects several states, of which West Bengal and Odisha are prominent. On this section of national highway from Ranchi to Baharagora, there are a lot of heavy vehicles and traffic. A four lane road is being constructed

on this Beheraguda to Ranchi national highway section but it is unfortunate that the contractor who has been given this work is constructing it at a slow pace. The work which should be completed in one year will take 12 years from the contractor. What is needed is that the work of this contractor should be investigated and he should be removed immediately in public interest. To construct this national highway soon, provision should be made to provide more funds through the budget.

I would like to draw the attention of the government to the fact that the workers and employees of Heavy Engineering Corporation situated in my parliamentary constituency Ranchi are not paid their wages on time and the retired workers and employees have not received their pension and dues for many years due to which their families become victims of starvation. I request the government to make provision in the budget so that they get their salaries, arrears and pension on time.

I support the budget.

SHRI DHARAMVIR (BHIWANI-MAHENDRAGARH): Sir, I stand up to speak in favor of the general budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance. Even though I'm a new member, I don't want to

take too much time. This is the third general budget and not only the ruling party but every person from the opposition also praises this budget and especially the people living in villages also praise it.

If you go to any village in any state, the common man will say that this budget is such a budget due to which the farmer and laborer of the village can develop the village as per the requirement and the condition of the village can also improve.

The way despite the economic recession, the Hon. Minister of Finance has allocated a large part of this budget for agriculture. At one time, Lal Bahadur Shastri had said Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan. Since the farmer is the one who produces food in this country and it is from the same farmer's house that a soldier is born who protects the country, our Minister of Finance has solved this problem through One Rank, One Pension. Along with this, I also request the government that some provision should be made to enhance the respect for the martyrdom of the soldier who gets martyred, this is my request to the Minister of Finance.

The way you have kept such a huge budget for the development of the agriculture sector and villages. The way Rs. 80 lakh will go to every village after the recommendations of the 14th Finance

Commission, I will request the government through you to tell the state government also to collect the money as per the recommendations of their State Finance Commission and if they make a project for the entire five years in a planned manner, then there will not be a single village left which will not be fully developed like a city.

You have allocated such a huge budget for the Ganga cleaning campaign, but I have a small suggestion that the way you have allocated such a huge budget for road and rail connectivity for the first time, due to which the development of the entire country will take place through road and rail. I have a small suggestion that in the same way if farmers are to be saved, then farmers need water the most, the dream of linking rivers which was of Hon. Vajpayee ji and also our Hon. Prime Minister Modi ji, to implement it, there should be a ministry of river linking in some way.

Although I did not want to say this, but if this department is linked with the Road Transport Ministry, then the way the work on roads has been done at a fast pace, in the same way by connecting waterways, roads and rivers, if you provide water to the farmers, especially in Western India, U.P., Haryana, Punjab, Rajasthan,

Gujarat and Maharashtra, through the Sharda Ganga Project, because drinking water is also going to run out in our area.

Along with this I would like to say one more thing that on this very day, our neighboring state old Punjab has taken a decision that 40 years ago we had acquired the land 90 percent of the work on the river and canal has been completed there but the work they have done of denotifying it is an work of breaking the country. Some kind of restriction should be imposed on Punjab otherwise this will be the beginning of a situation which will spoil the constitutional structure. The goldsmiths' movement which is going on, does not only involve poor people but even the common man, when he goes to buy goods, does not have a PAN card, this must be resolved. Thank you.

[English]

SHRIMATI APARUPA PODDAR (ARAMBAG): Thank you, Chairman, Sir, for allowing me to speak on discussion on the General Budget 2016-17.

The Union Government has presented its 3rd General Budget 2016-17. India is the first democratic country with the highest population in the world. Though there are vast human resources in India, still two out of four are under poverty. In this regard, the Budget that benefits the poor and middle class people is said to be a good Budget.

Though the Government says that our country's economy is growing very fast, yet it is very backward in giving employment and implementing people welfare projects and schemes. The Government is talking about the welfare of farmers as agriculture is the backbone of this country. But there is nothing in this Budget for development of agriculture and farmers. In this Budget, there is nothing good for the farmers, who are already suffering under huge debt. Some of them have committed suicide due to distress. Loans for industrialists have been waived off but there is no loan waiver scheme for farmers, who

are living in a pitiable condition. The middle class and the poor people, who voted for this Government, have totally been ignored.

Higher allocation for irrigation is welcomed. We have to see its implementation because only then the real goal will be achieved.

The Government has been raising its irrigation spending every year but they have failed to bring any extra area under the irrigation scheme. How does higher allocation help Agriculture? It is disappointing to see that there is no encouragement for agri-biotech research by public or private institutions for growing the agriculture sector. We further believe that for transforming Indian agriculture, countering the ill-effects of climate change, improving livelihoods and addressing food requirements of the nation, technological intervention is of utmost importance. There is no mention of any new scheme for industrial growth. Announcements like increase in funds for MNREGA are welcomed. No visionary schemes have been announced for the Defence sector. No schemas have been announced for the growth of the economy. Health Insurance announcements are quite welcomed. While the spending on health care has gone up, we will have to wait and see how many of the initiatives announced actually reach the people.

The Integrated Defence Staff have said that their demand of Rs. 31 lakh crore worth of acquisitions are still pending over the last 15 years. The Government has not announced any clear strategy on its disinvestment policy.

An increase in the Income Tax Slab was eagerly awaited by the common man. The same has not happened. It could have increased liquidity. Jewelers are to go on strike against the announcement in the Budget of Rs. 1 lakh cap on cash purchase of jewelry.

No other State in the country is as ‘debt-stressed’ as West Bengal because of the gross misrule of the previous Left Front Government for 34 years. I once again urge upon the Union Government on behalf of my Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to stop deducting funds to the State Government and give immediate relief from the debt burden, so that growth and development efforts continue to be unhindered.

Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

***SHRI LAKHAN LAL SAHU (BILASPUR):** The Union Budget 2016-17 has been presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance Jaitley Sahib under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister, in which every possible effort has been made which is in the public interest and is commendable. In this, India has also been praised by the IMF as a shining beacon of light in the sluggish global economy. The government has achieved good growth despite the adverse monsoon conditions of 13 per cent in the last two years. A lot of reformative steps have been taken in the Prime Minister Crop Insurance for the farmers. In the last few years, keeping in view the incidents faced by the farmers and as a measure to save expenses for the poor people, a new achievement has been given by creating the Health Insurance Scheme. The government has tried to reach out to the general public with several achievements like providing LPG connections to BPL families, paying special attention to lighting stoves of poor people.

I request the Education Minister that there is an urgent need to open a Navodaya Vidyalaya in Mungeli district (Chhattisgarh). There are 150 seats in CIMS hospital Bilaspur, which should be increased to

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

200 and special attention needs to be paid to the need of opening PG classes. An airport should be established in Bilaspur. Even after the formation of Chhattisgarh state, there is no administrative institution here till date. Since Bilaspur has the High Court of Chhattisgarh, as a judicial hub, an administrative judicial authority for a separate Chhattisgarh should be set up in Bilaspur.

***SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA KAUSHIK (SONIPAT):** I give my views on Budget 2016.

I would like to express my gratitude to the Hon. Minister of Finance that a very good budget has been presented regarding the direction and condition of building a strong India by the BJP Government under the able leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Bhai Modi, which I support. This budget is also encouraging for the common people including farmers, women, poor and youth.I also expect from all my opposition colleagues that they should positively cooperate with the government to make this principle of development "**Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas**" meaningful.

Our government is determined to uplift the people sitting at the lowest rung of the society through the budget, which is actually a link in nation building.Our budget is committed to the development of the poor in villages, prosperity of farmers, employment to the unemployed youth, social security to all and providing housing to the poor people of all classes living in huts and under the open sky and in

* Speech was laid on the Table.

view of this, many schemes have been brought in the budget which will accelerate the nation building.

Apart from this, the path of massive employment generation is being paved through "**Make in India, Skill India**". Through this budget, we are committed to promote excellence and research in the field of higher education, health, hygiene and to eradicate malnutrition.

I thank the Minister of Finance for presenting a very good budget and at the same time I would like to humbly request all my Members of Parliament that there should be debate in the democratic system which is very important to strengthen democracy. But disrupting the proceedings of Parliament by creating obstructions in it over baseless issues cannot be termed as justified. This is a cruel joke and a mockery of public sentiments. We should never forget that our Parliament is the supreme institution reflecting the aspirations of the people.

I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Finance towards my parliamentary constituency Sonipat that work on the Kharkhoda-Gohana-Katra road should be started immediately. Along with this, arrangements should be made to start the KMP route from Kundli immediately so that transport facilities can be made

available to the public. A waterway should be started from Garh (Sonipat) to Wazirabad via the Yamuna river. This will start a cheap and public utility route. Which is very important for my parliamentary constituency.

In my parliamentary constituency, around Kundli, on National Highway No. 1, lakhs of factory workers have to cross the national highway daily. Due to which some or the other accident keeps happening. Therefore, make arrangements to build two foot bridges on the national highway around Kundli. Please make provision for funds in this budget to extend the Metro Rail to Sonipat so that passengers in my parliamentary constituency Sonipat, which falls in NCR, can get convenience for commuting. In the end, I would like to humbly request you that on 11 and 12th March, 2016, there was so much hailstorm in my state Haryana and my parliamentary constituency Sonipat that according to my estimate, about 40 percent of the crops of the farmers have been destroyed. Along with this, the Meteorological Department has still not ruled out the possibility of rain and hailstorm again till March 19. The farmers of my state have reached the brink of starvation. Earlier, paddy, pulses and vegetable crops were damaged but farmers were hopeful that they would be able

to survive through crops like wheat, mustard etc. But since the last three-four days, the hope of the farmer has also ended. But today he is disappointed due to the natural disaster and is looking towards the government for help.

In the end, I request you with all my might and humility to please make a provision in this budget to immediately provide compensation of at least Rs. 20,000 per acre to the farmers so that they can educate their children and marry their daughters. Along with this, he can support his family.

***SHRI VIDYUT VARAN MAHTO (JAMSHEDPUR):** I would like to present my views on the General Budget for the year 2016-2017. This budget was presented in the House by the Hon. Union Minister Shri Arun Jaitley, under the leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has brought a new ray of hope to the country. Through the budget, the Minister of Finance has come forward with a clear vision of a new India. There are nine pillars at the center of this thinking and the main base is the villages, the poor and the farmers. These nine pillars are **(1) Farmers (2) Villages (3) Social Sector (4) Infrastructure (5) Good Governance (6) Education and Reforms (7) Tax Reforms (8) Financial Reforms and (9) Treasury Management.** The Hon. Minister paid maximum attention to the villages and farmers. Apart from this, special attention has also been given to the youth in this budget. **Our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendrabhai Modi said that this budget will bring qualitative change in the lives of villages, poor, farmers, women and youth.** As the Hon. Minister of Finance said in a poetic manner -

"**When the boatmen gave up the rudder to us...**

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

...in these circumstances we know how to cross the river.''

The budget presented by Minister of Finance Arun Jaitley is very balanced and composed. The concerns and problems of rural India have been given special attention in the budget. This is the first time that a Minister of Finance has paid so much attention to the agriculture sector and farmers in his budget speech. A target was set to double the income of farmers in 5 years. This is a good initiative because despite all the economic progress of the country in service and other sectors, the farmers were continuously deteriorating.

The first two budgets of the government under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister should be seen in conjunction with this budget.While the first two budgets were more focused on the development of urban India, the current budget is committed towards the development of rural India.This is really a commendable step because even today a large population of ours lives in villages.To accelerate economic development further, it is necessary that we reduce the gap between urban India and rural India.

Now not only cities, villages will also become smart and prosperous. Villagers will also get good roads, clean water and all the necessary facilities like in cities. The villages will be transformed.

Migration from villages will stop. The Union Government has presented its complete plan in this budget. Minister of Finance Hon. Jaitley ji has proposed in the Budget to launch a new scheme called Rashtriya Swaraj Abhiyan to strengthen and develop Panchayati Raj institutions. This is indeed a laudable step.

This budget advances the belief that youth can play an important role in changing the destiny of the country. We have followed the policy of promoting private entrepreneurship and for this it has been decided to give tax exemptions along with various financial facilities to the new entrepreneurs. It is hoped that this initiative will accelerate employment generation and fulfill the expectations of the youth.

In the budget, the government has taken special care of approximately 30 percent of the population living below the poverty line. Along with providing health insurance to poor families, it has been decided to start facilities like cheap medicines, dialysis services in every district. By deciding to provide LPG connections to around 5 crore BPL families, the government has ensured its presence in their homes.

At a time when the percentage of medical insurance in India is very low, the government has taken an ambitious decision to bring a

health scheme of Rs. 1 lakh for poor families. In case of senior citizens, apart from Rs. 1 lakh, there will be additional insurance of Rs. 30 thousand. Under the Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana, three thousand stores will be opened in the next financial year where medicines will be available at cheap prices. Statistics show that every year around 2.25 lakh new kidney patients are added who require dialysis. For this, the government will provide dialysis facilities at every district health center through the National Dialysis Service Programme under the PPP model. Obviously, this will be especially useful for those poor people who are unable to bear the burden of about Rs 3 lakh annually spent on it.

Along with presenting an effective image of rejuvenation of the rural economy, it was also necessary for the government to lay special emphasis on infrastructure. Out of the Rs. 2.25 lakh crore infrastructure plan, the Minister of Finance has allocated Rs. 97000 crore for roads. While the remaining amount has been kept for the development of small airports, ports and waterways apart from railways.

Through this budget, the government has announced several measures for the development of infrastructure. This will not only

create infrastructure but also create employment opportunities. Not only this, many steps have also been taken in the budget to promote entrepreneurship and new discoveries. The effort towards curbing the spread of black money and providing social security to the poor section of people is welcome.

I congratulate the Minister of Finance for respecting the aspirations of the states while also emphasizing national priorities.

The public has a lot of expectations, aspirations and hopes from the government. We not only have hope but full confidence with the able, energetic and efficient leadership of the HON. Prime Minister and your support and guidance, we will be able to build a strong, capable, developed and golden India.

*__SHRI SANJAY DHOTRE (AKOLA):__ First of all, I would like to thank the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley for taking steps through the general budget with a new thinking to take the country on the path of progress.

My family background is related to agriculture and village and I am directly connected with the real problems of the farmers. I am happy that in this Budget, the Government has made necessary provisions for the farmers by keeping a positive, balanced and long-term view towards the farmers and their problems.

I consider it my priority to discuss only the topic of agriculture here. That is why I want to draw the government's attention towards those problems of farmers on which action is required.

The vision of the Hon. Prime Minister - 'More crop per drop' is reflected in this budget dedicated to farmers, which encourages high technology of modern farming. Here I want to draw the attention of the government towards those problems of the farmers which have been ignored till now. On one hand, while banks provide crop loans

* Speech was laid on the Table.

to farmers, the interest rate on the same is relatively low, but they do provide loans for purchasing farm equipment like tractors, grease house sheds, pumping sets, etc., but the interest rate charged on these is 12 to 14 per cent per annum. I am saying this because, often due to economic crises, if a farmer is unable to repay this latter loan on time, he is declared a defaulter. A penalty of 2 percent is imposed on it. In this way, even if he wants to, he is not able to get out of this maze. Therefore, I believe that the interest rate on bank loans given to farmers to purchase necessary agricultural equipment should be reduced to 7 to 8 percent.

I would also like to praise the government for formulating the Kisan Crop Insurance Scheme based on giving more compensation at a lower premium. For the first time in the country, the period from sowing of the crop to selling of the prepared crop in the market has been included in the scheme of providing natural compensation to the farmer in this new insurance scheme. If the farmer is prosperous then the country will be prosperous.

Here I want to draw the attention of the government towards those loopholes. It is often seen that the revenue circle is considered as a unit to compensate the farmer for his crop destroyed due to natural

calamity. In which there are 8 to 10 villages. If the crops of farmers are destroyed due to hailstorm or heavy rain in one or two of these villages and the rest of the surrounding villages remain untouched by this natural calamity, then the farmers of the village affected by the natural disaster are deprived of getting compensation. Therefore, if instead of this unit of calculation, 500 to 1000 hectares area is considered as one unit, then this problem will be eliminated to a great extent.

Just as the government is providing 100% capital from the banks on easy terms and low interest rates to micro, medium and small businessmen in the country to start their business in food processing unit sector, I believe that if such similar opportunities and schemes are implemented for the interests of farmers as well, then it can be helpful in improving their economic condition.

SHRI GOPAL SHETTY (MUMBAI NORTH): Chairperson Sir, you have given me the opportunity to speak on the budget for the year 2016-2017. While thanking the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance and the Minister of State for Finance, I would also like to thank the good officials who have helped in preparing this budget. Sir, regarding the budget, I want to bring one thing to the notice of Jaitley ji that we should create a new mechanism for the discussion on the budget. If the ruling party has prepared this budget, then the opposition should see how a better budget can be made than this and think about it because the young children of the country who are also educated ask that if this budget is not right, then what is the budget of the opposition. There should also be a discussion on where more money could have come from and where the expenses could have been reduced. This type of demand is there among the people, that is why I wanted to put this matter before you. If the expenditure is Rs 18 lakh crore then the revenue to be collected would be Rs 12.50 lakh crore. There is a fiscal deficit budget of Rs 5.5 crore, so in the coming days more money should come in the budget, so what should we do, then I think we will have to pay attention to real estate. The real estate bill has been passed so I would like to thank Naidu ji.

I want to talk about Mumbai and you will also support me. Today the real estate business in Mumbai is almost at a standstill because the 10 kilometer radius law of Sanjay Gandhi National Park has come into force. Environmental laws already exist. Javadekar ji has given a lot of relaxation but there are still many issues. Because of the Airport Authority, many works are stalled and if I talk specifically about Defence, the work has been stalled since the three and a half years of Congress rule. I have to say with sadness that even after my government came to power, this defense issue has not ended. When Jaitley ji was the Defense Minister, he had said that this work would be done immediately but his ministry changed and Parrikar ji came. Parrikar ji has made a lot of efforts and he has assured me that he will somehow withdraw it before the end of this session. But if this does not happen, then I want to say that before the next session starts, a huge movement will have to be launched in the city of Mumbai because enough is enough. People are dying, farmers are committing suicide, but people in Defence are in distress, they too are in a mood to commit suicide because their situation has become like this. Therefore, I would like to say that if we pay more attention to the housing sector, then a huge amount of revenue can come into the government treasury. Therefore, we will have to think about this.

There is an NPA of Rs. 4 lakh crore. Action should be taken against those who are willful defaulters regarding NPA. But a white paper should be published about those who are non-wilful defaulters, whose business has not been able to start because of the government policies and whose NPA has happened because of the arbitrary actions of the officials. Along with this, the people of the country will also have to give the action taken report so that we will have to take action against the officers who are guilty in the NPA of Rs. 4 lakh crore.

Jewelers also have an issue. Supporting the sentiments of all the people, I also agree that the Minister of Finance will disclose it because a huge fear has been created in the minds of jewelers that the excise officers will harass them and this is true too. They say that if we have to pay two taka as tax to the government instead of one taka, then we are willing to pay it. The circular issued on the 4th has revealed a lot. I demand that the Minister of Finance should reveal some more. This is a very big problem for them.

Many facilities have been provided for farmers. Therefore, on behalf of the farmers of Maharashtra, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance very much.

Those who are handicapped, those who are handicapped, those who are blind, one of their problems has been pending for a long time. This issue is stuck between Thaawar Chand Gehlot and Virendra Singh. Thaawar Chand Gehlot ji wants that some monthly compensation should be given to the blind people, but the authority to take the decision lies with Shri Virendra Singh, Rural Development Minister. If the Minister of Finance discloses this, then the blind and handicapped can be helped on a large scale. Since the Prime Minister of the country has touched people from all sectors, this is the only sector left. So, we will have to think about it very soon.

I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the budget.

[English]

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Thank you, hon. Chairperson, Sir. The hon. The Finance Minister presented the General Budget for the financial year 2016-17. Being a farmer and a Member representing my constituency in Kerala, I would like to start by saying that this Budget has been a disappointing Budget for Kerala.

Rubber is the backbone of Kerala's economy. Rubber prices have dropped from Rs.240 per kilogram to Rs.80 per kilogram. The Government of India is the sole beneficiary of all taxes coming from the rubber sector. We have corporate tax, income tax, excise duty and above all, the Rubber Board is collecting cess from rubber farmers. In the last financial year itself, a sum of Rs. 15,000 crore has been collected as tax from the rubber sector. Moreover, about Rs. 100 crore is being collected as cess from the rubber farmers every year. Due to fall in rubber prices, the rubber industries have amassed exorbitant profit in this sector. In their balance-sheet itself they have shown Rs 50,000 crore as profit. The Government got the benefit and the industrialists got the benefit but the only victims of the present condition are the rubber farmers.

Sir, in this regard, we, all the MPs from Kerala, had a meeting with hon. Prime Minister and the hon. Finance Minister and so many meetings with the hon. Commerce Minister. We begged them and we requested them to support the rubber farmers. The hon. The Commerce Minister assured us so many times to do the needful. But what happened? In the Budget, they closed their eyes to the rubber farmers. What did the rubber farmers get in return? It is total negligence!

Sir, we never asked the Government for any amnesty. We asked for only a rational amount of Rs. 1,000 crore for procuring rubber for higher prices… *(Interruptions)*

Sir, we are raising a grave issue, which is badly affecting our State of Kerala. Our request is for getting a small amount of just Rs. 1,000 crore for procuring rubber for higher prices. It is only six per cent of the tax collected from the Government from this sector.

Now, the Government is talking about providing insurance to rubber farmers. Ever since they have come to power, they have been talking about this insurance but there is no budgetary provision for it in this Budget. The rubber farmers have contributed a huge amount to the Government revenue but what did the Government do for them, in

return? I am very sorry to say that they were not even given the value of beggars till date. They have not even given a single penny to the rubber farmers of Kerala.

Sir, another sector, which is hugely affecting Kerala is the NRI population. Thousands of NRI Keralites have returned from the Gulf region due to recession caused by fall in prices of crude oil. I am personally very much worried about them. My Constituency consists of the largest number of NRIs in the country. NRIs' contribution turns out to be billions of dollars every year. But it is very sad that the Government has mentioned absolutely nothing in this Budget for their rehabilitation. The first beneficiary due to fall in prices of crude oil in the Gulf countries is India and the sufferers are the ones, who lost their jobs in the Gulf countries due to recession caused by fall in crude prices.

Simultaneously, because crude is the main ingredient for synthetic rubber, the downfall of crude is supposed to trigger a production of synthetic rubber. Sir, is the Government not liable for this pathetic condition of these rubber farmers and the NRIs?

Sir, we beg before the Government and the hon. Finance Minister to please do something for the rubber farmers as the rubber is the

backbone of our economy. Thousands of farmers are badly affected. We would also request the Government to take steps to rehabilitate these NRIs who have lost their jobs.

With these words, I conclude. Thank you.

*SHRI OM BIRLA (KOTA): The citizens of this country, the media analysts and industry experts have all lauded the efforts of the budget calling it a pro-farmer and pro-agriculture budget. At the back of consecutive years of drought, there was a dire need for attention towards the rural sector. This budget is not only going to help rural India recover, but also lays down a platform for a robust future.

There were three important announcements for rural India of which I feel the most important one was the new version of crop insurance scheme-Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana with a budgetary allocation of Rs. 5501.15 crore for 2016-17. The Premium payment which was as high as 15% has now been reduced to 2% for Kharif crops and 1.5% for Rabi crops. The scheme has been well-thought and practical. While we cannot control natural disasters, we can certainly focus on reducing the impact on the farmers.

While crop insurance takes care of damages, what use is the farmland if it doesn't have adequate irrigation facilities? Improved Irrigation facilities and agriculture growth go hand in hand. Apart from the focus on Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana, I welcome the decision to bring all 89 projects under the Accelerated Irrigation

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Benefit Programme (AIBP), with an assurance to raise Rs.86,500 crore through budgetary and extra-budgetary resources. Today, we have more than half of our 142 million hectares of sown area depending on rainwater. This is one of the reasons for the high impact of droughts on agricultural productivity in turn having disastrous effects on the lives of farmers. With commitment and adequate funding. I am sure the government will ensure better irrigation facilities for the farmers.

I wish to recall a thought mentioned in the speech given by the hon. Prime Minister about comparing PMGSY vs. MGNREGA. The previous government has gone overboard in claiming the benefits of spending excessively just to ensure that the extremely poor stay afloat above the poverty line. In the process, ghost jobs, manipulation in beneficiaries, poor outcome of assets have plagued the MGNREGA scheme. In contrast, the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been a catalyst in road connectivity ensuring a much better quality of asset creation. As the hon. the Prime Minister said, there needs to be a thorough comparison between the performances of the two most important rural development schemes in India. While my intention is not to demean the NREGA scheme but emphasize on the possibility

of empowering it with better resources, aims and objectives. The government has been accused of diluting the UPA schemes. It is important to point out that these schemes were passed on in diluted form thanks to the poor implementation process. In fact, what they called as their flagship scheme-MGNREGS has got Rs. 38,500 crore from this government. More than competing with allocation of money, the government has focused on improving the quality of assets created. Similarly, Rs. 27,000 crore for PMGSY will transform lives of rural India. It is necessary to mention the efficiency with which the government has focused on rural electrification as well. The 'Give it Up' call to finance LPG in rural areas, Jan Dhan Yojana and the insurance schemes have continued to fuel change in the country.

And finally, the promised 'Aadhar Bill' in the budget was brought to the House and while we passed this budget in Lok Sabha, Aadhar has already received legislative backing. This Act will transform the way subsidies function and will reduce the unwanted leakages.

With all the focus on rural India, it is apt to point out that those who once complained about 'suit boot ki sarkar' are today found naked without any credibility to back their mud-slinging fest. If only they had spent some time co-operating on the landmark GST Bill, this

budget would have been etched in history with agricultural reforms and one of the most anticipated tax reforms for the people. The country suffered through scams during their regime and today, the deliberate delay in passage of Bills is stuttering India's journey to the top.

The Finance Minister started his budget highlighting the slowdown in the global economy to 3.1% in 2015. Despite all the volatility in the global market and its influence in India, we have been marked as a bright spot with a growth rate of 7.6%. Moreover, the hon. The Finance Minister has continued to remain disciplined on his promise of Fiscal Deficit, sending out a positive signal to the Indian market.

The decision to recapitalize Public Sector Banks will be key in bailing out the banks from the crisis of increasing Non Performing Assets. However, in the process of bringing in banking reforms, the budget hasn't curtailed expenditure on other important social schemes.

Apart from rural India, the focus on developing infrastructure with an estimate of Rs.2,18,000 crore (roadways and railways) is game-changer for the sector. At the end of the day, the budget is a roadmap of where the government wants to spend and highlights its

priorities. The analysis and discourse that happens is around the numbers and doesn't take into account the positivity and trust that has already developed between the citizens. Couple of years back, this country was crippled with an inefficient decision-making body at the top mixed with corruption and various levels of governance -a dangerous mix for the nation. Two full budgets since then, corruption and inefficiencies seems distant. This government needs to be applauded for achieving the twin responsibilities of reversing the damage as well as developing an efficient governance system. As we move on, the government has already introduced and passed several key legislations. The Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Bill that we are going to pass today will ensure that the buyer gets an equal power in the process of purchase.

Budget in itself is just a document, it's the actions of the government throughout the year that gives color to the vision of the budget. Ease of doing business, Startup scheme, Swachh Bharat, Digital India and several other schemes have received financial support in the budget and also adequate legislative backing. With two full budgets and focus on real issues, the government has restored credibility which went for a long walk in the previous regime.

I wish to highlight a few important points pertaining to my constituency as per the geographical view. Rajasthan is the largest state in this country but due to the natural disturbances, several drinking water sources are being extinguished. The underground water level in the state is also in a dangerous state, 243 zones of Rajasthan are under Dark Zone and several other districts are facing the problem of high fluoride level in drinking water. Hence, I request the Union Government to allocate a special package for the drinking water in Rajasthan.

Our Prime Minister has dedicated this budget to the farmers; he has focused on providing better coverage of irrigation facilities to maximum farmers so that it can help in increasing the agricultural output and betterment of the farmers. I wish to highlight that Vradh Parwan Sinchai Pariyojna in which thousands of acres of land in Kota, Baran and Jhalawar districts will be irrigated and the State Government has already allotted a sum of Rs. 700 crore for this scheme. This scheme is of Rs. 5,000 crore (expected) but the success of this scheme is not possible without the help of the Union Government so that maximum area of agricultural land will be irrigated in the said districts.

It is requested that funds should also be allocated for the re-establishment of Alniya, Sawan Bhado, Dolya, Choma, Khata Kheda under the ERM and RRR scheme of Kota-Bundi districts and Bhim lath, Abhay pura's minor irrigation projects of Bundi district by the Union Government.

Chambal Pariyojna's right and left canal and residual water of other canals will be lifted and also Kota and Bundi districts' residual water should be lifted for irrigating the land of the farmers and a special budget needs to be allocated for the same by the Union Government. Further special budget may be allocated for redevelopment of the right and left canal of Chambal so that the area of the irrigated land should be increased.

It is requested that Chakkan (Indragarh) Laghu Sinchi Pariyojna of Bundi District will be converted into mid-size irrigation projects so that thousand hectares of land should be irrigated.

For amalgamation of rivers in Rajasthan, four proposals have already been submitted by the state to the Union Government. I urge the government to provide funds for promoting the said proposals.

Chambal river flowing form Kota city is getting polluted day by day as 22 sewer lines of the city are being disposed of in this river.

The Union Government has included Chambal in the NAMAMI GANGE project for Ganga cleanliness. Hence, I request that in order to keep Chambal river clean, special packages should be provided by the Union Government.

This government has rightly focused on improving manufacturing and reviving job growth. Instrumentation Limited (IL) in Kota is in desperate need for revival and can also be an important aspect for revival of jobs. In furtherance to the discussion with the heavy industries as well as having raised the issue in the august house, I wish to propose the following steps for the revival of Instrumentation limited.

- IL can be restructured/revived and will generate its own funds once bridge loan is sanctioned for clearing pending liabilities. To provide one-time bridge loan/non-plan budgetary support of Rs. 350 crore for meeting salary and statutory liabilities, BIFR (Board of Industrial and Finance Reconstruction) in its hearing in June 2013 recommended interim financial assistance of Rs. 215 crore for the revival.
- Immediately provide salary support of Rs. 73.41 crore for the period April 1, 2014 to March, 2015 pending with the

government to mitigate the hardships of the employees. To provide orders on nomination basis from Railways, Defence, telecom and cost plus margin basis.

- To allow the company to sell its land owned by the company either through DIPAM or Asset sale Committee to generate additional funds worth Rs.100 and to appoint a consultant who will look into Make in India, Digital India approach of the company, suggest further guidelines and directions for its restructuring.

Keeping in mind the development of the Kota region, I would urge the hon. Finance Minister to kindly consider the demand for the revival of Instrumentation limited.

Second, Kota has been an important educational hub for several decades now. While many students come to this city for their preparations for IIT, the city itself does not have an Indian Institute of Technology. I urge the hon. Finance Minister as well as the Human Resource Development Minister to consider setting up an IIT and an Indian Institute of Management in Kota for the benefits of thousands of students.

In his speech, the hon. The Finance Minister has proposed the development/revival of about 160 airstrips with coordination with the state governments at the cost of Rs. 50-100 crore each. I urge upon the hon. Civil Aviation as well as the Finance Minister to consider the Kota airstrip among the ones for development. This will go a long way in providing better air connectivity to Kota where there is adequate demand for the same.

Rajasthan is also known for its traditional jewelry and the Union Government has imposed an excise duty of 1% of the Gold items which has been objected by all the jewelers, Jewellers' associations and trade associations. I hereby request that excise duty on gold items be withdrawn in order to consider the demand of the Jewellers and their associations.

[Translation]

***SHRI P.P. CHOUDHARY (PALI):** I am expressing my views on the general budget.

I do not want to go into further detail about the figures in the Budget; they have already been discussed in great detail by my able colleagues. The country is going through a difficult situation where the world is going through a recession and India is moving firmly on the path of development despite the difficulties. After reading the budget, a clear impression will be formed that this is another developmental and continuity oriented budget.

By making historic increases in the items of education, health, women welfare, Dalit upliftment, minority welfare, the government has made its viewpoint very clear that by providing equal opportunities in every way to the neglected class, their participation in the development of the country will be ensured. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting this wonderful budget.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance because he has laid full emphasis on improving infrastructure through the budget. There can be no development without improvement in infrastructure. No one wants to set up industry in rural areas because infrastructure facilities are not available there. According to an estimate, to achieve a growth rate of 9 percent, it is essential to increase the infrastructure facilities by 12 percent.

The main thrust of the budget is to strengthen the distribution system, increase productivity along with production, and adopt a long-term strategy to solve this problem forever.

