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Vaisakha 5, 1938 (Saka)

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(English Version)

Eighth Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XVII contains Nos.1 to 13)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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- Adhikari, Shri Sisir Kumar (Kanthi)
- Adhikari, Shri Suwendu (Tamluk)
- Adityanath, Yogi (Gorakhpur)
- Adsul, Shri Anandrao (Amravati)
- Advani, Shri L.K. (Gandhinagar)
- Agrawal, Shri Rajendra (Meerut)
- Ahir, Shri Hansraj Gangaram (Chandrapur)
- Ahlawat, Shrimati Santosh (Jhunjhunu)
- Ahluwalia, Shri S.S. (Darjeeling)
- Ahamed, Shri E. (Malappuram)
- Ahmed, Shri Sultan (Uluberia)
- Ajmal, Shri Badruddin (Dhubri)
- Ajmal, Shri Sirajuddin (Barpeta)
- Ali, Shri Idris (Basirhat)
- Amarappa, Shri Karadi Sanganna (Koppal)

Ananthkumar, Shri (Bangalore South)

Angadi, Shri Suresh C. (Belagavi)

Antony, Shri Anto (Pathanamthitta)

Anwar, Shri Tariq (Katihar)

Arunmozhithevan, Shri A. (Cuddalore)

Azad, Shri Kirti (Darbhanga)

Babu, Dr. Ravindra (Amalapuram)

Badal, Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur (Bhatinda)

Baheria, Shri Subhash Chandra (Bhilwara)

Baig, Shri Muzaffar Hussain (Baramulla)

Bais, Shri Ramesh (Raipur)

Baite, Shri Thangso (Outer Manipur)

Baker, Shri George (Nominated)

Bakshi, Shri Subrata (Kolkata Dakshin)

Bala, Shrimati Anju (Misrikh)

Balyan, Dr. Sanjeev (Muzaffarnagar)

Bandyopadhyay, Shri Sudip (Kolkata Uttar)

Banerjee, Shri Abhishek (Diamond Harbour)

Banerjee, Shri Kalyan (Sreerampur)

Banerjee, Shri Prasun (Howrah)

Bansode, Adv. Sharadkumar Maruti (Solapur)

Barman, Shri Bijoy Chandra (Jalpaiguri)

Barne, Shri Shrirang Appa (Maval)

Basheer, Shri E. T. Mohammad (Ponnani)

Bhabhor, Shri Jasvantsinh Sumanbhai (Dahod)

Bhagat, Shri Bodh Singh (Balaghat)

Bhagat, Shri Sudarshan (Lohardaga)

Bhamre, Dr. Subhash Ramrao (Dhule)

Bharathi Mohan, Shri R.K. (Mayiladuthurai)

Bharti, Sushri Uma (Jhansi)

Bhatt, Shrimati Ranjanben (Vadodara)

Bhole, Shri Devendra Singh (Akbarpur)

Bhonsale, Shri Chh. Udayanraje (Satara)

Bhuria, Shri Kanti Lal (Ratlam)

Bidhuri, Shri Ramesh (South Delhi)

Biju, Shri P. K. (Alathur)

Birla, Shri Om (Kota)
Biswas, Shri Radheshyam (Karimganj)
Bohra, Shri Ramcharan (Jaipur City)
Bose, Prof. Sugata (Jadavpur)
Brahmpura, Shri Ranjit Singh (Khadoor Sahib)
Chakravarty, Shrimati Bijoya (Guwahati)
Chand, Shri Nihal (Ganganagar)
Chandel, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh (Hamirpur)
Chandrakasi, Shri M. (Chidambaram)
Chandrappa, Shri B. N. (Chitradurga)
Chandumajra, Shri Prem Singh (Anandpur Sahib)
Chaudhary, Shri C. R. (Nagaur)
Chaudhary, Shri Haribhai (Banaskantha)
Chaudhary, Shri P.P. (Pali)
Chaudhary, Shri Pankaj (Maharajganj)
Chaudhary, Shri Ram Tahal (Ranchi)
Chaudhary, Shri Santokh Singh (Jalandhar)
Chaudhury, Shri Jitendra (Tripura East)

Chauhan, Shri Devusinh (Kheda)

Chauhan, Shri P. P. (Panchmahal)

Chautala, Shri Dushyant (Hisar)

Chavan, Shri Ashok Shankarrao (Nanded)

Chavan, Shri Harishchandra (Dindori)

Chavda, Shri Vinod Lakhmashi (Kachchh)

Chhewang, Shri Thupstan (Ladakh)

Chhotelal, Shri (Robertsganj)

Chinnaiyan, Shri S. Selvakumara (Erode)

Choubey, Shri Ashwini Kumar (Buxar)

Choudhary, Col. Sonaram (Barmer)

Choudhary, Shri Babulal (Fatehpur Sikri)

Choudhary, Shri Birendra Kumar (Jhanjharpur)

Chouhan, Shri Nandkumar Singh (Khandwa)

Chowdhury, Shri A. H. Khan (Maldaha Dakshin)

Chowdhury, Shri Adhir Ranjan (Baharampur)

Chudasama, Shri Rajeshbhai (Junagadh)

Danve, Shri Raosaheb Patil (Jalna)

Dastidar, Dr. Kakoli Ghosh (Barasat)

Datta, Shri Sankar Prasad (Tripura West)

Dattatreya, Shri Bandaru (Secunderabad)

De(Nag), Dr. Ratna (Hooghly)

Deka, Shri Ramen (Mangaldai)

Deo, Shri Arka Keshari (Kalahandi)

Deo, Shri Kalikesh N. Singh (Bolangir)

Dev, Kumari Sushmita (Silchar)

Devegowda, Shri H.D. (Hassan)

Devi, Shrimati Rama (Sheohar)

Devi, Shrimati Veena (Munger)

Dharambir, Shri (Bhiwani-Mahendragarh)

Dhotre, Shri Sanjay (Akola)

Dhruvanarayana, Shri R. (Chamarajanagar)

Dhurve, Shrimati Jyoti (Betul)

Dohre, Shri Ashok Kumar (Etawah)

Diwakar, Shri Rajesh Kumar (Hathras)

Dubey, Shri Nishikant (Godda)

Dubey, Shri Satish Chandra (Valmiki Nagar)

Dwivedi, Shri Harishchandra alias Harish (Basti)

Elumalai, Shri V. (Arani)

Engti, Shri Biren Singh (Autonomous District)

Ering, Shri Ninong (Arunachal East)

Faizal, Mohammed (Lakshadweep)

Fatepara, Shri Devjibhai G. (Surendranagar)

Gaddigoudar, Shri P.C. (Bagalkot)

Gadkari, Shri Nitin (Nagpur)

Gaikwad, Dr. Sunil Baliram (Latur)

Gaikwad, Prof. Ravindra Vishwanath (Osmanabad)

Galla, Shri Jayadev (Guntur)

Gandhi, Shri Dharam Vira (Patiala)

Gandhi, Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal (Ahmadnagar)

Gandhi, Shri Feroze Varun (Sultanpur)

Gandhi, Shri Rahul (Amethi)

Gandhi, Shrimati Maneka Sanjay (Pilibhit)

Gandhi, Shrimati Sonia (Raibareilly)

Gangwar, Shri Santosh Kumar (Bareilly)

Gautam, Shri Satish Kumar (Aligarh)

Gavit, Dr. Heena Vijaykumar (Nandurbar)

Gawali, Shrimati Bhavana Pundalikrao (Yavatmal-Washim)

Geete, Shri Anant Gangaram (Raigad)

Geetha, Shrimati Kothapalli (Araku)

George, Adv. Joice (Idukki)

Ghosh, Shrimati Arpita (Balurghat)

Ghubaya, Shri Sher Singh (Ferozepur)

Giluwa, Shri Laxman (Singhbhum)

Girri, Shri Maheish (East Delhi)

Godse, Shri Hemant Tukaram (Nashik)

Gogoi, Shri Gaurav (Kaliabor)

Gohain, Shri Rajen (Nowgong)

Gopal, Dr. K. (Nagapattinam)

Gopalakrishnan, Shri C. (Nilgiris)

Gopalakrishnan, Shri R. (Madurai)

Goud, Dr. Boora Narsaiah (Bhongir)

Gowda, Shri D.V. Sadananda (Bangalore North)

Gowda, Shri S.P. Muddahanume (Tumkur)

Gupta, Shri Shyama Charan (Allahabad)

Gupta, Shri Sudheer (Mandsaur)

Gurjar, Shri Krishanpal (Faridabad)

Hansdah, Shri Ramchandra (Mayurbhanj)

Hansdak, Shri Vijay Kumar (Rajmahal)

Haque, Shri Mohd. Asrarul (Kishanganj)

Hari, Shri G. (Arakkonam)

Haribabu, Dr. Kambhampati (Visakhapatnam)

Hay, Prof. Richard (Nominated)

Hazra, Dr. Anupam (Bolpur)

Hegde, Shri Anantkumar (Uttara Kannada)

Hemamalini, Shrimati (Mathura)

Hikaka, Shri Jhina (Koraput)

Hooda, Shri Deepender Singh (Rohtak)

Hukkeri, Shri Prakash B. (Chikkodi)

Innocent, Shri (Chalakkudy)

Jadhav, Shri Prataprao (Buldhana)

Jadhav, Shri Sanjay Haribhau (Parbhani)

Jaiswal, Dr. Sanjay (Paschim Champaran)

Jardosh, Shrimati Darshana Vikram (Surat)

Jat, Prof. Sanwar Lal (Ajmer)

Jatua, Shri Choudhury Mohan (Mathurapur)

Jaunapuria, Shri Sukhbir Singh (Tonk-Sawai Madhopur)

Jayadevan, Shri C. N. (Thrissur)

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Kachhadia, Shri Naranbhai (Amreli)

Kaiser, Choudhary Mehboob Ali (Khagaria)

Kalvakuntla, Shrimati Kavitha (Nizamabad)

Kamaraj, Dr. K. (Kallakurichi)

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Karra, Shri Tariq Hameed (Srinagar)

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Kashyap, Shri Virender (Shimla)

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Kataria, Shri Rattan Lal (Ambala)

Kateel, Shri Nalin Kumar (Dakshina Kannada)

Katheria, Dr. Ramshankar (Agra)

Kaushik, Shri Ramesh Chander (Sonapat)

Khadse, Shrimati Rakshatai (Raver)

Khaire, Shri Chandrakant (Aurangabad)

Khalsa, Shri Harinder Singh (Fatehgarh Sahib)

Khan, Shri Md. Badaruddoza (Murshidabad)

Khan, Shri Saumitra (Bishanpur)

Khanduri AVSM(Retd.), Maj. Gen. B.C. (Garhwal)

Khanna, Shri Vinod (Gurdaspur)

Kharge, Shri Mallikarjun (Gulbarga)

Kher, Shrimati Kirron (Chandigarh)

Khuba, Shri Bhagwanth (Bidar)

Kinjarapu, Shri Ram Mohan Naidu (Srikakulam)

Kishore, Shri Jugal (Jammu)

Kishore, Shri Kaushal (Mohanlalganj)

Kirtikar, Shri Gajanan (Mumbai North West)

Koli, Shri Bahadur Singh (Bharatpur)

Koshyari, Shri Bhagat Singh (Nainital-U.S.N.)

Kristappa, Shri N. (Hindupur)

Kulaste, Shri Faggan Singh (Mandla)

Kumar, Dr. Arun (Jahanabad)

Kumar, Dr. Virendra (Tikamgarh)

Kumar, Kunwar Sarvesh (Moradabad)

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Kushwaha, Shri Upendra (Karakat)

Laguri, Shrimati Sakuntala (Keonjhar)

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Lekhi, Shrimati Meenakashi (New Delhi)

Lokhande, Shri Sadashiv (Shirdi)

Maadam, Shrimati Poonamben (Jamnagar)

Mahadik, Shri Dhananjay (Kolhapur)

Mahajan, Shrimati Poonam (North Central Mumbai)

Mahajan, Shrimati Sumitra (Indore)

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Mahato, Dr. Mriganka (Purulia)
Mahato, Shri Bidyut Baran (Jamshedpur)
Mahtab, Shri Bhartruhari (Cuttack)
Mahendran, Shri C. (Pollachi)
Majhi, Shri Balbhadra (Nabarangpur)
Malviya, Prof. Chintamani (Ujjain)
Mandal, Dr. Tapas (Ranaghat)
Mani, Shri Jose K. (Kottayam)
Manjhi, Shri Hari (Gaya)
Mann, Shri Bhagwant (Sangrur)
Marabi, Shri Kamal Bhan Singh (Sarguja)
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Marutharajaa, Shri R. P. (Perambalur)
Maurya, Shri Keshav Prasad (Phulpur)
Meena, Shri Arjun Lal (Udaipur)
Meena, Shri Harish (Dausa)
Meghwal, Shri Arjun Ram (Bikaner)
Meinya, Dr. Thokchom (Inner Manipur)

Mishra, Shri Anoop (Morena)

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Mishra, Shri Daddan (Shrawasti)

Mishra, Shri Janardan (Rewa)

Mishra, Shri Kalraj (Deoria)

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Mohan, Shri P.C. (Bangalore Central)

Mohapatra, Dr. Sidhant (Berhampur)

Moily, Shri M. Veerappa (Chikkaballapur)

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Mondal, Shrimati Pratima (Jayanagar)

Mufti, Ms. Mehbooba (Anantnag)

Mukherjee, Shri Abhijit (Jangipur)

Munda, Shri Karia (Khunti)

Munde, Dr. Pritam Gopinath (Beed)

Muniyappa, Shri K.H. (Kolar)

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Nagarajan, Shri P. (Coimbatore)
Nagesh, Shri Godam (Adilabad)
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Naik, Shri B.V. (Raichur)
Naik, Shri Shripad Yesso (North Goa)
Narasimham, Shri Thota (Kakinada)
Nath, Shri Chand (Alwar)
Nath, Shri Kamal (Chhindwara)
Natterjee, Shri J.J.T. (Thoothukudi)
Nete, Shri Ashok Mahadeorao (Gadchiroli-chimur)
Ninama, Shri Manshankar (Banswara)
Nishad, Shri Ajay (Muzaffarpur)
Nishad, Shri Ram Charitra (Machhlishahar)
Nishank, Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal (Haridwar)
Noor, Shrimati Mausam (Maldaha)
Oram, Shri Jual (Sundargarh)
Owaisi, Shri Asaduddin (Hyderabad)

Paatle, Shrimati Kamla (Janjgir-Champa)

Pal, Shri Jagdambika (Domariyaganj)

Pala, Shri Vincent H. (Shillong)

Panda, Shri Baijayant Jay (Kendrapara)

Pandey, Dr. Mahendra Nath (Chandauli)

Pandey, Shri Hari Om (Ambedkar Nagar)

Pandey, Shri Rajesh (Kushinagar)

Pandey, Shri Ravindra Kumar (Giridih)

Panneerselvam, Shri V. (Salem)

Paraste, Shri Dalpat Singh (Shahdol)

Parasuraman, Shri K. (Thanjavur)

Parthipan, Shri R. (Theni)

Pasunoori, Shri Dayakar (Warangal)

Paswan, Shri Chhedi (Sasaram)

Paswan, Shri Chirag (Jamui)

Paswan, Shri Kamlesh (Basgaon)

Paswan, Shri Ram Chandra (Samastipur)

Paswan, Shri Ramvilas (Hajipur)

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Patel, Shri Devji M. (Jalore)

Patel, Shri Dilip (Anand)

Patel, Shri Lalubhai Babubhai (Daman & Diu)

Patel, Shri Natubhai Gomanbhai (Dadra & Nagar Haveli)

Patel, Shri Prahlad Singh (Damoh)

Patel, Shri Subhash (Khargone)

Patel, Shrimati Anupriya (Mirzapur)

Patel, Shrimati Jayshreeben (Mahesana)

Pathak, Shrimati Riti (Sidhi)

Patil, Shri A.T. Nana (Jalgaon)

Patil, Shri Bheemrao B. (Zaheerabad)

Patil, Shri C. R. (Navsari)

Patil, Shri Kapil Moreshwar (Bhiwandi)

Patil, Shri Sanjay Kaka (Sangli)

Patole, Shri Nana (Bhandara-Gondia)

Paul, Shri Tapas (Krishnanagar)

Phule, Sadhvi Savitri Bai (Bharaich)

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Pradhan, Shri Nagendra Kumar (Sambalpur)

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Rai, Shri Prem Das (Sikkim)

Raj, Dr. Udit (North West Delhi)

Raj, Shrimati Krishna (Shahjahanpur)

Rajbhar, Shri Harinarayan (Ghosi)

Rajendran, Shri S. (Viluppuram)

Rajesh, Shri M. B. (Palakkad)

Rajoria, Dr. Manoj (Karauli-Dholpur)

Rajput, Shri Mukesh (Farrukhabad)

Raju, Shri Ashok Gajapathi (Vizianagaram)

Raju, Shri C.S. Putta (Mandya)

Raju, Shri Gokaraju Ganga (Narsapuram)

Ram, Shri Janak (Gopalganj)

Ram, Shri Vishnu Dayal (Palamu)

Ramachandran, Shri K. N. (Sriperumbudur)

Ramachandran, Shri Mullappally (Vadakara)

Ramadoss, Dr. Anbumani (Dharmapuri)

Ranjan, Shri Rajesh (Madhepura)

Ranjan, Shrimati Ranjeet (Supaul)

Rao, Shri Konakalla Narayana (Machhilipatnam)

Rao, Shri M. Venkateswara (Eluru)

Rao (Avanthi), Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa (Anakapalli)

Rao, Shri Rayapati Sambasiva (Narasaraopet)

Rathod, Shri D.S. (Sabarkantha)

Rathore (Retd.), Col. Rajyavardhan (Jaipur Rural)

Rathore, Shri Hariom Singh (Rajsamand)

Rathwa, Shri Ramsinh (Chhota Udaipur)

Raut, Shri Vinayak Bhaurao (Ratnagiri-Sindhudurg)

Raval, Shri Paresh (Ahmedabad-East)

Rawat, Shrimati Priyanka Singh (Barabanki)

Ray, Shri Bishnu Pada (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)

Ray, Shri Ravindra Kumar (Kodarma)

Reddy, Shri A.P. Jithender (Mahabubnagar)

Reddy, Shri Ch. Malla (Malkajgiri)

Reddy, Shri Gutha Sukender (Nalgonda)

Reddy, Shri J.C. Divakar (Anantapur)

Reddy, Shri Konda Vishweshwar (Chevella)

Reddy, Shri Kotha Prabhakar (Medak)

Reddy, Shri Mekapati Raja Mohan (Nellore)

Reddy, Shri P. Srinivasa (Khammam)

Reddy, Shri P.V. Midhun (Rajampet)

Reddy, Shri S. P.Y. (Nandyal)
Reddy, Shri Y. S. Avinash (Kadapa)
Reddy, Shri Y. V. Subba (Ongole)
Renuka, Shrimati Butta (Kurnool)
Rijiju, Shri Kiren (Arunachal West)
Rio, Shri Neiphiu (Nagaland)
Rori, Shri Charanjeet Singh (Sirsa)
Roy, Prof. Saugata (Dum Dum)
Roy, Shrimati Sandhya (Medinipur)
Roy, Shrimati Satabdi (Birbhum)
Ruala, Shri C.L. (Mizoram)
Rudy, Shri Rajiv Pratap (Saran)
Sahu, Shri Chandulal (Mahasamund)
Sahu, Shri Lakhan Lal (Bilaspur)
Sahu, Shri Tamradhwaj (Durg)
Sai, Shri Vishnu Dev (Raigarh)
Saini, Shri Rajkumar (Kurukshetra)
Salim, Shri Mohammad (Raiganj)

Samal, Dr. Kulmani (Jagatsinghpur)

Sampla, Shri Vijay (Hoshiarpur)

Sampath, Dr. A. (Attingal)

Sanghamita, Dr. Mamta (Bardhaman Durgapur)

Sanjar, Shri Alok (Bhopal)

Saren, Dr. Uma (Jhargram)

Sarmah, Shri Ram Prasad (Tezpur)

Sarnia, Shri Naba Kumar (Kokrajhar)

Sarswati, Shri Sumedhanand (Sikar)

Satav, Shri Rajeev (Hingoli)

Sathyabama, Shrimati V. (Tiruppur)

Satpathy, Shri Tathagata (Dhenkanal)

Sawaikar, Adv. Narendra Keshav (South Goa)

Sawant, Shri Arvind (Mumbai South)

Scindia, Shri Jyotiraditya M. (Guna)

Senguttuvan, Shri B. (Vellore)

Senthilnathan, Shri P. R. (Sivaganga)

Sethi, Shri Arjun Charan (Bhadrak)

Shah, Shrimati Mala Rajyalakshmi (Tehri Garhwal)

Shanavas, Shri M.I. (Wayanad)

Shankarrao, Shri Mohite Patil Vijaysinh (Madha)

Sharma, Dr. Mahesh (Gautam Buddha Nagar)

Sharma, Shri Ram Kumar (Sitamarhi)

Sharma, Shri Ram Swaroop (Mandi)

Shekhawat, Shri Gajendra Singh (Jodhpur)

Shetty, Shri Gopal (Mumbai North)

Shetty, Shri Raju (Hatkanangle)

Shewale, Shri Rahul (Mumbai South Central)

Shinde, Dr. Shrikant Eknath (Kalyan)

Shirole, Shri Anil (Pune)

Shivajirao, Shri Adhalrao Patil (Shirur)

Shyal, Dr. Bhartiben D. (Bhavnagar)

Siddeshwara, Shri G. M. (Davangere)

Sigriwal, Shri Janardan Singh (Maharajganj)

Simha, Shri Pratap (Mysore)

Singh, Capt. Amarinder (Amritsar)

Singh, Dr. Bhola (Begusarai)

Singh, Dr. Jitendra (Udhampur)

Singh, Dr. Nepal (Rampur)

Singh, Dr. Prabhas Kumar (Bargarh)

Singh, Dr. Satya Pal (Baghpat)

Singh, Dr. Yashwant (Nagina)

Singh (Retd.), Gen. Vijay Kumar (Ghaziabad)

Singh, Kunwar Bharatendra (Bijnor)

Singh, Kunwar Haribansh (Pratapgarh)