70 percent of the country's population depends on agriculture and these 70 percent people were ignored by the UPA government, due to which the contribution of agriculture in GDP decreased from 60 percent to 13 percent. During the NDA rule from 1998-2000, this share was 26 percent which decreased to just 13 percent in the year 2012-13. This clearly shows that agriculture was being ignored by the UPA government. But the NDA has once again presented the budget giving great importance to agriculture. Our government is aware that the budget should be about the future rather than the present and that

in today's environment, a GDP growth rate of 7 to 8 percent can be achieved through industrial and agricultural production growth.

Our Minister of Finance has a huge vision for farmers. Due to climate change, farmers across the country are facing natural disasters every year. A few months ago, our government introduced a criterion of giving compensation to farmers even if 30% of their crops were damaged, which created a wave of happiness among all the farmers. About 6 months ago, the Rajasthan government had demanded a sum of Rs. 11,886 crore from the Government of India for compensation to the affected farmers for the damage caused to crops due to natural disaster. In return, Rs. 1378 crore was allocated to the Rajasthan government in the year 2015, which has been distributed to the affected farmers as per the SDRF norms of the Government of India.

Recently, in a meeting of the high level committee chaired by the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, funds were allocated to drought affected areas under disaster management, in which an amount of Rs. 1193.41 crore was released to the state of Rajasthan. Allocation of the remaining amount by the Rajasthan Government is still pending. Not only this, the crops of the farmers of Rajasthan, who have been facing the brunt of the weather continuously since last week, have been

ruined. In western Rajasthan, entire crops have been destroyed due to hailstorm.

I request the government to send a central team to assess the damage as soon as possible and to allocate the amount of current loss along with the previous outstanding amount to the Rajasthan government, so that the farmers can get full help from the disaster management fund.

The construction work of National Highway is going on very fast by the Union Government. The work of development of highways has gained momentum every time the NDA government has come into power. We all know that highways play an important role in the development of the country. The previous NDA government used to construct highways at the rate of 11 km per day, which has been increased to 23.4 km per day by the current government. During the UPA regime, the pace of highway construction was only 5.2 km per day. Only under the leadership of Hon. Nitin Gadkari, the target of highway construction of 30 km per day can be achieved.

I would like to draw the attention of the government and the Hon. Road Transport and Highways Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari Ji directed the repair of old highways and said that during the tenure of the UPA

government, almost half the required amount was released to Rajasthan for the repair of highways. In the budgets for the years 2011-12, 2013-14 and 2014-15, a total of only Rs. 41.68 crore was released, which was less than a quarter of the estimated cost. Taking the poor condition of highways seriously, the Rajasthan government released an amount of Rs. 50 crore in the year 2013-14 on the basis of reimbursement by the Union Government. In the financial year 2015-16, the Union Government has released only Rs. 22.34 crore for the repair of highways and Rs. 4.08 crore for roads damaged by floods.

Along with this, due to continuous increase in the length of highways and the number of vehicles on them, it has become necessary to increase the funds for repairs. The proposal to allocate an amount of Rs. 75 crore per year for the repair of highways through the Rajasthan government is pending with the Union Government.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Road Transport and Highways to please approve the budget by issuing consent on the proposal sent for the repair of highways in the state of Rajasthan.

All the companies of Central Public Sector Enterprises are required to form a CSR Committee whose job is to ensure that a part of the company's profit is spent on social reform. It has been found

that some companies are not following the CSR guidelines. It has come to my knowledge that even some big companies like Navratna are allocating very less amount of budget under CSR. It has also come to light that some companies are allocating budgets but are not spending the full amount.

Along with this, I would also like to suggest that the work done through CSR by Maharatna, Maharatna and Navratna companies doing business all over the country should not be limited to a limited area. Many proposals are returned by the companies saying that the place is not related to their area of work. In such a situation, those districts of the country where there is not even a single PSU are identified only as backward districts. At present the CSR guidelines do not provide for priority attention towards the development of geographically backward areas.

Therefore, I would like to request that the Department of Public Enterprises should take action to ensure compliance with the CSR guidelines and ensure that CSR funds are spent for such geographically backward areas where, due to the absence of any PSU, along with the problem of employment, other development works are

also stalled. Pali Lok Sabha constituency of Rajasthan is one such area.

India is an agricultural country and most of the population lives in rural areas. Rural banks have played an important role in the development and upliftment of rural areas. For the last 40 years, Rural Banks have been working successfully and participating in rural development and in the present perspective, Rural Banks are no less than other Public Sector Banks in any field. As per the provisions of the Regional Rural Banks Act, 1976, the capital contribution is 50 per cent by the Union Government, 15 percent by the State Government and 35 per cent by the sponsor bank. With time the position of Regional Rural Banks has strengthened today. The number of 196 rural banks has now come down to 56 after continuous conferences.

In view of the success and strength achieved by the Gramin Banks as per the above and for the successful implementation of ambitious plans and startup programs for greater economic development towards the rural areas, we humbly request you to place the problems and issues related to the Gramin Bank on the appropriate platform, which are as follows:-

There is a provision to always keep the Member of Parliament (MPLAD) amount in public sector banks only, due to which rural banks are always deprived of this fund.

The amount allocated for rural development is in crores and the distribution of this amount should be sent directly to the rural banks of the concerned states.

If the above mentioned points are deliberated upon, then certainly the morale of the rural banks will remain high due to increase in deposits. With the availability of funds, more loan distribution will be possible for the development of rural and agricultural sectors. This will not only make rural banks stronger but they will also participate in agriculture and rural development with more enthusiasm. Therefore, I request the Minister of Finance to please issue necessary guidelines in this regard.

Along with the population, the number of crimes is also increasing in the country. Along with the increase in crimes, there is also an increase in the methods of crime and the modern weapons and methods used in it. Every day we see through newspapers that criminal elements are becoming smarter and sharper than the police. It is becoming extremely difficult for the police to catch them and kill

them in an encounter. During the attack on Taj Hotel in Mumbai, many questions were raised regarding the modernization of local police. The Union Government has been providing budget assistance to the states for police modernization. In the proposal sent by the Rajasthan government to the Union Government, the amount of non-plan items released for police modernisation has been stated to be insufficient, because the geographical area of Rajasthan state is very large. Rajasthan state is the largest state in the whole country, its area is 3,42,239 square km. Rajasthan is a major state from the tourism point of view and is also adjacent to the international border. The length of the border between India and Pakistan is 2043.63 km, of which 1056.63 km i.e. more than 50 percent passes through Rajasthan. At times, there is a possibility of high alert in the districts bordering the border. It is very important to further modernize the police of Rajasthan state.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs to please release more funds to the Rajasthan Government under the Police Modernization Scheme and increase the central contribution in the non-plan item. In the Union Budget 2015-16, the government has made it mandatory to have a PAN card or Form-60 for purchasing

jewelry worth Rs. 2 lakh or more, which came into effect from January 1, 2016 through a notification. I want to draw the attention of the government on this issue that 2 months have passed since PAN card was made compulsory, if the government has not got any benefit from it, then a study should be done on this matter and consideration should be given to ending its compulsory nature because the compulsory nature of PAN card is not logical in any way.

India is an agricultural country and around 60 crore people here are associated with agriculture. At present only about 25 crore people have a PAN card. Agricultural income is completely tax free. If a farmer buys jewelry or ornaments etc. for his family from this tax free amount then he will have to provide a PAN card. There is a custom of giving and taking jewelry etc. on auspicious occasions. Women make small savings keeping in mind the marriage of their children etc. so that they can arrange for ornaments/jewelry now, which they can use in the future.

Besides this, due to various taxes imposed on the gold jewelry trade, the traders, artisans and all the connected persons including the consumers, all across India are discouraged. They feel as if Inspector

Raj is being imposed on them. The business class suffers from taxes as well as different rules by various departments.

Due to the imposition of an excise duty of 1% (without input tax credit) and 12.5% (with input tax credit) on jewelry, the livelihood of all goldsmiths and traders will become difficult. In view of the opposition of the Bullion Association, it is requested that we should not be put in trouble and the imposed excise should be removed with immediate effect. In protest against this, the Bullion Association has announced to keep the establishments closed for the last several days; this protest has become nationwide.

Therefore, I request that the requirement of PAN Card be abolished with immediate effect and instructions be given to immediately remove the excise duty of 1% (without input tax credit) and 12.5% (with input tax credit) on jewelry. Due to climate change, farmers across the country are facing natural disasters every year. In natural calamities, the entire crop of the farmer gets destroyed. In such a situation, it has been observed that those farmers and cultivators who have animals are able to feed themselves easily. Animal husbandry is the main source of additional income apart from farming.

Many schemes are being run for livestock farmers by the central and state governments. Under the National LiveStock Mission SubMission Fodder and Feed Development Scheme of the Government of India, a proposal for funds as the Centre's share in three projects has already been sent to the Union Government by the Rajasthan Government.

1. Fodder production from non forest land – Rs. 112.45 lakh
2. Fodder Seeds Procurement and Distributions – Rs. 721.50 lakh
3. Hand operated, power operated chopper distribution – Rs. 1112.93 lakh

In the above three projects, an amount of Rs. 1214.26 lakh as central share is proposed to be released by the Union Government.

Therefore, I request the Minister of Agriculture and Animal Husbandry to please release the amount of central share on the Rajasthan government's proposal as soon as possible, so that facilities and financial assistance can be provided to the animal breeders of Rajasthan state.

It is clear from the above that the budget is development oriented; no stinginess has been shown in providing funds where they were required. In order to provide maximum funds for the development of farmers, rural and urban Dalits and poor minorities and rural areas, it was necessary to impose additional tax, but it has been imposed in such a beautiful manner that no class is particularly hurt. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting this wonderful budget.

***SHRI HARISCHANDRA CHAVAN (DINDORI):** I believe that the Union Budget 2016-17 presented by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley is “Sabka Budget”, it is a budget for development of the poor, education and employment for youth, security for women, prosperity of farmers, prosperity of states and strengthening of economy. On behalf of the people of my constituency, I wholeheartedly welcome this year’s budget presented by the Minister of Finance.

I am very closely acquainted with the ground level problems of North Maharashtra, including my area of work, Dindori.The farmers-sisters of my area are one of the largest producers of grapes, pomegranates, onions and vegetables in the country. Considering the horticulture production in this area, there is a need for a college under the 'Agricultural Research Center' and 'Horticulture University' in my area Dindori, in this regard I have also corresponded with the Hon. Agriculture Minister. Provision should be made in this budget for cold storage and food processing in my area.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

In this general budget, a significant allocation has been made for the ‘Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme’. Under this project, we need the help of the Centre to solve the problem of irrigation and drinking water of entire North Maharashtra by constructing dams on the Western Vahini, Nar-Par rivers of my region. Therefore, immediate action should be taken for the Nar-Par scheme and also all the water bodies in the country should be restored so that there is adequate water available for agriculture.

Since my working area Dindori is tribal dominated, there is a dire need of a Tribal Medical College and a Tribal Engineering College for higher technical education. Due to these two tribal colleges, the tribal students of Maharashtra will progress.

My district, the land of Nashik, which is sanctified by the feet of Lord Ramchandra and one of the 12 Jyotirlingas, Trimbakeshwar-Jyotirlinga is in Nashik, as well as 'Vani' in Dindori which is the abode of Saptashrungi Devi, special attention has been given to culture, yoga and tourism in this budget. I want all these to be included in the 'National Pilgrimage Site' and Spiritual Augmentation Drive and also need to be included in the tourist circuits.

Like Varanasi, handloom production of Paithani saree takes place in Yeola tehsil in my area Dindori. Paithani saree industry and its artisans are suffering from financial problems and they have great expectations from the Centre.

In the end, I would like to say that in the 17th century, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj was able to take the oath of establishing Swarajya at the age of 16 because he had strong willpower and the thought of building the nation. In the creation of his Swarajya, Shivaji Maharaj gave great importance to infrastructure, prosperity of farmers and the 'army of the state' and also focused on removing shortcomings and strengthening the power centers of Swarajya. Today again, to take the country 'forward' in the competitive era of the 21st century, not any foreign Oxford or Harvard-educated person but Shivaji Maharaj's 'economic self-rule policy' and the 'hard work' of the Modi government is necessary. And I also request that the government should start 'Think in India' along with 'Make in India'.

This ‘General Budget’ of our Government is a budget to bring the country on the path of progress and to realize the dream of building ‘One India, Best India’ by following the policy of Sabka Sath, Sabka Vikas. With this, I support the general budget.

*SHRI RAMCHARAN BOHRA (JAIPUR CITY): I heartily welcome the General Budget 2016-17. No amount of praise would be enough for our Minister of Finance. He has maintained the pace of the country's economic progress despite adverse circumstances. Today the situation is such that the reforms in our economy are being highly appreciated at the international level. The International Monetary Fund has also highly praised India's economy.

Today, the world is going through a period of recession and even China, whose economy used to grow faster than all other countries, has also lagged behind India today. Last year in 2015-16, we increased the growth rate of the economy to 7.6 percent. That too when the monsoon situation in the country was very bad. Our country is an agricultural country. Our agricultural production is dependent on the monsoon. If there is good rainfall then there is good agricultural production and if there is less rainfall then there is less agricultural production and our economy is dependent on agriculture. Despite all this, not allowing the pace of the economy to slow down is proof of the ability of a good economist like our Finance Minister Jaitley ji.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Till now the main opposition party used to make fun of us by calling us a suit-boot government. In this budget, the Hon. The Minister of Finance has turned towards the villages and shut the mouths of opposition party leaders. This time the focus of the Minister of Finance has been more on agricultural development, irrigation and construction of village infrastructure. At the same time, every effort has been made to provide relief to the poor people living below the poverty line. This budget is actually the budget of the common people and not a capitalist budget.

Last year, despite difficult circumstances, the fiscal deficit target of 3.9% of GDP was set but our able finance minister did not let it exceed this target. This fiscal deficit has been reduced to 3.5 percent of GDP this financial year (2016-17). I have full hope and confidence that no matter how difficult the circumstances, our Minister of Finance will not allow the fiscal deficit to exceed the target of 3.5 percent. This is only possible through a capable, experienced and hardworking person like our Minister of Finance.

The Union Budget is full of positive aspects and has enhanced the credibility of the government on the fiscal path which includes increase in investment in rural electrification and roads, provision of

gas cylinders to the poor, arrangement of dialysis at district level, grant in provident fund to companies for new employees, increase in investment in highways, railways, ports and airports etc.

Hon. The Minister of Finance has given emphasis on infrastructure development and has made provision of Rs. 82,000 crores for road construction in the budget and has kept a huge allocation for capital expenditure at the level of percent of GDP. In the budget, funds for schemes like NREGA have been increased to ensure rural income and at the same time, there has been talk of increasing investment in irrigation and road connectivity. Both these steps will prove helpful for the rural areas in the short and medium term respectively. The construction work that will be done under these investment plans will have immediate impact.

Our government has promised that by May 1, 2018, all the villages of the country will be electrified under the Deendayal Upadhyay Yojana. Apart from this, there is also talk of Prime Minister Gram Sadak Yojana in the villages. The government has also assured that the work of digital modernization of land records will be done through a central scheme. It is clear from these things that our

government has now decided to work on a concrete action-based plan with a new thinking on agriculture.

There are no populist statements in this budget, but rather a promise to achieve something. After agriculture, our government has talked about increasing quality in the field of education. Our government has also promised to make some educational institutions of global standard.

Due to the wisdom of our government, now the village roads will not have any jolts but will be free from them. The way in which the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is being implemented has never happened before. Spending Rs. 27 thousand crores under this scheme and also connecting 65,000 new settlements with roads is a golden gift for the villages. The target of constructing nearly 2.25 lakh kilometers of roads by 2019 is also a laudable step and indicates the government's commitment towards this sector.

There are some other steps taken by our Government which I never get tired of praising. Such as making priority allocation for centrally sponsored schemes to reward villages that are open defecation free, using DBT network to deliver fertilizer subsidies directly to farmers, etc.

Our Minister of Finance has proved through his budget that it is difficult to move ahead without the prosperity of villages. In other words, he has proved that the path to the country's development passes through the villages. The target of providing electricity to all the villages of the country by May 2019 is a big bold step. Plans to introduce digital literacy in rural areas, increased allocation for the social sector, and providing health security to one-third of the population are also features of the strong budget.

In the end I would say that all those things have been said in this budget which empowers this country and its citizens. The thinking of the Minister of Finance is absolutely new and this thinking provides a ray of hope to every Indian living in remote areas of the country. Rajasthan should be given a special package for water. A special package should be given for the recharging of Ramgarh Dam and Falakh Dam of Jaipur.

I strongly support this budget.

SHRIMATI PRIYANKA SINGH RAWAT (BARABANKI): Chairperson Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this important budget.

Sir, I rise to speak in support of the Budget for the year 2016-17. On behalf of the people of my parliamentary constituency Barabanki, Uttar Pradesh, I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for presenting such an impressive budget. Every section and every sector of the society has been taken care of in the budget, especially Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, women and other sections of the society have been given special attention. I will start my speech with two lines and will take very little time in the House.

"There is no need to take an oath to tell the truth,

Rivers don't need a path to flow,

Those who progress in the world on the basis of their strong intentions,

They do not need any chariot to reach their destination."

I would like to draw the attention of the government through this House to two important points of the budget and give some

suggestions. First, as we all know that the main inclination of our government and the Hon. The Prime Minister is towards the upliftment of the weaker sections of the society. Recently, the Central Cabinet has approved the Stand Up India Scheme to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes-Tribes and women and a provision of Rs. 500 crore has been made in the budget for the year 2016-17 for implementing this scheme. It is hoped that at least 2.25 lakh entrepreneurs will benefit from this scheme.

Sir, this is indeed a step in a good direction. Around 21 percent of the population in the country is from the Scheduled Castes and Tribes and 50 per cent are women and this is a laudable step towards helping them stand on their own feet. I would like to draw the attention of the government that considering that almost one fourth of the population of the country is from the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes and women constitute 50 per cent of the population, the amount of Rs. 500 crores fixed for their upliftment is like a drop in the ocean. I request the government through the House to allocate at least Rs. 5,000 crore for the Stand Up India Scheme so that this scheme can be made successful.

Sir, my second point is that in the Budget it has been proposed to tax jewelry at one per cent without specified tax credit or twelve and a half per cent with specified tax credit. Being a woman, I know very well how much importance jewelry has in Indian society. They have social importance also. I have realized that not only the women of this country but also the bullion traders are upset with this proposal of the government. I went to my parliamentary constituency a few days ago. Thousands of bullion traders met me there and requested me to convey their grievance to the Hon. Prime Minister and the Minister of Finance for removal of this proposed tax. I request the Minister through this House that in view of the suffering of the bullion traders, the proposed tax on jewelry should be withdrawn. In the end, I would like to tell my Hon. members sitting in the opposition that they have expressed a lot of their grievances through this budget.

Don't think why your dreams are not fulfilled,

The intentions of those who have courage never remain incomplete.

The person who has good deeds,

There is never darkness in their life.

Thank you very much.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Sir, you gave me this opportunity to speak on the budget for the year 2016-17, for which I am thankful.

Sir, I would like to congratulate the government that it has done the work of presenting this budget as an agricultural budget. I would also like to request the Government that approximately Rs 5,700 crores have been allotted to the agriculture sector. But due to bad weather for the last three days, the crops of most of the farmers in Haryana, Rajasthan and North India have been destroyed again. We cannot make farmers prosperous only by talking about agricultural insurance. The government should take measures to increase agriculture in a specialized manner. The Hon. The Minister of Finance has done the work of telling through the budget what the ideology of the government is for next year. I would like to tell the Minister that the Olympic Games are going to be held in three months.

The government had brought a package of Rs. 200 crores for the Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in its first financial year, but this time in his speech of one and a quarter hours, the Hon. the finance minister somehow forgot to connect the sports and our players with the ideology of the country.

Sir, today we talk about BRICS Nations, because if today there are any competitors among our developing nations then they are the BRICS countries. They also work to invest five to six percent of their country's GDP in education. But our country is the youngest country, around 80 crore population of our country is below 35 years and the government invests around 3 percent of our country's GDP in education and health sector. I would request the Hon. Minister of Finance that the government should consider investing at least five to six percent of our country's GDP in the education and health sectors. The way the Hon. The Minister of Finance said in his speech that our government gives around Rs. 2.87 lakh crore for the development of rural areas and after that the Minister of Finance was telling that the government will give around Rs. 80 lakh to each village. If I do the calculation simply, there are around 4.5 lakh villages in our country and if we calculate on the basis of Rs. 80 lakh, then we will have to spend around Rs 3.6 lakh crore for the development of rural areas. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister of Finance what provisions has the government made so that we can ensure that maximum money reaches the rural areas.

Sir, the government was talking about water. Today the government has given approximately twenty thousand crore rupees to NABARD. I would request the Minister of Finance to issue orders to NABARD so that NABARD can add more money under this seed fund so that we can fulfill the dream of Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee ji of linking our canals as soon as possible. Just like we have built national highways, in the same way the government will have to build national waterways and the way the Punjab government has tried to snatch our water today, when our SYL case is pending in the Supreme Court, they have snatched our water by passing a resolution in the Legislative Assembly.

I would request the Union Government to take strong steps with immediate effect to cancel that resolution or ensure that the water belonging to Haryana, Delhi and Rajasthan is also delivered to them. You gave me this opportunity to speak, thank you very much.

[English]

***SHRIMATI POONAMBEN MAADAM (JAMNAGAR):** I express my sincere thanks to the Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley for this budget and to our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for his vision. For the first time ever, there has been such a holistic budget, which catered to the needs of people from all sectors. Right from farmers to agriculture, to growth, to investment, the Government has taken active interest in people from all sections of the society. Also, infrastructure boost along with education and youth have been prioritized.

Since the present Government took over, there has been an economic transformation. An increase in GDP growth has made India one of the world's fastest growing economies. Inflation, fiscal deficit and current account deficit have decreased and the country has recorded the highest ever foreign exchange reserves in 2015. While focusing on the growth agenda the Government is also adhering to the fiscal deficit target.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

One of the many takeaways from the budget in the farm sector is that a plan has been announced to double the income of farmers in the next 5 years and a committed allocation of nearly Rs.36,000 crore has been budgeted for the sector while raising the agri-credit target to Rs.9 lakh crore for the next fiscal.

The budget has extensively focused on the agricultural sector with the announcement of launching the ambitious 'Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (crop insurance scheme) which will ensure lowest ever premium rates be given for farmers to end the farm distress. Besides, the Government also intends to achieve convergence of investments in irrigation at the field level through the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana.

Moving from the farmers of India to where they dwell, the Government is prioritizing electricity and roads agenda in rural India. The Government intends to connect all villages by roads under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana by 2019, while all of them will be electrified by 2018. The Government has a clear roadmap to alleviate poverty and assure growth in India in a time-bound manner.

The Government has made record allocations for MNREGA to strengthen rural jobs programmes and efforts will be made to assure

the economically weak a house of their own under the 'Housing for All' scheme.

As much as the Government is focusing on rural India, on agriculture and farmers, the Government is equally committed to developing infrastructure and to worth mentioning, 85 percent of stalled road projects are back on track.

The Government is allowing 100 per cent FDI in food processing and FDI rules are likely to be eased in exchanges, insurance and asset reconstruction. Also, Shri Jaitley has proposed a divestment target of 565 billion rupees, including 205 billion as strategic sales, compared with 695 billion rupees in the previous year.

The Government has also announced a slew of initiatives in the Budget for start-ups, including 100% tax exemption for 3 years and allocation of Rs.500 crore for SC/ST and women entrepreneurs, aimed at facilitating growth for these new businesses.

The budget is aimed at taking forward economic reforms. The country's development is not only dependent on the services and sectors, but also on the people. Hence, the budget is people-centric.

Keeping this in mind, a new initiative to provide cooking gas to women of BPL families has been announced. The scheme will have a

two tier benefit. This will free the 5 crore women in rural areas from the curse of smoke while cooking and will also generate employment for the youth in rural areas as they join the supply chain.

The Government has also launched 'Nai Manzil', a scheme that will benefit the minority youths who do not have a formal education with a view to enabling them to seek better employment in the organized sector and thus to equip them for better lives.

The Government is giving a big push for small trades and offering tax exemptions for small business units. However, this was just not a Budget priority; the Government has been backing MSME all along. I would like to take this opportunity to specifically mention the support that was provided to the MSME sector in Jamnagar, which is my constituency. After registering a decade long of nominal growth, the Jamnagar based brass parts industry has witnessed a turn around on the back of increased exports recently. This was made possible with the timely help and intervention of our very own Prime Minister, Shri. Narendra Modi and the Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley. The Government of India had reduced the earlier levied 4% SAD on import of Brass scraps to 2%. The Government has reduced

SAD on imports of brass scrap even at the cost of huge revenue outgo to benefit the Jamnagar's Brass Industries.

The benefits of duty reduction would go directly towards the efforts of revenue generation through manufacturing activities to the working class people engaged in the sector. There are 4,000 brass-making units in Jamnagar, over 80 per cent of them in the small -scale category. The industry employs over 200,000 people, directly and indirectly.

The Government has also revised and rationalized export duty on bauxite down to 5% which will immensely benefit Bauxite mine owners from Jamnagar and Devbhoomi Dwarka, Gujarat. Small miners are providing employment to about 50,000 people in backward areas of Jamnagar, this will help them retain business and also generate more employment courtesy improved business and exports.

On behalf of the people of Jamnagar, I take this opportunity to wholeheartedly acknowledge the efforts of the present Government in reviving Jamnagar brass manufacturing sector and also help legalize the mining export industry to an extent.

The recent announcement of IT/ITeS policy and waiver to stamp duty on share broking transactions in Gujarat by the Government of

Gujarat, along with the Union Budget announcement for IFSC will further boost the development of India's first IFSC in Gujarat.

With a view to aspire to first generation entrepreneurs and existing small businesses too, the Government is doing a commendable task of granting loans to young people through the MUDRA scheme. This is one of the great steps taken by the hon. Finance Minister to meet the financial needs of the micro-finance institutions and these institutions will greatly benefitted through this step. To mention, my state of Gujarat is also benefiting largely through the MUDRA loans. The Government has disbursed around Rs. 3,386 crore to the State of Gujarat for MUDRA loans.

Complimenting schemes like MUDRA; the Government has more to offer like through Start up India and Stand up India. This will provide a favorable ecosystem for start-ups, the budget has provided plans in the taxes. Skills training will also be focused on the economically weak.

The youth of the country is moving ahead. In order to provide him employment opportunities we are going to come out with two new initiatives, 'formalizing the informal' and 'employing the unemployed.'

Our country should be protected, our citizens should feel safe and our forces should be equipped with modern defense equipment and expenditure prioritized for 'One Rank One Pension' post retirement. This budget has made provisions for boosting defense manufacturing and providing the armed forces with modern and potent equipment.

It's the people who make our nation and this Budget is aimed at improving everyone's life in some form or the other and bring about a qualitative change within a specified time frame.

*SHRI B.N. CHANDRAPPA (CHITRADURGA): People voted for the BJP Government in the 2014 General elections believing that Shri Narendra Modi would fulfill the promise of 'Acche Din". But I am sorry to say that very same people are feeling disgusted and cheated because of the way this NDA Government is functioning. People are realizing that the promises made during General elections were only false promises and nothing is visible on the ground. There is growing discontent in the rural India as there is no significant change taking place since the new Government came to power.

Today, the greatest concern of the people is about the falling rupee. This was one of the major promises made by the NDA Government before coming to power. They had said that they would bring the price of dollars to Rs. 40 when they would come to power. Now, going by the trend, it is quite certain that it will hit the century mark. In fact, the common people of this country are not able to understand this. But when he sees on TV that the cost of a dollar has touched around Rs. 67 or Rs. 68 then he becomes concerned about it. I am sorry to say that this Government has not addressed this issue at all in the last three Budgets.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

I would now come to the issue of the One Rank One Pension. The NDA Government had said that as soon as they would come to power, they would immediately implement this OROP scheme. But it has not happened for the last two years. Now this Government has linked it up with the recommendations of the Seventh Pay Commission. I would only say that if it is a question of the honor of our military, if it is about the honor of our countrymen, then we should go an extra mile to sort this issue out. I would urge the Government to implement this OROP scheme immediately.

Now, I come to the issue of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs). NPA is a matter of major concern for the financial sector and the health of our nation. To solve this issue, I would suggest that the Government can think of a settlement mechanism with the borrowers. The Government can bring forward a new policy on NPAs which could decide the criteria for treating a bad loan as NPA. It is also necessary that the repayment period of loan should also be extended and interest rates are renegotiated to enable the genuine borrowers to repay the loan to avoid falling it in the category of NPA.

The General Budget presented by the hon. Finance Minister Shri Arun Jaitely has not mentioned any significant steps to solve the

problems in agriculture, infrastructure, employment and other problems. As far as agrarian crisis is concerned, there are multiple problems in this sector due to natural calamities like drought, flood, untimely rain, hailstorm, landslide, increasing cost of farm inputs, wild animals menace, unscientific fixation of minimum support price, etc. As a result, agriculture becomes economically unviable and farmers are running away from this traditional sector. It is a matter of great concern that the country's food requirement is gradually going up due to an increase in population. Yet there are several thousands of people who find it difficult to have two square meals a day. Under these circumstances, it is the need of the hour to evolve a comprehensive mechanism to make the agriculture sector more viable and attractive for our farmers.

With regard to drinking water, I would say that it is a matter of great concern that a large number of people in the country are consuming contaminated water. As per the available data, about 1600 people die every day from waterborne diseases. People both in urban and rural areas are not getting safe water for drinking. A recent report of the Union Ministry of Health and Family Welfare stated that the fluoride content in the water has gone beyond the permissible level in

nearly 14,132 habitations in 19 states of the country. Thousands of people in various states including my state Karnataka are suffering from diseases such as skeletal fluorosis. Every other day, there are reports of individuals or students in hostels and so on becoming terribly sick after consuming contaminated water. For example, a water-borne disease like Jaundice is affecting a large number of people, but it is neglected by the authorities to control and save the health of common people with proper preventive measures. Hence, I would urge the Union Government to take effective measures to provide safe and adequate drinking water to people of the country.

India's public spending on healthcare is just 1.3% of the GDP. With 75% of the population outside the health insurance ambit, the Government needs to put the spotlight on health insurance. As per the latest records of the World Health Organization, patients in India pay for 58% of the total healthcare expenditure. So, I would like to request the Government to create better healthcare infrastructure in all the Government hospitals in the country.

Now, I come to the aspect of education. During XII Five Year Plan, it was expected that Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Rashitriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) will lift

our school education and higher education from the current stagnancy and will help our schools, universities and colleges to attain respectable standards. The Budget proposals do not talk about RTE, RMSA and RUSA.

I would like to point out that the banks are discouraging people to avail education loans for higher studies. Due to this, talented but poor students are facing difficulties to pursue higher education. I would like to say that the proposed higher education financing agency would be an economic spring for the Indian education sector. Setting up a dedicated agency would give the thrust that is needed today. Here, I would like to say that we hardly have any university in the top 500 universities of the world. We have a serious dearth of original research and focus on such areas is forthcoming. Development of world-class teaching institutions is a dire need for the rapidly developing India.

The Union Government has earmarked Rs. 38000 crore for MGNREGA. I would like to point out that as per the reports there are a significant number of job seekers who have not got the mandatory 100 days of work. I would like to suggest to the Government that apart from allocating funds to MGNREGA, there is also a need to ensure

that 100 days of mandatory work is made available to uplift the poor from the clutches of poverty.

In the end, I would only say that people have given this Government a historic mandate. This has happened because this Government had promised to the people about bringing stability, accountability, clarity in policy, predictability in policy and an efficient delivery mechanism. But, what do we see after two years and three Budgets? We only see about publicity, hyper-nationality and so on. They are not in touch with reality. It is high time this Government understood this and took corrective steps. The Government cannot take people for granted. People have started showing signs of resentments. It is getting clearer day by day when we see the results of the Assembly elections or by-elections. This Government talks only in words that they are a people-friendly Government. But, they should show it in deeds also.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO (NAGALAND): Mr. Chairman, Sir, I thank you for giving me time to participate in this Budget discussion for the year 2016-17.

I applaud the hon. Finance Minister for the impressive growth and for the welfare oriented Budget for the year 2016-17 presented in this august House. It is encouraging to note that the GDP growth is expected to be about 7.6 per cent and inflation to be contained at 5.4 per cent in the current financial year. Another positive indicator is that macro economic stability, which will be maintained with fiscal prudence, is evident from the fiscal deficit target of 3.5 per cent in 2016-17 from the current 3.9 per cent, in this global economic recession period.

Sir, I welcome the hike of 15 per cent Plan expenditure in the Budget, and also, the devolution of funds from 32 percent to 42 percent to the States and Union Territories is appreciated. The Government's efforts to mobilize a total receipt of Rs.19.65 lakh crore, that is, an increase of six per cent compared to the previous year, and a slew of taxation measures announced to promote growth with equity are laudable.