Singh, Prof. Sadhu (Faridkot)

Singh, Rao Inderjit (Gurgaon)

Singh, Shri Abhishek (Rajnandgaon)

Singh, Shri Bharat (Ballia)

Singh, Shri Bhola (Bulandshahr)

Singh, Shri Brijbhushan Sharan (Kaiserganj)

Singh, Shri Dushyant (Jhalawar-Baran)

Singh, Shri Ganesh (Satna)

Singh, Shri Giriraj (Nawada)

Singh, Shri Hukum (Kairana)

Singh, Shri Kirti Vardhan (Gonda)

Singh, Shri Lallu (Faizabad)

Singh, Shri Nagendra (Khajuraho)

Singh, Shri Pashupati Nath (Dhanbad)

Singh, Shri R. K. (Arrah)

Singh, Shri Radha Mohan (East Champaran)

Singh, Shri Rajnath (Lucknow)

Singh (Raju Bhaiya), Shri Rajveer (Etah)

Singh, Shri Rakesh (Jabalpur)

Singh, Shri Rama Kishore (Vaishali)

Singh, Shri Ravneet (Ludhiana)

Singh, Shri Satyapal (Sambhal)

Singh, Shri Sunil Kumar (Chatra)

Singh, Shri Sushil Kumar (Aurangabad)

Singh, Shri Uday Pratap (Hoshangabad)

Singh, Shri Virendra (Bhadohi)

Singh, Shrimati Pratyusha Rajeshwari (Kandhamal)

Sinha, Shri Jayant (Hazaribagh)

Sinha, Shri Manoj (Ghazipur)

Sinha, Shri Shatrughan (Patna Sahib)

Sinha, Shrimati Renuka (Cooch Behar)

Sivaprasad, Shri Naramalli (Chittoor)

Solanki, Dr. Kirit P. (Ahmedabad)

Somaiya, Dr. Kirit (Mumbai North East)

Sonkar, Shri Vinod Kumar (Kaushambi)

Sonker, Shrimati Neelam (Lalganj)

Sonowal, Shri Sarbananda (Lakhimpur)

Soren, Shri Shibu (Dumka)

Srinivas, Shri Kesineni (Vijayawada)

Sriram, Shri Malyadri (Bapatla)

Sriramulu, Shri B. (Bellary)

Sule, Shrimati Supriya (Baramati)

Suman, Shri Balka (Peddapalli)

Sundaram, Shri P. R. (Namakkal)

Supriyo, Shri Babul (Asansol)

Suresh, Shri D.K. (Bangalore Rural)

Suresh, Shri Kodikunnil (Mavelikkara)

Swain, Shri Ladu Kishore (Aska)

Swaraj, Shrimati Sushma (Vidisha)

Tadas, Shri Ramdas C. (Wardha)

Tamta, Shri Ajay (Almora)

Tanwar, Shri Kanwar Singh (Amroha)

Tarai, Shrimati Rita (Jajpur)

Tasa, Shri Kamakhya Prasad (Jorhat)

Teacher, Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi (Kannur)

Teli, Shri Rameshwar (Dibrugarh)

Teni, Shri Ajay Misra (Kheri)

Thakur, Shri Anurag Singh (Hamirpur)

Thakur, Shrimati Mamata (Vangaon)

Thakur, Shrimati Savitri (Dhar)

Thambidurai, Dr. M. (Karur)

Tharoor, Dr. Shashi (Thiruvananthapuram)

Thomas, Prof. K.V. (Ernakulam)

Tirkey, Shri Dasrath (Alipurduars)

Tiwari, Shri Manoj (North East Delhi)

Tomar, Shri Narendra Singh (Gwalior)

Tripathi, Shri Sharad (Sant Kabir Nagar)

Trivedi, Shri Dinesh (Barrackpur)

Tumane, Shri Krupal Balaji (Ramtek)

Udasi, Shri Shivkumar (Haveri)

Uddin, Shri Tasleem (Araria)

Udhayakumar, Shri M. (Dindigul)

Usendi, Shri Vikram (Kanker)

Utawal, Shri Manohar (Devas)

Vaghela, Shri L. K. (Patan)

Vanaroja, Shrimati R. (Tiruvannamalai)

Vardhan, Dr. Harsh (Chandni Chowk)

Varma, Shrimati Dev (Bankura)

Vasanthi, Shrimati M. (Tenkasi)

Vasava, Shri Manshukhbhai Dhanjibhai (Bharuch)

Vasava, Shri Parbhubhai Nagarbhai (Bardoli)

Velagapalli, Shri Varaprasad Rao (Tirupati)

Venkatesh Babu, Shri T. G. (Chennai North)

Venugopal, Dr. P. (Tiruvallur)

Venugopal, Shri K. C. (Alappuzha)

Verma, Dr. Anshul (Hardoi)

Verma, Shri Bhanu Pratap Singh (Jalaun)

Verma, Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh (West Delhi)

Verma, Shri Rajesh (Sitapur)

Verma, Shrimati Rekha (Dhaurahra)

Vichare, Shri Rajan (Thane)

Vijaya Kumar, Shri S. R. (Chennai Central)

Wanga, Shri Chintaman Navasha (Palghar)

Yadav, Shri Akshay (Firozabad)

Yadav, Shri Dharmendra (Badaun)

Yadav, Shri Hukmdeo Narayan (Madhubani)

Yadav, Shri Jai Prakash Narayan (Banka)

Yadav, Shri Laxmi Narayan (Sagar)

Yadav, Shri Mulayam Singh (Azamgarh)

Yadav, Shri Om Prakash (Siwan)

Yadav, Shri Ram Kripal (Pataliputra)

Yadav, Shri Tej Pratap Singh (Mainpuri)

Yadav, Shrimati Dimple (Kannauj)

Yediyurappa, Shri B.S. (Shimoga)

Yellaiah, Shri Nandi (Nagar Kurnool)

OFFICERS OF LOK SABHA

THE SPEAKER

Shrimati Sumitra Mahajan

THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Dr. M. Thambidurai

PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

Shri Arjun Charan Sethi

Shri Hukmdeo Narayan Yadav

Shri Anandrao Adsul

Shri Pralhad Joshi

Dr. Ratna De (Nag)

Shri Ramen Deka

Shri Konakalla Narayana Rao

Shri Hukum Singh

Shri K.H. Muniyappa

Dr. P. Venugopal

SECRETARY GENERAL

Shri Anoop Mishra

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

CABINET MINISTERS

Shri Narendra Modi

The Prime Minister and also in-charge of:

(i) Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions;

(ii) Department of Atomic Energy;

(iii) Department of Space; and All important Policy issues and all other portfolios not allocated to any Minister.

Shri Rajnath Singh

The Minister of Home Affairs

Shrimati Sushma Swaraj

The Minister of External Affairs

Shri Arun Jaitley

The Minister of Finance, Minister of Corporate Affairs and Minister of Information and Broadcasting

Shri M. Venkaiah Naidu

The Minister of Urban Development, Minister of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation and Minister of Parliamentary Affairs

Shri Nitin Gadkari

The Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Minister of Shipping

Shri Manohar Parrikar

The Minister of Defence

Shri Suresh Prabhu

The Minister of Railways

Shri D.V. Sadananda The Minister of Law and Justice
Gowda

Sushri Uma Bharti The Minister of Water Resources,
River Development and Ganga
Rejuvenation

Dr. Najma A. Heptulla The Minister of Minority Affairs

Shri Ramvilas Paswan The Minister of Consumer Affairs,
Food and Public Distribution

Shri Kalraj Mishra The Minister of Micro, Small and
Medium Enterprises

Shrimati Maneka Sanjay The Minister of Women and Child
Gandhi Development

Shri Ananthkumar The Minister of Chemicals and
Fertilizers

Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad The Minister of Communications and
Information Technology

Shri Jagat Prakash Nadda The Minister of Health and Family
Welfare

Shri Ashok Gajapathi Raju The Minister of Civil Aviation

Shri Anant Gangaram Geete The Minister of Heavy Industries and
Public Enterprises

Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur The Minister of Food Processing
Badal Industries

Shri Narendra Singh Tomar The Minister of Mines and Minister
of Steel

Shri Chaudhary Birender Singh The Minister of Rural Development,
Minister of Panchayati Raj and
Minister of Drinking Water and
Sanitation

Shri Jual Oram The Minister of Tribal Affairs

Shri Radha Mohan Singh The Minister of Agriculture and
Farmers Welfare

Shri Thaawar Chand Gehlot The Minister of Social Justice and
Empowerment

Shrimati Smriti Zubin Irani The Minister of Human Resource
Development

Dr. Harsh Vardhan The Minister of Science and
Technology and Minister of Earth
Sciences

MINISTERS OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)

Gen. Vijay Kumar Singh (Retd.) The Minister of State of the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation and Minister of State in the Ministry of External Affairs

Rao Inderjit Singh The Minister of State of the Ministry of Planning and Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence

Shri Santosh Kumar Gangwar The Minister of State of the Ministry of Textiles

Shri Bandaru Dattatreya

The Minister of State of the
Ministry of Labour and
Employment

Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy

The Minister of State of the
Ministry of Skill Development
and Entrepreneurship and
Minister of State in the Ministry
of Parliamentary Affairs

Shri Shripad Yesso Naik

The Minister of State of the
Ministry of Ayurveda, Yoga and
Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and
Homoeopathy (AYUSH) and
Minister of State in the Ministry
of Health and Family Welfare

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan

The Minister of State of the
Ministry of Petroleum and
Natural Gas

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal

The Minister of State of the
Ministry of Youth Affairs and
Sports

Shri Prakash Javadekar

The Minister of State of the
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Forests and Climate Change

Shri Piyush Goyal

The Minister of State of the
Ministry of Power, Minister of
State of the Ministry of Coal and
Minister of State of the Ministry
of New and Renewable Energy

Dr. Jitendra Singh

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Minister of State in the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, Minister of State in the Department of Atomic Energy and Minister of State in the Department of Space

Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman

The Minister of State of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry

Dr. Mahesh Sharma

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

MINISTERS OF STATE

Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Minority Affairs and Minister of State in the Ministry of Parliamentary Affairs
Shri Ram Kripal Yadav	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Drinking Water and Sanitation
Shri Haribhai Chaudhary	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Home Affairs
Prof. Sanwar Lal Jat	The Minister of State in the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation

Shri Mohanbhai Kalyanjibhai Kundariya The Minister of State in the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare

Shri Giriraj Singh The Minister of State in the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises

Shri Hansraj Gangaram Ahir The Minister of State in the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers

Shri G.M. Siddeshwara The Minister of State in the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises

Shri Manoj Sinha The Minister of State in the Ministry of Railways

Shri Nihal Chand

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Panchayati Raj

Shri Upendra Kushwaha

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Human Resource
Development

Shri Pon Radhakrishnan

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Road Transport and
Highways and Minister of State
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Shri Kiren Rijju

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Home Affairs

Shri Krishanpal Gurjar

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Social Justice and
Empowerment

Dr. Sanjeev Balyan

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Agriculture and
Farmers Welfare

Shri Mansukhbhai Dhanjibhai
Vasava

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Ministry of Tribal Affairs

Shri Vishnu Dev Sai

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Ministry of Mines and Minister
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Ministry of Rural Development

Dr. Ramshankar Katheria

The Minister of State in the
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Shri Y. S. Chowdary

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Ministry of Science and
Technology and Minister of
State in the Ministry of Earth
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Shri Jayant Sinha

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Finance

Col. Rajyavardhan Rathore
(Retd.)

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Information and
Broadcasting

Shri Babul Supriyo

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Ministry of Urban Development
and Minister of State in the
Ministry of Housing and Urban
Poverty Alleviation

Sadhvi Niranjana Jyoti

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Food Processing
Industries

Shri Vijay Sampla

The Minister of State in the
Ministry of Social Justice and
Empowerment

LOK SABHA DEBATES

Vol.XVII First day of Eighth Session of Sixteenth Lok Sabha No.1

LOK SABHA

Monday, April 25, 2016/Vaisakha 5, 1938 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

NATIONAL ANTHEM

(National Anthem was played)

11.01 hours

OBITUARY REFERENCES

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have to inform the House about the sad demise of four former members Shri Birbal, Shri Lal Muni Choubey, Shri Ananda Gajapathi Raju and Dr. C. Silvera.

Shri Birbal was a member of the 7th, 8th and 10th Lok Sabhas representing the Ganganagar Parliamentary Constituency of Rajasthan. He was a member of the Joint Committee on Salaries and Allowances of Members of Parliament during the 8th Lok Sabha and also a member of the Committee on Agriculture and the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes during the 10th Lok Sabha. Earlier, Shri Birbal was a member of the Rajasthan legislative Assembly for two terms between 1967 and 1977. Shri Birbal worked for the upliftment of the poor and marginalised sections of the society.

Shri Birbal worked for the upliftment of poor and marginalised sections of the society. Shri Birbal passed away on the 19th of November, 2015 at Hanumangarh in Rajasthan at the age of 79 years.

Shri Lal Muni Choubey was a member of the 11th to 14th Lok Sabhas representing the Buxar Parliamentary Constituency of Bihar. Shri Choubey was a member of various parliamentary committees, prominent among them being committee on Urban and Rural Development; Committee on Public Undertakings; Committee on Energy and the Committee on Petroleum and Natural Gas. Earlier, Shri Choubey was a member of the Bihar Legislative Assembly for four terms from 1972 to 1983 and from 1991 to 1994.

Shri Lal Muni Choubey passed away on 25 March, 2016 in New Delhi at the age of 73.

Shri Anand Gajapathi Raju was a member of the 8th and 10th Lok Sabhas representing the erstwhile Bobbili Parliamentary Constituency of Andhra Pradesh. Shri Ananda Gajapathi Raju served as the Union Minister for Health from 1984 to 1985. He was also member of the Committee on Food, Civil Supplies and Public Distribution during the 10th Lok Sabha. Earlier, Shri Raju was a member of the Andhra Pradesh Legislative Assembly from 1983 to 1984. He also served as Minister of Education in the Government of Andhra Pradesh during this period.

Shri Ananda Gajapathi Raju passed away on 26 March, 2016 in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh at the age of 6.

Dr. C. Silvera served as a Member of the 9th to 11th Lok Sabha from Mizoram Parliamentary Constituency.

Dr. C. Silvera was a member of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table; Committee on Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes; Committee on Public Undertakings and the Committee on Human Resource Development. He also served as the Union Minister of State for Health and Family Welfare from 1994 to 1995 and as Minister of State for Industry from 1995 to 1996. Earlier, Dr. Silvera was a member of the Rajya Sabha for one term. Dr. C. Silvera passed away on 9 April, 2016 in Aizawl, Mizoram at the age of 80.

We deeply mourn the loss of our former colleagues and I am sure the House would join me in conveying our condolences to the bereaved families.

Hon. Members, this House is deeply anguished and saddened by the heinous attacks against innocent people by terrorists in Brussels on 22nd March, 2016. We strongly condemn the barbaric terrorist attacks. This House extends heartfelt sympathies to the Government of Belgium, its Parliament and the people, particularly, the bereaved families and and

stands in solidarity with them. One of our citizens was killed in the dastardly attack while two others were injured.

The House reiterates its call towards the global community to unitedly combat and eliminate the scourge of terrorism.

The House is deeply saddened to receive the news of the earthquake in Ecuador on 16th April, 2016. This devastating earthquake has caused enormous damage to life and property and has already claimed more than 600 lives.

The House is also saddened about the earthquakes in Japan last week in which about 100 persons have reportedly been killed.

We express our deep condolence to the Governments of both the countries, their Parliaments, their friendly people and to the families of those who lost their lives in these tragic incidents.

Hon. Members, 7 Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) personnel were martyred when the truck in which they were travelling was blown up in Dantewada region of Chhattisgarh on 30 March, 2016.

In another tragic incident, 27 persons are reported to have been killed and over 80 others injured when a part of under-construction flyover in Kolkata collapsed on 31 March, 2016.

On 10th April, 2016, in another tragic accident, 112 persons are reported to have been killed and several others injured in a fire caused by explosion of fire crackers in Kollam, Kerala.

In yet another tragic accident, 30 persons including a child are reported to have been killed and 8 others injured when the bus in which they were travelling fell into a gorge in Deogarh district of Odisha on 17th April, 2016.

In another incident, 19 persons are reported to have been killed in a landslide in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh on 23rd April 2016.

The House expresses its profound sorrow on all the dastardly terrorist attacks, all natural calamities and also on the tragic accidents which have brought pain and suffering to the bereaved families. The House wishes speedy recovery to those injured.

Now the House will stand in silence for a while in honour of the departed souls.

11.08 hours

(The Members then stood in silence for short while)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Question Hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: After Question Hour, not now.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, I have given a notice for the Adjournment Motion. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

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

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow you after Question Hour.

* Not recorded.

11.09 hours***ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Q. No. 1, Shri Kesineni Srinivas.

(Q.1)

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS: Thank you Madam for the opportunity. ... (*Interruptions*) I welcome the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana and the allocation of Rs.2000 crore for the Scheme in this Budget. The target is to provide 1.5 crore Below Poverty Line households with LPG connections in 2016-17. However, it has been widely reported that even in households that have LPG connections, LPG is not the primary fuel for cooking and women resort to firewood and cow dung *chulhas* for cooking due to the high cost of LPG and other behavioural patterns.

Madam Speaker, through you I would like to ask the Government as to what is the Government doing to make it more affordable for BPL families to use LPG as the primary fuel in keeping with the goal of eliminating polluting *chulhas*? Can the Government provide a higher rate of subsidy through Direct Benefit Transfer for BPL women so that they continue to use LPG even after initial free connections are provided?

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

Otherwise the investment made in expanding access may not translate into actual use of LPG for BPL families and the scheme may become wasteful. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, listen to us for 5 minutes. ... (*Interruptions*) Madam, this is a democracy. ... (*Interruptions*)

11.11 hours

(At this stage, Shri Rajiv Satav and some other hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

[English]

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam Speaker, through you, I would like to inform this august House that our primary assessment suggests that the concern raised by the hon. Member is not near to reality. ... (*Interruptions*) Since last so many years the Government has developed a subsidy delivery mechanism and Government will continue to extend that subsidy mechanism and subsidy quantum to consumers as upfront payment. ... (*Interruptions*) Through the Budgetary allocation, Government will give free connection to the BPL category consumers and Government is trying to give affordable LPG to its consumers. Through different managerial skills and different smart management, we want to

reduce the cost of LPG. But our experience is that in rural household our main concern is the availability of LPG. ... (*Interruptions*) Through this kind of *Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana* we will create availability in the rural market and the primary indications are very enthusiastic. This is not going to be wasteful. This is a historic scheme launched by the present Government.

SHRI KESINENI SRINIVAS: Madam Speaker, I appreciate the fact that the Government is looking towards home delivery of cylinders and has issued orders for the same. But I understand that the key is implementation of this directive. How will the Government ensure that the cylinders are made available to each household? What is the mechanism to hold the dealers accountable? Is there a grievance redressal mechanism in place for the consumers?

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam, already the existing mechanism is to deliver the cylinder at the doorstep. Apart from *Gramin Bitrak Yojana* where one exception is there in which case the consumers have to take the LPG cylinder from the distributors. Otherwise the existing system is that the cylinder has to be delivered at the doorstep. If there is any grievance in this regard, we are inviting suggestions and grievances through our website, through our grievance redressal number and I would like to request the hon. Member to specify any grievance or

complaint through our social media. We are here to resolve these kinds of complaints.

[Translation]

SHRI OM BIRLA: Madam, I compliment the Budget allocation made by the Hon. Prime Minister for providing LPG to the country for the first time within the rural sector.

Madam, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister, considering that a large section of our country's 125 crore population resides in rural areas, how does the Government plan to ensure the provision of LPG connections to rural households under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana? If a road map has been prepared by the Government, then the Hon. Minister should should talk about it.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Hon. Speaker Madam, Hon. Questioners are correctly saying that even today, an average of 35 percent households in India have accessed LPG connections. Keeping this in mind, the present Government is going to start a new scheme in the name of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana under the direction of Hon. Prime Minister through which connections will be given in the name of women of five crore new BPL family in the coming three years. For the first time, such a big programme is being run by the Government of India in the name of women in which five crore connections are going to be given in

three years and this year the connection which is to be given in the name of 1.5 crore women is going to be launched by Hon. Prime Minister in Ballia, Uttar Pradesh on 1st May. He is fully prepared. In particular, keeping in mind the rural areas, rural sections, backward classes, for the first time, we will provide the connection to the consumer, free of cost. Apart from this, we have developed the mechanism of EMI and instalment for the first refill and giving the consumer stove on cheap rate. I believe that after the independence of the country, the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana is going to be a historic step for the rural women and the poor women of India.

[English]

SHRI THOTA NARASIMHAM: Madam, has the Government any proposal for establishment of LPG manufacturing units in the newly formed State of Andhra Pradesh? What is the total number of consumers who have voluntarily given up LPG subsidy as a part of the Give It Up Campaign? What is the total annual savings on account of the total number of consumers who have voluntarily given up their subsidy? What is the expenditure of the Ministry towards the advertisement of Give It Up LPG Subsidy Campaign? How many people have left the LPG subsidy in the last financial year particularly in the State of Andhra Pradesh? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: Madam this question needs a separate notice. I will give the hon. Member all the data which he asked for but let me answer his question. In the last financial year, more than one crore consumers have voluntarily given up their subsidy. It is a historic step taken by the citizens of the country on the appeal of the hon. Prime Minister. Hon. Prime Minister has appealed that those who can afford their cooking from their own pockets may not opt for the subsidy. More than one crore people have voluntarily given up the subsidy. I will inform the hon. Member all the details which he has sought.

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: Madam Speaker, firstly, I am glad to inform the Minister that more than 80 per cent of all households in my constituency are using LPG except for some villages which are remote and some hamlets or *thandas*. While the LPG penetration is beneficial, it has an undesirable side. The biogas which is made in India is a substitute for LPG which is imported.

Will the Minister consider replacing LPG with biogas where it is viable like in remote hamlets? If the villages convert to biogas, will the Ministry extend the same support, encouragement and subsidy because right now, gas is reaching the villages but money is reaching Iran and Saudia Arabia? Tomorrow, gas as well as money will reach the villages.