18.00 hours

Sir, I hope, increase in Plan expenditure will cover the development deficit areas for the exclusive growth in the country.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, I have six more Members to speak on the General Budget. If the House agrees, the time for discussion may be extended by one hour including the Minister's reply.

MANY HON. MEMBERS: Yes.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Thank you.

Hon. Member, Shri Neiphiu Rio may continue his speech.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO: Sir, I would like to highly appreciate the 9-Point Transformation Agenda initiated by the Government to make India one of the largest economies in the world, maybe after the USA and China. These initiatives are: Agriculture and Farmers Welfare; Rural Sector – Infrastructure and Employment; Social Sector including Healthcare; Education, Skills and Job Creation; Infrastructure and Investment; Financial Sector Reforms; Governance and Ease of Doing Business; Fiscal Discipline, Prudent Management and Tax Reforms.

Sir, while appreciating the Budget, I want to draw your attention on the progress of the country. I wish to impress upon the Union Government the necessity of according special attention to the North East region in infrastructure development and promote entrepreneurs to ensure success of Start Up India programme.

Sir, I would like to say that the Budget for NEC and DoNER has been declining and at present it is stagnant. During the 10th Five Year Plan the percentage of shortfall in the Budget was 28.24 per cent; in the 11th Plan, the shortfall was 56.07 per cent and in 12th Plan also, it was 53.80 per cent. So, the shortfall in NEC and DoNER Budget is a matter of concern. I hope the Ministry of Finance will relook at it.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI NEIPHIU RIO: The NEC Budget Estimates for 2016-17 is Rs.795 crore whereas the requirement is Rs.2000 crore. It is a matter of serious concern. The Northeast is a backward region and I speak on behalf of them. Why is it backward? The simple reason for this is that the CD Ratio in the NorthEast region is only 40 per cent whereas the national average of the same is 70 percent. That is why we are not availing the bank opportunities. Banks are not coming forward to help the entrepreneurs. So, this being a serious issue, I hope the Finance

Minister will look into it and deal with the banks. I also request the hon. Finance Minister to extend the branches of Bharatiya Mahila Bank in the NorthEast region. Thank you.

***ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR (SOUTH GOA):** At the outset, I would like to congratulate the Finance Minister for presenting a very good budget, taking along all sections of the society, at a time when the global economy is in serious crisis. Despite several unfavorable conditions, efforts of the Finance Minister to convert the difficulties and challenges into opportunities deserve highest commendation.

First, I come to the agriculture sector where the allocation for farmers welfare has been increased from Rs. 15,809 crore to Rs. 35,984 crore, setting up a long term irrigation fund with a corpus of Rs. 20,000 crore. A major programme for sustainable management of groundwater resources has been prepared at an estimated cost of Rs. 6,000 crore and provision of Rs. 412 crore has been made for 'Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana' which will bring 5 lakh acres under organic farming over a three year period. Rs. 500 crore under National Food Security Mission has been assigned for enhancement of pulses production. A provision of Rs. 5500 crore has been made for effective implementation of the Crop Insurance Scheme, namely, Prime Minister Fasal Bima Yojana.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Secondly, I would like to mention about the steps taken for the upliftment of the poor people of the society, their health care and housing. In this category, the government will launch a new health protection scheme which will provide health cover up to Rs. 1 lakh per family. For senior citizens of age 60 years and above belonging to this category, an additional top-up to Rs. 30,000 will be provided. 3000 stores under Prime Minister Jan Aushadhi Yojana will be opened during 2016-17 for supply of generic drugs. The Government proposes to start a 'National Dialysis Services Programme' to provide dialysis services in all district hospitals and empower women by giving connections in their names. There is a plan to cover 1.5 crore BPL households in 2016-17 and total 5 crore households across three years. An amount of Rs.2000 crore has been earmarked for the purpose. Further, under Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana, the Government proposes to give 100% deduction for profits to an undertaking from a housing project for flats up to 30 square meters in four metro cities and 60 square meters in other cities, approved during June, 2016 to March, 2019 and is completed with three years of the approval.

Thirdly, for the development of the rural areas, a sum of Rs. 2.87 lakh crore will be given as Grant in Aid to Gram Panchayats and Municipalities as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission. This is a quantum jump of 228% compared to the previous five year period. The funds now allocated, translate to an average assistance of over Rs. 80 lakh per Gram Panchyat and over Rs. 21 crore per Urban Local Body. A sum of Rs. 38,500 crore has been allocated for MGNREGA in 2016-17. Rs. 8,500 crore has been provided for village electrification under Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Gram Jyoti Yojana and Integrated Power Development Schemes. All villages will be electrified by 1st May, 2018. In order to develop governance capabilities of Panchayati Raj Institutions to deliver on the Sustainable Development Goals, Rs. 655 crore has been set apart in 2016-17. Rs. 9000 crore has been provided for Swachh Bharat Mission-India's biggest drive to improve sanitation and cleanliness, especially in rural areas.

My fourth point will cover public spending on infrastructure which has been massively increased to Rs. 2.21 lakh crore, which is 22.5% over the previous year. Aiming to complete construction of 2.23 lakh kms of roads by 2019 instead of 2021, with central

allocation for PMGSY increased to Rs. 19,000 crore, about twice of that in 2012-13. Together with the capital expenditure of the Railways, the total outlay on road and railways will be Rs. 2,18,000 crore in 2016-17. For development of new Greenfield ports, provision of Rs. 800 crore has been made.

My next point will cover education and skill development. 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened in the remaining uncovered districts over the next two years. The Government also proposes to set up a High Education Financial Agency (HEFA) with an initial capital base of Rs. 1000 crore. Rs. 1700 crore has been earmarked for setting up of 1500 Multi Skill Training Institutes across the country.

As far as my home state Goa is concerned, I compliment the Finance Minister for exempting the mining industry from 10% export duty. Mining is an important aspect of the Gaon economy and employs a significant section of the state population. I am sure this exemption will contribute to the economic development of the state.

To conclude, the Budget 2016-17 represents a balance between the commitment of the Prime Minister to the citizens of the country and the commitment of the Finance Minister to financial markets, investors and global credit rating agencies. I am sure, all efforts being

made by the Government in this direction will be crowned with success.

[Translation]

***SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE' (AKBARPUR):** I extend my support to the annual budget for the year 2016-17 presented by our Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley, who is a multi-faceted personality and has the capability and ability to give a concrete shape to the vision of the Prime Minister. Our support is more a manifestation of national thinking and feeling than a verbal expression. Remember the atmosphere of two years ago when there was a strange kind of despair and brokenness in the entire country. Whatever the level of truth is, throughout the country, on every tongue, there was only and only discussion of corruption, plunder, and scams.

There was such an atmosphere in the entire country as if nothing could be done now. Let me clarify that the economic loss caused by the plundering of the previous governments was already hurting the country, but a bigger loss than that was the negativity created in the national thinking and mentality that this country would sink into the quagmire of corruption and fall into such a pit of degradation from which recovery would be very difficult, if not impossible. This

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

mentality was more dangerous because this country belongs to the youth. This is the only country in the world where 65 percent of the population is below 35 years of age. This young generation is not only full of energy, skills, and capabilities, but it also has the desire to contribute something for the country. I would like to know what can be a bigger crime than pushing such a vibrant youth into an atmosphere of frustration and negativity. Our visionary Prime Minister took charge of the country by taking a pledge to change India in an atmosphere of despair. No one has a magic stick, but everyone is feeling the change in the atmosphere of the country from the streets of the village to the corridors of Parliament.It is a known fact that India is a country of villages and the caravan of its development is to move forward through farm barns and trails.Today I am happy to say that giving shape to the intention of the Prime Minister, the Minister of Finance has kept the focus of the budget towards this agenda of Transform India. Apart from all the projects of agriculture and farmers welfare, for the first time work has started on the concept of providing income security to the farmers. For this, a huge budget allocation of Rs. 35984 crore has been kept for doubling the income of farmers by the year 2022.

This is not just an aerial concept, but to bring it to the ground, projects like Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, Soil Health Card Scheme, Paramparagat Krishi Vikas Yojana and Organic Original Chain Development are being set up which will change the picture of the village after landing on the ground.

This series cannot go without mentioning the very revolutionary Pradhan Mantri Krishi Bima Yojana which has given farmers broken by disasters not only the courage to survive, but also the ability to risk being able to undertake new ventures of their welfare.

In addition, ambitious efforts of animal husbandry, fisheries, horticulture and milk production as well as honey production have been initiated with adequate funding. It is very difficult to draw any line of division between agriculture and rural development that is why the entire focus of the budget has been kept on agriculture as well as other parts of the rural economy where Gram Panchayats and Municipalities are being strengthened by giving an amount of 2.78 lakh crores. At the same time, there has been a significant increase in the allocation of employment oriented schemes like MGNREGA with special focus on drought and rural disaster areas.

Contrary to counting the right of this or that sect on the national resources by the people in the highest power of the country in the greed of votes, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has given the slogan here keeping in mind the Antyodaya concept of Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay that the poorest resident has the first right on the resources of the country. ‘‘This thinking of his has given wide support and expansion to the concept of ‘Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas’. Without developing villages and providing employment, education and entertainment, migration to cities cannot be stopped. With this integrated vision, the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan has been started by combining several schemes including electrification of villages, cleanliness there, and expansion of digital literacy. Till 70 years after independence, there has been a lot of talk about social security and welfare, but for the first time, by implementing all-encompassing schemes of insurance and pension, the country has been assured of being safe and secure in true sense. The impurity of food and lifestyle have brought humanity to the brink of such diseases, which are beyond the capacity of the common man to even get them treated. Keeping in mind the problems of such people, special measures have been proposed for the treatment of cancer and kidney diseases. The hollowness of decades old promises of eradicating

poverty has now been exposed to everyone. The misrule and corruption of the previous governments had created conditions to eradicate the poor instead of poverty. In such a situation, a new atmosphere of hope and enthusiasm is visible due to the measures taken by the Minister of Finance for skill development, employment generation and infrastructure development while implementing the vision of the Prime Minister. The situation is no less serious even today, the whole world is going through a severe financial crisis, yet the Indian economy has maintained its strong base. Due to the policies of this government, there is immense trust and hope in India all over the world. Perhaps that is why the International Monetary Fund has named India as a shining beacon in the midst of a slowing global economy.

In the view of the Prime Minister, decentralization of developmental activities and making it inclusive is of great importance. I would like to draw the attention of the Government that the economic, industrial and commercial activities of Kanpur, once called the Manchester of the East, also need to be taken up with new energy and strength so that this mythical city situated on the banks of the Ganges can maintain its dignity and prosperity. Tourism is a major

source of revenue as well as employment and how to deny the importance of Bithoor located next to Kanpur which is known as Brahmavarta in mythological texts. If the Center puts Bithoor on its tourism map and makes development projects, the area can be rejuvenated. Almost the entire area of our Parliamentary Constituency is rural and agricultural where irrigation conditions are very odd. The Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana (PMKSY) has given a new ray of hope to the farmers of the region. Farmers in remote villages of the Yamuna belt have high hopes. They need to be taken into consideration when making plans. It is seen and heard that a major obstacle in the way of industrial development is the unavailability of land. There is a lot of land in the Yamuna belt of Kanpur countryside which needs to be leveled and industrial units need to be set up. I support this Budget with the confidence that the Prime Minister's dream of seeing India developed will bring sharp and revolutionary results in that direction and his resolution of Transform India will be fulfilled.

[English]

***SHRI NALIN KUMAR KATEEL (DAKSHINA KANNADA):** The highest ever allocation for MGNREGA, rural roads and agriculture, new road projects under the extremely-aided project category and the Prime Minister's rural road scheme will really contribute to the development of the country significantly. I hope my state Karnataka would also get a better deal in all these schemes taken up by the NDA government led by Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

I would also mention that increasing allocation for the road sector would help revive the stalled national highway project, which will help the state to complete several incomplete road projects. The state has several national highway proposals pending before the Union Surface Transport Department. Hence, I request the Union Government to take steps to clear all those road projects to ensure balanced development across the state.

I welcome the steps to introduce new projects like a dialysis unit in every district hospital, and Rs.1 lakh health insurance for senior

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

citizens from BPL families could come as a big relief for villagers all across the country.

As per the UN Human Development Index, 2015 India is lagging behind. But the Union Budget presented by the Finance Minister does not show adequate commitment and financial allocation towards it to remove this malady. The United Nations Human Development Report, 2015 has ranked India at 130th position among 188 nations listed in the UN Human Development Index. Among BRICS countries, India is left behind by Russia, Brazil, China and South Africa.

The Budget has announced that 62 more Navodaya Vidyalayas will be opened in the next two years. There are thousands of government schools functioning without proper school building, there is no quality education due to poor infrastructure, lack of teaching faculty in those schools. But there are no indications how millions of government schools will be improved to provide quality school education. Right to Education (RTE) was launched in 2009 with a lot of noble expectations, but the RTE scheme is losing its steam due to half-hearted implementation and lackluster execution.

During XIIth Five Year Plan, it was expected that Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA) will lift our school education and higher education from the current stagnancy and will help our schools, universities and colleges to attain respectable standards.

Another important point I would like to make is - we hardly have any university in the top 500 universities of the world. We have a serious dearth of original research and focus on such areas is forthcoming. Development of world-class teaching institutions is a dire need for the rapidly developing India. In that direction, it is a good step from the Government for enabling a regulatory architecture to provide to 10 public and 10 private institutions to emerge as a world-class teaching institution.

I hope it will help the Higher Education sector which has been sluggish for the past few years and it will get a much-needed stimulus to grow further.

As it is proposed in the Economic Survey, I would also like to suggest that a free market for agriculture with direct transfer of cash should be put in place to replace subsidies for fertilizers, food and the minimum support price be paid to farmers to ensure transparency and

to plug leakage. Such a free market will end all controls on domestic movement and import of food, etc.

As we are all aware that the country's rural sector is reeling under two consecutive droughts. The severe drought has led to widespread distress in many states including Karnataka. The State government of Karnataka has declared drought in 27 out of 30 districts as it received 35 percent deficient rainfall. The Centre has approved Rs.1540 crores. Hence, I request the Union government to direct the state government to utilize the money for drought relief activities at the earliest.

SHRI T. RADHAKRISHNAN (VIRUDHUNAGAR): Hon. Chairman, Sir, *Vanakkam*. I express my gratitude and sincere thanks to our beloved leader Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Puratchi Thalaivi Amma for giving me an opportunity to participate in the Discussion on the General Budget 2016-17.

Our hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has welcomed the emphasis made in this budget on agriculture and rural income. I would like to request the Union Government to allocate the funds for Tamil Nadu as requested by our hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* for providing financial support to lakhs of farmers in Tamil Nadu who have been affected due to the damages and devastations caused by floods.

The hon. Chief Minister, *Puratchi Thalaivi Amma* has asked the hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to release Rs. 25,912.45 crore for relief and restoration works in those parts of the State which were devastated during extremely heavy floods in the first week of December 2015. The Union Government has so far provided Rs.1940 crore only. This is absolutely inadequate considering the heavy damages caused by the floods to the properties and belongings of the people in Tamil Nadu.

Sir, agriculture and agro-based industries are the backbone of our country. Farmers and agro-based allied workers constitute about 60 percent of our total population. Braving the most hostile and difficult problems, the farmers continue to toil hard to fulfill our farm needs. Their service and sacrifices have to be appreciated appropriately in order to keep them engaged continuously in agriculture. Farmers need to be encouraged as much as possible by way of introduction of comprehensive crop insurance schemes, issuance of kisan credit cards to all the farmers in the country and providing them with adequate financial support as well as ensuring to them adequate supply of seeds, fertilizers, insecticides and pesticides, farm equipments etc. Also, farmers should be encouraged by providing them good and reasonable Minimum Support Price for their produce.

In the times of drought or natural calamities like floods, their crops get damaged completely and at such times, the agriculture loans provided to them need to be waived completely. Also, farmers should be given proper compensation for the loss of their crops and it should be done on a war-footing mode. Otherwise, the cash starved farmers may not be in a position to continue practicing agriculture after the damage of their crops due to flood or loss of revenue due to severe

drought conditions.

The Government should focus more on the overall development of agriculture and farming industry to provide a ray of hope to the Indian farmers. Farmers should be provided all the necessary financial, logistic and trade support to do trade on their own and get maximum benefit. The gap between the producer and the end-user, - the farmers and consumers - has to be narrowed. The middleman menace has to be curbed completely so that farmers get decent income for their produce and the consumers should also be made to pay less.

Therefore, I urge upon the Union Government to provide all necessary support to farmers, on the lines our Amma has done, for them to come out of the clutches of drought conditions and flood situations and make their life brighter and wealthier forever.

The hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, *Puratchi Thalaivi* Amma had sought the assistance of the Union Government for implementation of a proposal to divert the flood waters of Cauvery to drought prone areas by linking the rivers Cauvery, Vaigai and Gundar at a cost of Rs. 5,166 crore. This project proposal should be approved quickly.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Member Shri Asaduddin Owaisi, you may start now.

SHRI ASADUDDIN OWAISI (HYDERABAD): Sir, I stand to oppose the Budget over here. At the outset, I would like to reiterate that the one per cent Central Excise Duty, which has been imposed on jewelry, should be taken back immediately. If it is not done, it will lead to destruction of the 2,000-year old industry.

Sir, I would like to quote what has been said by the hon. Finance Minister when he spoke in the Haryana Investment Summit. He said:

> "We must bear in mind that social challenges emerge and one of the principal reasons they emerge is on account of inequalities between communities."

If I put this statement in front of me and see what he has done for the most backward community, it is not good. I say this on the basis of the empirical data which is available. The hon. The Finance Minister has stated that social challenges emerge because of inequalities. But when you have seen his Budget, he is perpetuating social inequalities. How is it that by decreasing the Budget of Pre-Matric Scholarship of minorities of Rs. 109 crore by Rs. 30 crore?

The empirical data tells us that the MHRD in 2014 had commissioned a survey of 640 districts wherein it found that out-of-school children of Muslims are 25 per cent and SCs and STs are 49 per cent. The Kundu Committee says that current attendance of Muslims as compared to other social / religious communities is the lowest in the age group of 6 years and 14 years and also in the age group of 15 years and 19 years. The children who have never attended -- within the age group of 6 years and 14 years -- are again from the Muslim community.

How is it that the Finance Minister has decreased the Budget of Pre-Matric and Post-Matric? He has decreased the Budget of Scheme to Provide Quality Education to Madrassas and Minorities to the tune of Rs. 256 crore. This Budget was there to construct schools for minorities and to modernize the Madrassas so that the Madrassas can get good teachers and you have decreased Rs. 256 crore. He has not only done that, but he has finished the scheme of improvement of State Wakf Boards. Last year, it was Rs. 7 crore, and not a single pie is there. May I request, through you, to the Government that you allow the MPLAD Funds to be used for the development of Wakf Board so that we can develop the Wakf properties and generate income?

Let me also point out about priority sector lending. An RTI Application has come today in a national newspaper, which has clearly told that 15 per cent is earmarked for minorities, but only two per cent Muslims are getting their share in priority sector lending. What is the Government doing? Can the hon. Finance Minister -- when he replies and he is a very eloquent speaker -- please enlighten us as to whether he has taken a single meeting of priority sector lending wherein to ensure that the share of Muslims, within the 15 per cent, increase in priority sector lending?

This is the last year of the Twelfth Five-Year Plan. Only 60 percent of what has been allocated for the Maulana Azad National Fellowship has been given. I do not blame this Government, and the Congress also has to take the blame equally. There is 62 per cent allocation for NMDFC; 79.6 per cent for MsDP; and this year, the hon. The Finance Minister has decreased Rs. 126 crore for the Multi-sectoral Development Plan. How do you realize that development should come up in 60 districts and 110 blocks?

You talk about *sabka saath sabka vikas*. Why has the Finance Minister decreased the Budget of AMU as compared to BHU? Nearly, Rs. 120 crore less you have given to AMU as compared to BHU.

Lastly, an RTI Application has come out about the AYUSH Ministry. Is this the Government policy to say that Muslims will never be given an employment opportunity in AYUSH? An RTI Application has come out and it is so shameful. Is this the policy of the Government? If that is wrong, then let the Government take action against that officer. An RTI Application with a stamp is there.

I conclude by congratulating the Finance Minister for presenting a socialist Budget, which is against their ideology. Thank you, Sir.

*DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH (BARGARH): I thank the Hon. Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley for announcing fresh proposals to shore up the Agriculture sector, which has suffered enormously due to the vagaries of weather and flawed policies in the last two years and seeking to please the common man through concessions to bottom level tax-payers.

BJP led NDA Government had given election manifesto to implement Dr. Swaminathan Committee Report for M.S.P. But unfortunately, the manifesto has not yet been implemented, though the Finance Minister submitted the Budget for the third time. The Farmers are the backbone of our society. They are suffering a lot due to the absence of good marketing facilities. Krishak Bazar should be located in nooks and corners of our country. Steps should be taken for implementation of Dr. Swaminathan committee for M.S.P. at the earliest.

The big pro-farmer measure in the Budget is the Krishi Kalyan Surcharge that will be levied on all taxable services to improve agriculture and overall economy. The Krishi Kalyan cess would cover all services, proceeds of which will be used for financing incentives

* Speech was laid on the Table.

for improvement of agriculture and welfare of farmers. The cess will come into effect from 1st January.

At the same time, there is reduction of duties in project imports for cold rooms, for cold chains, refrigerated containers and a number of other items. It is a welcome step for hike in excise duties from 10 to 15% for cigarettes, tobacco products and luxury cars, while solar lamps and footwears will cost less. The unexpected amnesty scheme for the Black Money amounts to an admission that the Government is not able to unearth Black Money in India on a significant scale, despite the huge powers it has assumed under the Income Tax Act, 1961.

Noted Lawyer Palkiwala observed "Amnesty Scheme results in transfer of resources from the honest rich to the dishonest rich"

It is not clear why Section 80C of the IT Act has been amended to place a cap of Rs. 1.5 lakh on the tax exempted amount contributed by an employer to an employees' Provident Fund. More importantly, why 60% of all pensions and P.F. withdrawals of Salaried sections be taxed?

In spite of expenditure on Public Health at a mere 1.2% of GDP, there is no mention of increase in public health spending in the Union

Budget. However, the Finance Minister outlined certain reforms in regard to new health projections and health cover schemes.

Rs. 1 lakh per family coverage shall not be enough to take care of cardiac emergency and poly trauma though.

Creation of dialysis centers in the hospitals will keep tackling rising chronic cases of rural families, but it has to be ensured that the facilities are well maintained and functional always. The start of drug stores is concerned , it should be ensured that the generic medicines are tested and of the best quality.

Regarding Budgetary allocation in education, there is a mismatch when it comes to allocation. Overall the hike of Rs. 48,68 crore over the revised estimate of Rs. 67,586 crore. A big programme like SSA has a meager hike in the mid-day meal scheme allocation.

Already, SSA and MDM are floundering on quality issues and safety, despite devolution of funds have failed to prioritize education.

Similarly, RMSA and RVSA, both parts of the 12th Five Year plan, found no mention in the Budget.

Lastly, I would like to urge upon the Union Government to provide Special Category Status to my State, Odisha as demanded by our Hon. Chief Minister, Odisha Shri Naveen Patnaik.

[Translation]

SHRIMATI SANTOSH AHLAWAT (JHUNJHUNU): Hon. Chairperson Sir, I would like to thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak thanks on the General Budget for the year 2016-2017. First of all, I would like to thank Hon. Prime Minister, Hon. Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Saheb and Jayant Sinha Saheb, who has made a wonderful budget for the first time. This budget has been appreciated by the farmers on the grass root, by the common man, where women have been respected, where educated youth have been cared for.

Chairperson Sir, the whole country knows the circumstances that we inherited. This Bhagirathi effort has been made by Shri Jaitley to revive the faltering economy. This is the third general budget presented by him, in which his scholarship and determination are clearly visible. Hon. Chairman Sir, seems he is saying -

"The sky insists on striking lightning here,

yet we too are resolved to build our dwelling right here."

It seems like the whole environment of the country... *(Interruptions)* If you have stomach pain, there is no cure for it, but the general public says that for the first time in the Parliament of India

that budget has been presented, who has tried to improve everything from agriculture to trade and the economic system of the country, the whole of India salutes him. In the budget presented by Jaitley ji, efforts have been made for the betterment of farmers. In this budget, effective steps have been taken to improve the direction and condition of the village. I am confident that the provisions of the budget will further increase the economic growth rate of the country. Actually, the budget of 2016-2017 has been made on nine different issues. This budget is based on agriculture and farmers welfare, rural areas, health care, education, social sector of skills and employment generation, infrastructure, disinvestment, financial reforms, ease of governance and business, fiscal discipline and tax reforms, in itself is a fantastic budget. In the budget, 28.5 lakh hectares of land has been brought under irrigation. Till now, due to lack of irrigation farmers had to suffer a lot. Now if there will be a system of irrigation then definitely the life of the farmer will be happy. When there is prosperity in the village, the country will automatically move forward on the path of development:.... *(Interruptions)*

I had a lot to say but again: Expressing my gratitude to you, I would like to say one thing to my friends in the opposition --

“At times a lamp is extinguished for want of oil;

it is not always the winds that are to blame.”

Thank you.

***DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD):** The government of our illustrious Prime Minister has not completed its two-year term but the way the country has developed and achieved many achievements.

I thank our Government Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji for this year's General Budget. This is the budget of the poor, farmers and villages. I remember that in the history of India, there has probably never been a budget that talks about the village economy, agriculture and the poor in this way. Considering the challenges of this government, the government has presented an excellent budget for the poor and the villages despite the huge additional fiscal burden due to the risks of increasing global recession, the recommendations of the 7th Pay Forum and One Rank One Pension. In this budget, Rs 35,984 crore has been allocated for the welfare of farmers.

"Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana" should be implemented in mission mode and 28.5 lakh hectares of land should be brought under irrigation. Under IBP, 89 irrigation schemes which have been incomplete will be implemented expeditiously.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

A long - term irrigation fund will be created in NABARD at an initial cost of about Rs 20,000 crore.

14 crore sectors should be included from the budget of the Soil Health Card scheme.

Fertilizer will be provided through 2000 new fertilizer retail centers and ensure that urea reaches farmers through neem coated urea.

And through genetic farming, the lifeless games due to fireworks use of fertilizers will be rejuvenated. Organic farming will be promoted due to the " Project Agricultural Development Scheme.

The allocation under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana will be increased to Rs.19,000 crore and the remaining 65000 villages will be connected by road by 2019. An allocation of Rs 5500 crore will be made under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana.

The inflow of farmers will be doubled in the next five years.

Through the White Revolution, some production was increased due to four string projects, for which a provision of Rs 850 crore has

been made. Sir, an allocation of Rs. 87,700 crore will be made for rural development, due to which every village will be provided Rs 80 lakh for development. Nearly Rs. 21 crore will be allocated to each municipality. The highest ever allocation of Rs. 38,500 crore has been made for MGNREGA.Hundred percent villages will be electrified by 1st may, 2018.

The e-platform will be made available to the farmer on the birth anniversary of Babasaheb Ambedkar by 14th april, 2016 for the right price for his farm produce. Sir, other provisions have been made in health in this budget. An allocation of Rs. 1,51,881 crore has been made in the budget for health and education. Under the new health protection scheme, every family will be provided health protection up to one lakh rupees. Senior citizens will also get an additional top - up package of up to Rs. 30000.

Under the National Health Mission, the National Dialysis Service Programme will be conducted in every district hospital. In the year 201617, additional 3000 stores will be opened under “Jan Aushadhi Yojana” in which medicines will be available at 40% lower price.

The Hub will be created with the participation of SC & ST Industry Associations and the Stand Up India Scheme will benefit at least 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs to make at least two projects in each bank branch a success.

A provision of Rs. 2000 crore has been made to provide LPG connection to every BPL household in the country.

The budget aims to generate employment under skill development. The construction of National Highways has accelerated and the government has done excellent work in all sectors including infrastructure and energy. A new India will be built under the leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. I support this financial plan.

[English]

[*]**SHRIMATI PRATIMA MONDAL (JAYANAGAR):** India has a serious problem. Indian farmers are continuing to take their own lives as monsoon failed in certain parts of India for the second straight year in a row. Parts of Maharashtra, A.P., Telangana and Odisha have been severely affected on account of poor monsoon and this has led to a continuing spate in farmer suicides.

While monsoon failure tops the list, lack of state investment in water conservation and management has only added to the problem. Adding to this has been lack of soil health management and monitoring, improper seed selection and timely distribution, lack of adequate crop insurance, and timely disbursal of insurance relief, which have all contributed to the overall distress faced by farmers. Maharashtra can lay claim to many records that point to positive achievement, but it also has the dubious distinction of witnessing 3,228 farmers committing suicide in 2015, the highest since 2001.

As per Union Agriculture Minister, Maharashtra Government has responded by identifying 1,841 cases of the 3,228 farmers

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[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

committing suicide, as being eligible for ex-gratia payments, 903 cases were classified as ineligible and 484 cases were still under enquiry process. The Minister stated that Rs.1 lakh had been paid as immediate relief to 1,818 families of farmers that committed suicide.

Each year, larger sums are allocated to the farming sector but farmer suicides have continued to increase. The obvious conclusion is that benefits are not reaching the section of farmers that need maximum support.

Therefore, unless the government takes up the focus on small and marginal farmers and ensures that maximum benefits are allocated to them, mere budgetary provisioning will not work. In Maharashtra, most of the funds that were allocated for building catch dams have either turned into white elephants or the benefits have been cornered by certain large farmers with strong political affiliations.

The present crisis in Maharashtra could well have been avoided if proper fund allocation, management and monitoring would have been followed in the past 15 years. If Arun Jaitley, along with the Union Agriculture Minister, fails to break this vicious cycle, farmer suicides will continue unabated. Can a country that gave the call 'Jai Jawan -Jai Kisan' really afford that.

SHRI N. KRISTAPPA (HINDUPUR): Since I am going to speak in Telugu, I would request the hon. Minister of Finance and the hon. Minister of State for Finance to listen to the translation.

*Sir, today people of this country are happy about this New Budget. I am happy to note that concerns of farmers and people living in rural areas were taken care of in this budget. Though this Budget is good, there are some issues and demands which were neglected and I would like to bring to your notice those issues. Hon. Speaker, I would like to know from the Government why the long pending demand to confer Special Status to Andhra Pradesh has been ignored. Madam, at the time of bifurcation of Andhra Pradesh, the party in power promised Special Status to Andhra Pradesh for 5 years, whereas the party in opposition demanded that status for 10 years. Though the state was not bifurcated in a scientific manner, I was happy that there will be some relief for Andhra Pradesh. This is the third Budget of this Government and I am disappointed that provisions of the bifurcation act could not be fulfilled by this Government. Whenever Central Ministers visited Andhra Pradesh they said that there is a need for political resolution.

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* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Telugu.

18.18 hours (Hon. Speaker *in the Chair*)

In spite of having a narrow majority, the UPA Government bifurcated Andhra Pradesh in an unscientific manner with the help of political resolution. Today even after having an absolute majority, why is the NDA Government hesitating to confer Special Status to the State of Andhra Pradesh.

Madam, I just started my speech. Hon. Prime Minister announced Rs. 1 lakh crores Special package to Bihar. We have no objection as Bihar is a backward state. Similarly, Rs. 60,000 crores Special Package was announced for J&K. As a special consideration, we welcome that move as well. The Hon. Prime Minister brought holy soil from Parliament and Ganga water for the proposed Capital City of Andhra Pradesh. People of Andhra Pradesh eagerly waited for a favorable announcement from the Prime Minister. 5 Crores people of Andhra Pradesh were glued to their Television sets for the most awaited announcement. But nothing was announced.

Therefore, I request the Union Government to protect Andhra Pradesh by conferring Special Status and help our State in its rebuilding. One more minute madam. I am happy about the Government's concern for rural areas. There is an assurance to

improve income in rural areas, which is a commendable resolution. There are regions like Anantapur, which are frequently affected by drought. Shri Arun Jaitley visited this place during inauguration of Customs and Excise Academy and assured that he will consider problems of drinking water and drought in Anantapur. I demand the Finance Minister to consider these problems and do justice to our region.

***SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJANAGAR):** I thank the hon. Finance Minister for presenting the budget this year and applaud the NDA government's delayed yet much appreciated acknowledgement of the importance of Aadhaar card and MGNREGA schemes introduced by UPA.

Even though the NDA government has claimed that this year's budget is pro-farmer and promised doubling of farmer's annual income by 2022, the budget acutely falls short of a plan for the same. Keeping in mind the drought situation, allocation towards MGNREGA could have been enhanced thereby creating job opportunities to support livelihood. This is when there has been a decline in the number of households under MGNREGA, person-days of employment generated and average days of employment. The total number of families that asked for employment last year was 1,95,13,989 while only 86,75,141 jobs were made available. By December last year, 95% of the budget allocated for 2015-16 was already spent, which meant an additional fund of Rs.6300 crore was still required to run MGNREGA till March this year. Only Rs.2000 crore was assigned. There was not a word in the budget about the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

minimum support price for farmers. There has been 26 per cent increase in farmers' suicide since NDA took power.

The allocation made towards the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare has seen a constant decline under the NDA Government. If you compare the figures released by the government, under the UPA government the budgetary allocation increased every year, Rs. 25,338 crore in 2012-13, Rs. 27,049 crore in 2013-14, Rs. 28,198 crore in 2014-15. This trend was reversed when the NDA government took power with an allocation of Rs. 21,828 crore in 2015-16. Now they claim to be increasing allocation for farmers, but in fact the allocation of Rs. 25,700 this year is much lower than that under the UPA. The budget has set aside a negligible amount of Rs. 1,377 crore for Accelerated Irrigation Benefit Programme (AIBP). My State Karnataka won't get more than Rs. 100-150 crore out of this fund when there is dire need for it. The budget has slapped a 9.36 per cent duty on import of raw cashew, which has affected a lot of cashew processors in different states including Karnataka. Raw cashew nut imports had been so far exempted from import duty on grounds that the cashew industry was providing employment to about 7 lakh women and is the second largest industry in the country providing

employment to rural women, after the tea industry. Sericulture farmers across the nation, particularly in my state, Karnataka, which happens to be India's leading raw silk producing State, are disappointed over the Union Budget's failure to increase the customs duty on import of raw silk. The customs duty on imported silk, which used to be around 30 per cent a couple of years ago to ensure that the price of indigenously produced silk remained competitive in the market, had been brought down to 10 per cent, affecting a larger number of sericulture farmers. At reduced import duty, the superior quality Chinese silk is available at low rates, which pushes indigenously produced silk's price further down.

Funding for the Integrated Child Development Service Programme has been reduced from Rs.16,361 crore in 2014-15 to Rs. 13,888 crore in 2016-17. The figure of Rs. 71,139 crore allocated towards education constitutes only 3.7 per cent of the GDP, a fall of one percent from last year. The Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan (RMSA) and the Rashtriya Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (RUSA), both part of the 12th Five Year Plan, found no mention in the budget. Over the last two years, there has been a net effect of 7% reduction since there was a 10 per cent cut last year in planned outlay

from Rs. 43,517.9 crore in 2014-15 budget estimates to Rs. 39,038.5 crore in 2015-16 in the primary education sector. This is when the Economic Survey has pointed out that there is a decline in the percentage of enrolment in government schools in rural areas, from 72.9 percent in 2007 to 63.1 per cent in 2014. NITI Ayog had recommended Skill Development for students in Madrasas which does not find mention in the National Education Mission announced.

The provision of Scheduled Castes Sub-Plan and Tribal Sub-Plan has been violated in the NDA-II budget. As per the provision, out of the total budget of Rs. 19.78 lakh crore, there should be 16.8 per cent for Scheduled Castes and 8.8 per cent for Scheduled Tribes, as per their total population, allocated under SCSP and TSP. But only Rs. 38,833 crore for SCSP and Rs. 24,005 crore for TSP have been allocated. A total amount of Rs. 75,764 crore has been denied by violating the provision.

There is lack of clarity on the government's promise of ensuring accessible and affordable healthcare by opening 3000 stores under PM Jan Aushadi Yojana since only last month the Central Board of Excise and Customs issued a notice withdrawing customs exemptions on 76 life-saving drugs, including those used in the treatment of diabetes,

cancer, HIV etc. The government also intended to withdraw customs concessions meaning a tax of up to 22% on the imports of healthcare products.

Required amount to tackle the problem of Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) in public banks is Rs. 4 lakh crore, but the government has allocated only Rs. 25,000 crore. The Budget has also made a meager provision for strategic petroleum reserves for maintaining reserved oil stocks. This year's budgetary allocation of Rs. 3 crore is insufficient compared to last year's allocation of Rs. 1200 crore. Lower oil prices and the government's announcement on building reserves needed a greater budgetary allocation. There has been a severe slump in exports in the last 15 years but exports were largely ignored in the budget. The government has been constantly adding on to the indirect taxes that consumers have to pay. Last year, the service tax was increased from 12.36% to 14.5% which included a 0.5% cess towards Swachh Bharat. This year a 0.5% of Krishi Kalyan cess has been added, taking it to 15%. This means increase in prices for mobile phone bills, insurance, restaurant bills, air travel, etc. Airfares are likely to go up as the Centre announced an increase in the excise duty on aviation fuel, up from eight percent.

The Budget this year seems inadequate and has missed out on addressing a lot of issues that are currently troubling the country. The NDA government really needs to start focusing more on delivering on their promises to the farmers instead of merely changing the names of schemes and Ministries. They have been elected to power for action and not rhetoric. The UPA government has provided them with an effective tool in the form of MGNREGA that they should implement diligently and without hesitation. They need to follow the policy of farmer and consumer first.

[Translation]

***DR. MANOJ RAJORIA (KARAULI-DHOLPUR):** First of all I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for taking care of the farmers and the poor in the budget. Along with this has also taken care of our Rajasthan. Whether it is Navodaya Vidyalaya, PM Gram Sadak Yojana, e-portal scheme for farmers or provision of special amount to the Panchayat, dialysis facility in the hospital, Jan Aushadhi scheme, the country will get the benefit of all and Rajasthan will also get it. I request the Hon. Finance Minister and the Prime Minister to give a special economic package for drinking and irrigation water in Rajasthan, Karauli, Dholpur.

Every state has been taken care of in this budget and it has been proved by the budget that the government has given a wise budget. Talking about rural development, the government has given more than 87 thousand crore rupees to the villages. Adequate budgetary allocation should be made for the Chambal Lift Project in my parliamentary constituency Karauli-Dholpur so that people can get irrigation and drinking water.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

I would like to emphasize some special points that this is the first time that this government has given a separate priority to farmer welfare and this time it has allocated more than Rs 35 thousand crore. 10 lakh compost pits for organic manure under MGNREGA,this automatically brings the attention of both MGNREGA scheme and soil health. On the other hand, giving priority to organic farming automatically brings attention to the health of the people.

The government is not only planning upliftment for Dalits, but is fast moving towards their advancement by putting it into practice. 500 crore given for start ups for SC, ST and women in collaboration with Dalit Chamber of Commerce. A hub has also been created for professional support. This scheme will bring unprecedented improvement in the condition of Dalits. Under Startup India, the lending scope of all banks will be expanded and easy loans will be provided to SC, ST and women entrepreneurs. At the same time, it will be mandatory for every bank branch to give loans to at least two micro enterprises. The Government of India has also said that it will provide funds of up to Rs. 10,000 crore from the Small Industries Development Bank. Through this fund, Dalits and women entrepreneurs will be helped.

Today everyone needs to buy a house. The government has given a compensation of Rs. 50 thousand in interest if a loan of Rs. 35 lakh is taken on a house worth Rs. 50 lakh. The government will pay EFF on its behalf for 3 years to new job seekers, when it comes to tax on withdrawal of EPF, the Finance Ministry has made its stand clear on it. For small taxpayers the exemption under 87A has been increased from 2 thousand to 5 thousand. People living in rented houses have been given a lot of facilities. This budget has brought tremendous potential in terms of jobs, the government has given Rs. 1804 crore for skill development. Model career centers will be opened. It is estimated that by giving three years exemption to start-ups, employment of 10 thousand rupees will be generated, when 100 percent FDI comes in food processing, about 1.5 lakh jobs will be generated, about 30 thousand new employment opportunities are estimated from the four projects of dairy sector worth Rs 850 crore, Pashudhan Sanjivani, Nakul Swasthya Patra, E Pashudhan Haat and National Indigenous Breed Genomic Center. 2000 Model retail outlets will open for fertilizer companies, soil testing schemes will bring many jobs. Similarly, there was no benefit from the opening of shops on all seven days, giving exemption from service tax to affordable housing will also increase jobs.

Now talking about black money, the government has brought a scheme with a penalty of 45 percent under the Income Disclosure Scheme. This will help in curbing black money. One thing I would like to mention is that one of my friends said that now they do not have to pay under the table money to buy a house, so the price of the house has also come down. A house which was available for Rs. 18 lakh three years ago is costing Rs. 15 lakh today. So in such a situation, the genuine buyer gets Rs. 3 lakhs saved in his account. That means Rs. 3 lakh automatically came into the account. I would like to draw attention to one biggest scheme. 3 thousand Jan Aushadhi stores will be opened. This will meet the need for affordable medicines and will be of great help to the poor. I think every person who will associate with this scheme will give heartfelt prayers to the government.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Speaker Madam, the Prime Minister gave a lot of publicity about the Make in India scheme, it also got a lot of publicity. Surprisingly, in this budget, one percent excise duty has been increased on goldsmiths who are traders of gold. They are protesting all over the country. Gold jewelry is 100 percent made in India, Make in India has been affected by this and protests are taking place everywhere. When Hon. Narendra Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat, the Congress had imposed tax at that time, he had tweeted that it is a cruelty and the Government should roll back this tax. Now that step while being the Chief Minister is a cruelty and how does that step become right after becoming the Prime Minister. I want the answer to it through you.

The Prime Minister said that he will neither let others eat nor will he eat. Recently, we are seeing in the newspapers that our entrepreneurs, who are members of the Rajya Sabha, are running away from the country with nine thousand crore rupees. Even before this, Lalit Modi Gate had happened. Cess has been imposed on everything. Cess has been imposed on the Swachh Bharat scheme of the Prime Minister. This is a sign of a lazy government when you don't know the priority of where to spend money. Under the ideal village, we were

told to adopt a village. For everything they ask to work through MPLAD. Five crore rupees for one village and MPLAD is there for everything. If you invest Rs. 25 crore in MPLAD then we will be able to do something. This is the first time in the country's history that nothing has been said about defense. The soldiers of our country lack bulletproof jackets, there is nothing for it. When the attack took place in Pathankot, the Army demanded six crore thirty five lakh rupees from the Punjab government in exchange for sending the paramilitary. Is Punjab not considered a part of the country? Punjab is also a part of the country and is famous for its sacrifices. Such steps should be withdrawn.

***SHRI SHARAD TRIPATHI (SAINT KABIR NAGAR):** Commenting and finding faults on the working of the government is a natural tradition of the opposition. The basic basis of this tradition is public interest. But it is being seen that the opposition is wasting its arrows on a particular individual rather than focusing on the performance of the government. The Opposition, turning a blind eye to public interest and based on its own self-interest and frustration, is bringing up such issues for discussion that are distracting Parliament from the main topic. Instead of discussing the achievements of the budget, its merits and demerits, he is showing his skill on the half-baked statements, videos appearing in the media and the free activities on social media. Avoiding debate, trying to get one's point across, raising absurd questions, not listening to the answers, looking for excuses to boycott - this seems to be the tactics and character of the opposition. They have nothing to do with the country or society. They have nothing to do with the values of life, they have no issues of public interest, purity and cleanliness are not their subject, if we talk about India, Indianness and cultural values then their secular soul groans, in the name of expression they are advocates of unrestrained and

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

valueless freedom. Their birthright is to resist the government in every possible way.

They did not find anything interesting in the government budget and the railway budget. There are many things in the budget 2016 that we will get to see soon within this year. Agriculture and rural infrastructure, Aadhaar, MGNREGA are the fundamentals. The plan is to double the income of rural areas in the next six years and electrify every village by the year 2018. Rs. 38,500 crore is the highest amount ever given to MNREGA. 19 thousand crore rupees for Pradhan Mantri Sadak Yojana. Rs. 87,765 crore has been allocated for rural development. This budget focuses on rural development and poverty alleviation. The government has made the biggest investment in this sector. Hopefully, this will boost the economy.

If we look at this year's railway budget, then a total investment of Rs. 2.18 lakh crore has been announced in the budget on railways and road transport. There is a provision of 97 thousand crore rupees in this financial year for roads. An extension of 10 thousand kilometers of National Highway is planned. Parallel to this, about 50 thousand kilometers of state highways will also be expanded. This programme will not only pave the way for future business activities

but will also open up employment opportunities in the rural areas. Along with economic activities in rural areas, the government also plans to invest money for digital literacy. In his Budget speech, the Minister of Finance said that we plan to launch a Digital Literacy Mission for Rural India to cover about six crore additional families in the next three years.

In the budget, foreign investment in insurance, pension and stock market has been further liberalized. The announcement of hundred percent FDI in the food processing industry will benefit both the city and the village. Farmers growing fruits and vegetables in rural areas will get a new market through this. FDI in the country has increased by 40 percent in the current financial year. Similarly, an initiative has been taken to open the markets every seven days. For this, the cooperation of the state government will be required. If the state governments implement it properly, employment will increase and business will also increase.

The government plans to skill one crore youth in the next three years. For this, 15000 multi-skill training institutes will be opened. There is also a plan to open 62 Navodaya Vidyalayas in the next two years. 3000 shops of cheap medicines will be opened. It is a relief

scheme for both the poor in urban and rural areas. Similarly, an amount of Rs. 2,000 crore has been allocated for cooking gas for the poor which will improve the lives of both urban and rural poor. Although no change has been made in the income tax slabs, small taxpayers have got some relief. Those with annual income up to five lakh rupees have got an additional exemption of Rs. 3 thousand. Along with this, the house allowance for income tax exemption has been increased from Rs. 24 thousand to Rs. 60 thousand. To promote affordable housing, for the first time, a discount of Rs. 50 thousand will be given on purchasing a house worth up to Rs. 50 lakh. On the other hand, surcharge has been increased on people with an income of one crore rupees.

The government is trying to make the life of the people easy and simple through all its efforts, but it is not true that the government alone is all-powerful. The government aspires for cooperation from all parties, state governments and the public. Healthy criticism is welcome. I want to pray that although we all have been elected from our respective parties, the people who have elected us have sent us here with the responsibility to create a better system for public welfare. Not for party politics. There are other platforms for party

politics. After all, the ticket to reach here is issued to all of us by the court of the public.

[English]

***DR. J. JAYAVARDHAN (CHENNAI SOUTH):** The Finance Budget for the year 2016-17 presented to the August House by the Hon. Finance Minister is during a time when the global economy is facing a serious crisis. Global growth has slowed down from 3.4% in 2014 to 3.1% in 2015. Financial markets have been battered and global trade has contracted.

The Government in the financial sector needs to focus on key areas, those are (1) fiscal consolidation (2) Job creation (3) Increasing saving of the Government (4) inflation control (5) improving the investor climate for a favorable growth in economy. Here at this juncture, I would like to appreciate the initiative taken to give unliftment to the agriculture and the rural sector. Several schemes which were announced by the Hon. Finance Minister were perhaps the replica of the policies and schemes initiated by our Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchi Thalaivi Amma.

The launch of National Rural Digital Literacy Mission is a recognition of the pioneering role that our Hon. Chief Minister had

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

played in implementing the free laptop scheme for school and college students which was a mammoth effort taken to bridge the digital divide which the Government of India has recognized now. The Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadi Yojana, under which 300 new medical stores are to opened for selling generic medicines at low cost is perhaps the replica of the Amma Marunthagam Scheme launched by our leader Puratchi Thalaivai Amma to provide low cost affordable medicine to the poor. The launch of a new health protection scheme to provide insurance cover for poor families who require hospitalization is a welcome. This scheme is very similar to the Chief Minister's Comprehensive health insurance scheme launched by our Hon. Chief Minister. Our leader had requested that the health scheme of the Government of India should act in convergence with the Tamil Nadu health Insurance Scheme, which will enable smoother roll out of the Central Scheme in Tamil Nadu and reduce overlap and administrative burden.

In a Federal system of Governance, the State Governments are dependent on the funds due to the States from the Union Government. The delay in release of funds from the Union Government for the expenditure incurred by the States leads to backlogs in the

developmental pathway and poses a threat to the financial stability of the States. I would like to point out in the Budget discussion, a number of schemes for which the Union Government share of funds is yet to be released and year after year the arrears have piled up. The Union Government needs to take cognizance of this matter and act immediately to dispense the funds immediately for the key infrastructural projects of the State.

There is a huge pending amount to be released to the Government of Tamil Nadu under the grants for flood protection works, command area development and water management programme, performance grant under the 13th Finance Commission. With regards to Education, Central assistance from the Ministry of Human Resource Development which is pending under the SSA programme, Right to Education compensation, Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan. Several major grants in Aid due from Government of India are 13th Finance Commission grants for Roadside Bridges Maintenance, slum improvement, coastal protection, renewable energy, grants for post matric scholarship for SC students, statistical strengthening project, comprehensive handloom development programme, revamped Central Road Fund, family welfare programme Modernisation of

police force, Central support for desalination plants. With a huge list of projects for which the State Government has incurred expenditure and the Union Government mindset of not releasing the funds at appropriate and scheduled time period has caused a substantial financial burden on the Tamil Nadu State. The Union Government should take effective steps to release the funds within the stipulated period to the States for faster growth of our economy.

I would also like to bring to the notice of the House a number of projects for which the Government of Tamil Nadu has been repeatedly asking the Union Government for its investment, which the Central support for desalination plants namely 150 MCD SWRO desalination plant at Nemmeli (!) 400 MCD SWRO desalination plant at Perur near Chennai (3) Desalination plants at Ramanathapuram and tuticorin. Other major projects include Extension of corridor I of Chennai Metro Rail project upto Thiruvattriyr and Wimconagar, Chennai Metro Rail Project – Implementation of phase –III corridors. Massive investment from the Union Government in Tamil Nadu’s urban infrastructure to meet the housing requirement of the urban slums.

I would like to mention here that even in the President's speech it was mentioned about the unprecedented foods that submerged

Chennai in December, 2014 which brought untold sufferings and economic loss. Even after using the words like unprecedented and untold sufferings and loss in the Presidential address, there is not a single word or a sign of action to be taken by the Government of India in the Budget speech by the Finance Minister for releasing matching financial compensation much expected from the Centre. The Centre has released less than Rs. 2000 crores when the Government of Tamil Nadu is asking for Rs. 25,000 crores. That great natural disaster was taken note of even in the Climate Summit held in Paris at that point of time, but the Centre has not taken note of the tragedy and its foremost responsibility of releasing the fund that it should have released to allay the untold suffering by the recent floods. The Union Government should immediately release the requested amount to the Tamil Nadu Government

The Government of India has announced a Blue revolution with the Central outlay of Rs. 3000 crores. It is to be mentioned here that our leader Hon. Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has repeatedly asked the Union Government through memorandum and several letters addressed to the Hon. Prime Minister with regard to a comprehensive special package for diversification of fisheries involving a grant of Rs

1520 crores from the Centre under various schemes such as (1) Diversification of bottom travelers into deep seat tuna long lines. (2) Assistance for Mid-Sea fish procession park (3) Reimbursement of Central Excise Duty on high speed for mechanized boats (4) Motorisation of traditional crafts (5) creation of infrastructural facilities for deep sea fishing (6) dredging of fishing harbors and bar mouths. Thereby the entire comprehensive special package of Rs. 1520 crores and a grant of Rs. 10 crores per annum for maintenance dredging is sought from the Centre which is pending.

It is necessary that agriculture needs to be of utmost importance in our Country where the length and breadth of our country is covered with agricultural land. The long awaited inter-linking of Rivers of India should be commenced at once for effective irrigation of our agricultural lands. It is necessary to mention here the long pending request by the Government of Tamil Nadu for Central assistance with regard to Inter-linking of rivers within the State and for modernization of Cauvery scheme which is pending with the Government of India.

It is to be mentioned here that the Finance Ministry has cut funds for several Ministries such as the Ministry of Minority Affairs, Ministry of Women and Child Development, and further for fertilizer

subsidies, Nirbhaya fund, National afforestation programme. Certain sectors which are of utmost importance should be compromised by the Centre and hence the center should rectify the mistakes and allocate additional funds under the various Ministries which have suffered from budgetary cuts.

Thank you.

[Translation]

***SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ):** After independence, the highest budget expenditure of Rs. 19 lakh 78 thousand 60 crore has been decided which is 10.8% more than last year. This time Shri Modi ji's government has made the budget farmer-oriented and has allocated a maximum amount of money for infrastructure in rural areas. On one hand the world is battling the global recession, despite this India has achieved the target of significant growth in GDP. When the BJP and NDA government was formed, India's growth rate was below 5% and today this government has not even completed two years yet the government has achieved the target of 7.6% growth rate. At the time of formation of the Government, the inflation (CPI) average had reached a high of 9.4% in three years but it is a matter of satisfaction today that the inflation rate has come down to below 5.4% due to which our Government has provided relief from inflation to all sections of the country while in the last three years there has been 13% less rainfall as compared to the average rainfall due to which farmers are facing a serious crisis due to drought. Despite this, to improve the condition of farmers, it has been

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

decided to increase the irrigation capacity in 28.5 lakh hectares of the country because the Prime Minister himself believes that this time the budget is not for the government but is a test of the Modi government in front of the people of the country.

Therefore, our government thoughtfully prepared the budget to fulfill the expectations of the people. Measures were taken to improve the economic condition of the common people. As a result, the budget for agriculture and rural areas has been increased significantly. The government is determined to double the income of farmers by the year 2022 and hence the Prime Minister has set a target of Rs. 5,500 crore for the Kisan Fasal Bima Yojana. The outlay for the crop insurance scheme has been determined to compensate the farmers for their loss in case their hard-earned produce is affected by a natural calamity. In case of crop loss, the money will be directly transferred to the bank accounts of the farmers. To prevent migration of villages, it has been decided to provide employment in the village itself. On one hand, an outlay of Rs 38,500 crore has been fixed for MNREGA on the basis of priority of village development. Under MNREGA, an increase in outlay compared to last year has been made and an amount of Rs. 9,000 crore has been set aside only for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan.

Our government has not only taken votes for development, but expenditure has been fixed under different heads to bring development into reality. An outlay of Rs. 87,765 crore has been fixed for infrastructure in the rural areas of the country so that farmers can get the benefit of irrigation. A target has been set to complete electrification of every village and house in all rural areas of the country by the year 2018.

A provision of Rs. 20,000 crore has been made for an irrigation fund from NABARD for irrigation of farmers of the country. For the first time, a provision of Rs. 412 crore has been made to encourage farmers for organic farming. A provision of Rs. 19000 crore has been made for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana for the transportation of rural areas of the country. There will be an outlay of Rs. 27,000 crore with the cooperation of the states.

A target of Rs. 9 lakh crore has been set for crop credit to farmers to increase crop production. The Prime Minister is determined to achieve the target of making every village in the country hundred percent smoke free. From April, 2016 the Oil Ministry has decided to launch a scheme named Ujjwala for people living below the poverty line in which free gas connections will be given to the people living

below the poverty line. Prime Minister Shri Modi said that the women of the country inhale smoke equivalent to 400 cigarettes while cooking at one time.

This time an outlay of Rs. 2 lakh 18000 crore has been fixed for the development of railways and roads. For the first time, it has been decided to open 1500 Multi Task Skill Training Centres to enable rural youth to study and to establish health authorities. The BJP government worked to control the fiscal deficit from 3.9% last year to 3.5%. For the first time, by focusing the maximum attention of the budget on agriculture and farmers, the government has made a provision of Rs. 35,984 crore in this year's budget for the welfare schemes of the farmers of India. According to the report of the 14th Finance Commission, the Government of India has decided to provide an outlay of Rs. 2.87 lakh crore to Gram Panchayats and Municipal Corporations. For the first time, it has been decided to provide an agricultural market to the farmers of the country through e-platform. Currently, as on 1st April, 2015, 18,542 villages have been electrified. In future, 1.5 crore families in the country will be given connections in the name of women of each household in the next one year, for which the Government of India has made a provision of Rs 2000

crore. After the implementation of Right to Education in India, 62 new Navodaya Vidyalaya will be opened in this year's budget and in the remaining districts, they will be opened in the next two years. Similarly, a decision has been taken to make ten educational institutions world class. A fund of Rs. 1000 crore has been set up under HIFA. Two crore people of the country have been given tax relief. Relief of Rs. 2000 to Rs. 3000 has been provided under Section 87A. For the first time, the Union Government has implemented a health protection scheme under which each family will be given assistance of Rs 1 lakh for health.

I also support the Budget for the year 2016-17 presented by the Minister of Finance. This budget will be beneficial for the country.

[English]

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): Madam Speaker, I thank you for allowing me to participate in the General Budget. I support the Budget. The Prime Minister has indeed staked his own standing on the Budget by calling it his personal test. So far, I think, he has done rather well.

The world is going through some very difficult times. Under the circumstances, because of the NPAs, there has been a huge problem in trying to balance this particular Budget. Therefore, under the circumstances, I think, the Budget has come through as both pro-poor and progressive.

But, what is affecting the States and especially the small States like Sikkim is that in the new financial architecture, we are in a transition period. I want to bring it to the notice of the hon. Finance Minister because the hon. Chief Minister Shri Pawan Chamling has already brought to his notice that during this transition, we have gone into a deep deficit. To come out of that deficit in this new architecture, is the greatest challenge for all the North-Eastern States.

Since the Commerce Minister is here, I would also like to bring to her notice that the North-Eastern Industrial and Investment

Promotion Policy 2007 which has been kept on hold. Because of this, there has been a growing deficit in the way in which industrialisation takes place in the North-East. Since the Prime Minister has already said that the North-East will be given a fillip in this direction and in the area of organic value chain development in the North-East, I think it is time for a re-look at this particular policy. I would be very very grateful and I would like to place it on record that this particular policy needs to be re-looked and rejuvenated.

With these words, Madam, I would thank you again for giving me this time.

HON. SPEAKER: Thank you very much for concluding in time.

[Translation]

***KUNWAR PUSHPENDRA SINGH CHANDEL (HAMIRPUR):** I support the farmer-friendly, poor-friendly and rural development budget presented by the government for the general budget 201617. I just want to bring three important issues to the notice of the Hon. Prime Minister and Minister of Finance.

The commendable step taken by the Indian government to improve the living standards of farmers and laborers engaged in agriculture in every corner of the country is praiseworthy. I request to provide a budget for complete irrigation of the entire Bundelkhand region by the Prime Minister Agricultural Irrigation Scheme in 201617 itself. Bundelkhand, which has been facing drought continuously for the last 10 years, must be provided with water for irrigation as soon as possible, otherwise the suicides being committed by the farmers of Bundelkhand will continue to shame and the Government of India will continue to be unnecessarily blamed.

No matter how much difficulty there is, our parliamentary constituency Hamirpur, Hindawi, Mahoba is a part of the backward,

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

troubled, poor and helpless Bundelkhand region. We need the following provisions in our area in the 201617 budget of the Government of India at any cost, which are as follows

First of all, the usefulness of the Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme should be proved by allocating the full amount from the budget of 201617 itself for the complete irrigation management in Bundelkhand region, which is facing the most drought and famine in the country, through dams, canals, ponds, pipelines, tube wells and solar pumps. Water should be given to Bundelkhand first, because the fields in Bundelkhand are dry and the citizens do not even have access to drinking water. The cattle are compelled to die of thirst. The farmers of Bundelkhand are in debt. Compelled even for the treatment of disease. I request the Minister of Finance that Hamirpur parliamentary constituency is the only parliamentary constituency in Bundelkhand where there is not a single medical college. Therefore, there is an urgent need to open the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) anywhere in Hamirpur, Mahoba Tindwari. Therefore, adopting a human approach and remembering the claim of our government to light a lamp in the darkness, arrangements should be made to establish AIIMS immediately in this budget itself. The

farmers of Bundelkhand will always be grateful to the Government of India. To solve the problem of unemployment in Bundelkhand, I have an important suggestion that to promote industries in Bundelkhand, the Government of India should make a special provision in this budget to create tax free industrial zones in every district of the entire Bundelkhand for 10 years. Industries could be set up as soon as possible and migration from Bundelkhand could be stopped.

Many Hon. members want to present their subject in the general budget. Time is short, the Hon. The Minister of Finance has to give his statement on the budget. I have already provided the remaining demands through a letter to the Hon. Minister of Finance, Agriculture Minister and Water Resources and Health Minister.

In the end, the Railways has given the highest budget to the Hon. Railway Minister and Minister of Finance in my Hamirpur parliamentary constituency since independence till date and has fulfilled a very old demand of the respected citizens of my parliamentary constituency by providing 411 km double line and new railway line from Mahoba to Charwari Rath Uraibhind. On behalf of the citizens of Hamirpur Mahoba Tindwari region, I express my

gratitude to the Government of India and fulfill my theme by strongly supporting the General Budget 2016-17.

[English]

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT (NANDURBAR): Madam, I rise to support the Budget 2016-17. During the last two consecutive years there was a shortfall in monsoon by 13 per cent. Despite these very unfavorable conditions, robust growth is achieved. The growth of the economy has accelerated to 7.6 per cent in the year 2015-16 and I congratulate the Government for the collective efforts taken for achieving this position. Today India is recognized as the world's fastest growing economy.

A very good decision taken in the Budget is the changing the structure of schemes which was recommended by the Subgroup of Chief Ministers on the rationalization of Centrally-sponsored schemes. The Committee has recommended a set of core Centrally-sponsored schemes and optional Centrally-sponsored schemes to give States more flexibility in selection of the priority areas.

The existing funding pattern of the schemes is defined as core of the core and a total of six schemes have been retained by a ratio of 90:10. Eighteen schemes have been defined as the core schemes. The core of core scheme is mainly focusing on the needy, the most vulnerable and most neglected groups. It includes the MNREGA,

National Social Assistance Programme, an umbrella scheme for development of the Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Backward and Minorities.

The agenda of the Budget is to transform India and this transformation will be built on nine pillars which include agriculture and farmers' welfare, rural sector, social sector, educational skills and job creation. India is an agriculture based country with more than 60 per cent of its population being farmers. Keeping this in mind, the Government has stated its goal to reorient its intervention in the farm and non-farm sectors to double the income of farmers by 2022.

The total allocation of agriculture, farmers' welfare and animal husbandry is estimated to be Rs.44,485 crore as compared to Rs.20,909 crore in the last Budget which is almost double. Previously the crop insurance schemes implemented in the country were including only selective crops and because of this many farmers could not avail the benefit of the insurance. Not just this but also the crops which were included in the insurance schemes were given the benefit only till the time they were in the farm and not harvested.

I come from the State of Maharashtra where in the last two years we have faced lots of weather problems causing hailstorms,

unseasonal rains and drought like situations. And the farmers of Maharashtra have suffered very badly because of the previous insurance policies for the farmers. Now this new scheme which has been implemented by the Union Government which is the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana is inclusive of all the crops and it is also including those crops which are post harvested and still kept in the farm. Even those will now be included in this insurance scheme. So, it is in a true sense giving justice to the farmers who have suffered this kind of destruction of the crops.

Also, a big push for irrigation is the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayi Yojana which will now be implemented in mission mode and 28.5 lakh hectares will be brought under irrigation under this scheme. This will not only assist in increasing the crop production but it will also help in job creation and also will increase the agriculture allied businesses. I would like to state the example of Gujarat where the backwater of the Ukai dam has been lifted and provided in the form of lift irrigation to the farmers which has really benefited those farmers.

My constituency also has a similar kind of situation. I request the hon. Minister to implement this scheme in my constituency also.

HON. SPEAKER: Please conclude now. You have put it very nicely.

DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT: In a big push in the rural road sector, Rs. 19,000 crore has been allocated for the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. The goal of the programme has been revised to connect the remaining 65,000 eligible habitations through 2.23 lakh kilometers by an advanced deadline of 2019. When we are talking of eligible habitations, it means villages which have more than 250 habitations. I come from a tribal and hilly area where we also have small villages which have a population of less than 250 people living in one area or small hamlets. It is very essential to connect all these hamlets through road connectivity and it is only after the road connectivity is reached to these areas that these areas will develop in a true sense and will not be deprived of basic amenities which are required. So, I request the Government to relax the norms for such hilly and tribal areas which have a population of less than 250 and small villages where people live in very larger areas in small *paadas*. This is one request I have for the hon. Minister.

Five crore BPL families will be given LPG connections which is again a very good step. Many of the women who work on the *chulhas* will now be protected from the respiratory diseases that they get

because of the use of *chulhas*. Since I am a doctor, I must mention this as well that the *Rashtriya Swasthya Suraksha Yojana* which will provide a health cover of upto Rs one lakh per family is also a very good step. These days, we have many patients coming with chronic renal failure and kidney diseases and we don't have enough dialysis facilities available in the Government hospitals. So, establishment of the National Dialysis Service Programme in all the district hospitals is also a very good step taken by the Government. Opening of 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas is again a very welcome step. About skill development, I would specifically like to mention that Rs 600 crore has been allotted for human resources for health and medical education and this will provide a large number of medical and paramedical staff and will also help in improving healthcare.