SHRI DHARMENDRA PRADHAN: As on today, there is no scheme of providing subsidy to biogas but the Government is encouraging it with the collaboration of the Ministry of Non-Conventional Energy. Our Ministry is going in for a full alternative biogas support system in different parts of the country. I will extend any kind of infrastructural help to the particular village. But as on today, there is no subsidy on biogas distribution mechanism.

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 2, Shri Ravneet Singh

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: The Minister may lay the reply.

(Q. 2)

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR: Hon. Speaker, since the inception of the Bharat Oman Refinery at Bina in Madhya Pradesh, a large number of contractual workers have died there and the contractors who are there are ignoring the interests of the workers. Every year a large number of five thousand to seven thousand workers are engaged there, but they are not being given any kind of social security. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, how many workers have died, how many have been fatally injured since the establishment of the Bharat Oman Refinery? The figures of Bina Refinery of these deceased workers are different, police figures are different and the figures of the labour organisations are different, so through you, I want to know whether any initiative will be taken to compensate the dependents of the contract workers who have died while verifying these figures. Every year, five to seven thousand contract labourers, who are engaged in work there, will certain steps be taken to provide social security to them?

[English]

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: We are very sensitive towards the working conditions, health and safety of workers. As far as the fatal accidents are concerned, 2012 was the worst year. During 2012, 1,383

fatal accidents took place. In 2013, it has come down to 1,217 and during 2014 it has further come down to 1,141. Our effort is to see that the number of these fatal accidents is reduced. We are trying our level best to achieve that. We are able to reduce the number of accidents because our focus is more on the technical initiatives, which we have recently taken. Even in the mining areas, we have increased the inspections.

Recently, in Singareni Colliery, Telangana, an accident took place in which three people have died. The accident took place on 13.4.2016. We have given Rs. 67 lakh as compensation to a worker. Another worker, Shri Hanumantha Rao was given Rs. 57 lakh and another worker was given Rs. 58 lakh. We are providing other benefits also. In order to ensure that these accidents do not take place, we are considering amending the Factories Act also.

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI): Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me this opportunity. To make health and social security benefits accessible to the workers of unorganized sector, like construction workers, migrant labourers, volunteers of different schemes like anganwadi workers, etc. is one of the top priorities of the present Government.

I thank the Government for having a pragmatic view towards them. Having said that, may I know from the hon. Minister whether a

mechanism has been thought of wherein social security benefit contributions to workers can be made by employers at a single window for all the workers?

Secondly, will the Minister fix minimum wages for the workers as part of social security? In my constituency we have a lot of industries. There, the life of workers is a nightmare. Every alternate week so many accidents are occurring. The Government of India and the local Governments are giving so many facilities to the employers for starting industries. But we have to take care of the workers' safety also because they are the backbone of our country, Bharat desh. Thank you once again for giving me this opportunity.

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: For workers' welfare and for their social security which he has mentioned, ESIC is there, and EPFO is there. Recently, the Prime Minister has initiated many social security schemes. Under the RIHS (Revised Integrated Housing Scheme), the amount has been increased from Rs. 40,000 to Rs. 1,00,000. Like that we have increased the social security benefits to the workers. We are protecting the workers through all the rights.

Another important thing is, 'labour' comes under the Concurrent List. We have two organizations. One is DGFASLI and DGMS. One is concerning the small factories, which comes under DGFASLI, makes

model rules and gives technical advice. Recently, we have increased minimum wage to contract workers to Rs.10,000 at the national level taking into consideration the Consumer Price Index and Dearness Allowance. This was based on the verdict of the Supreme Court. We have linked this increase of minimum wage to pension, bonus. Our Government is committed towards working class for their betterment.

(Q.3)

[English]

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH: The reply of the hon. Minister is based on the old census report of 2006-07, the details of which were published in 2011-12. I want to know from the hon. Minister this. MSMEs are one of the largest non-farm employers in the country. Approximately 110 million people are employed in this sector. Madam, 12 major product groups, largely electric and electronic goods, are imported from China and other countries. When we have scope in our own country, what measures are being taken in this regard by the Government? Would the Government of India plan to extend the procurement policy to include State Governments to supply such products for different agencies? Is procurement undertaken from only registered MSMEs? If yes, will the scope be expanded to 92 per cent of unregistered MSMEs? ...
(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: If you speak at 12 o' clock, it will go on record. Otherwise, not.

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

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Hon. Speaker, Hon. Member has said that the figures which have been submitted were calculated in the year 2011-12 and this was the calculation of the year 2006. ... (*Interruptions*) It is true that those which are registered units are above 15 lakhs and the remaining are unregistered. ... (*Interruptions*) It has created a lot of employment. ... (*Interruptions*) You have asked that the people take the imported goods from China, what kind of programmes should we take on the basis of which the goods here are, of quality. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to tell the Hon. Member, through you, that our endeavour is that whatever goods are manufactured by MSMEs, we have arranged and created many programmes to ensure their quality so that they can compete in the global market as well. Not only China, but in the rest of the countries also, we can get all the things systematically done on the basis of our manufacturing, for this we are making efforts.

As far as you have asked the question about registration, I would like to tell that we have given programmes to make the registration easier as well. There used to be a lot of trouble for registration, for the first time it has happened that we have ensured industry, Aadhaar, memorandum are based on the web portal. In this, it will be of one page. After filling, without any papers and without spending any money, one will get the

registration number and you will be happy to know that we had launched this in the month of September and today more than five lakh registrations have been done. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

DR. PRABHAS KUMAR SINGH: Is the Government aware of the large scale employment of casual and temporary workers, non-maintenance of employee registers and non-registration of enterprise which has given rise to large scale migration of labourers? Would the Ministry take measures in coordination with the Ministry of Labour to maintain the dignity of labour? Has the Government taken cognizance of the fact that a majority of MSMEs stay below the poverty line? If yes, the details thereof?

[Translation]

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Hon. Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked what kind of arrangement can be done understanding the importance of the workers. The schemes that we have started through MSMEs have programmes for skill development, especially for workers and entrepreneurs. ... (*Interruptions*) Both of them should develop skills properly, so that wherever they are needed in manufacturing, they should work systematically, do good construction work so that the workers also get due respect and they can get proper salary. ... (*Interruptions*) They can

also be benefited. In this direction, through programmes, we have tried to honour the workers. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: Hon. Speaker, due to unemployment in Bundelkhand region of Uttar Pradesh and due to drought, a large number of people are migrating. ... (*Interruptions*) Especially, in my Parliamentary Constituency, there is no industry in Banda and Chitrakoot. ... (*Interruptions*) The spinning mill of Banda is closed. ... (*Interruptions*) Fort Glass Factory of Bargarh is closed. ... (*Interruptions*) Now the stone crushers and stone industries have also been closed. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister that Spinning Mill has been closed in Banda and Float Glass Limited and Stone Crushers have also been closed in Chitrakoot district, will you kindly formulate a special scheme to get them operational and to stop the exodus of unemployed people from the Bundelkhand region? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Hon. Speaker, Hon. Member has asked questions about the migration of workers who are experiencing distress due to drought in Bundelkhand, how to open closed textile mills and stone crushers. ... (*Interruptions*) Through you, I would like to tell the Hon. Member that the number of sick units is increasing. ... (*Interruptions*) At present, there are more than five lakh sick units as per the data of the

Reserve Bank of India. ... (*Interruptions*) However, with the objective of preventing these enterprises from becoming sick, we have issued a notification under the Framework for Revival and Rehabilitation of Enterprises. Through this, in cases involving factories with investments up to ten lakh rupees that are becoming sick, the responsibility for their resolution will rest with the General Manager of the concerned bank. ... (*Interruptions*) A corrective action plan will be made for the matter above that. It will decide that it is in the process of being sick or in its own way it is doing it by giving wrong information. ... (*Interruptions*) If that is true, then they will be given an opportunity for restructuring. ... (*Interruptions*) This arrangement has been made. ... (*Interruptions*) If that factory comes under this system, then it will definitely be considered. ... (*Interruptions*)

(Q.4)

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: Hon. Speaker, Hon. Minister have answered in much detail. ... (*Interruptions*) Through you, I want to ask the Hon. Minister that we talk about developing tourism, the projects, product infrastructure development, destination circuits, human resource development, fairs and festivals that have been talked about, if we look at his reply, within the last four financial years, the amount sanctioned was of Rs. 1,033 crore in the year 2012-13 but only Rs. 351 crore was utilised. ... (*Interruptions*) In the year 2013-14, there was an amount of Rs. 1540 crore, out of which only Rs. 85 crore was utilised. ... (*Interruptions*) In the year 2014-15, only Rs. 845 crore was utilised. ... (*Interruptions*) Will the Hon. Minister let us know that what is the Government doing about the schemes that have been started for the development of tourism, the amount for which is not being utilised?

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Hon. Speaker, the concern raised by the Hon. Member is really alarming. ... (*Interruptions*) Our Ministry of Tourism is able to implement its schemes further with the cooperation of the State Governments. ... (*Interruptions*) When the utilisation certificate is not received by the State Governments, it is not possible to give the next scheme. Sometimes the project submission is delayed by the State

Governments. That's why there is delay. But the issue which the Hon. MP has actually raised is concerning and for this we have also been continuously cautioning the State Governments through the monitoring committee to send DPR immediately and also send utilisation certificates.
... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is you who has created the rule of No Suspension of Question Hour. I have already said that after Question Hour, Kharge ji, I will tell you, your point will also go on record. [English] But not like this; otherwise I will not allow you. I am sorry for that.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: Hon. Speaker, the scheme of Swadesh Darshan in which a budget amount of Rs. 63.96 crore was sanctioned over the Desert Circuit for Rajasthan. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Please go to your seats. After the Question Hour, I will allow you.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAHUL KASWAN: Tourism plays a significant role in contributing to more than 15 percent of Rajasthan state's GDP. In that out of 63 only 12 crore rupees, if we talk about the PRASAD scheme, Rajasthan has been sanctioned only 8 crore rupees out of the total allocation of Rs. 40.44 crore. A state like Rajasthan has a great contribution of tourism in its GDP. I would expect the Hon. Minister to get it done at the earliest. I would also like to say that there are many such locations in a state like Rajasthan which have not been identified till date. You can create many such tourist spots. If we even hold two meetings a year in the district by constituting a committee under an MP and create such locations like tourist spots by identifying them, then I think tourism will get a lot of boost.

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Hon. Speaker, what the Hon. MP has told through the PRASAD and Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Rajasthan, one of our schemes was PIDDC, it has been discontinued in this session. Efforts have been made to include it in Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD Schemes. It is true that the amount used as against the allocated funds is less. I welcome the suggestion of the Hon. MP that a MP based committee should be there to develop tourism in their area. Efforts are on to know how to bring it under the scheme. I assure the Hon. MP that within this

year, an amount of about Rs. 105 crore has been sanctioned through Swadesh Darshan and PRASAD Yojana through the Government of Rajasthan, out of which a lot of amount has also become exempted.

SHRI SUDHEER GUPTA: Hon. Speaker, I would first like to thank the Hon. Minister that the foreign exchange that used to come from tourism in India has increased it by 35 percent in two years only. I want to say regarding Madhya Pradesh specially that Madhya Pradesh attracts 6 crore 36 lakh domestic tourists and 3 lakh 16 thousand foreign tourists per year which is almost seven times more than Jammu and Kashmir. I want to know whether you have made any special scheme for Madhya Pradesh?