With these words, I strongly support the Budget.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJU SHETTI (HATKANANGALE): Hon. Speaker, I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance. He has accepted many of the suggestions that we had given in the pre-budget discussion, especially regarding the agriculture budget, for which I thank him. I would like to draw the attention of the entire House through you that in the last 20 years about three lakh farmers have committed suicide. This is a big challenge for the country. We have to face this challenge because farmers commit suicide due to debt. You increased the scope of the loan but the provision that should have been made regarding how the farmer will repay the loan was not made properly.

Hon. Speaker, if we want to double the income of farmers in the next five years, then either their cost price will have to be reduced or the support price will have to be increased. We cannot increase the support price much, if we want to reduce the cost price then we should provide them basic facilities. Along with this, attention will also have to be paid to cold storage, roads, electricity, warehouse and irrigation projects. Pre-harvesting losses and post-harvesting losses are increasing. I am saddened by the fact that the basic provisions that should be there to control them are not in place.

Hon. Speaker, I want to tell the Hon. Minister of Finance that you are bringing 100 percent FDI in the agriculture sector.With the encouragement of NABARD, the producing companies are doing very good work for the farmers. Sons of farmers are working there and very good work is being done in the cooperative sector. If FDI and the cooperative sector or producing companies work together, then the youth of this country who are born in a farmer's family will also get an opportunity to do something good. They don't have money but they have brains. They are ready to work hard but they are not getting the opportunity that they should get. Therefore, instead of hundred percent FDI, give opportunities to our young farmers, this is my suggestion.... *(Interruptions)*

I want to make one more demand from the Minister of Finance that a few selected industrialists of this country have defaulted on loans worth Rs. 1,14000 crores and what is the debt of our farmers? Due to natural disasters or low cost prices, they have not been able to repay the loan. The farmer never runs away from the country. They commit suicide but never runs away. Therefore, if the government wants to help the farmers, then the government should waive their

loans once more. The farmers of this country will never forget this favor of yours.

Hon. Speaker, if the Minister of Finance of this country is giving Rs 25000 crore to the banks, then why are the farmers of this country not entitled to loan waiver? I would like to ask this question to the Hon. Minister of Finance through you. Madam Speaker, I would like to draw the attention of the Minister of Finance through you that the cost of buffalo in our village is one lakh rupees and you have provided insurance cover of one lakh rupees to the poor laborers of the village. This is not correct, please extend this insurance amount up to five lakh rupees. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: You have raised the issue of farmers. Now your point is complete. Sit down.

*SHRI A.T. NANA PATIL (JALGAON): This is the first time in the budget history of our country that a budget dedicated to villages, poor and farmers has been presented in the Parliament. First of all, I congratulate the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley for this effort of the government dedicated to the farmers and the poor and express my gratitude to them on behalf of all the poor and farmers of the country. There has been a huge increase in the agriculture and irrigation budget in this budget. This has never been seen before. Therefore, this time the budget will prove to be a game changer in the development picture of the villages, poor and farmers of the country. The budget for the year 2016-17 presented by Union Finance Minister Arun Jaitley under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has proved that our Modi government is the government of villages, poor and farmers. The way some parts of the country, especially Maharashtra, have been facing continuous drought for many years. In view of that, the focus of the budget on agriculture and villages was the need of the hour and was essential for strengthening the rural economy of the country. This budget will not only increase employment opportunities in rural areas

* Speech was laid on the Table.

but also a target has been set to double the income of farmers in the next five years. For the first time in the country, the Modi government has taken concrete steps towards making the farmers of the country economically strong. Certainly, through this budget, our government is dedicated to , village, poor, and farmers. He did what he said. I congratulate Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Arun Jaitley on behalf of the farmers of the country. This time, a record increase has been made in the budget allocation for villages, farmers and agriculture development. An allocation of Rs 35,984 crore has been made for agriculture and farmers welfare in the budget. Our goal is to double the income of farmers in the next 5 years, increase the yield per unit, provide fair price to the farmers for their produce, promote agricultural education research and agricultural expansion in addition to livestock-dairy and fisheries. I believe that the following schemes of the government in the interest of farmers will prove to be a milestone in strengthening the current economic condition of the farmers.

28.5 lakh hectare area will be brought under ‘Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana’ for which Rs 5717 crore has been allocated for the year 2016-17. Besides this, the government has decided to create

an irrigation fund of about Rs. 20000 crore through NABARD this year and 89 irrigation projects of Major and Medium Irrigation Scheme (AIBP), which have been pending for a long time, will be implemented speedily. This will help in irrigating 80.6 lakh hectare area. Besides, under MNREGA, provision will be made for 5 lakh farm ponds and wells in rain-fed areas.

I would like to specifically mention the following key points of the Krishi Unnati Yojana: Under Soil Health Card and Soil Health Management, the government is paying special attention to the fertility of the soil of farmers fields and a total of Rs 362 crore has been allocated under this scheme in the current year, which is an increase of 155 percent. The Ministry will be able to meet the target of distributing Soil Health Cards to all 14 crore farmers of the country by March 2017. Besides, soil and seed testing facilities will be provided to 2 thousand model retail centers of fertilizer companies in the next 3 years. The Organic Agriculture Scheme will be taken forward under the Organic Value Chain for North Eastern States. Besides, 10 lakh compost pits will be constructed under MNREGA for the production of organic manure. For the development of organic farming, the Traditional Agriculture Development Scheme has been

implemented since last year which has resulted in a 19 percent increase in organic farming and this scheme will continue in future also. In order to promote rural storage through Integrated Agricultural Marketing Scheme, the Government has increased the allocation to Rs 788 crore in the current year. Through National Mission on Agriculture and Technology (NMAET), the Government is assisting the state governments to strengthen their agricultural extension machinery and this year an amount of Rs. 635 crore has been allocated under this scheme which will help in strengthening the agricultural information system. Not only this, the following efforts of the government announced in the budget are also commendable which will substantially improve the current condition of the farmers.

Regarding Market Reforms through National Agriculture Market (NAM) The Government considers marketing of the agriculture sector as of utmost importance and hence the Government is committed to establish a National Agriculture Market. The Government will launch the scheme on 14th April 2016 and will cover 200 mandis by September 2016 and a total of 400 mandis by March 2017, with a target to cover 585 APMCs in the country by March 2018. This will help the farmers to sell their produce at remunerative

prices in the mandis. Credit flow has been increased to Rs 9 lakh crore from Rs 8.50 lakh crore in 2015-16 and to reduce loan repayment burden on farmers, a provision of Rs. 15,000 crore has been made in Budget Estimates 2016-17 for interest subsidy. Allocation under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana has been made Rs. 5,500 crore which was Rs. 3185 crore in the last budget. Thus, an increase of about 73 percent has been made in this item. A provision of Rs 5400 crore has been made in the budget under the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana. For the first time, a provision of Rs. 75 crore central share has been made in the budget for the National Agro Forestry Programme. This will give impetus to the tree on the meadow campaign.1600 crore has been allocated for animal husbandry, dairy and fisheries. Four separate new projects, namely, 'Pashudhan Sanjivani', 'Nakul Swasthya Patra', e-Pashudhan Haat and National Indigenous Breed Genomic Centre have been created for which Rs 850 crore has been allocated. The government has further strengthened the following rural development schemes for the benefit of villages and farmers so that the rural areas of the country can be developed at par with urban areas and the migration of youth from villages to cities for employment can be stopped. The allocation under the Pradhan Mantri

Gram Sadak Yojana has been increased to Rs 19,000 crore to connect the remaining 65,000 eligible habitations with roads by 2019.

Every drought prone and rural disaster prone block will be developed as a special block under Deen Dayal Antyodaya Mission under which self help groups will be formed on a large scale and will be given training in various fields. Besides, cluster facilitation teams will also be formed under MNREGA which will ensure water conservation and management of natural resources. These districts will also be given priority under the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee (Rurban) Mission has been launched for the development of infrastructure in villages, under which 300 rural urban clusters will be developed which will include the construction of infrastructure for farmers such as agro-processing, access to agricultural markets, godowns and warehouses. Provision has also been made for 100 percent village electrification by May 1st, 2018.

It is important that the government has taken full care of all sections of the society in this budget. The following schemes of the government will go a long way in restoring prosperity in the society in the coming years. To protect against hospital expenses, under the

new Health Insurance Scheme, every family will be provided health insurance up to one lakh rupees. Under this, there will be a provision of additional top-up package of up to Rs 30,000 for senior citizens. A provision of Rs 2000 crore has been made in this budget for a cooking gas connection facility for BPL families. This will benefit about 1 crore 50 lakh BPL families in 2016-17. An amount of Rs.38,500 crore has been allocated for the year 2016-17 MGNREGA. To promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women, the Government has approved a Stand Up India Scheme and Rs. 500 crore has been provided for this scheme. The Prime Minister wants to bring entrepreneurship to the doorsteps of the youth through the Skill Development Scheme. The Government has decided to set up 15,000 Multi-Skill Training Institutes in the country. An amount of Rs. 17000 crore is being set aside for these programmes.The total expenditure on roads and railways in the year 2016-17 will be Rs. 2,18,000 crore.

Under Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Yojana, 3,000 stores will be opened for supply of generic medicines in the year 2016-17. The Ustaad' scheme has been effectively implemented for the welfare and skill development of minorities. Keeping in mind the need of

education, 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas are planned to be opened. In this year of the 125th birth anniversary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, it is proposed to set up a National Scheduled Caste-Tribe Centre in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises in partnership with industry associations. The target is to provide loans of 1 lakh 80 thousand crore rupees through Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana for small workers. A provision of Rs 1 lakh crore was made in this scheme in the last year's budget.

Here I would like to draw the attention of the Civil Aviation Minister to a burning issue of my constituency Jalgaon. Government of India renovated Jalgaon Airport in 2012 at a cost of about Rs.100 crores and provided all ultramodern facilities there. The Indian government is currently spending Rs. 12 crore per month on the maintenance of this airport and salaries etc. and all this is going waste because till now neither domestic flights nor cargo services have been started from here.

Jalgaon is much closer to the World Heritage Ajanta and Ellora Caves than Aurangabad and starting domestic flights from this airport will be very convenient for international tourists. Secondly, Jalgaon has the highest production of bananas, plastic items and gold jewelry.

Apart from this it is a hub of pulse mills. For this reason, there are infinite possibilities of export through air cargo from here. Due to the parking problem at Mumbai airport, its adjacent Jalgaon can also be used for parking. Despite all this and repeated requests, domestic flights and cargo services are not being started from here. Although some private airlines are ready to start domestic flights from here, the airport is not ready to provide them a night landing facility.

I request the Hon. Civil Aviation Minister that in view of the huge expenditure being incurred on Jalgaon Airport and to fulfill the long pending demand of the residents here, domestic flights and cargo services should be started from Jalgaon Airport to Delhi and Mumbai via Indore, Pune as soon as possible and action should be taken to provide night landing facilities to private airlines so that unnecessary waste of government expenditure can be stopped and the general public can benefit from it.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government towards the following problems of my Jalgaon Parliamentary Constituency and request that these be considered sympathetically and appropriate and prompt action be taken for their solution and necessary funds be made available. Three irrigation projects of Jalgaon district of Maharashtra

are pending with Central Water Commission for a long time namely 1) Padalsare - Tehsil Amalner 2) Varkhed Lendhe - Tehsil Amalner 3) Nar - Paar Scheme. Need for early approval and release of necessary funds for their implementation. A portion of National Highway 211 between Dhulegaon and Chalisgaon in Maharashtra has become badly dilapidated and the general public is facing inconvenience. Therefore, this part needs to be repaired and widened as soon as possible.

Similarly, a portion of National Highway 6 falling in Jalgaon city of Maharashtra has become badly dilapidated and the general public is facing inconvenience. Therefore, this part needs to be repaired and widened as soon as possible. In view of the aspirations of the general public, a 100 bed Naturopathy Hospital should be established in Jalgaon, Maharashtra. A proposal for seven rubber domes on Girna river is pending with the Central Water Commission for a long time to remove the huge amount of silt deposited in the Jamda and Dahigaon water storage areas of the nearly 50 years old Girna dam and irrigation system in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra, to increase the water storage capacity and to construct embankments. It needs to be approved soon and the necessary funds should be released for its

implementation. A river linking project proposal for linking Girna river in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra with Bori, Anjani, Titur and Tapi and Manyad rivers through channels is pending with Central Water Commission for a long time which needs to be approved soon and necessary funds need to be released for its implementation.

There is a need to establish a Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Development Institute to cater to the needs of the local people in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. Jalgaon district is leading in plastic production in the country. Therefore, my demand is that in the coming time, the government is going to announce the construction of 3 plastic parks in the country and in this regard, I have been demanding from the government to provide incentives to the plastic producers of Jalgaon. Under this, I had demanded to build a plastic park in Jalgaon. Now I request the government to give one of these three plastic parks to my city Jalgaon.

There is an NTC mill in my parliamentary constituency Chalisgaon tehsil. It has been closed for many years. A lot of money is being spent by our government on salaries. When under our skill development scheme we have set our target to provide employment. So I demand from the government that among the closed private mills

of the government, one is Chalisgaon NTC mill, make a provision to start it immediately. Banana, mango and orange fruits are produced in large quantities in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. There is a need to establish a food processing training center to provide training to small entrepreneurs for their processing. There is a need to establish a local office of Khadi and Village Industries Institute in Jalgaon district of Maharashtra. 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.

Sir, with these words I thank and congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance for this balanced budget presented by our government. I wholeheartedly support all the proposals made in the budget.

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Speaker, I would like to thank you very much and request you that the most learned economist of this country, Manmohan Singh ji, who was honest, tried to bring the economy back on track in 1991 and after that when he became the Prime Minister, the same Prime Minister had to bring the Food Bill for 80 percent of the common people of this country. It is unfortunate that an economist Minister of Finance tries to bring economics on track and on the other hand when he becomes Prime Minister he brings food bills for 80 percent of the common people.

Hon. Speaker, Sir, before I speak, I would request you to let me take this up because given the circumstances, I do not want to get bogged down in politics, slogans, figures and idioms. I would like to take the views of Prof. Amartya Sen and Prof. Batra on economics.

HON. SPEAKER: No, not now. Either you may speak or you may lay it on the Table. Both cannot be done together.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Madam Speaker, I would like to submit that I only wish to lay it on the Table. I shall not speak. I only want to lay it on the Table. I have not made my submission.

HON. SPEAKER: Both cannot be done at the same time. You have already spoken. Now, please take your seat. I am sorry. Had you said this at the very beginning, it would have been different. Now, please sit down.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Madam, I request you to kindly allow me to lay it on the Table.

HON. SPEAKER: Please maintain silence. I have not addressed you as Pappu. Therefore, please behave like Rajesh. So, kindly take your seat.

SHRI RAVINDER KUSHWAHA (SALEMPUR): The budget presented by the Hon. The Minister of Finance for the year 2016-17 is highly commendable. It will strengthen the country's economy and will give a new lease of life to villages, poor and agriculture, for which I congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance. At a time when the whole world is going through an economic recession, this budget is going to give a new direction and new light by breaking away from the norm. It is clear from the presented budget that instead of satisfying everyone by giving something or the other and presenting a rosy picture through statistics, the current Union Government has geared up for fundamental changes in the country. This also gives the picture that the government has made up its mind to solve those problems which were hindering in giving sufficient strength to the country's economy. Through the budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance has come forward with a clear vision of a new India. This vision has nine pillars at its center and the main basis is villages, the poor, farmers and youth. The nine pillars are farmers, villages, social sectors, education, infrastructure, financial reforms, good governance, treasury management and tax reforms. To get rid of the dark shadow of global recession, the Minister of Finance has paid maximum attention to villages and farmers and has also expressed confidence in them.

Along with this, the youth have also been taken care of and along with education and health, the environment has also been taken care of.

The current budget is completely sacrificed on the villages and farmers. If the Minister of Finance has described farmers as the backbone of the economy, then concrete steps have also been taken to strengthen them. The allocation of agriculture sector has been increased from 25000 to 44000 crore. Similarly, the allocation for rural areas has been increased from 82000 to 88000 crore. The interests of farmers are also linked to the scheme brought by the government to bring out the hidden black money in the country.7.5 percent of the black money that is exposed will go to the agriculture sector and 0.5 percent cess from service tax will also be given to agriculture. The Hon. Prime Minister had promised to provide a job to one child of every farmer. 100 percent FDI in food processing is a big step in that direction. Rs. 20000 crore has also been announced for irrigation. Similarly, priority has been given to the construction of connecting roads in the village.

Special attention has also been given to social development in the budget, this government has moved ahead with the political gamble of reservation to bring Dalits forward. The government is

taking major steps to create an army of 250000 Dalit entrepreneurs. To make the entrepreneurs of scheduled caste and tribe self-reliant, the government will help them in setting up units and will also buy their products. Similarly, the National Health Insurance Scheme has been increased from Rs. 30000 to Rs. 100000. For treatment of elderly persons, Rs. 30000 will be given separately. The opening of many Navodaya Vidyalayas has also been announced. To provide relief to small industries, their estimated tax amount has been exempted up to Rs. 20000000 instead of Rs. 10000000. Many small steps taken for economic reforms can become the basis for taking the country's growth rate to double digits. A fiscal balance framework has been created. It has also been announced that the symbols of the Nehru era's planned and non-planned expenditure allocation will be bid goodbye from the year 2017. Now only the categories of revenue and capital account will remain in the budget. The country is going to abandon the five-year plan model. Overall, this budget fulfills the statement of the Prime Minister that this is the budget of the village poor and the farmers.

I support the budget proposal.

[English]

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to draw your kind attention to the salient features pertaining to the Budget presented by Shri Arun Jaitley.

I am not only a son of a farmer but also a son of a freedom fighter. I want to place on record that when India under the able leadership of Mahatma Gandhi got Independence, not only on religion, Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs, Buddhists, Jains and all others fought together to get freedom. Gandhiji wanted tolerance in this country. The whole world appreciated his leadership and his ideology. India wants that tolerance in this country.

Madam, there are more than 70 per cent farmers in this country. They are the backbone of this country. We have to appreciate the *Fasal Bima Yojana.* It is a good programme given to this country. So many such good programmes are required and I would like to suggest only one which is the mechanism to find out the production, consumption, export and import. There should be a mechanism at the State level as also at the district level. A corpus fund should be formed to protect the farmers.

Second important programme is linking rivers. We are facing drought in 150 districts. You should find out a mechanism to implement this programme. I would like to place on record that it was started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Ji and Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ji also fought for this programme. You may take all the States into confidence and you will see that this is the only way to solve the entire problems of this country.

The former Prime Minister Deve Gowda Ji also raised the issue concerning silk farmers. I would like to place on record that the 5 crore population of our country living in Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Karnataka also people living in the Northern States are suffering. There are three categories; silk growers, reelers and weavers and you have to protect them by increasing the duty. That is the only way to protect the silk farmers.

Members on all sides have expressed concern over the jewelers' issue. When the UPA Government was in power, Arun Jaitley Ji himself argued the case to increase the excise duty. You can double the indirect customs duty but excise duty is directly affecting the jewelers. All the Jewellers from two districts, around 100 people, came and met me last Sunday in my constituency. They said that Arun

Jaitley Ji had pleaded their case when the UPA Government was in power. The UPA Government was kind enough to withdraw it. Now, you should take it up.

Finally, I would like to place on record that according to the SC/ST population in the State, which is 24 per cent, the Karnataka Government has allocated Rs,16,000 crore for their welfare. At the State level as also at the Central level there are more than 30 per cent SC/ST population. In the same way, there are 70 per cent farmers in the country and according to their population you should give budgetary support to them. It will send a good message.

If you see the history, Madam, during Chandragupta's time Chanakya recorded a golden age. In Modern India Manmohan Singh Ji set a record. Now, you have to go to that level and give a good Budget for the welfare of the country.

Thank you, Madam.

[Translation]

***SHRI RAVINDRA KUMAR PANDEY (GIRIDIH):** I am speaking in favor of the budget presented by Hon. Arun Jaitley, Minister of Finance, Government of India for the financial year 2016-17. The third budget of the NDA government is historic in many ways. This is a budget with a strong focus on agriculture and rural areas, while maintaining an economic growth rate of around 8 percent. The soul of India resides in villages, in agriculture-based works. In this budget, the Hon. Minister of Finance has planned to strengthen the farmers - (a) through Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, (b) through Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana, (c) through NABARD Irrigation Fund of twenty thousand crores and (d) through Ground Water Project of 6 thousand crores. Hon. Speaker, if the farmer is happy and strong, then 70 percent of the country's population will be happy and strong. A total provision of 35,984 crore has been made for agriculture and farmers, which is commendable. The provision of a big budget in MGNREGA and the plan to dig five lakh ponds and wells will prove to be a milestone for water resources and irrigation. The provision of 19,000 crore in the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Yojana and 15,000 crore for Kisan Loan reiterates the government's commitment towards villages, farmers, the poor and the backward classes.

The whole world is in the grip of economic recession. At such a time, developed countries are also looking towards India. The future belongs to India. In such a situation, the Minister of Finance has kept both the revenue deficit and fiscal deficit under control. India's rating is improving in the world. The campaign for rich people to give up subsidy on LPG was started on the request of the Prime Minister to the country. Today this campaign has been very successful. To connect BPL family with LPG, the Minister of Finance has made a provision of 2000 crores, which is highly commendable. Rs. 38,500 crore has been allocated to MGNREGA. The Government has taken the initiative to provide electricity to all villages by April, 2018. The work of development of villages and basic facilities are the highlights of this budget. The government is committed to both urban development and rural development, this has been proved. Hon. The Prime Minister has been emphasizing on skill development since the beginning. The budget 1804 crore for this work will give energy to this ministry and the nationwide work will progress rapidly. About 65

percent of the country's population is youth. They need employment. Hon. The Minister of Finance has taken several measures in this budget. Make-in-India campaign will prove helpful in this work. In the end, I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance for this historic budget. Despite the additional burden of the Seventh Pay Commission of Rs. 72,000 crore, he has taken full care of every sector.

Along with this, I also want to say that despite all the achievements in the budget, the agricultural irrigation system should be strengthened further. In my parliamentary constituency Giridih, there should be provision of cheap loans for irrigation equipment and tractors etc. for farming, and the system of cheap food should be strengthened further. There should be more employment opportunities so that the poor people do not migrate for employment.

Irrigation is very difficult for agriculture in Jharkhand. If better arrangements for irrigation are made through the Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme, I believe that a huge amount of food can be produced. My area is a very backward area, it is very important for the people here to have hospital facilities. To save hospital expenses, a new health insurance scheme should be started in Jharkhand. 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas are being started for education, and my

parliamentary constituency Giridih should be brought under this. 87700 crore rupees has been allocated for rural development which is a very commendable step. In all these schemes and plans, attention should be given to the Jharkhand region which is extremely backward.

***SHRI JUGAL KISHORE (JAMMU):** I support the Budget because this is the Budget of villages, poor and farmers. As far as I know, for the first time in the country such a budget has been presented by the Minister of Finance. Under the leadership of Hon. Narendra Modi, this budget has been appreciated in all the areas, specially the villages and the poor are very enthusiastic about this budget. Because in this budget the Hon. Minister of Finance has made every provision which will lead to the upliftment of villages and the poor. The schemes given for the poor in this budget will definitely benefit them.

For the first time in the country, accounts of poor people were opened in banks without any money. Those banks which did not even allow the poor to climb stairs, went to their homes and opened accounts.

The Jan Dhan Yojana was welcomed across the country. Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana is proving to be a boon for the poor. The poor are also getting the benefit of Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Bima Yojana.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

This happened for the first time in the history of the country that 5 grams of gold and Rs 25 will be given on the marriage of a poor girl. The poor across the country are taking advantage of it. We may talk about Sukanya Yojana or any other scheme, but the number of schemes that Narendra Modi's government has dedicated to mothers, sisters and daughters has never happened before. The respect for mothers and sisters is an example in itself.

Apart from mothers and sisters, this government has also taken many steps for the youth. The youth who have some skills and want to start their own business but do not have money, for this the Modi government has established Mudra Bank. Provision has been made to make the loan easily available. In order to make the youth who do not have any skills skilled, the work of training people has been started under the Skill Development Scheme.

Poor people are mostly troubled by diseases, for them also this government has decided to open more than three thousand cheap medicine shops and has taken steps to get rid of kidney diseases.

This will be the first budget of the country in which many schemes have been announced for the upliftment of farmers. Like Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana

etc. Now greenery will also come in the dry fields and the farmer will be happy. In case of crop loss, the loss will now be compensated by the insurance scheme and the person will not be forced to commit suicide. The Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana, which was started during the time of Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had almost stopped. In this budget the Hon. Minister of Finance again breathed life into it and the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana moved forward rapidly and the villages also started getting its benefits. This government made a lot of efforts to have good relations with the neighbors. Set an example by resolving the Bangladesh border dispute. Increased the respect and honor of India all over the world. Today, the name of India is taken with respect in the world. This government has also taken very good steps for Jammu and Kashmir. A lot of attention has been given to the roads, bridges, national highways and railway stations of Jammu and Kashmir in this budget. The biggest benefit of this budget has been received by the poor people of the Jammu Lok Sabha constituency, from which I come. Which includes providing toilets for the poor and taking steps for skill development. Providing funds for certain roads and bridge works through CRF. Providing more than Rs 5 thousand crore for the National Highway from Jammu to Poonch is an example in itself. Providing electricity to those villages under Deen Dayal

Upadhyaya Vidyut Yojana, where there was no electricity even 60 years after the country's independence, is a historic step. While supporting this budget, I would like to say that I support the budget brought by the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley in the interest of villages, farmers and the poor.

***PROF. CHINTAMANI MALVIYA (UJJAIN):** I support this General Budget irrigated by the resolution of Transform India. I would like to start my speech with the last lines of the speech of the Hon. Minister of Finance. While dedicating the budget to the House, the Hon. The Minister of Finance had said, "It is our desire that every Indian, especially the farmers, the poor and the weaker sections, should be given social and economic security. It is our dream to see a more prosperous India and a dream to see India developed. " Bharat Ratna Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar also had the same dream. He had said that only political democracy is not enough for the poor, Dalits, SC/STs. Political democracy is of no use until economic democracy is established. The BJP government has made an honest effort to make the dreams of Dr Babasaheb a reality through this budget. Even a person with simple knowledge of budget and economy can say that this budget is focused on farmers, poor, scheduled castes, tribes and youth.

Farmers are the most unhappy and troubled people in the world. They are troubled by floods, they are troubled by the uncertainty of the dry season, by moneylenders, by the dirty rural environment, they

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

are unhappy due to lack of basic facilities, lack of roads. Even after 68 years of independence, there has not been much change in the condition of our villages.

But the Modi government has dedicated this budget to change the face of the farmers of the villages. A provision of Rs 87700 crore has been made for rural development. Agricultural prosperity cannot be imagined without irrigation facilities, but the previous governments have failed to provide water to the fields despite the vast wealth of the country's rivers. We have a lot of water but there is no proper water management. Keeping this in mind, Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana was started 28.5 lakh hectares of land will be irrigated from 5 lakh wells and ponds. A provision of Rs. 17000 crore has been made to complete 89 long pending irrigation projects, a long-term irrigation fund of Rs. 20000 crore has been created, Rs. 19000 crore has been given for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak, Rs. 38500 crore has been given in MGNREGA, I want to ask , where are those who used to call the government of suit-boot. When a tea seller wore a suit, became overwhelmed by lakhs and crores of corruption? I remember a poem...

Even if we sigh, we get defamed.

Even if they kill, there is no discussion.

Our farmers gave us food security but the country could not give them income security, farmers are forced to commit suicide. The government has closed the doors to suicide due to agricultural reasons by allocating Rs. 5500 crore for the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana. This scheme provides protection to farmers from sowing till sale at a premium of just 2% and 1.5%.

We know that the size of farms in our country is small and most of them are marginal farmers. Irrigation and Prime Minister Crop Insurance Scheme may also not be able to improve their standard of living, hence the Minister of Finance has made a provision of Rs. 38500 crore in MNREGA and Rs. 19000 crore has been given in Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana. Above all, the scheme of providing 24 hours electricity in 100% of the villages of the country will increase employment in the villages, with the availability of electricity, small cottage and small-scale industries will be able to flourish in the villages. The target of Rs 80 lakh per panchayat for basic development and disbursement of agricultural loans worth Rs 9

lakh crore to farmers is indeed a good day guarantee for villages and farmers.

I belong to the Scheduled Caste category and I am disappointed with those people who are using Dr. Baba Saheb Ambedkar's picture to cover up their anti-national mentality, those who are selling lies, just like a lizard eats animals and hides behind Mahatma Gandhi's picture, hiding its sins. Similarly, those communists and Congressmen who never accepted Baba Saheb, never believed in him, will be disappointed. In this budget, Rs. 38833 crore has been allocated for various schemes for SCs. I remember that the previous UPA government had spent the amount of SC component plan on various items. The BJP government has provided Rs 500 crore under the stand-up scheme. Instructions have been given that every bank will give loans to at least 2 SC/ST persons for setting up industries, this will generate 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs in a year in the country. National SC/ST Hub will be established with the participation of industry associations. My opposition friends may not like this. Because Congress and Communists have always been interested in keeping the SC/ST class poor and backward. Schemes like NREGA and food security were introduced with the sole intention of keeping them poor,

so that they remain poor and their backwardness can be used as a weapon to make them Naxals, and sometimes students like Kanhaiya coming from poor sections can be brainwashed and made anti-national. The BJP government wants to bring a change in the lives of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, making them job providers and not job seekers. Congress and Communists want to keep the youth unemployed so that Rahul Vemula comes out in them. But the government wants to see entrepreneurs and adventurers in them. The parties that use the youth as fodder for their dirty politics are disappointed with the budget. They should be disappointed because the Modi government is going to open 1500 new training schools. I Want to make them skilled. Earlier the poor had less chance of development, there was no training, no money, no credit facility. Hon. The Minister of Finance understood these requirements and has set a target of giving loans of Rs. 1.80000 crores under Mudra Yojana. I had hoped that the parties and leaders who express concern over unemployment in the country would welcome it and praise the Start-up, Stand-up and Mudra schemes, but this was not heard. They are worried that if the youth get employment then their very existence will be in danger.

Kidney disease and kidney failure have become very common among the poor class and if a poor person's kidney gets damaged, his entire family is ruined. Every day he moves towards death and the family pulls him towards themselves. When the kidney fails, a person does not die immediately but gradually dies, his family gets ruined, the cost of one dialysis is Rs. 1000 and it has to be done every week. Thus, the family has to pay a separate living cost of Rs. 5000. In India, 2 lakh 20 thousand new patients are added every year but there are only 4950 dialysis centers. The government has proved that it is humanitarian by launching the “National Dialysis Service Programme”.

We see in developed countries that every person has medical insurance, but in the Indian context, it was only an imagination that every person, especially the poor, should have health insurance. The government has brought in a new "Health Security Scheme" to provide relief to crores of families, under which there is insurance of up to Rs. 1 lakh per family, which will cover all diseases up to 70-75. The suffering of the common man has been reduced by increasing the insurance amount by Rs 30 thousand for the elderly.

Before Atal Ji's government, one had to wait for one or two years or sometimes even longer to get a gas connection. Whoever got it in 6 months considered himself lucky. Atal ji ended the queues and waited for LPG gas, now anyone can get a connection. But the previous UPA government did not take it forward and still 1.5 crore families are deprived of it. Nothing has been done in this direction from the parties who raised the slogan of poverty, but I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance who made a provision of 2000 crores to provide LPG connections to 1.50 crore BPL families at concessional rates.

The poor have become disillusioned with those who have been making and pretending to be with them. This public welfare budget of the Modi Government has opened their eyes. They have started to realize that what we were holding till now thinking it to be a hand was actually a glove. They have left the gloves. Our farmer grows grains by working hard but up to 10% of the actual produce goes waste, vegetables and fruits go waste up to 25% but no concrete plan was made by the previous government regarding their processing. The government has allowed 100% FDI in food processing, which will improve the facilities of storage and food processing systems in the country. Farmers will get better benefits of products, employment

opportunities will be available, exports will increase. Our country will be self-reliant and prosperous.

[English]

*SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Hon. Madam Speaker, Vanakkam. I thank Hon Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Puratchithalaivi Amma for allowing me to take part in the discussion on the General Budget for the year 2016-17, on behalf of All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK). Hoarding black money is a challenge to a nation's development. Hon. The Prime Minister before coming to power, said that black money stashed abroad would be brought back to India. There was no concrete action by the Union Government in this regard. On the contrary, the Union Government has now announced voluntary disclosure of black money and paying tax for them. Time has also been extended by the Government for availing such benefits. This will only help the hoarders of black money. Laborers and employees save in Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and Insurance Schemes as it would help them at the time of their financial need. But tax on EPF and Insurance policies, as announced in the Budget, is a matter of worry. I welcome the announcement by the Union Government to withdraw the imposition of tax on EPF. No change has been effected in raising the

* English translation of the Speech originally delivered in Tamil.

income tax exemption limit. This is also a matter of concern. These issues clearly reflect the fact that the Union Government has no concern towards the welfare of poor and middle class people.