Madam, my second question is regarding the development of a tourist circuit connecting Udaipur in Rajasthan to Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh. This circuit has the potential to link important heritage and religious sites such as Chittorgarh, Mandsaur (which falls within the Mandsaur Parliamentary Constituency), and ASI-preserved monuments, along with Ujjain and Omkareshwar. Given the rich tourism potential in this region, I would like to ask the Hon. Minister whether any coordinated efforts are being made between the two State Governments—Rajasthan and Madhya Pradesh—to develop this route as an integrated tourist circuit under any central scheme or initiative?

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Hon. Speaker, Hon. MP has highlighted the importance of tourism of Madhya Pradesh. Madhya Pradesh is an important state from tourism point of view. When we made circuits, the tourism that has been created this time is not state based but a theme based circuit. We have divided the entire tourism into 13 circuits through which the Ramayana Circuit, Buddha Circuit, Eco Circuit, Desert Circuit in which the boundaries of the States have not been kept. Efforts are also made that all the States should be connected with each other. I will work on what the Hon. MP has suggested for Ujjain and Udaipur. At this time, the Simhastha Kumbh which is going on in Ujjain, will have continuous cultural programmes there through our two Ministries - Culture and Tourism. The Tourism Department is participating in it with full enthusiasm. ... (*Interruptions*) Hon. Prime Minister has called for taking forward the programme to be held at Ujjain Singhastha from the point of view of tourism. ... (*Interruptions*) I want to assure the Hon. MP that we will try to connect Ujjain and Madhya Pradesh with theme based circuit from Udaipur to take them to new heights of tourism. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI VINAYAK BHURAO RAUT: Hon. Speaker, under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Sindh-Durg district has been selected in Maharashtra. I commend the Hon. Minister ... (*Interruptions*) You have released Rs. 13 crore for Sindh-Durg district for the first time. Through

you, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister, that Swadesh Darshan Scheme has been implemented for the Coastal Circuit in Sindh-Durg district. (*Interruptions*) But in the reply you have given, more and more foreign tourists have been coming to Maharashtra for the last several years. ... (*Interruptions*) Such foreign tourists should be linked with the Coastal Circuit. Luckily there is Sahyadri mountain in Sindh-Durg Ratnagiri district of Maharashtra, ... (*Interruptions*) It will be great if you think about developing the Coastal Circuit as well as eco-tourism. The foreign tourists who come there can live there for twelve months. ... (*Interruptions*) I request the Hon. Minister to consider this and make some provisions. ... (*Interruptions*)

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Madam, the Hon. Member of Parliament told about Sindhu Durg, the 13 circuits that we have declared. ... (*Interruptions*) It is our endeavour that if a circuit has the utility through the coastal circuit, then it can be adjusted in some other circuit as well, ... (*Interruptions*) You suggested an Eco-Circuit. Under this, it is our effort to merge both the circuits. ... (*Interruptions*) It is the endeavour of our Ministry that if everyone can have an adjustment with HRIDAY Scheme, then the Ministry of Tourism, the Ministry of Shipping, the Urban Development Ministry and all the Ministries together try to take important use of that tourism. ... (*Interruptions*) Maharashtra is the

largest inviter from tourism point of view. ... (*Interruptions*) Today, we have achieved Rs.1,35,193 crore in foreign tourist exchange by about 10% increase, it is an example in itself.... (*Interruptions*) The World Economic Forum had ranked India's tourism at 65th position; after this Government came, it has come to 52nd position ... (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Prime Minister's call is that we can all join together to take tourism to new heights. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN: Hon. Speaker, the world knows that Bihar is very weak socially and economically. ... (*Interruptions*) Tourism is the only way for the progress and development of Bihar. ... (*Interruptions*) I have met and spoken to the Hon. Minister many times in this regard. ... (*Interruptions*) You discussed many circuits. The land of Mandan Mishra where Chanakya and Chandragupta were defeated in Shastrarth. ... (*Interruptions*) Hindi Shakespeare Bhikhari Thakur, Vidyapati, Ramdhari Singh Dinkar, Babu Veer Kunwar Singh, Sher Shah Suri and Aryabhata of Mathematics, Karu Sthan, Visura, Babadham, Singheshwar Sthan, Inad of Loric, there are many tourist places in Bihar which can be developed to make Bihar progress and economic prosperity can be brought. ... (*Interruptions*) Vaishali, which is the land of the largest socialism in the world. Such tourist places are not in your list. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether he would make arrangements for special

packages for the economic and social revolution of Bihar and to promote the tourist destinations of Bihar. ... (*Interruptions*) Bihar Government is zero. ... (*Interruptions*) He is dreaming of becoming the Prime Minister. Bihar has been destroyed. Will you do something so that Bihar can progress, Bihar can become financially strong? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MAHESH SHARMA: Hon. Madam Speaker, I welcome the suggestion of the Hon. Member of Parliament and want to say with confidence that Bihar has been a centre of spirituality and the centre of education with University like Nalanda being situated there, where people from every nook and corner of the world have been coming to get spirituality and knowledge.

With a view to the topics that the Hon. Member of Parliament has brought to my notice, I would like to tell him that this Government of India has promised to give more money to the tourism of Bihar. The suggestion of the Hon. MP for the development of tourism in Bihar is very appropriate that when there are no other means of employment, let us resolve that by making tourism a means of alternative employment, we will take Bihar and its axis of development forward through tourism schemes.

The suggestions made by the Hon. MP, which he has mentioned about, I want to tell about this, that both our Ministries i.e. the Ministry

of Culture and Tourism will work toward it and I will also discuss this separately with the Hon. MP.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Dushyant Chautala ji.

They are already well aware about Haryana.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Hon. Speaker, the way the Hon. Minister replied that in Haryana, Rs. 80 lakh in the year 2011-12, not a single rupee in the year 2012-13, Rs.75 lakh in the year 2013-14 and not a single rupee was utilised for the development of tourism in the year 2014-15. I would like to bring it to his notice that about 1.34 crore local tourists and about 5.50 lakh foreign tourists continuously come to our State.

Madam, the land of Haryana is the land of Mahabharata, the land of Panipat is the land of war and the land of Saraswati. I want to ask the Hon. Minister and I will be constantly meeting him that what efforts have the Government of India made for the development of the world's oldest heritage site, Rakhi Garhi, and till date what all the projects the Government of India has started for the development of Saraswati and to bring the water of Saraswati again to the land of Haryana and has any proposal also come to your government from the State Government?

DR. MAHESH SHARMA: Hon. Speaker, it is true, the issue raised by the Hon. Member of Parliament that Haryana could not release much funds for the last three years. Except the last year, due to non-sending of utilisation certificate and project report, Haryana could not get much funds. However, at present the three subjects have been brought, I want to tell the Hon. Member of Parliament that I myself have been here twice with the Hon. Chief Minister at that place for Saraswati River and for this a committee has been set up by the Union Government and the State Government. We will make every effort together through ISRO to develop the origin site of the Saraswati River as a grand tourist destination. The Government of India and the State Governments are working in this regard.

The Hon. Member of Parliament has brought the subject of Rakhi Garhi to my notice, it is true that Rakhi Garhi is an important tourist place of Haryana, for which work has been started ahead by forming a committee. I want to assure the Hon. MP that a committee has been formed for this and it is working for the development of Rakhi Garhi. Rakhi Garhi is an important tourist destination, but only three months ago this has been brought to our notice, so the work on it is still going on.

Madam, for the Kurukshetra which has been a centre of Mahabharata and centre of spirituality, the Government of India has released funds

worth Rs.170 crores through the Krishna Circuit and the Government of India is moving forward together with the State Government to convert Kurukshetra into a religious and spiritual hub.

(Q.5)

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, I appreciate the clear answer given by the Government in the answers to the question, but being an enemy country, it is present in the root of every problem of ours. The Government's sense of mercy towards it, the Government's sense of humility towards it and the Government's sense of courtesy towards it is sad.

Madam Speaker, I want to say this because from the year 2012 to the year 2015, imports from China in the year 2012-13 have been to the tune of USD 52.25 billion and export has been for 13.58 billion. Total trade stands at US\$ 65.83 and the deficit is US\$ 38.67 billion. Imports in the year 2013-14 are more than 51 percent and exports are more than 18 percent. Total trade is more than 65 percent and deficit is more than 36 percent. Imports in 2014-15 are 60.41 billion, exports are 11.96 billion, with a total trade of 72.37 billion and deficit of 48 billion. Import in 2015-16 is 56.93, export 8.25, total trade 565.18 and deficit is 48.68 billion. ...

(Interruptions)

I want to say that our exports are less, while their imports are more and the deficit is of this kind. The Minister, who is also the expert on the subject, has replied that yes, China is the most suitable among the

competitive nations, so we are treating it like this in this matter. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Bholu Singh ji, please ask your question.

DR. BHOLA SINGH: I am asking the question itself, what are the reasons for such level of deficit with China? Why are you being so polite to them? ... (*Interruptions*) Is there no such situation before the Government, is such no proposal that we reconsider trade with other nations instead of China?

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam Speaker, the hon. Member has asked a question, which is concerning all of us that the trade deficit with China is growing, our exports are not growing and as a result of which the deficit mounting on us is concerning all of us. But it is just not possible to completely boycott one country and say I will import all my goods from everywhere else. If imports are happening, we will have to see as to what are the reasons.

I wish to inform the Hon. Member that where there is a reason and facts shown that there is dumping happening, that there are poor quality goods coming, that there are safety standards being violated, we have taken every step to stop such imports. [Translation] We have no sense of

humility with China. We are just looking at it professionally that the substandard material of the import which is coming from there could not come. ... (*Interruptions*) We are also doing that if dumping is happening, we are stopping that too. I want to assure the Hon. Member that we don't have any specific courtesy or softness toward China. We are taking steps in the national interest. We are continuously trying to reduce their deficit by studying it. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH: Hon. Speaker, Hon. Minister rightly said that there is no courtesy, no softness. This is their compassion, all these things are happening because of their compassion. ... (*Interruptions*) I want to say that despite all your efforts, China is in crisis and because of that we can get into crisis. For this, if we accept their basis seeing their economy, talk on their base and do not think seriously about our poverty, our situation, then it can be the cultural form of India but it cannot be an economic form. ... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, I want you to tell clearly in this House that this economic situation of India, which is in its growing phase, is being watched by everyone, what will you do urgently to overcome the dark shadow on it? ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Madam Speaker, actually on Chinese imports, we have taken specific action in order to bring in only quality goods from China. ... (*Interruptions*) Milk and milk products have been completely stopped because we found certain unacceptable materials in them. Similarly, we have also stopped import of some mobile phones because certain parts, which were being used, were unacceptable to us. The details are given. We have stopped that also. ... (*Interruptions*)

On safety measures, import of toys has been stopped. What I would like to tell the hon. Member, through you, Madam, is that the wind operated electricity generators, which are originating from China, have also come under the countervailing duty investigation. Similarly, cold rolled steel flat products have also been coming under countervailing duties. Safeguard measures have been taken on hot rolled flat products of stainless steel. These are just some examples. ... (*Interruptions*)

Certainly, I will respond to the hon. Member to say that there are working groups formed between India and China through which a lot of action is being taken in order to see how there can be a specific plan made. In November, 2014, if I remember the date correct, we had a five year plan which was signed by China. In fact in September, 2015 it was signed to make sure that there is greater parity between the export and import

between the two nations, and that this mounting deficit can be brought down. ... (*Interruptions*) There are clear action plans laid, and there is also a Working Group looking into it. So, the Member can be assured that enough steps are being taken. While culturally we will remain friends with China but on economic matters, we will take concrete steps to make sure that we will not lose our ground. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Madam, at the outset I sympathize with this beleaguered Party for having to bear the brunt of what they themselves had given out to this country over the past few decades. So, I feel sorry for them. What to do?