In comparison to last year, additional funds of 10% have been allocated to Defence this year. This is just 1.74 % of the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Even our neighboring country China has allocated more funds to its Defence sector. This is a threat to India. At least 3% of GDP should be allocated to the Defence forces of our country. Even though the Government of India spearheads the programme called “Make in India”, 60% of defense equipment is imported from foreign countries. We have to domestically produce our defense equipment. Then only we can add weightage to the term, ‘Make in India’ in the true sense.

Due to the untiring efforts of Hon. Amma the Notification of Cauvery River Water Tribunal was published in the Union Gazette. As demanded by the Hon. Chief Minister *Puratchithalaivi* Amma, in a letter addressed to Hon. Prime Minister, the Cauvery River Water Management Authority should soon be set up.

Hon. Madam Speaker, Under the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana (Member of Parliament Model Village Scheme), a village is being

adopted by every Hon. Member of Parliament. No funds are being allocated by the Union Government under this Scheme. How is it justifiable to ask the Hon. Member of Parliament to adopt a village under this Scheme without allocation of any fund?

Under the MPLAD Scheme, Rs. 5 Crore is allocated every year to each parliamentary constituency. This amount should be increased as Rs.10 Crore per year.

Hon. Madam Speaker, Import duties on life saving drugs should be abolished. I urge that drugs for treatment of cancer should be included in the list of essential drugs. Due to the unseen and unprecedented heavy rains that devastated Tamil Nadu particularly Chennai and 7 districts were worst affected. To restore normalcy and to undertake rehabilitation work, Hon. Amma demanded Rs. 5000 Crore in the first phase and Rs. 25912.45 Crore subsequently. But only a meager amount of Rs.1900 Crore has been so far provided by Tamil Nadu. I, therefore, urge that the funds, as demanded by Hon. Amma should be released immediately to Tamil Nadu.

The Fishermen of coastal districts of Tamil Nadu, while engaging in fishing in traditional sea waters, are time and again arrested by the neighboring country. After the efforts of Hon. Amma,

they were released in the past. This is becoming a continuous affair. The Union Government should act upon to stop this menace of fishermen being arrested by neighboring countries. As demanded by Hon. Amma, Katchaththeevu – an islet should also be taken back which was earlier ceded to Sri Lanka.

Hon. Madam Speaker, the Union Government has allocated Rs. 72394 crore for education. During the last 5 years, Hon. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma has allocated Rs. 85,000 Crore for education in Tamil Nadu. That is why Tamil Nadu has been progressing too much in the field of education and continues to remain a *Numero Uno* State in the country in the field of education. Taking cue from Tamil Nadu, the Union Government should allocate more funds to the field of education. As regards power generation during the previous minority DMK Government, Tamil Nadu faced acute power shortage. Now Hon. Amma has made Tamil Nadu self-sufficient in power generation. Power grid aimed at distribution of power to Tamil Nadu should be strengthened by the Union Government.

During the years 2011 to 2014 the then Finance Minister Shri P. Chidambaram of the UPA Government announced in the Budget that Rs.1000 Crore will be allocated for setting up of a desalination plant

in Tamil Nadu. But not even a single paisa was allocated. The then Finance Minister had not allocated any money because of his political vendetta and his helplessness to digest Hon. Amma getting name and fame. Due to this, he did not even contest in his own Sivaganga parliamentary constituency but sought candidature for his son and thereafter the latter also could not secure his deposit in 2014 elections.

Another party, which was a partner of the Congress Party and involved in the 2G Scam, had a damaging defeat. Hon. Amma has been implementing this desalination project for the welfare of the people of Tamil Nadu.

"Unworthy friendship will do more harm." As the saying goes, the DMK, which went away from the Congress led coalition during the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, has once again joined hands with the Congress party. During the 2014 Lok Sabha elections, this coalition could not secure a single parliamentary seat in Tamil Nadu. This time also they will not be able to win any Assembly seat. Rs. 1,76,000 Crore 2G Spectrum Scam, Rs. 1,86,000 Crore mining scam and several scandals has brought defame to the DMK-Congress combine and that coalition will be defeated by the people of Tamil Nadu in the

forthcoming Assembly Elections. The people of Tamil Nadu will teach them a lesson.

DMK leader, while expressing his wish to join hands with another party, said that there would be a fruitful result. But to his discomfort it all ended in vain. Another leader who glorified himself as king and kingmaker should know that he is only kingfisher. Their chapter is a closed one. Tamil Nadu will see a new beginning under the rule of Hon. *Puratchithalaivi* Amma once again. Thank you.

***DR. THOKCHOM MEINYA (INNER MANIPUR) :** This year's Union Budget is a great disappointment for the Nation. The allocation to various Ministries has been minimal against the backdrop of huge promises made by the Prime Minister, Union Ministers amounting to tens of thousands of crores. This Budget is a testimony to all this.

It is no secret that the Finance Minister had to present this budget under the two silver lines; the falling oil price and the comfortable foreign exchange reserves at US $351 billion. Further, the recent implementation of the 14th Finance Commission recommendation that has raised the share of states in the divisible pool of central taxes from 32% to 42% has to some extent squeezed the revenue and resource intervention base of the Union Government. This Budget has absolutely failed to exploit this advantageous situation.

We know that the budget is neither the only economic policy paper nor the last word in economic policy making.

The next issue is from where the money will come? The Finance Minister has stuck to his fiscal consolidation promise of maintaining

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

a fiscal deficit at 3.5% of the GDP. In the absence of corporate growth, he heavily depends on indirect taxes.

In the absence of any visible benefits to the neo middle class, this class may hold back its income from spending. This makes the expected indirect tax realizations uncertain. The Government has to live with this uncertainty.

I come from the state of Manipur. My state Manipur was an independent kingdom till we lost our independence to the British in 1891. After this, Manipur remained as a princely state.

With the lapse of British suzerainty following the adoption of the Indian Independence Act, 1947, Manipur regained its sovereign independence. During this transition period the Manipur State Constitution Act, 1947 was passed. In early 1948, the first election was held in Manipur on the basis of adult franchise.

Our Maharaja was called to Shillong and made to sign the Manipur Merger Agreement in 1949. On adoption of the Constitution of India on 26 January 1950, Manipur became a part C state and then a Chief Commissioner State, then the Territorial Council in 1957; then the Territorial Legislative Assembly in 1963; and Union Territory under the Union Territories Act, 1963. Manipur became a full-fledged

State on 21 January 1972 by the North-Eastern (Reorganization) Act, 1971.

What is the position of the present Manipur in the country vis-a-vis the Constitution of India. We the people in Manipur feel that had Manipur been merged into the Union of India as a full-fledged state at the time of its merger in 1949, most of the problems the state is now facing might not have occurred.

In 1963, when the Naga Hills of Assam was granted Nagaland state, the two erstwhile princely states of Manipur and Tripura could have been granted statehood. Unfortunately, it did not happen. These demand-driven actions of the Government of India do more harm than good.

We know that till Manipur attained statehood, the people did have little say whatsoever. But in 1972, when Manipur attained full-fledged statehood, all that Manipur had before its merger into the Union of India could have been restored to Manipur by the Union Government.

These include, among others, the protection of territorial integrity of the state (including International boundary), the regulatory system of entry into and exit from Manipur by outsiders (abolished in

1950), the tribal status for all the indigenous people of the state, the redeeming of Rs.500 tax/tribute for Kabaw valley by the Burmese Government under Treaty of Yandaboo. Unfortunately, these things did not happen. Even the merger agreement had not been implemented at all and has been completely forgotten. Because of this, Manipur is now facing a huge demographic challenge.

The state of Manipur had been facing a serious insurgent movement from around the beginning of 60s, which in my opinion, requires a political solution. Instead, the Government of India promulgated Armed Forces (Special) Powers Act, 1958 (AFSPA).

This AFSPA is really draconian and a black law. Many Committees, Commissions, Conferences including most recent Justice Verma Committee and UN agencies recommended repeal of the Act. I have been always urging the Government of India for the immediate repeal of AFSPA, but of no avail till date.

In order to safeguard the territorial integrity of Manipur, I have moved a Constitutional Amendment Bill twice to insert an extra Article 371CC : that 'Article 3 of the Constitution of India shall not apply in respect of the state of Manipur. Till now, this Bill does not get the space for consideration.

At the moment, there are three Bills passed by the Manipur Assembly and waiting for the assent from the President of India. These are good Bills and will help protect the indigenous people of Manipur for all time to come. I hope, very soon the President of India will give his assent.

We are all for a peaceful settlement of vexed Naga issues. Unfortunately in 2001, because of the three words 'beyond territorial limits in the Indo-NSCN(IM) cease fire agreement, there was a huge upsurge in the state of Manipur killing 18 innocent people and burning down the State Assembly building and many other government offices in 2002. That was during the NDA regime.

Last year again, on August 3, a framework agreement was signed between the Government of India and NSCN(IM). What is there in the framework, it appears nobody knows. Manipur, Assam and Arunachal Pradesh Governments are demanding the details of the framework agreement. NSCN (IM) does speak among others including their demand for some sort of integration of Naga people of the neighboring states by expanding their territory and also of shared sovereignty with the Government of India.

Considering all these aspects, I do urge upon the Union Government to take all possible steps within the framework of our Constitution for a political solution of the age-old problem of insurgency in the state of Manipur and also a generous special economic package for all round development of this erstwhile princely state of Manipur.

[Translation]

***SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA):** I support the budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance in accordance with the thinking of the Hon. Prime Minister. This budget is dedicated to villages, poor, farmers and women. Despite all odds, our growth rate has been 7.6 percent. The new crop insurance scheme will bring prosperity in the lives of farmers. This time the budget has been doubled for the welfare of agriculture and farmers. Last time it was 22,958 crores which has been increased to 44,485 crores this time. Similarly, the budget for agriculture and irrigation has been increased from Rs. 25,988 crore to Rs. 54,212 crore. A target has been set to double the income of farmers in 5 years. A target has been set to electrify 100% of the villages by May 1st, 2018. Poor families have been given health insurance up to Rs. 1 lakh. Those above 60 years of age have been provided additional security cover of 30 thousand which will give them health insurance of 1 lakh 30 thousand rupees. Considering the number of kidney patients, the proposal to open a dialysis center in every district is commendable. The target of providing free gas connections to 5 crore women will benefit those

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

poor women. They used to damage their eyes and lungs with smoke. The target of transferring subsidy directly to their accounts through Aadhaar card will greatly benefit the common man. The target set by the government to open 3 thousand Jan Aushadhi Kendras will provide affordable medicines to the poor people. A provision of Rs.5000 crore has been made to develop clusters of villages by forming 300 clusters which will facilitate the development of villages. It has been proposed to increase the budget of Gram Panchayats by 228 percent to Rs. 2 lakh 87 thousand crore. With this, every gram panchayat will get at least Rs. 80 lakh. Along with this, each town area and municipal councils will also get Rs. 11 crore to Rs. 21 crore. Which will help in the development there. A target of constructing 10 thousand km of National Highways has been set in the year 2016-17. A special plan has been launched to build flyovers at every railway crossing which is commendable and a revolutionary step. Tax deduction exemption up to Rs. 50 thousand has been provided to small house buyers. This will fulfill the dream of the common people to buy a house. Giving relief to tenants, the exemption limit in income tax deduction has been increased from 24 thousand to 60 thousand, which is a commendable effort.

I would like to request the Hon. Minister of Finance that in view of public sentiments, please take back the additional tax imposed on the bullion trade and take the bullion traders into confidence and make a provision in the budget to compensate for the said tax in some other form. I expect that you will make such an announcement in your reply to increase the income tax exemption limit, which was not increased even last year, from Rs. 2 and a half lakh to Rs. 3 lakh. The Member of Parliament Area Development Fund which was increased several years ago needs to be increased according to the inflation rate of raw material. Therefore, a decision on this matter should be taken soon and provision should be made in this budget to increase it. I request that a special grant for Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana should be arranged in this budget.

I come from Bundelkhand region where there is an odd situation due to drought for the last 10 years. The farmer is committing suicide. Therefore, I request to start work from this year by taking every district of Bundelkhand, especially all the eight districts of Uttar Pradesh under the Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojana. I request to waive the loans and interest of all the farmers of the district in Bundelkhand region and make a provision in this budget for depositing this grant

directly in their accounts. I specially request for the establishment of an AIIMS in Banda or Mahoba to provide health services to the poor people of Bundelkhand region. There is no Kendriya Vidyalaya in Banda district in my parliamentary constituency. I request to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in this session. There are many cancer patients in my area. There is no hospital within several hundred kilometers. Therefore, I request to open a cancer hospital in Chitrakoot Dham.

With this, I conclude my speech by supporting the budget presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance and thanking him for presenting a historic budget.

[English]

***PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED):** First of all, I compliment the hon. Finance Minister and the Government of India for presenting a pro-people budget which is for all purpose a pro-poor budget. I compliment the Government for keeping in control the fiscal deficit, which is the result of prudent fiscal planning and control.

The budget unequivocally supports the MGNREGA, Crop Insurance, and a host of such people-friendly schemes to help the marginalized to be freed from the shackles of poverty which they have been undergoing for several decades.

Doubling farmers income is by itself a formidable task which the Government is committed to and this Budget shows the way for doubling the farmers income by 2022. The basic needs of the rural poor are taken care of by this Government which understands the pangs of the pain suffered by the poor all these years.

I urge upon the Finance Minister to provide more financial support to enable marketing of the farm products, value addition, augmenting the farmers income, constituting a Food Regulatory

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Authority by the Union Government to support the prices of all farm produce so as to ensure fair price for the farmers as well as fair price to the consumers which are most welcome and for which we look forward to.

Allocation of more budgetary provisions for the education sector is most welcome as this is the key method by which a nation can progress by providing educational opportunities, especially for the underprivileged. A concerted action is called for helping the weak and poor to be provided with educational facilities on a war footing from primary to higher education. The GER has to increase and catch up with other developed countries. More funds are to be used for research and innovative practices in the universities which would help industry and the society to progress at a greater speed. Simultaneously, this Government is laying emphasis on skill development which would ensure jobs to the youth who have registered their faith in a Government which fulfills the aspirations of its citizenry, especially the youth. The linguistic minority, Anglo-Indian, seeks financial support for their socio-economic development.

Also the hon. The Finance Minister has laid so much importance to the development of infrastructure by allocating huge outlays for

infrastructure, including roads, rail, inland water way, ports, etc. The construction industry too will also develop by leaps and bounds due to fiscal policies and budgetary support. Providing homes for millions of people is yet another laudable achievement. The low cost housing scheme would fulfill the dreams of millions of homeless.

The Aadhar cards are going to help millions to obtain their legitimate claims and would make them enjoy the fruits of their hard earned labor.

The budgetary support for completing rural electrification is another admirable feat that would bring the joy of light to millions of homes throughout the country. The gas connections in the homes of millions of poor in our country will bring a lot of relief to the poor - a result of the love and affection showered by the hon. Prime Minister to the common man by sending out a call to the fellow citizens to give up subsidy so as to help the needy.

The hon. the Finance Minister has given an opportunity to the tax defaulters to pay up their tax which would necessarily help the poor as the Government would be able to bring out more welfare measures to save the poor from poverty. We hope the tax defaulters will show

concern for the poor brethren and sisters and pay their tax as a true citizen of the nation.

The Mudra Bank, the Start Up and Stand Up, the several insurance schemes, etc. are bringing out positive results that need the budgetary support and the support of every citizen who can also reap the benefits of such a pro-people budget. The ripple effect of such a people-centric budget is the acceptance by the people who have immense faith in this Government's economic policies.

The nation needs the backing of both PSUs and private sector to revitalize her economy to build a modern India where progress is achieved through equity, justice and integrity. I once again pay my compliments to our hon. Visionary Finance Minister and the leader of the nation, the Prime Minister for bringing out a growth-oriented welfare budget that fulfills the dreams of her citizenry. Resurgence of India is a fact and reality.

[Translation]

***SHRI AJAY MISHRA TENI (KHEERI):** I support the General Budget 2016-17 presented by the Hon. Minister of Finance. A new revolution has begun in the economy. In the current environment, this is a balanced budget which will promote the poor, farmers, villages, middle class, development of infrastructure, and industry and trade. Opposition parties are protesting (due to prejudice and political reasons) but they also know that proposals have been made to maintain the pace of the economy along with taking care of agriculture, farmers, villages, poor, health, cheap medicines, electricity, water, roads, employment and also to eliminate the difference in the standard of living between villages and cities, whose results will be visible soon. The budget shows that this government is committed to provide bread, clothes, houses, employment and facilities to all the people of the country. This budget, which fulfills the expectations of the common citizens of the country, the industry, farmers and the youth, is an excellent example of economics and management by the Hon. Minister of Finance in the times of difficult fiscal challenges. We know that agriculture is the mainstay of the

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Indian economy. 70% of the people of this country are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture. Hon. The Minister of Finance has made a commendable proposal to double the income of farmers in five years by giving 36000 crore rupees.

The government has proposed to increase the agricultural loan to nine lakh crores and to provide facilities to villages and farmers by proposing to increase residential facilities in villages by developing 300 rural clusters (100 this year) along with the Prime Minister Irrigation Scheme, Crop Insurance Scheme, National Agriculture Market, skill development along with allied agricultural businesses like dairy, food processing.

Agriculture plays an important role in the Indian economy. Agriculture contributes 30 percent to the GDP, while the agricultural sector contributes approximately 50 percent to total exports. At the same time, apart from providing raw materials to the industrial sector, many goods produced are also consumed in the agriculture sector. The Government has set a target of issuing Soil Health Cards to all 14 crore farmers by March, 2017 to maintain the health of the land. Emphasis has also been laid on organic farming in the country. The government is trying to increase the income of farmers. The country

has also prepared a strategy to overcome the shortage of pulses and to deal with the drought in Maharashtra and Bundelkhand. The Government has also proposed to construct 28.5 lakh hectares of land in 23 projects under Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana by 2017 and create a Long Term Irrigation Fund.

The government has proposed to allow 100 percent foreign investment in agriculture-based food processing and also to ensure that farmers get the full price of their crops by providing an e-platform for marketing.

In this excellent budget, emphasis has been laid on Pradhan Mantri Road Scheme, National Highway, health cover of Rupees one lakh, development of airports, increasing connectivity, increasing transport facilities from Kashmir to the northeastern states, providing employment opportunities, bringing better changes in the standard of living of the common people as well as creating infrastructure to improve basic facilities like education, health, roads, water, electricity. This budget is also welcomed for better security and comfortable railways and strong economy of the country. The country is definitely moving towards development. I can say that the 2016-17

budget will be an important step for the sustainable development of the country. I support this Budget.

*SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SINGH (AURANGABAD): Thank you Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji for presenting a historic, spectacular budget for the progress of the farmers of the country, rural India for the year 201617. I also support the budget. Crores of youth and students of the country have high hopes from this budget.

This budget has been prepared with the inspiration of the Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji and as per his wishes, which includes many public welfare schemes such as prosperity of farmers at the center, welfare schemes for the poor in villages, employment for the youth through skill development, etc., whose implementation will definitely lead to progress of the country, the countrymen will be happy and the country will develop. The opposition is silenced by the inclusion of topics related to the benefits and convenience of villages, poor and farmers at the center in this excellent budget. They have no issues to protest. Appreciating this budget, I would like to say that the condition of farmers in my state Bihar is not good economically.

Where for the last forty years a very important irrigation project is going on, which is an inter-state irrigation project irrigating 1.25 lakh hectares of land in Bihar-Jharkhand, its name is Uttar Koyla

* Speech was laid on the Table.

Irrigation Scheme. Due to lack of iron gates in its dam, Katku (Mandal) Dam, the project is incomplete and lakhs of hectares of land remains unirrigated.

In Bihar, the condition of farmers is worsening due to the state government not purchasing paddy at the minimum support price for the last several years. I would like to say that if a State Government does not worry about the millions of farmers of its State, will the Union Government also leave them to their fate? I believe that the Modi government, which is a well-wisher of farmers, will definitely consider this serious issue and find some way to improve the financial condition of farmers so that paddy from farmers is purchased at the minimum support price at the government level and considering the increased cost, a bonus of at least Rs. 500 per quintal should also be given.

Finally, I thank the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley for presenting this good budget and at the same time supporting this budget.

***DR. BODHSINGH BHAGAT (BALAGHAT):** I stand in support of the Budget for 2016-17 presented by the Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley. Seeing this budget, the people of the country have started feeling that good days have started coming. Shri Narendra Modi had appealed to the people during the Lok Sabha elections, the slogan 'Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas' is now becoming meaningful. In this budget, special emphasis has been laid on sectors like agriculture, irrigation, health, women and child development, social sector including welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, minorities and infrastructure. The economy grew sharply by 7.6 percent in 2015-16. Inflation has come down from 9.4 percent during the tenure of the previous government to 5.4 percent at present despite lack of monsoon rainfall of 13 percent and 4.4 percent reduction in global exports. The fiscal deficit has been kept at 3.5 percent. For the first time in this budget, more funds have been allocated for agriculture and rural development than previous governments. As India is an agricultural country, agriculture is the backbone of the economy. About 70 percent of the population is dependent on agriculture. In the 2016-17 budget, a provision of Rs 35,984 crore has

* Speech was laid on the Table.

been made for the agriculture sector and welfare of farmers, which is double as compared to the previous budget. A long-term fund of Rs. 20,000 crore has been created for irrigation and a target has been set to double the income of farmers in the next five years. A provision of Rs. 5,500 crore has been made for Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana to protect farmers from adverse effects of nature. Under the health protection scheme, a provision has been made to provide health insurance of Rs. 1 lakh per family. A provision has been made to provide health insurance of Rs. 30,000 to senior citizens. A provision has been made in the 2016-17 budget to provide cooking gas to women in every 1.5 crore BPL household. Government expenditure on infrastructure has been increased by 22.5 percent to Rs. 2.21 lakh crore. With this, 2.23 lakh kilometers of roads will be constructed by 2019. The expenditure under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana has been doubled to Rs. 19,000 crore as compared to 2012-13. A provision of Rs. 38,500 crore has been made for MGNREGA. The target is to provide electricity to hundred villages by May 1st, 2018, for which a provision of Rs. 8,500 crore has been made. A provision of Rs. 900 crore has been made for the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan. An amount of Rs. 87,765 crore has been kept for overall rural development. Provision has been made to open 3,000 stores under Pradhan Mantri

Janaushadhi Yojana. Provision has been made to start the National Dialysis Service Programme. The Stand-up India scheme for SC and ST entrepreneurs has been approved. Rs. 500 crore has been made available for this. This will benefit 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs. Provision has been made for effective implementation of the Multi-Sectoral Development Programme and Ustad Scheme for the welfare of minorities. Provision has been made to open 72 new Navodaya Vidyalayas. A provision of Rs. 1700 crore has been made for skill development. An amount of Rs. 5,500 crore has been kept for the construction of highways. A provision of Rs. 1,80,000 crore has been made for the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. This will help in making the youth self-reliant. A provision of Rs. 2,87,000 crore has been made for development of Gram Panchayats and Municipalities as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission for development of Gram Panchayats and Municipalities as per the recommendations of the 14th Finance Commission, which will provide an amount of Rs. 80 lakh to each Gram Panchayat and Rs. 21 crore to local bodies. The interests of the middle class have also been taken care of in this budget. A provision of Rs. 500 crore has been made for home loan waiver on additional interest up to 50,000 and Price Stabilization Fund for stability in prices of pulses. Exemption limit u/s 87A of Income

Tax has been increased from 2000 to 5000. The exemption limit under Section 87A of Income Tax on house rent has been increased from 24,000 to 60,000 per annum. A Rs 1,000 crore Higher Education Financing Agency has been set up to promote higher education. Thus, measures for the welfare of all sections have been taken in the budget of 2016-17. This is the best budget among all the budgets presented till date after independence. Our Prime Minister's resolve is to build an India that is glorious, united, developed, beautiful and clean. The dream of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will definitely come true. I thank the Hon. Prime Minister and Shri Jaitley ji and support this budget.

[English]

***DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR):** On behalf of our AIADMK party, I strongly oppose the Union Government's proposal to bring about a lesser interest on the hard-earned and prudently saved provident fund savings of the salaried class. This would cause great hardship especially to senior citizens. This would also discourage the habit of savings affecting our economy in a big way.

Even before moving an amendment in the Finance Bill, the Prime Minister who was all in praise for this year's Union Budget has reportedly promised and the Finance Minister has also announced about partly rolling back the stringent tax proposal on withdrawal from the PF savings.

The Centre's insistence to invest 40% of PF in bonds and imposition of income tax on the remaining 60% of PF has been felt as a harsh measure. This amounts to double taxation and hence deplored. The balancing act of budget becomes an imbalanced one due to this tinkering. In its eagerness to please the corporate sector as a fore-thought and to woo the rural population as an after-thought, the Union

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

Government is losing sight of the middle class. Therefore, our leader hon. Amma urged upon the Centre to have a relook. As per the proxym, 'better late than never' the Centre has considered the plea of our leader hon. Puratchi Thalaivi made on behalf of the salaried class. It must not be a half hearted move.

The statement of the hon. The Finance Minister with regard to paragraph 138 and 139 of his budget speech is not fully convincing. So, I still urge the Centre to drop your proposal entirely.

The people of Tamil Nadu especially those who live in the capital city of Chennai and the coastal districts were seriously affected by the deluge-like rain-floods that inundated and submerged many places. Hon. The President of India described it to be a huge loss and an unprecedented havoc. But still, when the hon. The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu asked for a minimum of Rs. 25,000 crore to offset the heavy loss, only Rs. 2150 crore was announced by the Centre.

There again the second installment came very late, much delayed after the assessment of damages by the Central team. When the Centre is in a delaying mood, hopefully not a denial mood, we are still waiting for a package for rebuilding the lives, livelihood and the vastly affected infrastructure. When we are yet to come out of the shock and

pain, it is like adding insult to the injury, irresponsible statements are made by some Union Ministers like Shri Prakash Javedakar.

Our Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu hon. Amma extended whatever possible assistance to begin the relief measures immediately. The Union Finance Minister is still expected to extend assistance further. But in the meantime, the Union Environment Minister who is neither directly connected with the Union Budget nor associated with the allocation of funds, made derisive comments about the measures of our Government of Tamil Nadu. He made a tall claim that whatever that was extended by the Tamil Nadu Government to the flood affected people came only from the Centre. He lost sight of the fact that the Government of Tamil Nadu was fully geared up to address the grievances of the people even at the time of managing a difficult financial situation. When generous help came from various states and even individuals, what was announced by the Centre did not meet our expectations.

Where does the Centre get its revenue to apportion funds to various states? All the money that Centre gets is coming only from the people living in various States. The Central revenue is at the cost of the needs and the interests of the State Governments. Though the

Centre is not having its own dominion, it gets a lot of money through income tax and customs duties apart from the non-shareable excise duties and cess under various heads. The shares the states get are far from satisfying. Federal spirit is very much lacking. Should we call Federalism a peril?

As it is, the Centre has washed off its hands from many social welfare schemes and rural development programmes. The Centre must treat disasters of high-magnitude like the recent rain-floods in Tamil Nadu as national calamity with suitable compensation. At this juncture, the comment made by Shri Javadekar is too much. Instead of rushing with a helping hand, such Union Ministers must not rush to Tamil Nadu and rush away making sweeping comments.

I wish such irresponsible Ministers learn niceties from diplomatic and cultured Ministers like Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Venkaiah Naidu. He even went to the extent of helping the people of Chennai city at the time of natural calamity that affected us last December.

*DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): I would like to express my strong reservations on the tendency of the Government of India to by-pass the supremacy of the Parliament. The role of the various departmentally related Standing Committees are being reduced to near organs to look into the Demands for Grants, whose recommendations are not at all seriously considered by the executive.

The Finance Minister is trying to generate a set of numbers for projected revenues that are unlikely to be met. Then they find it as an excuse for reducing certain expenditure below the allocated amounts. The end result is that every succeeding year, the Parliamentary discussions on General Budget as well as discussions on the Demands for Grants for various Ministries become a futile exercise. The centralized and secretive manner for the eventual spending below the budgeted amount is not at all a healthy practice for a developing nation like India.

Despite the Global decline in commodity crisis and the Chinese downturn, the government is heavily counting on the external sector for growth. Is it possible? The Budget has kept the capital expenditure same as that in the previous Budget. How has the GOI kept the

* Speech was laid on the Table.

revenue deficit at 3.5%? It is counting on two things, a favorable growth in the economy, and low oil prices. Neither of this is likely to continue then what would the Government do, it will cut down on the now increased NREGA, because by that time the elections in Bengal, Kerala and UP would be over.

Why is the Government reluctant to raise the tax GDP ratios, our country has one of the lowest compared to different OECD countries. We are making subsidies as if it is a big issue. Compared to the subsidy transfers done by the US farm bill and European common agricultural policy, our transfers to farmers are far less. Does the Budget address the decline in the price of agricultural commodities which is affecting Kerala badly.

Preoccupied with further reduction of the fiscal deficit, the Finance Minister has proposed to reduce the Union Government expenditure to GDP ratio further. Notwithstanding claims of increases on certain heads of expenditure, there is a parallel slashing on other heads. In agriculture the main increase which the budget shows is by way of transfer to banks and insurance companies that has no real benefit to the farmers. Despite tall claims of a big push in infrastructure, capital expenditure in 2015-16 was lower than

budgeted and is proposed to be kept at almost the same level in 2016-17 - implying a reduction in real terms and as a share of GDP from 1.8% to 1.6%. Both food and fertilizer subsidies have been cut by Rs.5000 crores and Rs.2000 crores respectively. The expenditure on Tribal Sub Plan, which is supposed to be 8.6% of the total plan expenditure, is only 4.4% - a shortfall of Rs. 24000 crores. Allocations for Minority Welfare have fallen in real terms. The allocation for the ICDS has been slashed by Rs. 1500 crores despite the direction of the Supreme Court for its universalisation, which would have required an additional Rs. 10,000 crores. Similarly, in the case of the SC sub-plan, the expenditure is pegged at 7% of the total when it should be 16.6% - a shortfall of Rs. 52,470 crores. The Finance Minister also proposes that, for the first time, 60 per cent of all pension and provident fund withdrawals will be taxed! Therefore, if the workers and salaried middle class withdraw their own savings, they will have to bear the burden of this proposed tax.

The lofty claim of highest ever allocation for MNREGA is patently false because it was higher in the year 2010-11. Maintaining 2010-11 levels in real terms would have required an expenditure of over Rs. 65,000 crore in 2016-17. What is even more shocking is the

concealment of the fact that in 2015-16, despite it being a drought year and the promise of doubling the number of days of work from 100 to 200, the actual level of expenditure was so low as to generate only an average of 38 days of work.

The budget is, therefore, distorted without any vision. It is once again a blatant attack on the poor and the oppressed. This is a budget to appease the rich accentuating the problems of unemployment and rising inequality.

If we implement Aadhar Card, will each and every Indian be able to receive the "promised sum" of Rs. 15/- lakh in their respective bank accounts? Many of the Budget proposals are detrimental to the economic growth of states like Kerala. Justice is not shown to the five million Indians working abroad and the millions of poor farmers, many of them in the path of committing suicide.

[Translation]

[*]**SHRIMATI RAKSHA TAI KHADSE** (**RAVER):** I would like to congratulate Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji and Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley ji I support this general budget that despite the adverse conditions the world is facing, India is succeeding in increasing its GDP, which is evident from the increase in the GDP rate due to this general budget. Our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is constantly trying to take India to greater heights through new schemes like Make in India, Digital India, Swachh Bharat.

This general budget has been prepared by our Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Finance Minister, keeping in mind the welfare and progress of the general public and the farmers in particular, by providing huge funds and keeping in mind the income security of the farmers who provide food security to all of us Indians. To empower farmers and agriculture sector, problems faced by farmers like optimal use of water resources, mobilization of new irrigation resources (special fund allocated for early completion of 89 irrigation projects in the country which are slow or stalled due to various reasons through

[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

AIBP), long term arrangement of 20,000 crores for irrigation projects, and construction of 2000 model fertilizer sales centers within the next three years for the use of fertilizers in balanced quantities to maintain and increase the fertility of the land and these centers will have land (soil) and seed testing machine/lab facility. Under the MGNREGA scheme, there is a plan to develop 5 lakh farm ponds and recharge wells and 90 lakh compost pits in which organic manure will be developed so that farmers can create this system in their own farms. Madam Speaker, in order to ensure that farmers get the full and fair price for their agricultural produce such as grains, fruits and vegetables, the e-market will be linked to the APMC (Agricultural Produce Market Committee) operating within the block limits, which will provide unified agriculture marketing to the farmers. Under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, farmers will be provided with a small premium amount. Along with this, a system has also been made to provide a higher compensation amount for the loss caused due to natural disasters. There will be greater ease in claiming losses and relief in crop insurance rules so that farmers can get maximum benefit in a natural calamity within a minimum time. With this, the government has taken this step with the plans made for agriculture and farmers with the expectation that the income of farmers will double in

the coming five years and without stopping here, it has made a huge amount of money available for the fulfillment of all these schemes. Fruits and vegetables grown by farmers get spoiled due to not reaching the market quickly. If value addition is done to the food products, not only will they remain good for a long time, but farmers will also benefit from it. Therefore, to create and strengthen such industries, 100 percent FDI will be allowed. I welcome the schemes launched by the Hon. Prime Minister for the farmers. When the world is facing difficult economic conditions, in such a difficult environment the Hon. The Minister of Finance has very skilfully coordinated all these schemes, I would also like to thank him for that.