Madam, I completely accept what the hon. MP has said. China has completely smashed our MSME sector. All the medium and small industries in India today are suffering because crooked importers are importing very sub-standard goods from China and are destroying from battery cells to everything. The hon. Minister said mobile phones have been banned. ... (*Interruptions*) I can take her to the market in my own vehicle or I can come in her Government vehicle. I can take her to Khan Market or to any place she likes, and as many sets she wants to buy of Chinese mobile phones, they are available. Here they are available. In Bhubaneswar they are available. Even in a small uptown place like

Dhenkanal and Angul, they are available. So, this is completely a bureaucratic answer. It is a false thing. ... (*Interruptions*)

The second question is why should they stop. That is what the hon. MP had asked. The reason is, China is clearly an inimical country. Today you have given visa to a person, who is considered a dissenter in China, just to give a message to China that you do not take crap from them. Now, when you are taking in all their bad products, you are giving them a message that please come and trample upon us. ... (*Interruptions*) They are occupying our territory. Their army is invading our territory killing our people, driving back our cowherds and goatherds. What more does the hon. Minister need to stop import of Chinese goods or put a blanket ban? I do not know. I would like to know this. What more impetus does the Government require? It is because they had started this. You should not follow. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please put your question.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: What more impetus do you need to stop complete Chinese imports? Thank you.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Hon. Speaker, Madam, first let me clarify something which the hon. Member has raised. ... (*Interruptions*) I have not suggested that all mobile phones from China

have been banned. I have only said ‘mobile phones from China because of certain safety aspects.’ I admit I have not elaborated in so many words.

12.00 hours

But certainly I meant to say that mobile phones of a certain serial number because of certain ... (*Interruptions*) I can read the description, but it is obvious.

The Government of India has imposed prohibition on the import of mobile handsets without International Mobile Equipment Identity (IMEI) Number or with all zeroes IMEI and import of CDMA mobile phones without certain Electronic Serial Number (ESN). ... (*Interruptions*) I only mean to say that with a certain description mobiles coming from China do not meet our standard and they have been stopped just as in milk and milk products we have a reason to stop. ... (*Interruptions*)

The sum and substance of the answer that I want to give you and through you, Madam, to the hon. Member is that blanket ban of a country just because we have certain problems diplomatically, geographically ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Military grounds also.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: Yes, absolutely, even on military grounds, complete ban is just not possible under WTO rules. ...
(*Interruptions*)

As regards goods, which come into this country, if we have a set of approved standards, then we can at least say that you do not meet our standards in these sectors and then I can say that on that sector completely ban, but for which that sector in India should give me an approved list of standards. ... (*Interruptions*) There are issues on which we are very seized of the concerns, military, territorial and look at issues like ...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: MSMEs.

SHRIMATI NIRMALA SITHARAMAN: MSMEs, definitely. A senior Minister is sitting before me with whom I constantly interact. ...
(*Interruptions*) My MSME concerns are well laid out because that is where the jobs are being created *in situ* all across the country. ...
(*Interruptions*) So, we are not taking it lightly, Madam. ... (*Interruptions*)
I wish to tell the hon. Member that the steps, which are being taken, can be sector-specific, but because, I am sorry to use this expression 'I do not like a country', I cannot ban all the goods from that country. ...
(*Interruptions*) Sorry. ... (*Interruptions*)

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 6 to 20

Unstarred Question Nos.1 to 230

12.02 hours

(At this stage, Shri Mallikarjun Kharge and some other hon. Members went back to their seats.)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from Sarvashri Dushyant Chautala, Rajesh Ranjan, Mallikarjun Kharge, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, K. C. Venugopal, Bhagwant Mann, Jitendra Choudhary and Santokh Singh Chaudhary on different issues.

The matters raised by Sarvashri Mallikarjun Kharge, Jyotiraditya M. Scindia and K. C. Venugopal do not relate to a definite matter.

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

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

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge, I have disallowed your notice of Adjournment Motion, but still I shall call you in the 'Zero Hour', that is, after papers are laid.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I will call you, but I cannot allow your Adjournment Motion.

... (*Interruptions*)

12.03 hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Now, Papers to be laid on the Table. Item No. 3, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): I beg to lay on the Table :—

(1) A copy of the Financial Estimates and Performance Budget (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' State Insurance Corporation, New Delhi, for the year 2016-2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4524/16/16]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation, New Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4525/16/16]

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

(1) A copy of the Newsprint Control (Amendment) Order, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O. 447(E) in Gazette of India dated 11th February, 2016 issued under Section 18G of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4526/16/16]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. S.O. 150(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 18th January, 2016, making certain amendments in the Notification S.O. 2877(E) dated 10th November, 2014 issued under Section 6 of the Industries (Development and Regulation) Act, 1951.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4527/16/16]

**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 Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, for the year 2014-2015.
 - (ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, 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 Central Institute of Buddhist Studies, Leh-Ladakh, 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 4528/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): On behalf of Shri Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following Ordinances (Hindi and English versions) under article 123(2)(a) of the Constitution:-

- (1) The Uttarakhand Appropriation (Vote on Account) Ordinance, 2016 promulgated by the President on 31st March, 2016 (No. 2 of 2016).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4529/16/16]

- (2) The Enemy Property (Amendment and Validation), Second Ordinance, 2016 promulgated by the President on 2nd April, 2016 (No. 3 of 2016).

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4530/16/16]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI HARIBHAI CHAUDHARY): I beg to lay on the Table: -

- (1) A copy of the Proclamation (Hindi and English versions) dated 27th March, 2016 issued by the President under clause (1) of article 356

of the Constitution in relation to the State of Uttarakhand published in Notification No. G.S.R.341(E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2016 under article 356(3) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4531/16/16]

- (2) A copy of the Order (Hindi and English versions) dated 27th March, 2016 made by the President in pursuance of sub-clause (i) of clause (c) of the above Proclamation published in Notification No. G.S.R.342 (E) in Gazette of India dated the 27th March, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4531/16/16]

- (3) A copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Governor of Uttarakhand dated the 26th March, 2016 to the President.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4532/16/16]

- (4) A copy of the Order (English Version only) of the Supreme Court of India dated the 22nd April, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 4533/16/16]

12.04 hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS****9th Report**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH CHANDRA KAUSHIK (SONIPAT): Hon. Speaker, I beg to present the Ninth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways (2015-16) on 'Demands for Grants (2016-17)' of the Ministry of Railways (Rail Board).

12.04 ½ hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT****10th Report**

[English]

SHRI PINAKI MISRA (PURI): Madam, with your kind permission, I beg to present the Tenth Report (English and Hindi versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2015-16) on Demands for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

12.05 hours**MOTION RE: REPORT OF JOINT COMMITTEE ON
INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE, 2015-
EXTENSION OF TIME**

[English]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (PASCHIM CHAMPARAN): Madam, I beg to move the following:-

“That the extension of time granted to the Joint Committee on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015 by the House on 26th February, 2016 for presentation of the Report up to the last day of the first week of the second part of the Budget Session, 2016, may be treated as extension up to the last day of the first week of the current Session.”

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the extension of time granted to the Joint Committee on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015 by the House on 26th February, 2016 for presentation of the Report up to the last day of the first week of the second part of the Budget Session,

2016, may be treated as extension up to the last day of the first week of the current Session.”

The motion was adopted.

12.06 hours**MOTION RE: APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS OF RAJYA SABHA TO JOINT COMMITTEE ON INSOLVENCY AND BANKRUPTCY CODE, 2015**

[English]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (PASCHIM CHAMPARAN): Madam, I beg to move the following:-

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to appoint three members of Rajya Sabha to serve as members of the Joint Committee on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015 *vice* Shri Anand Sharma, resigned from Rajya Sabha, and Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar and Shri Naresh Gujral, retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha.”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do agree to appoint three members of Rajya Sabha to

serve as members of the Joint Committee on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015 *vice* Shri Anand Sharma, resigned from Rajya Sabha, and Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar and Shri Naresh Gujral, retired from Rajya Sabha and do communicate to this House the names of the members so appointed by Rajya Sabha.”

The motion was adopted.

12.07 hours**SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS****(i) Re: Reported attempts to destabilise elected State Governments
thereby undermining the Constitution**

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, I am sorry, because if this matter had been brought up earlier and you had informed us after taking a decision on the adjournment motion that we could raise it during the Zero Hour, then this issue. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I told you to raise it in Zero hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Don't be this angry. Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Alright, but I am sitting right now, aren't I!

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHADGE: I want to bring this to your notice that especially the series of unconstitutional behavior going on in our country and [English] attempts of the Union Government to topple an elected Government in the State of Uttarakhand speak for the democratic credentials of the present NDA Government. On the one hand, the Government celebrates the Constitution Day and speaks loud about Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar and, in contrast, takes every possible measure to strangle democracy and support dissenting views. They want to destabilise the democratically-elected Governments in Uttarakhand, Arunachal and everywhere. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Not yet. I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kharge Ji, I am sorry, it should not be said like this. I have mentioned that the matter is subjudice.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I am talking about the action of the Government.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Discussion about the same is going on. Action of the Government is being discussed.

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: I am not talking about the judiciary. I am not talking about the judgment. I am not talking about the High Court's judgment or the Supreme Court's remarks. I am only talking about the Government's actions – how the Government is behaving; how they are trying to purchase MLAs, and how they are trying to pressurize the MLAs. How they are dividing MLAs; they want to destabilise and they want to install the BJP Government everywhere by killing the Constitution. ... (*Interruptions*) What is this? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mullappally Ramchandran.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You have spoken, the rest will not be discussed further. I said that the matter is *sub judice*.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry. Now it is over.

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I am talking about the action of the Union Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It cannot be discussed right now.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Rule 58(7), which is about adjudication, I will not speak about it.

HON. SPEAKER: No, that's all. I am sorry. Now it is over.

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The Government is systematically planning to pull down the elected Governments of different States where they are in opposition. There appears to be a great hurry shown by the NDA Government to grab power in every State. Perhaps, the Government forgets that there is a democracy in this country, a rule of law and Constitution to defend the inalienable rights of the people.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, it is over.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: If you proceed this way. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: There is not need to make a long speech on this subject.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: If you proceed this way, if you continue to interfere, if the Union Government tries to destabilise every State, then democracy will not survive in this country, there will be no constitution, no of us will come to this House tomorrow. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This subject will not be discussed.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: I am sorry. It is okay. [Translation] Don't make it a topic of discussion today.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: So, we want that the Article 356 imposed on the Government of Uttarakhand was against the Constitution.
... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is done.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, you allow us. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Discussion will take place later.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: This should be discussed under
Rule 193. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: When you will give notice, then BAC will decide, not
me. You give the notice.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Discussion can be on everything, if the House agrees.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: You give notice. I am sorry.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: We will not discuss this right now. Ask for a discussion under any rule.