To develop our rural areas, the highest ever amount of Rs. 19000 crore has been allocated under the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, which will take the total amount to Rs. 27000 crore including the state funds. There is a provision to connect the remaining 65000 settlements with paved roads across the country by 2019 instead of 2021. Four new dairy schemes for promotion of livestock and their health care for farmers and villagers and for dairy development namely Pashudhan Sanjivani, Nakul Swasthya Patra, Pashudhan Haat and National Genomic Centre which will be a breeding center to

increase India's own breeders. The allocation of funds to develop every village panchayat and every municipal area for the daily needs of the common man has now been increased to Rs. 80 lakh and Rs. 21 crore per year, which is the highest ever allocation since the last five years. To provide LPG connection to every BPL card holder, in the year 2016-17, LPG connections will be given in the name of women of 1.5 crore BPL families, in which there is a provision to extend it to 5 crore BPL families in the next three years. To make rural India digitally literate, 6 crore more families will be included in this scheme within the next 3 years. To propose such a system in which 3000 new Jan Aushadhi stores are planned to be opened this year to provide medicines to the general public at affordable prices. In view of the increasing number of kidney patients undergoing dialysis cycles and the expenses incurred in reducing the number of expenses and long distance travel, the "National Dialysis Service Program" in which the measures to propose dialysis centers in every district under the National Health Mission are commendable.

Announcement of Stand Up India Scheme to promote entrepreneurship among tribals and women. Under this scheme, employment will be provided by proposing at least two projects from

each bank branch and one entrepreneur from each category. Measures to promote and give new energy to entrepreneurs in this sector. Implementation of Ustad Scheme, a skill development program for the welfare of minorities. Provision of more funding for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan to raise the level of primary education and make it universal and proposal for 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas. In order to make higher education institutions global in the field of teaching and research, providing more infrastructure in this field to 10 government and 10 private institutions so that students from ordinary families can get the facility to take higher education, issuing certificates to students such as school leaving, degree certificates, mark sheets and academic awards are noteworthy. Now the digital depository scheme will be launched, in which the documents will be safe and will be saved from getting lost and damaged and there will be no need to take them with you. In the small and medium industrial sector, if more employees are on record then their family pension registration will be done with EFPO and the government will pay the family pension share of all such employees for the first three years, which will lead to creation of new employment. For employment generation, there is a provision of opening 100 new model career centers this year and adding them to the state employment exchange.

A provision of Rs. 70000 crore has been made for roads and national highways under which work on 70 old projects is proposed to be completed by 75 percent in this budget. However, the Hon. The Minister also passed the order to start the work of four laning of National Highway No. 6. He also informed the officials to work on the railway overbridge at three places in Jalgaon town. I request that this work should be completed without any hindrance and the government should allocate the necessary funds for it. Under the newly proposed Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Kendra, there should be a multi-skill development center in each block of the country, due to which our farmers will be able to train their children in agriculture-related businesses and this will further empower our banana farmers , who supply nearly 34 percent of the banana crop in India. And after all, this year 2016-17 general budget which focuses on farmers, rural people, backward classes and minorities and women, health, crop and crop insurance, education, higher education system, employment generation, and despite adverse conditions all over the world, strengthening and empowering infrastructure is going to take India towards a new progress , showing that India is ready to make its place in the world once again. I again support the general budget by

thanking our Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and Hon. Minister of Finance for giving this budget.

[English]

[*]**SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER):** The General Budget is pro-farmer and focuses on strengthening the Rural Development of the Country. It is a very welcome Budget for Rural India. In this context, I would like that the Budget provided for PMKSY should be increased so that Agriculture growth can take place properly at the rate of 4% which is very much required for the overall development.

Thanks.

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[*] Speech was laid on the Table.

[Translation]

***SHRI AJAY TAMTA (ALMORA):** I am deeply grateful to you for giving me this opportunity to express my views on the General Budget 2016-17. For the first time in the history of independent India, this budget has made every effort to ensure the participation of citizens of every section of the country in the process of building a prosperous, superior, glorious India. Currently, under the able leadership of our Hon. Prime Minister, not only has our international reputation increased tremendously, but every citizen of the country has also been filled with new enthusiasm and vigor. For this, I heartily congratulate the Hon. Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley and the Minister of State for Finance Shri Jayant Sinha.

I fully believe that this budget will play an important role in writing a new chapter in good governance, poverty alleviation, socio-economic transformation, employment generation and advancement in the agriculture sector.

The call of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' given by our Prime Minister, this budget will add to the all-round development of India.

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

The concerns and problems of rural India have been given special attention in the budget. This is the first time in history that a Minister of Finance has paid special attention to the agriculture sector and farmers in his budget speech and has set a target to not only increase but also double the income of farmers within a fixed time period.

The current budget is committed towards the development of rural India and it is right because even today a large population of ours lives in villages. To further accelerate economic development, it is necessary that we continuously reduce the gap between urban India and rural India. Taking steps in this direction, the government has taken several steps to strengthen the infrastructure of the rural areas. The government has also provided a substantial amount of funds for the MNREGA program which has emerged as a major source of employment in the villages and an attempt has been made to use this scheme to strengthen the rural infrastructure. Apart from this, focus has also been laid on the irrigation scheme, this is a very important step considering the continuously falling level of underground water. This will not only provide water to irrigated fields, but will also enable better management of water, which will have positive long term consequences.

In the budget presented by the Minister of Finance, even the smallest things have been taken care of, which are very important from a long-term perspective. One such scheme is to make LPG available to all households; this will not only benefit the environment but will also provide relief to poor women from all the diseases caused by using wood as fuel. Similarly, a target has been set to provide electricity to 18,500 villages of the country by May 1st, 2018 which is welcomed.

Similarly to accelerate the pace of employment generation, emphasis has been laid on Startup India, which is a right step. At present, the priority of the government is to generate employment for the youth and hence, a lot of attention has been paid to the youth in the budget. In this direction, the Union Government has decided to give tax exemptions along with various financial facilities to the new entrepreneurs to promote private entrepreneurship. It is expected that this initiative of the government will accelerate employment generation in the country and the expectations of the youth will be fulfilled. The Stand Up India scheme has been designed to promote entrepreneurship among Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and women.

With the objective of providing employment to the youth, the government has made a provision of Rs. 1700 crores for setting up 1550 skill training centers across the country. This scheme will benefit 2.5 lakh entrepreneurs. For this, Rs. 388833 crore has been kept under the welfare of scheduled castes. Under the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, the government has provided Rs. 7350 crores in the proposed budget this year as compared to Rs. 6580 crores last year. In this, Rs. 2791 crores have been kept for Scheduled Caste Scholarship, Rs. 1200 crores for Scheduled Tribe children and Rs. 600 crores for Van Bandhu. With this budgetary allocation, this section will be able to provide employment to people themselves instead of working for someone else. This is a very useful effort visible in this budget.

Looking at the changing dynamics of life, today we are seeing scope for some change in almost all the areas which is the result of adaptability towards all the directions, that is why today we are reaching the stage of digitization in all the areas including cities. Many important steps have been taken in this direction under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister. Today we are taking advantage of various digital services like e-banking, e-ticketing, e-commerce etc. Now

optical fiber cables are being laid to make internet access easy in every village, which is somewhere the result of the digital thinking of the present government and the necessary steps taken in that direction. E-hospital is also a revolutionary step in this revolutionary budget. A country-wide plan for dialysis has been launched to strengthen health communication efforts in India to accelerate the outcome and impact of health programmes and activities. Today, due to the rise in kidney related disorders in the country, the number of people for whom dialysis becomes a compulsion is increasing. In this budget, the government has decided to provide health cover of up to one lakh rupees to every family in the country. If there is a senior citizen in the family, then this amount will be Rs 1.30 lakh. This step of the Minister of Finance will help many needy people in getting their treatment done, the government has proposed to give Rs 30 thousand crores in this regard. In order to provide cheap generic medicines to the poor in the country, provision has been made in this budget for opening three thousand Jan Aushadhi Kendras in 2016-17 and for infectious and non-infectious diseases, AIDS, TB, blindness prevention, family planning and other items. The health budget is much better than in previous years. I am happy that the government has taken care of the patients both directly and indirectly. Direct dialysis has been made

free in this budget. National dialysis will benefit 2.5 lakh people across the country.

In his budget, the Minister of Finance has tried to accelerate the country's economy by focusing on highways and infrastructure. The Minister has generously opened the doors of the treasury for the road transport sector. 1 In fact, expanding the road highways will not only improve connectivity but will also create employment opportunities and will also have a positive impact on the economy. The government has also made provision for funds to restart the closed airport. 65 percent of the 70 stuck projects in the road transport sector are back on track. In this budget, the Road Transport Ministry has received Rs 45 thousand 500 crores, the main reason for this is the living example of the dedicated working style of our Road Transport Minister, Shri Nitin Gadkari. I also thank Gadkari ji for this.

The Prime Minister's economic vision is now becoming more clear in the 2016 Budget. Actually, this is a budget to empower young India to change the face of India. This budget advances the belief that youth and entrepreneurs can play an important role in transforming the economy and the nation’s fortunes. Not only this, it will also provide an alternative to the traditional economic model of depending

only on a few big corporate groups for investment and jobs. Therefore, under the Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana, the main emphasis is on investing in improving the efficiency of more than one crore youth in the next 3 years. Through this it has also been ensured that the obstacles in the way of access to capital for entrepreneurs in rural areas can be removed. 76 lakh youth have already been trained under the National Skill Development Mission and this number will further increase with the setting up of 1500 multi-skill training institutes as per the budget proposals. The decision to give tax exemption to companies who provide jobs to unemployed people at salaries up to Rs. 25000 will also help in increasing employment generation in the country. This budget is for the poor village farmers and youth, this will improve their economic and social condition. The special thing is that this time in the budget, the provision of 0.5 percent agricultural welfare balance and 7.5 percent balance on black money deposited in the government treasury will give more impetus to agricultural schemes. For the first time after independence, top priority has been given to the agriculture sector by making a provision of Rs. 36 thousand crores in the general budget. Rs. 5717 crore has been allocated for irrigation. With this, 5 lakh ponds and wells will be constructed across the country. Rs. 362 crore has been allocated for

the improvement of the soil. There is a provision to provide Soil Health Cards to all 14 crore farmers by March 2017 and an allocation of Rs. 297 crore has been made in the budget for organic farming, which is 19% more than last year. To make the National Food Security Mission successful, a target has been set to increase productivity. Rs 1700 crore has been given under this head, Sarve Bhavantu Sukhina Sarve Santu Niramaya has been made successful through this budget by allocating Rs 500 crore for pulses production.

This year's budget has a special focus on farmers. This budget is committed towards the development of rural India and rightly so because even today a large population of ours lives in villages. The village roads will no longer be hiccups. The way the Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana is being implemented now was not the case earlier. 27 thousand crores are to be spent under this scheme and connecting 65 thousand new settlements with roads is a golden gift for the villages. Farmers, poor and deprived people have been taken care of in the budget. I congratulate the Prime Minister and our two Ministers of Finances for their foresight. The Budget lays emphasis on Social Sector Skill Development and Employment Generation. This budget will fulfill the expectations of the people.

Jai Jawan Jai Kisan Jai Vigyan

Let's make our India great together.

***SHRI ASHWINI KUMAR CHOUBEY (BUXAR):** First of all, I congratulate him for the far-reaching impressive 2016-17 General Budget presented by the Minister of Finance Shri Arun Jaitley under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and also congratulate the Minister of State for Finance Shri Jayant Sinha Ji.

I believe that "The drop of water gradually fills the pot. He is the cause of all the sciences and of righteousness. I " Just as each drop of water fills a pot, so knowledge increases with time and today I want to say with great pleasure that with the past year our Minister of Finance who failed policies by the previous government Studying the developing policy, this general budget has taken care of all classes, with an allocation of Rs. 35984 crore for agriculture and farmer welfare, 28.5 lakh hectares of area for irrigation of "Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana" in mission twist Implementation, construction of 5 lakh farm ponds and wells and 10 lakh compost pits for production of organic fertilizer in annually nourished areas under MNREGA, promotion of organic farming, provision of joint e-market for wholesale markets, till 2019 remaining 65,000 eligible till Connection of settlements with roads, allocation of Rs. 5,500 crore

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* Speech was laid on the Table.

under Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, development of 300 rural urban clusters under Shyama Prasad Mukherjee Rural Urban Mission, 100 per cent rural electrification by May 1st, 2018, as well as social sector including health care Also giving priority- provision of Rs. 2000 crore for providing LPG connections to BPL families, health security up to one lakh rupees per family under New Health Protection Scheme and additional top-up package up to Rs. 30000 to senior citizens, 2016-17, provision of 3,000 stores under Prime Minister's Jan-Aushadhi Yojana, National Dialysis Service Program through PPP mode, establishment of National SC and ST Hub with participation of industry, 62 new Navodaya Vidyalayas in the field of education , to develop 10 government and 10 private institutions into world-class teaching and research training institutions, as well as establishment of 1500 multi-skill training institutions for skill development, establishment of National Skill Development Certification Board with the participation of industry and academia, as well as in 2016-17 sanctioned about 10,000 km of National Highways, amendment of Motor Vehicles Act to open up road transport sector, action plan for revival of above and less used aircraft crash sites with participation of State Governments, deep water, ultra deep water and high pressure Proper marketing freedom to promote

production of gas from high temperature areas, insurance and pensions etc. Improved Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy in areas of reconstruction companies, stock exchanges Improved financial sector reforms, relief to small taxpayers, employment and Promote development, promote Make in India, promote pension society, promote affordable housing construction, mobilize additional resources for agriculture, rural economy and clean environment, create funds in taxation, simplify and rationalize taxes, accountability inherent Provision has been made to use technology to. The more I appreciate this budget, the less it is.

The budget presented by the Union Minister of Finance is a very positive and balanced budget. It has a balance of development and financial prudence. Most importantly, the Minister of Finance remained firm on his promise in terms of fiscal deficit. The fiscal deficit was 3.9 percent in the previous budget and it was promised that the deficit would remain at 3.5 percent in the next budget. At the same time, he has not made any cuts in the allocation of funds to important sectors. He has given a big boost to investment in infrastructure and agriculture. In the last two years, the monsoon has been very weak, due to which the tension in the rural economy has increased to such

an extent that farmers have been forced to commit suicide in many places. The demand in rural markets has come down significantly due to poor yield. This has also adversely affected the industries which meet the demand of rural areas. A market for two-wheelers and tractors. The Hon. The Minister of Finance wants to change this state of the rural market in a big way so he has announced that the income of farmers will be doubled in the next five years. Special importance has been given to the expenditure on Khaswar Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana and Pradhan Mantri Sinchai Yojana. The government has already announced schemes like crop insurance. The provision of MGNREGA has been significantly increased keeping in view the situation in rural areas. Rural areas have been given top priority in the budget.

The second priority of the budget is education and skill development. The right to education did make education accessible to all but its quality was not taken into consideration. The government has given special attention to its quality in the budget. There is also provision to develop ten world-class institutes for skill development under which ten million people will be equipped with new skills. Provision for higher education has also been increased. The Budget

gives equal priority to education as well as the entire social sector especially public health services, the provision of which has been significantly increased.

The Union Budget has made substantial provisions for the development of roads, civil aviation and ports. Surface Transport Minister Shri Nitin Gadkari has resumed several pending road projects. There are 160 airstrips in the country from where regular flights do not take place. Hon. The Minister of Finance has talked about developing these as regional hubs of air traffic.

The banking sector has been in a very bad shape for quite some time. An asset reconstruction fund of Rs. 25000 crore has been set up for this purpose. There is also an Indradhanush scheme for recapitalisation of banks. Besides, Debt Recovery Tribunals have also been announced to recover the sunk loans of the banks. The scheme to link cooking gas to Aadhaar and deliver money directly to consumers' accounts has been successful and now it is being extended to fertilizers. An important aspect of the budget is efforts to make business easier. Under this, a Dispute Redressal Cell has been created which will settle the dispute within a limited time. The government has announced several provisions in the budget to expose black

money. This is quite similar to the Voluntary Declaration of Income Scheme (VDIS) formulated in 1997.

To be honest, this is a budget to improve the condition and direction of the village, the poor and the farmers. This budget will change the image of the village as well as blow a new wind of good governance. Even though the income tax exemption limit has not been increased, efforts have been made to provide relief to people with income up to Rs 5 lakh by giving tax exemption up to 3000. Service tax exemption in EPF and pension schemes can also be considered as a right move for common people.

I would like to urge the Union Minister of Finance, Government of India to give prominence to the following important points in the Budget for 2016-17. Buxar, the ascetic land of Vishvamitra, which is well known in my parliamentary constituency as "Little (Mini) Kashi", has been an ancient culture and major spiritual center. It should be established by the Government of India as a branch of "Rashtriya Sanskrit Sansthan Kendra" and "Kashi Hindu University" established by Mahamana Pandit Madan Mohan Malviya. Also, a "Central Hospital-cum-Trauma Centre" equipped with state-of-the-art plants should be set up at the Old Sadar Hospital premises in Buxar

under the National Urban Health Mission to save the lives of accident victims and thousands of seriously ill people. The ascetic land of Maharshi Vishwamitra and the training ground of Lord Rama, where the dignified Purushottam Sri Rama killed Tadika. It should be declared and developed as a pilgrimage circuit from Ayodhya to "Little (Mini) Kashi" through Buxar, the birthplace of Maa Janaki, to Sitamarhi-Janakpur Dham. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi in his welcome speech here addressed Buxar as Mini Kashi and emphasized on developing Buxar along with Kashi. Also the magnificent tall idol of Vishvamitra including "Ram Darbar" in Buxar, Ahirauli, Mother Ahilya in Buxar (who was cursed and turned into a rock, again there was saved by the touch of dust of Lord Rama's feet and he descended Hui) with a stone should be erected. It is also the incarnation of Lord Baman. Besides, all the places of "Panchkoshi Yatra" initiated by Lord Rama in this region should be developed as pilgrimage centers, which will benefit millions of pilgrims who come every year.

Developing the ancient Rameshwar Nath Temple established by Lord Rama on the banks of Ramrekha Ganga at Buxar and Brahmeshwarnath Temple and Gaurishankar Temple at Brahmapur as

spiritual and pilgrimage centers by connecting it (Buxar) to the "Rail Faith Circuit" on the national and international map be replaced. The Navratna Fort of King Bhoj at Naya Bhojpur under Buxar district should be surveyed and excavated by the Indian Archaeological Department to preserve this heritage so that it can become a tourist attraction for millions of tourists. In our parliamentary constituency of Buxar, which is called Shahabad "bowl of rice", FCI should construct at least two large central grain storage facilities in all districts and establish new agriculture based industrial zones in the area. Also, a "Rice Research Sub-Centre" should be established by the Department of Agriculture in Buxar. DPR of all the old closed industries of the state like Bhagalpur, Siwan and Pandaul Cooperative Spinning Mills, Bahadurpur Spun Silk Mill, Sabour (Bhagalpur) has been prepared. Special assistance should be provided to prepare and commission them as soon as possible, which will provide employment to thousands of people. Mulberry/Tasar mulberry plant should be planted on a large scale on vacant land along the canal areas of Buxar, Rohtas, Kaimur and Bhojpur including Bhagalpur, Purnia, Kosi Pramandal, which will also remove unemployment and get maximum benefits to the farmers.

From Sultanganj (Ajgavinath Dham, Bhagalpur) to Baba Baidyanath Dham (Deoghar, Jharkhand), Bansukinath Dham (Jharkhand), Madhusudan-Mandar (Banka, Bihar) to Baba Bridheshwarnath Dham (Bhagalpur) as "Kanwariya Circuit" to the world famous Shravani Kawariya Mela be declared and developed inVikramshila University at Kahalgaon (Bhagalpur), ancient world famous Anga district, should be given the status of an international university on the lines of Nalanda University. The Union Government has recently announced the establishment of a central university here. A unit of the Central Silk Board, Bangalore should be set up in the silk city of Bhagalpur with state-of-the-art plants to provide an opportunity to the silk exporters here to export silk garments directly. Also, "National Weavers Skill Development Institute" should be established at the Silk Institute, Bhagalpur. A national level "Disaster Management Institute" should be established in the Kosi region of Bihar. In addition, encouraging the cultivation of "Katarni Dhan" in Bhagalpur and promoting the trade of "Katarni Chuda" at home and abroad Agriculture based industry as well as "fruitpark" should be established. "Manjusha Kala Painting" based on ancient Bihula-Bala in Champanagar, Bhagalpur (on the lines of Madhubani painting) should be displayed in all trains departing from Bhagalpur station

including Bhagalpur station, so that this art can get respect and fame at national level.

The Buddhist-Jain circuit should be declared and developed as a pilgrimage circuit, extending from Sarnath (Kashi) to Buxar, known as Laghukashi, passing through Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Mandar Parvat, Champapuri in Bhagalpur, the birthplace and nirvana site of Jain Tirthankar Vasu Pujya Maharaj - Vikramshila (Kahalgaon), Kesariya, Champaran, and up to Parshvanath Parvat in Giridih, Jharkhand. Cultivation of makka (maize) and makhana (fox nut) should be promoted by setting up agri-based industrial centres in the regions of Kosi, Darbhanga, Bhagalpur, Khagaria, Munger and others. The Union Government announced in last year's Budget the opening of an All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) in Bihar. For this purpose, the proposal which was sent during my tenure as Health Minister should be implemented by opening it at Jawahar Medical College, Bhagalpur, where land lies vacant. This location, at the eastern end of Bihar adjoining Jharkhand and West Bengal, is a most backward area which has long been neglected.

In response to the Opposition colleagues ridiculing the Government and opposing this Budget, I wish to say:

‘It is my very way that the world resents,
that my lamp burns against the wind.’

We appeal to the Opposition to extend constructive support to this Budget of the Government, thereby strengthening the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Bhai Modi’s resolve to translate into reality the vision of ‘Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas’. This would be the true tribute to the freedom fighters of India and would realise the dream of an independent India.

Today the nation needs new sagas of freedom, it needs patriots like Gandhi, Subhas, Bhagat Singh, Azad, Mangal Pandey and Khudiram Bose. Once again, India needs such devoted patriots’

Jai Bharat, Jai Hind,

‘Vande Mataram.’

[English]

HON. SPEAKER : Yes, Mr. Minister.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS, AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Hon. Speaker, a large number of Members have participated in the discussion on the Budget, for which I am grateful. I would like to make a preliminary observation. I have witnessed many Budget discussions, but in the past three days almost every Member who spoke did so with great preparation. Another significant aspect of this debate was that the standard of speeches made by women Members was exceptionally good. It was exceptionally good.

The debate was initiated by my friend Shri Shashi Tharoor. Naturally, he always speaks well. I have had the privilege of knowing him for the past 40-45 years, since the time we were students. He criticised the Government and the Budget, but in that criticism there was less economics and more poetry. From the standpoint of economics, his argument was that the imposition of tax is in itself

wrong, and that the Government should reduce it. In a Budget of Rs. 20 lakh crore, if taxes amount to nearly Rs. 20,000 crore, that is not even one per cent. Shri Tharoor's economics was that there should be no tax, expenditure should be increased, yet the fiscal deficit should be maintained. So there should be no tax increase but expenditure must increase. Now, this 'Shashinomics' is something which I found myself unable to understand, how, without levying tax, can one spend more?

Let us look once again at the circumstances in which this Budget has been presented. Perhaps such a serious economic situation has not been seen worldwide in many years. It is a matter of concern, a matter of challenge, and is almost heading towards a crisis. Economies across the world have become so interlinked that if something happens in one corner of the world, naturally its effect is felt throughout. At present, the greatest concern in the world is that China's economy has slowed down. China is that country which, for nearly 30 years, grew at an average of 9 to 10 per cent. It was unprecedented to grow for 30 years at an average of nine per cent plus. Fifty per cent of global growth came only from China. Thereafter, if China's growth rate declines suddenly, naturally it has an impact on the entire world. Global

currencies are impacted. Global trade is impacted. In fact, global trade has shrunk. I mentioned in my budget speech that when the UPA was in power global trade was increasing by seven percent a year. Today, it is shrinking by four percent. This comment is big simply that exports are low Naturally these will be less. Export will come down because trade is shrinking and it is shrinking because of two reasons. People who used to buy from us have less money in their pockets. The second reason is that when the price of oil went down, the price of commodities went down. If the export quantity remained the same but the price went down, then naturally its value went down. Shrinkage can be in volumes and it can also be in value. Eighteen per cent of India's export is refined oil. Crude oil gets treated and then it is sent out and it goes back. When the price of oil goes down, it affects the import as well, it affects the export, so we should not only look at that figure but also look at the situation. Europe, which are the developed countries of the world, is making very slow progress, not more than one or one and a half percent. There is growth in America, but it happens in one quarter, stops in the next quarter, it is patchy right now. Among those with whom we were competing, the so-called BRICS countries, the situation of Brazil is particularly worrying. The economy is shrinking. Russia's economy is shrinking. South Africa's

economy has grown slightly, but is weak, China's is down. If we look at this situation, the political situation also has an impact. What situation develops between Saudi Arabia and Iran, what policy is made regarding oil production in other oil producing countries, it will have an impact.

In the coming year, the year we are going into, the kind of discussions that are taking place in the US Presidential elections, what will be their outcome and what direction will that debate and policy take, that in itself will have an impact on the economic situation of the world. In this situation, the IMF, which monitors the economic condition of every country and the world, is seeing how the world economy is declining every quarter, global growth is declining and they repeatedly come out with figures. Where are we in this situation? *[English]* Where do we stand? The challenge really is, how do we build firewalls around ourselves that we are least impacted by the global situation? China impacts us only partly. We are not a part of China’s production chain or their distribution chain. But then China does impact us because the volatility that it creates impacts our markets and it impacts our currency. Oil fortunately is an advantage for us. The oil prices coming down actually have amounted to transfer

of wealth from producing countries to the consuming countries. Therefore, oil is an advantage for India. We are net buyers and it is therefore helping us. But then globally the export markets have shrunk. Job market all over the world is shrinking. Under these circumstances we did about 7.2, 7.3 per cent growth last year and this year it is expected that it will be about 7.5 to 7.6 per cent. That was the figure which was indicated by the experts. Despite this our basic economic parameters, our macro data seems to be reasonably good. Current Account Deficit would be below 1.5 per cent.

Some comments were made on inflation. I have the data and I don't need to go into the details. We inherited an economy near double digit inflation. When we came into power 22 months ago it was double digit inflation. Over that time it has gradually been under control, never crossing 6 percent. In fact, for the 15th month or 16th month in a row the Wholesale Price Index is in the negative. Even today the data which has come out shows that the Wholesale Price Index is in the negative and the Consumer Price Index has come down again today. Foreign Exchange reserves are fortunately good. It is now accepted that last year and in this year and hopefully next year India has, in this atmosphere of global slow down, the distinction of being the fastest

growing major economy in the world. But then we have our own areas of worry. *[Translation]* Our growth of 7-7.5 per cent is happening, on what strength is this happening? What are the engines that run this economy? The investment made by the private sector is still weak and it is weak because I do not want to make any political comment on this, but the private sector has overstretched itself. He got a lot of money from banks. Today many of them are not able to return him. A basic reason behind this is that the sectors in which they took the money to work are affected by global slowdown or domestic slowdown.

As the Hon. members said, rainfall has decreased by 13 percent for two consecutive years. There is no concern about agricultural production as it is in surplus even today. But the purchasing power in the village becomes weak. Apart from this, the goods which are to be sent to the world market have also reduced because of recession in the world economy. In this situation, last year we had decided that the government expenditure which we call public expenditure will be the key driver of India's economic growth. Last year we had increased public expenditure in infrastructure and other sectors, due to which the economy gained some momentum. Secondly, a lot of foreign

investment came into the country, its quantity increased, so the economy has benefited in a way due to the arrival of FDI. If there is no investment then there will be no economic activity and no employment. Demand has increased in urban areas, hence the sales and business of those things which are used more in urban areas have increased. Along with this, through their increase we have been able to grow the economy to a good level.

But I still believe that whatever capability this country has, today in this era of recession if we look at the rest of the world, we are doing well. *[English]* If we compare ourselves with our own standards, we can probably do better and in a more helpful environment. When I say helpful environment, I mean both globally a helpful environment and domestically, at least, the absence of an obstructive environment. Therefore, what was the philosophy behind the Budget? *[Translation]* Obviously, the philosophy was to put maximum government resources in those areas which are showing weakness in this period of recession. Therefore, if someone says about this budget that it is from the point of view of rural areas, from the point of view of farmers, it is a realistic budget. The first reason is that there was a weakness in the rural areas, especially in agriculture, because there was no proper

rain for two years. The purchasing capacity of the village has reduced. Hence, there is an economic need today to invest more and more resources into the villages. No economist can tell you to put less money there. This was economic logic, this was social logic and this is also political logic. All the three arguments say that put it there. Now there are rural roads, earlier eight to nine thousand crore rupees were spent, the argument given is that the states have to be given a share, the resources that go to the states, that too goes for this country only, goes for the state only and the state governments are closer to the people than the Centre. Therefore, there are many schemes in which only the Centre gives. Today I will give you figures on how we have improved the economic condition of the states and what are we going to do next for those states which are weak? As far as the situation of the states is concerned, 60 percent of the funds for rural roads are given by the Centre and this is decided by the Chief Ministers. The recommendation of his committee was that the states will now give 40 percent, because after the Finance Commission, the states also have more resources.

19.00 hours

Earlier, we used to spend Rs. 8,000–9,000 crore annually. Our share has now become about Rs. 18,000 crore and the States' share Rs. 9,000 crore. This year, Rs. 27,000 crore will go into rural roads. That is, three times more than earlier will now be spent. Electricity is to reach every village, and the challenge is to ensure coverage by 2018. Yesterday, Shri Piyush Goyal informed me that out of 18,000 villages, nearly 6,000-6,500 have already been covered. Therefore, we are proceeding at a faster pace than the target date.

HON. SPEAKER: We had extended the sitting of the House till 7 p.m. Therefore, with the consent of the House, we shall extend the sitting further until the Budget business is completed.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: With regard to irrigation, it is natural that if we invest money in infrastructure and in industry, then infrastructure will be built, industries will be established, industries will become profitable and employment will be generated. But it takes five, seven or eight years for its impact to be seen. The money spent on irrigation, however, shows results the very next year. Therefore, the past experience of certain regions of Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh and Andhra Pradesh has been that wherever resources have been invested in irrigation, the economy of that area has benefitted. If we look only

at the figures, there are three or four different heads of expenditure in the Budget. Irrigation is in the State List; it is the responsibility of the States, and whatever they spend on it is separate. The Union Government has provided resources for irrigation under four or five different heads, deployed extra-budgetary resources, and at the same time NABARD will also contribute to it and in particular an *[English]* Irrigation Fund is going to be created. Whatever commitments are required by some special States - the Polavaram project, for instance we are going to make sure that special funds are created so that those areas can get water and the funds go from these expanded resources as far as irrigation is concerned. … *(Interruptions)* You will get the particulars. Once the Rs. 20,000 crore Fund is created several States will be benefited. I have just given this example because that issue is part of the Centre's commitment. So, I just referred to it. But it applies to all the States.

[Translation]

In addition, interest subvention used to be Rs. 6,000-7,000 crore. This time we have provided Rs. 15,000 crore. The day before yesterday, in a special meeting, someone gave me a suggestion that under the law which we have passed, the assistance which we provide

towards interest should also be sent directly into the farmer's account. Such suggestions have now started coming. This time, the interest subvention for farmers will be the highest. I gave the example of MGNREGA. Hon. Members have said that if we spend Rs. 38,500 crore this time, it will be the highest ever expenditure under MGNREGA in any year.

Madam, much has been said about the statement of Hon. Prime Minister. He gave a correct statement. If even after 65 years we still require a law that a farmer must be provided with employment because he does not have sufficient resources, then what is wrong in saying that it is a sign of our failure? Therefore, while being a sign of failure, if there is such a scheme, then through it we are providing greater resources to the rural areas, whether through roads, through irrigation, through interest subvention, through MGNREGA, through Swachh Bharat, through insurance schemes, through rural housing, or through resources going to every Panchayat. Under each of these heads, we have planned that maximum resources should flow to the rural areas, because the weakest sector of the economy today is that sector, and therefore it is necessary to strengthen it.

Let us look at the present condition of infrastructure. Highways had almost come to a standstill. They had been initiated by Shri Vajpayee and were regarded as flagship projects, but gradually the pace declined to two, three or four kilometres per day. In the first 17 tenders floated by the Ministry of Shri Gadkari, not a single person responded, because of the manner in which the system was functioning, with disputes between the contractors and the authorities on every tender and contract. Almost all the contractors engaged in construction had become bankrupt. Our friends from Andhra Pradesh and Telangana here would know that many of those engaged in construction came from their States. Such was the situation that no bank was prepared to touch them. This was the condition of the highways and, as a result, the highways sector was paralysed. In the last year's Budget, we provided greater resources. This year, Rs. 55,000 crore, Rs. 15,000 crore, totalling Rs. 70,000 crore, and Rs. 27,000 crore for rural roads. When Rs. 97,000 crore goes into highways and roads from Government resources, then the private sector also invests its money, because this is a revolving sector. The highways sector, therefore, has revived in the country once again. I have already referred to rural roads. As regards airports, in every State there are such airstrips, even in small towns, constructed by the British

during the Second World War. There are 160 such airstrips which remain unused. The Airports Authority has 25 airports where not a single aircraft flies. This time, we have decided that, in consultation with the State Governments, at least some initiative should be taken every year to invest in five to ten new airports. A model has been devised wherein Rs. 50 crore to Rs. 100 crore will be invested to construct a small airport where one or two flights may operate daily. As for the airports under the Airports Authority, since it now has resources, the Ministry of Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju has formulated a plan whereby at least ten of those airports will be developed this year. The seaports are clogged. With some Government resources, the private sector is now coming forward, and corporatised ports are going to be developed. We are making efforts in this direction

Such was the condition of the power sector that today, if we look at the banks' NPAs, many Hon. Members have referred to it. What is the capacity of the banks? Banks are supposed to support growth. If banks provide money, industries will be set up; if banks provide money, farmers will be able to cultivate; if banks provide money, a person will be able to set up an enterprise under the MUDRA Yojana. If the lending capacity of the banks is exhausted, then their ability to

support growth will automatically end. This was the condition of the banks.

Now, why did the number of NPAs increase as on 31 December last? It is not that new NPAs came up. One newspaper launched a campaign that banks had written off loans. Not a single rupee was written off. NPA means that as long as the account is functional, the bank hopes that the person will repay the money. When it becomes an NPA, it means it is a non-performing account, the borrower is unable to repay the principal or the interest, and therefore that account is categorised as an NPA. The categorisation is changed. This does not mean loan waiver. Some newspaper treated this reclassification, which in banking terminology is called provisioning, as loan waiver. A PIL was filed, and the Supreme Court asked how this loan waiver had taken place. Not a single rupee has been waived. It is only a re-provisioning; from one category you go to another category. Now, should we conceal the true position of the banks? You cannot clean a room indefinitely by sweeping dust under the carpet. If you put the dirt under the carpet, that does not mean the room is clean. Therefore, it is necessary to clearly state what the real strength is.

There are two reasons behind these NPAs. One reason could be that the bank gave a loan to the wrong person and that person did not repay it; his intention was dishonest, and that would be a case of fraud. The second reason is business failure, an economic failure of that sector. Let me clearly explain what the situation in our country was. I would like Members of other parties, particularly those of the Congress, to understand this. I will not make a political comment here, but they should grasp the reality. The maximum number of NPAs in our country has occurred in the steel sector. Why was this so? Our capacity for steel production is equal to our domestic requirement. China, however, has surplus capacity. When a slowdown occurred there, in order to keep its industry alive, China began selling steel in other countries of the world at prices much lower than the cost of production. They flooded the global market with their steel. This had been happening for some time. The effect was that our domestic steel producers made steel, but nobody purchased it because cheaper steel was available from China. This did not happen only with India; it happened with Europe and with the United States as well. Therefore, the steel companies and I would urge Members to read the Economic Survey, which contains a very good chapter on this. They have described it as a twin balance sheet problem. The dual problem of the

twin balance sheet was that the balance sheets of the steel mills themselves became weak and they could not repay the banks, and the balance sheets of the banks also weakened. In this, it is not at all necessary that anyone committed fraud. It was an international economic factor which caused it. Did the Government sit quietly? Action should have been taken three to four years ago when the situation was deteriorating. We increased customs duty on steel. In addition, to prevent such an attack of cheap steel imports, we raised further duties. As we increased, China kept reducing prices, and this contest continued. Thereafter, we fixed a minimum import price so that steel would not be imported below that price. After taking these three steps, in the past few months there has been an improvement in the condition of our mills, and in the next two to three quarters there is hope that steel can revive once again.

The sugar mills were unable to make payments to sugarcane farmers. The price of sugar in the international market had fallen. Brazilian sugar was available at Rs. 18 per kilogram, and they are the largest producers. Therefore, the minimum support price, the State Advised Price for sugarcane in our country, was higher, and as a result the mills began to incur losses and stopped making payments. The

Government framed two to three schemes, under which money was provided through banks so that it could go directly to the farmers. Out of Rs. 21,000 crore that was due to the farmers, it has now been reduced to Rs. 1,800 crore. With a slight rise in sugar prices in the world market, the sugar mills have also obtained some relief, and in this situation, this sector too has shown improvement.

Thirdly, the highways sector. I have already mentioned that highways had come to a standstill. Over the past year, the highways have revived. Therefore, as the balance sheets of highway construction companies improve, this will have an effect on the balance sheets of the banks. In these three sectors, improvement has taken place.

Fourthly, the most serious was the power sector. Coal mines were allotted; we entered into power contracts. In the meantime, there was a dispute regarding the coal mines, and we found a clear solution to it. We increased power generation. After increasing production, electricity was supplied to the entire States, and the grids were created. However, some States thought and this is a lesson for all of us that politics demanded electricity should be supplied at prices lower than the cost. If electricity was available at a particular rate, the purchase

price or the cost of production, they began to supply it at cheaper rates. Now, who was to bear that loss? The Electricity Act provides that such losses are to be met out of the State Budget. The State Governments did not have the capacity to provide money from their Budgets. Therefore, the State Governments asked the banks to start lending, and the power companies began borrowing from the banks. They thought that by giving cheap electricity they would win elections. Hon. Members elected from Rajasthan would know that in the year 2008, when the Government changed, the loss of the electricity company was Rs. 15,000 crore. By the year 2013, when the Rajasthan Government went out of office, this had risen to Rs. 70,000 crore. This was the impact of Rs. 70,000 crore. There were several such States which borrowed money from banks to provide cheap electricity, but there was no answer as to who would repay the banks. In this situation, the Union Government had not taken any steps, and the losses of the State DISCOMs began to be reflected on the banks.

In Rajasthan it became clear that, historically, the highest losses were incurred by the electricity company and, at the same time, the lowest number of seats in history were won. Therefore, there was no relation between the two. When the new Government came, it asked

how this problem should be solved. The Power Ministry has now introduced the ‘UDAY Scheme’, under which all State Governments would take these losses into their Budgets, three-fourths of the losses and then issue bonds to the banks. The banks would sell those corporate bonds, and because of the reduction in the burden of interest, the cost of electricity would also come down. Thereafter, initiatives regarding feeders have also been facilitated. Today, 15-16 States have signed the MoU. Gradually, people will also come to understand that for the facility which they receive, they will have to pay. If the Government wishes to assist any weaker section, it should provide that support from its Budget. To borrow money from banks and then not repay it cannot continue.

Madam, similar problems exist in textiles, infrastructure agreements, infrastructure contracts and many such stalled projects. How are we to resolve them? There is a real problem in this country, and Hon. Kharge, I would like you also to discuss it within your party. Let us rise above politics. You too were in Government, and this problem also arose then. If you wish to make a settlement in an infrastructure project, suppose the project is delayed and the cost has escalated, you may say that since prices have increased worldwide,

we will provide more money. But then there is fear that the CBI will come, the CAG will also come, and a PIL will be filed. Therefore, let the dispute continue. Contracts worth Rs. 15-16 lakh crore were stalled when you went out of office, because there was no mechanism to resolve those problems. We have amended the Arbitration Act, and you supported it, so that disputes may be resolved through fast-track arbitration within six months to one year. Every High Court has created a Commercial Division to resolve such matters. Thereafter, I have proposed in the Budget that there should be a law for resolution of public contracts, providing a statutory mechanism, so that public contracts, whether of State Governments or the Union Government, do not remain stalled. They will generate employment, and the economy and the States will benefit. Therefore, we must find solutions. Where there is price escalation, I have also mentioned in the Budget that there should be a statutory mechanism for that, so that we may resolve these problems. But if one who seeks to resolve them is looked upon with suspicion that this Government is corrupt or dishonest, or that the State Government, the Union Government, or some officer is dishonest, and therefore is seeking a settlement, then today there is no legal protection. Such protection must be provided. If we move in this direction, it will also benefit the economy in itself.

Owing to poverty, social concern in this country is natural. In the first year, our priority was financial inclusion, to ensure that every person was linked with a bank account. New accounts were opened. Those accounts were operationalised, and today 70-75 per cent have been operationalised. Thereafter, our plan was to cover those who were uninsured and without pensions. Last year, we introduced attractive schemes with premiums of Rs. 12 and Rs. 300. We launched the Atal Pension Yojana so that after the age of 60–65 years, people would have some resources. Throughout the world, as economies grow, insurance and pension schemes are introduced, so that one may earn throughout one's working life and, after retirement, receive the facility of a Government pension. Sooner or later, society will have to move in that direction. We made some announcements with that intention. As there were some objections to them, we left them aside. But the concessions we have given in the National Pension Scheme are in that very direction. Those who join it will benefit. It covers private individuals, Government employees, public sector employees and private citizens. Any of us, if we wish, may contribute a small amount every month during our earning years, and after retirement a monthly pension will continue. It will pass on to our children after us, and tax rebate will also be available automatically. This time, we have

moved further. I have already mentioned the first scheme, crop insurance. The second social sector scheme has been framed by the Ministry of Health, under which 33 per cent of the people, the one-third poor population of this country, will be entitled to health cover of Rs. 1,00,000 per family through a card. They will be able to receive treatment in any private or public hospital. If there is a senior citizen in the family, an additional Rs. 30,000 will be provided. Where has this Rs. 30,000 come from? Last year, along with the Budget, we passed a law that in Government schemes where people had deposited money and, even after 20-30 years, had not come to claim it, that money was lying idle. By taking it over and using it for premium, Rs. 30,000 extra will be provided to senior citizens below the poverty line.

We have passed the 'Aadhaar' law, which was supported by almost all parties. In the very first year, through Direct Benefit Transfer in LPG, a saving of 25 per cent was achieved. The objective was that subsidy should reach the right person, the poor man, and that no unauthorised person should derive its benefit. In this, the 'Give It Up' campaign and the benefit accrued, since subsidy has to be targeted, ensured that gas connections would reach the poor. Five crore families will be provided with their first gas connection and

stove by the Government within three years — some this year, and the rest over the next two years. Thereafter, they will become accustomed to it, and money will also go directly into their accounts. This is good from the perspective of the environment, and also socially it is a commendable scheme. I would like to say that under the Aadhaar law which we have enacted, not only the Union Government but also the State Governments will derive full benefit, whereby subsidy money will be saved, and can then be channelled more effectively towards the poor sections.

Mudra Yojana is a very successful scheme. Small loans up to 50 thousand, 5 lakh, 10 lakh are available to people. They are poor people of the society but they are honest. The recovery rate is more than 99 percent. They don't kill any money. He comes before 12 o'clock at night and deposits the money back in the ATM machine so that the interest for that day is saved.

I attended some of their programmes where they were required to pay taxes. In the slums, when women were asked how they would use the money, one replied that she would run a beauty parlour; another said she would run a boutique. Their aspirations are also rising. More than 70 per cent of those who are benefitting from this

are women, who are endeavouring to create a second income from within their homes. Minorities, Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will also derive full benefit from it. Neither the Government nor the private sector can provide employment to every person in this country. Therefore, it is an endeavour to enable people to stand on their own feet. Our Start Up and Stand Up initiatives are directed towards this very purpose, and there will be no shortage of resources for them.

Under the Stand Up scheme, which is exclusively for women and SCs/STs, every branch of a bank will support two persons from these categories, providing loans up to Rs. 1 crore. One entrepreneur from the SC/ST category and one from among women will be established. With more than 1.5 lakh branches in the country, in one year we will be able to set up 2.5 to 3 lakh entrepreneurs by providing them with loans for business, and this process will advance by itself. Our budgetary accounting is different. This is the first Budget in which we have actually done more than what was promised. We have not cut back in order to maintain the fiscal deficit at 1.0-1.5 lakh crore. In the process of economic reforms, whatever agricultural produce is generated in the country, whether investment comes from within or

from outside, it should be processed in this country, not wasted, so that farmers benefit. We have opened up the transport sector. *Aadhaar* in itself is a revolutionary scheme. As for the resources given to the States: last year we gave Rs. 6,68,000 crore to the States; in the current year, Rs. 8.11 lakh crore is being provided; next year it will be Rs. 9.11 lakh crore. This consecutive increase over three years is historic in terms of the States' share. I am not saying this in a spirit of complaint. When GST is implemented, cesses will automatically be abolished.

Remember one thing clearly, the Centre also has to survive. *[English]* I am sure Shri Shashi Tharoor will appreciate that India is the union of States. The Union has to survive. Therefore, it has to survive financially. Having given 42 percent to the States through various Schemes to the States, obviously the Union needs some money. These are methods of keeping some resources with the Union so that you need for the Union funding itself plus others. You cannot have the Union which is penniless and which is then dependent on the States for its survival. *[Translation]* Imagine our policy with regard to taxation. In the first Budget, I raised the exemption limit under direct tax from Rs. 2 lakh to Rs. 2.5 lakh. The exemption under section

80C was increased from Rs. 1 lakh to Rs. 1.5 lakh. For housing loans, the deduction available was raised by Rs. 50,000. Last year, deductions were increased under medical expenses and under transport, so that these exemptions have continued to rise. The objective was that the tax payer base should not shrink, while at the same time people should have sufficient disposable income for expenditure. All these measures were in the interest of small taxpayers. This year, we have provided a deduction of Rs. 60,000 for tenants. Every small taxpayer has been given a rebate of Rs. 5,000, covering two crore taxpayers. Two other provisions, which nobody has mentioned, have simplified the tax system considerably. For all small shopkeepers and traders in this country whose annual turnover is Rs. 2 crore and this includes most shopkeepers, workshop owners and other small businesses, no books of account need be maintained. We have treated it as presumptive income. It is estimated that 8 per cent of their turnover will be considered income. After availing of exemptions under 80C and so on, they will pay tax on the balance, and whatever tax they pay will be accepted. They will pay tax online, receive their order online, and obtain their refund online. They need not maintain any accounts. Nobody can question them. Lakhs of people will thus come under presumptive income, and the headache

of the small man will be eliminated. As for professionals, chartered accountants, advocates, doctors in clinics, and so on, there is always speculation about how much tax they pay. We have said for all professionals as a class that of whatever income they disclose, 50 per cent will be deemed to be income and 50 per cent will be treated as expenditure. They need not maintain any accounts. They may file their returns, and these will be accepted. Salaried persons do not face difficulty in any case. Our assessments will increasingly be online. Queries will be raised online. The department has, in a manner of speaking, been made faceless. Whatever exemptions we have given were with the objective that while some duties were increased so that when goods are imported from abroad, domestic production gains in comparison, the overall design was framed with that perspective.

We have given the greatest benefit to the housing sector. Naturally, this sector must benefit, and gradually our taxes, corporate taxes, should come down to the global level, so that when investment comes in, we may also derive advantage.

Madam Speaker, I would like to mention that in this Budget I have introduced three settlement schemes, in fact, there are four. First, if anyone has money which has escaped assessment, he may settle it

by paying 30 per cent tax and 15 per cent penalty, that is, 45 per cent in all. Second, if any appeal is pending in direct or indirect taxes, the assessee may settle it by paying the tax plus interest up to the date of assessment, without penalty, in certain categories. Third, in cases where retrospective tax applies, since the assessee was not aware that tax would be levied in the future, he may settle by paying only the principal amount, so that taxation may be cleaned up. Now, it has been said that I have imposed 30 per cent plus 15 per cent. I heard a phrase.

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): 'Fair and Lovely'.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I have no problem with this phrase. But this phrase is politically incorrect. It shows a racist mindset that what is not fair is not lovely… *(Interruptions)* World over, people frown on the use of such a phrase. In any case, I will pass it off as ignorance. But let me come to economics. I have, now, gone through every scheme, which came out when other Governments were in power.

You came out, let us say, with bearer bonds, which were called the black bonds – if you have cash, just deposit Rs. 10,000 of cash in a bond, you will get Rs. 12,000 back; no tax, no penalty. Very fair.

Black money converted into white; no tax, no penalty. That is why I say that such a phrase is politically incorrect; and it is also borne out of ignorance of your own history.

When the United Front was in power and Shri Chidambaram was the Finance Minister, the last such scheme came out. It was called the VDIS scheme. That VDIS scheme was that if you have any asset, which you have not declared, you can, now, declare. But you can value it at the value of 1987. *[Translation]* You brought a scheme in 1997 and said that valuation of 1987 may be given. There would be no interest, no penalty. You pay tax as of today. You were supporting that Government. Hon. Kharge, you must see its effect. That scheme, if I may say so, many people described as unethical. It was therefore unethical; it was immoral and improper. If one person was an honest taxpayer and had paid Rs. 10 lakh tax in 1987, while a dishonest taxpayer paid Rs. 10 lakh in 1997, the honest man's Rs. 10 lakh of 1987 would have become Rs. 25 lakh by 1997. The dishonest man walked away by paying Rs. 10 lakh in 1997 — no penalty, no interest. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The same thing is going to happen even now.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: It is not so at present. *[English]* The 1997 scheme was commented upon as being discriminatory against an honest taxpayer because there was no penalty, and it was valued at a ten-year-old rate. The effect of that valuation was that most of the declarants were either housewives or minor children. What businessmen did was to state, in the name of their wives or children, that *[Translation]* they had purchased gold in 1987. Cash did not come into the system. Or they claimed to have made investments in business, land or property in 1987. On the 1987 valuation, they were paying tax today, with no penalty, no interest. Someone challenged it in the Supreme Court. An affidavit was given before the Supreme

Court because some people demanded “after me the deluge”, and in that affidavit it was stated that this was the last scheme, and that no Union Government would ever introduce it again. The Government changed, but the country was to continue. *[English]* What was the need for any Government to bind all future Governments? Now, the position is that this is neither an amnesty nor VDIS. If you have any income today which you have not declared, you must declare it at today’s market value and pay fifty per cent over and above the tax. So, 30 plus 15 equals 45 per cent. That is why it is neither VDIS nor any form of amnesty or concession.

There are several issues which Members have raised. Many Members across the House have raised the issue of one per cent on jewellery. Sir, let me just make it clear. *[Translation]* I wish to clarify to Hon. Members that on the day your kind consent brings GST into effect, every article will come under GST. Naturally, gold will also come under it. This is its preparation. Previous Governments also took such steps, and so is the present one. It now appears that GST may come soon. In that situation, this levy is not on a small entrepreneur. It applies to those whose turnover was Rs. 12 crore in the previous year and will be Rs. 6 crore or more every year in the coming years.

It will apply only to the principal trader, not to the manufacturer. These are the clear instructions.

Thirdly, Hon. Member Shri Gopal Shetty and other Hon. Members have stated that clear instructions have been issued that no inspector will visit because this scheme is based on self-certification. In the States, whatever value VAT is paid upon, or the certificate of the Chartered Accountant, will alone form the basis. It will be by self-certification, since every article comes under the ambit of GST and therefore this is a preparation for it. There will be no harassment of anyone, no inspector will go for inspection; only certification will be required. Clear instructions to this effect have been issued by us.

Hon. Members have raised issues relating to certain States. Naturally, with regard to Jammu and Kashmir, Hon. Prime Minister has already announced a package. We desire that Jammu and Kashmir and all its three regions develop as quickly as possible. The institutions and projects which we have sanctioned in different regions during the past two to three years, we would like them to be implemented at the earliest. Whatever commitments have been made therein, we stand by them. With regard to Bihar, every single commitment made will be fulfilled. With regard to Andhra Pradesh,

Hon. Members are correct in pointing out that when the bifurcation took place, Hyderabad having gone to Telangana, certain provisions were made in the Andhra Pradesh Reorganisation Act. Last year, apart from the commitments that were there, we additionally provided Rs. 4,000 to Rs. 4,500 crore to fulfil those commitments. Funds are required to meet those commitments. As for capital expenditure, we are providing it. The revenue deficit as recommended by the Finance Commission is being fully met. With regard to the deficit for the year prior to the Finance Commission's award, discussions are going on with the State. Part of it was given last year, and some will be given this year as well. There is no difficulty in this. In addition, as their greatest challenge is the capital, we are gradually helping them in their plans. Regarding Polavaram, I had earlier mentioned that since your economy is dependent on agriculture, we have created a fund both from Government resources and through NABARD for providing such assistance. Every commitment made in that Act will be fully honoured by us. Hon. Speaker Madam, discussion has also taken place regarding the SC and ST Sub-Plans. The SC Plan has been increased by 12 per cent this time and the ST Plan by 14.5 per cent. Thereafter, it was said that the allocation for skill development had been reduced. Last year it was Rs. 1,000 crore; this year it has been increased to Rs.

1,700 crore. You had said that the allocation for the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana had been reduced by 54 per cent. A mistake has occurred there. In fact, it has been increased by 54 per cent. During the UPA period and last year it was Rs. 10,004 crore; this year it has been raised to Rs. 15,000 crore.

Therefore, item by item ... *(Interruptions)* I have clearly understood the feelings of Hon. Members and whenever the resources of the Government permit, we shall certainly consider them. I say this because in this Budget, for the States, for the farmers, for the poor, for the rural areas, for economic reforms and in order that the economy, in the circumstances in which it has come, may grow faster, an effort has been made. I would urge all Hon. Members to accept these proposals, and particularly, whenever steps for reforms are taken, I would request Shri Kharge in particular that, having governed the country for so many years, at least before the world the nation should not appear weak in such circumstances. In this, the Government expects your support and cooperation. I hope that you will extend that support and cooperation. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI ANTO ANTONY (PATHANAMTHITTA): Please do something for the rubber farmers. The farmers are struggling.… *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M.K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): You do justice for the rubber farmers.… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Hon. Speaker Madam, Shri Jaitley delivered a very lengthy speech; he gave his reply, and we listened to his speech for one and a half hours with great patience. But he forgot to inform the country that the benefit he derived from crude oil and petrol amounted to Rs. 1,50,000 crore. In today's Question itself, your Minister has admitted that more than half of the money received through excise duty has been spent on infrastructure. This money has not been utilised for consumers. This means that not even one-fourth of the benefit accrued to you was transferred to the consumer, and yet you are claiming that you have done everything. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not make a speech again.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, the Prime Minister's Economic Advisor has stated that between 2004 and 2014, nearly 30 per cent of those below the poverty line were uplifted under the UPA Government's various inclusive growth programmes. This has been acknowledged by the very people in your Government..

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Do you have any clarification to seek?

… *(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: This was stated by none other than the Prime Minister's Advisor. The programmes initiated by the UPA Government were meant for the upliftment of the poor. What Shri Modi had stated, you have once again supported that MGNREGA is a monument. You have indirectly reiterated the same. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mahtab ji, you may speak. Please seek only one clarification.

...*(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: You have again started making a speech.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: What the Minister has stated is far from the truth and not correct. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Are you seeking any clarification?

...(Interruptions)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: When there was a financial crisis across the world, in 2008, the global crisis prevailed. Yet, the economic condition of India was considered strong and sound. This was the opinion of all, but you are not prepared to accept it. ... *(Interruptions)*

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except what Shri Mahtab speaks.

*… (Interruptions)...**

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, I have patiently heard what the hon. The Finance Minister has said. This morning while going through the newspaper, I also read

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*Not recorded.

the statement of the Finance Minister relating to NPAs. Along with that statement, the SEBI Chairman has come out with a statement that those defaulting corporate bodies, which have large amounts of NPAs will not be allowed to participate in the share market. These two opinions are there before the public. I was anxiously waiting for the Finance Minister to spell out what steps are going to be taken against the derelict corporate bodies or persons who have actually bungled.

I had quoted the statement of the RBI Governor who has come out very openly that those who have bungled should be punished and penalized. But the Finance Minister in his statement has categorically mentioned that there are two types of NPAs. I would like the hon. Finance Minister to come out with a full White Paper against those corporate people, who have actually bungled.

My second point is regarding the Polavaram Project. He has repeatedly mentioned it. I have said it very clearly that Odisha is not against the Polavaram Project. But there has been a tripartite agreement and the matter is before the Supreme Court. Yet, repeatedly the Government of India is saying that we are going to provide money for it and the Andhra Government is also proceeding with that. I want the Government to get it finalized before the Court and have a

settlement and then provide the money. … *(Interruptions)* The matter is before the Supreme Court. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Now, it is not allowed. It is okay.

… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: He will answer.

… *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

Nothing will go on record. Only the Minister's statement will go on record.

… *(Interruptions)...**

HON. SPEAKER: Mr. Minister, you start. Only your version will go on record.

… *(Interruptions)...**

[Translation]

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Hon. Speaker Madam, Hon. Kharge has raised two or three issues. One of his questions is what became of the

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*Not recorded.

savings arising from the fall in oil prices. Hon. Kharge, you must look at the entire economy. The benefit from the reduction in oil prices is divided into three parts. You have mentioned two, but there are three. The public sector oil companies purchase crude from the international market. In their forward purchases, it was not envisaged at the outset how far the prices would decline, and consequently they incurred losses. What kind of loss? They booked and bought oil at 80 dollars, and by the time they began selling it, the price had fallen to 60 dollars. At one stage these companies suffered a loss of nearly Rs. 30,000 crore. Should that loss be made good by raising income or imposing another tax? Naturally, any company that sets prices will recover its loss from within those prices. That loss was absorbed, and these are listed companies in which the Union Government is a shareholder along with private shareholders. A large part of this is reviewed by the oil companies every fifteen days. On the last date of each month, and again mid-month, a new price is announced. If it rises, the increased price yields a benefit; if it falls ... *(Interruptions)* that benefit goes to the consumer. Thus what was around Rs. 80-82 came down to Rs. 58-57. Some State Governments, across political parties, also lost revenue because States levied VAT on an ad valorem percentage basis. When prices fell, their percentage collection fell. Many States,

including those where your party is in office, increased their VAT. So they too derived a benefit. At the very least, State Governments do not put this money into anyone's pocket; they also utilise it for public welfare. The small portion that came to the Union Government as cess or excise duty was entirely deployed for infrastructure, because higher infrastructure spending increases employment, expands the economy and raises GDP. After all, a person who buys petrol for a scooter, car or truck also uses the road. Therefore, his contribution has been applied to road construction. You must, therefore, look at the wider economy.

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): What is the consumer getting?

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Sir, the consumer is also getting a road. … *(Interruptions)* I think there is something wrong in my effort to explain because the simple explanation is that the consumer is entitled to pay less for petrol; he is also entitled to a good road. Therefore, the consumer gets a good road. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Why are you answering? Nothing is going on record. This is not fair.

*… (Interruptions)...**

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: I think, when we are in power, you allow us to run it our way.

Secondly, I do not think that the statement, which you are attributing to the Chief Economic Adviser, appears to be accurate, but I do not join the issue on this. … *(Interruptions)*

Now again, your argument is that these are your schemes. Very well, you want to take the credit. That day during discussion on Aadhaar Bill, I said 'you want to keep the copyright. Please keep it. But at least, then stand up and support the Budget because it is your scheme. The very fact that you say that you will still oppose it, it means that you have some doubts or you have changed your views or where you stand on issues, it depends on which side you sit on. … *(Interruptions)*

Shri Mahtab wanted to know about the SEBI Chief's statement. That statement is with regard to wilful defaulters. Now, wilful defaulter is a phrase under the RBI guidelines where a defaulter is declared as a wilful defaulter. Now, if you are a wilful defaulter, then

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*Not recorded.

you are barred from the rest of the financial system from either taking loans in any name, your name or any other company. Other companies that you are associated with are debarred. So, he has made a statement that they will debar him from financial dealings so that he cannot get money from the banks. So, he will start raising it from the market by misleading people. This is a facility, which is to be denied to a wilful defaulter.

What steps are the Government taking? Now, the first step is that the balance sheets must be clean. We must know where we stand. We cannot function under concealed balance sheets. This is a process, which is on. You take legal action where recoveries are to be made. Here, I must tell you that it is a big challenge to the legal system. I have got a briefing and if necessary and there is time, I can and the House also shares it that the most visible of defaulters who are managing to even escape out of the country, a question that we have to ask ourselves is this. Did the legal system also act as a hurdle in the recovery? How many cases, the banks, in the last three years have had to fight against such people? This is for every institution now to really look within.

Besides that, these tough measures like declaration of wilful defaulters, you have a very strong SDR mechanism with the banks whereby the banks can take over the shareholding of the company, they can compel you to sell the asset, or they can bring a new promoter on it. So, the pressure is on some of these people who have not succeeded to induct in more liquid management.

These days, you must be reading in the newspaper that some of the companies are being sold to persons who are in a position to induce money so that the banks themselves could be returned.

As regards sectoral concerns, I have just explained that for highway, steel, sugar, and power you have to address the cause of the illness as far as the sectors are concerned.

Lastly, my appeal to this House is that this country desperately needs the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Law. It is intended to deal with these situations. The earlier we are able to deal with it in this House, the better. I hope that the Joint Committee, which is working on it, will soon give its Report and in the second-half of the Budget Session we will pass it as that gives you the power, when the company is sinking, to take over the management or even transfer the management so that the incompetent and the failed can exit, the jobs

can be saved and the more competent can come in and run the company. So, you need a mechanism of this kind. These are steps, which we have taken.

With these observations, Madam, I commend the Bill.

SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Hon. Minister, say something about the farmers. … *(Interruptions)* You have not said anything about them. … *(Interruptions)* The poor people are committing suicide. … *(Interruptions)*

DR. P. VENUGOPAL (TIRUVALLUR): Madam, kindly allow me to ask for clarification. … *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANTO ANTONY: Hon. Minister, do something about the farmers. … *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I shall now put the Demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2016-2017 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of

India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, on account, for or towards defraying the charges during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2017, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 30, 32, 34 to 56, 58 to 64, 66 to 68, 70, 71 and 73 to 98."

DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

The Motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The demands for Grants on Account (General) for 2016-17 are passed.

I shall now put the Supplementary Demands for Grants – Third Batch (General) for 2015-2016 to the vote of the House.

The question is:

"That the respective supplementary sums not exceeding the amounts on Revenue Account and Capital Account shown in the third column of the Order Paper be granted to the President of India, out of the Consolidated Fund of India, to defray the charges that will come in course of payment during the year ending the 31st day of March, 2016, in respect of the heads of Demands entered in the second column thereof against Demand Nos. 1 to 6, 9, 10, 12 to 16, 18 to 20, 23 to 26, 28, 30, 32, 34, 35, 37, 41, 43, 47, 48, 50, 51, 53, 55 to 57, 59 to 64, 66, 68, 69, 72, 73, 75, 80, 82 to 89, 91, 92, 94, 96, 99 to 101, 103 to 105, 107, 108 and 109."

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The Supplementary Demands for Grants – Third Batch (General) for 2015-2016 are passed.

20.00 hours

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 23, Shri Arun Jaitley.

APPROPRIATION (VOTE ON ACCOUNT) BILL, 2016*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2016-17.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 14.03.2016.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2016-17."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, I introduc* The Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 24, Shri Arun Jaitley.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, I beg to move.

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2016-17, be taken into consideration."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill to provide for the withdrawal of certain sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of a part of the financial year 2016-17, be taken into consideration."

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* Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"Clauses 2 to 4 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 4 were added to the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Schedule stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 25, Shri Arun Jaitley.

20.02 hours

APPROPRIATION BILL, 2016*

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE, MINISTER OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI ARUN JAITLEY): Madam, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2015-16.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2015-16."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, I introduce** Bill.

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* Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section-2 dated 14.03.2016.
** Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

HON. SPEAKER: Item No. 26, Shri Arun Jaitley.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2015-16, be taken into consideration."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

> "That the Bill to authorize payment and appropriation of certain further sums from and out of the Consolidated Fund of India for the services of the financial year 2015-16, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The House will now take up clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

"Clauses 2 and 3 stand part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 and 3 were added to the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Schedule stands part of the Bill."

The motion was adopted.

The Schedule was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI ARUN JAITLEY: Madam, I beg to move:

"That the Bill be passed."

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

"That the Bill be passed."

The motion was adopted.

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again on 15th March 2016 at 11 o'clock.

20.04 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday, March 15, 2016/Phalguna 25, 1937 (Saka).

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