Mahtab Ji, you speak.

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, we have given notice to discuss the imposition of Article 356 in different States. As the matter has been raised here in 'Zero Hour', just allow me two sentences to speak.

The matter is in Court. We will wait for the Court's verdict. We are confident that Courts would deliver justice. As the responsible political party, we are against any arbitrary imposition of Article 356 which will undermine the democracy and the federal structure of the country. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Home Minister's statement.

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

* Not recorded.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH):

Hon. Speaker, what Shri Kharge ji has said, the crisis which has appeared before the Governments of Uttarakhand and Arunachal Pradesh, I want to make it clear that this crisis has not been created by our party or NDA.

... (*Interruptions*) Listen to me. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record except the Home Minister's statement. Nothing else will go on record, no one will rise up and speak, it will not go on record.

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

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: This crisis has arisen, all this is the internal crisis of their party resulting in such a situation there. ... (*Interruptions*) I have listened to you, now you listen to me, thereafter say whatever you want to say. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is not a matter of discussion right now.

* Not recorded.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Kharge Ji, I have heard you all, you listen to me. ... (*Interruptions*) Listen to me completely. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON SPEAKER: Hon. Home Minister you address the Chair.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Hon. Speaker, I have to say that I welcome this decision of yours that as the matter is sub-judice, no discussion can take place on it. If there needs to be a discussion at all, then there is Proclamation of President's Rule, it has to be discussed in Lok Sabha and it has to be discussed in Rajya Sabha as well. When it is discussed, I think all the parties will speak on that. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Mullapally Ramchandranji. Only Shri Mullapally Ramchandran, if he wants to say something, will go on record. Nothing else is going on record.

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

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You have made your point.

... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, please listen to me for a minute. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You don't talk about the issue, only keep on speaking.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, I am talking about the issue itself.

Discussions have been held in this House. It has happened on Arunachal, Babri Masjid, Ishrat Jahan. I can give you so many examples where the cases pending in the court, have been discussed here. These are all sub judice matters. Despite being a sub judice matter, we can discuss here, with your consent. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: At least give notice for discussion. No one has given a notice for discussion. This cannot be discussed like this.

Shri Mullappally Ramachandran Ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: The Hon. Minister said that everything has happened due to internal conflicts. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You say all this during the discussion at that time.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: But I want to say that by holding it till 28th, you could have seen who has the majority there. According to the Bommai case you could have decided, but instead of 28th you took the decision on 26th itself. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

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

HON. SPEAKER: Don't make a long speech because it has to be discussed.

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMCHANDRAN (VADAKARA):

Respected Madam Speaker, with your kind consent I wish to draw the attention of this august House to an unprecedented situation prevailing in our country following the heat wave and the drought. Our country is reeling under devastating drought conditions which has affected more than a quarter of the 1.25 billion population and even more number of cattle, birds and animals. People by and large are in deep distress and they are panicky about the prevailing situations.

Experts and scientific community opine that the heat wave conditions will persist for quite some time more. Temperature exceeds 47 degrees Celsius in most parts of the country. Reports say that we are experiencing the world's fifth deadliest heat wave. The findings of researchers on the death toll due to heat wave are stunning.

The State of Kerala which is usually known for its pleasant climatic conditions and endowed with 44 rivers is also this year witnessing acute shortage of drinking water and the heat is more than 42 degrees Celsius.

The entire country is facing acute shortage of water and reservoirs and rivers are drying up. The Supreme Court has expressed dissatisfaction about the way in which such a grave situation is being dealt with by the Union Government.

Now, only contingency action plan is being worked out by the Union Government to meet the exigencies. But what is required is a prospective planning, taking all stakeholders on board and a holistic approach is to be adopted by the Union Government.

I urge upon the Union Government to treat this situation following heat wave and drought as a national disaster and immediate steps must be taken on top priority to reach assistance to the affected States including Maharashtra and other places which are reeling under drought from Bihar and all parts of Northern India.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, Shri Dushyant Chautala, Shri Jagdambika Pal, Shri Kirti Azad, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena, are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Mullapally Ramchandran.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam Speaker, there is a serious situation in certain parts of the country. Kerala, Bihar, Karnataka, Telangana, Andhra, Odisha and a number of States are facing acute drinking water shortage

and also drought situation. I urge upon the Chair to include...

(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA (RATLAM): You see this paper, what is given in it. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: You sit down. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: I know, what is the point?

SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU: There is no benefit of doing politics on this. Therefore, my suggestion would be to give a proper notice to allot time for this. The Government will tell the House what it is doing after listening to the situation in detail. How should we all face the situation together, we will do that.

HON SPEAKER: Sure, Sure. Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra ji, you speak.

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): Hon. Speaker Madam, I would like to draw the attention of the House to a serious problem. Under the Bharat Kup region of my Parliamentary Constituency. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Only Bhairon Prasad Mishra ji's point will go on record.

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

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA: The stone mills manufacturing granite grit established under Bharat Kup area of my Parliamentary Constituency have been closed for more than a month, due to which workers and families belonging to thousands of workers and mill owners have reached on the verge starvation. Construction work has also been affected due to the closure of production of grit. There, the leases of the mines were given in 2011 for ten years, there is more than five years left, but due to illegal money recovery, action has been taken to repeal their mines. Now crores of rupees are being demanded to restore them. The only industry in Chitrakoot district is the stone crusher industry. Similarly, other stone mines have also been shut down there. This support of drought-prone villagers has also been snatched in the area and people are in a state of starvation.

Through you, the Union Government is requested to intervene in this and resolve this serious problem as soon as possible.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri C. P. Joshi are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra.

* Not recorded.

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): Speaker Madam, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the occasion of centenary of Champaran Satyagraha. On this day, Mahatma Gandhi visited Laukaria and Shivrajpur along with Khevanharrao Ji and was invited by Rajkumar Shukla ji, the ordinary farmer of West Champaran district of our Satwaria village to Lucknow basement. He was sad to hear the plight of the farmers of our district. He came to our district and on this day he stayed at Hazarimal Dharamshala. There used to be atrocities on the farmers here, they had to grow indigo on three kattha of land of every acre, which the British used to buy at throwaway prices and they used to send it to England dye industries. Due to this, farmers could not grow their food grains. To get rid of this, they started the first Savagya movement and Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was honoured by Champaran in the name of Mahatma Gandhi. On this day, I would like to pay tribute to the first President of this country, Shri Rajendra Prasad Ji, Brij Kishore Prasad Ji, Anugrah Narayan Singh and Acharya J. B. Kripalani Ji who had to vacate their residence within 24 hours only because they took rest with Mahatma Gandhi ji only for a night at Muzaffarpur and all their belongings were thrown away. Today, I would like to pay tribute to Mazharul Haque Ji and Hon. Rajkumar Shukla Ji, Prajapati Mishra Ji, Gulali Chand Gupta Ji, Ramnaumi Prasad Ji, Peer

Muhammad Munis ji that who along with Gandhi ji started this movement and it became the first signature of the independence of the country.

It is worth noting that while 100 years have passed since then, Champaran, which was considered a backward district at the time and it remains so even today. Therefore, I urge the Government to consider allocating a special fund to Champaran district under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, similar to the provisions of the Saansad Adarsh Gram Yojana. Champaran should be developed and declared as a model district in honor of its historical significance. I also propose that a 'Mahatma Express' be launched from Champaran to Delhi to commemorate the centenary year, creating a lasting tribute to its legacy.

Hon. Speaker, in the end, I request you that this Dharamshala is the place where Mahatma Gandhi Ji stayed for most of the days and Dharamshala is not the personal property of any person. Therefore, you should write a letter to the Bihar Government that this Dharamshala should be renovated. Some people have captured it. I think the true tribute to the Father of the Nation will be that this Hazarimal Dharamshala should be freed. I sanction Rs. 50 lakh rupees from the parliamentary fund, if the Bihar Government can liberate it. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Shri C. P. Joshi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, Shri Rodmal Nagar,

Shri Sudheer Gupta and Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Sanjay Jaiswal.

[English]

SHRI RATTAN LAL KATARIA (AMBALA): Thank you, Madam.

I would like to bring to the kind notice of the hon. Minister of Labour that outsourcing of the work meant for Group C, including erstwhile Grade D employees, is a gross violation of the reservation policy for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This practice should be stopped forthwith and regular employment should be made to man these significant posts. Similarly, employment contract should be done away with immediately. I therefore humbly request the Minister of Labour and Employment to direct the Office of the Chief Labour Commissioner (Central) to take immediate action so that exploitation of Group C and D employees is stopped.

HON. SPEAKER: Dr. Bhairon Pratap Singh, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, and Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rattan Lal Kataria.

[Translation]

SHRI RODMAL NAGAR (RAJGARH): Hon. Speaker, my Parliamentary Constituency Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh is mainly an

agricultural area. About 70 percent of the population is based on agriculture. In this area, along with the cultivation of wheat, gram, maize, onion, garlic, soybean, coriander, orange, amla, and sitaphal are also produced prominently, but due to lack of proper arrangements for their maintenance and storage, most of the quantity is wasted, due to which the farmers have to suffer a lot. With the establishment of a Mega Food Park and processing Unit in Rajgarh Parliamentary Constituency, the Annadata farmers will get full benefits. Also, the loss of these products can be avoided. With different agricultural products being available at the same place, it can be protected and safely exported to the country and abroad. At the same time, a trend towards agricultural work can be created in the minds of the people, which will prove to be a milestone in making India self-reliant in the field of agriculture and agricultural products.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri C. R. Chaudhary, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Uday Pratap Singh and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Rodmal Nagar.

SHRI NANA PATOLE (BHANDARA-GONDIA): Hon. Speaker, suicides by farmers due to loss from crops in the country and Maharashtra are not stopping. Farmers are committing suicide due to crop loss and debt burden. In such a situation, due to loss in crops in many parts of India including Maharashtra, the farmer family is facing financial crises.

Madam, on the other hand, nature also sometimes plays a game which destroys the interests of the farmers. On 29.02.2016 and 27.03.2016, a natural calamity occurred in Maharashtra including my Parliamentary Bhandara-Gondiya in which there has been heavy loss due to hailstorm, heavy rainfall, strong wind and severe devastation. As a result, there has been a huge loss to the crop of the region. All the crops have been destroyed and many houses have been damaged. Animals were damaged due to lightning. The collapse of ready crops is a serious problem for the farmers, which is difficult to recover. The farmers are suffering due to this. The Government should provide benefits to the farmers by bringing an early scheme in terms of financial assistance to them for the benefit of farmers in this hour of disaster. This will compensate the farmers for the loss of their crops, houses, and livestock.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra and Shri Rajeev Satav are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Nana Patole.

SHRI SUKHBIR SINGH JAUNAPURIA (TONK - SAWAI MADHOPUR): Hon. Speaker, the total sanctioned length of the Danyi Canal of Kumharia Canal of Village Islamnagar in Tehsil Uniyara of District Tonk in my Parliamentary Constituency was 115 chains, the water course of which goes up to Islamnagar in Islamnagar, the

watercourse irrigates approximately 126.74 hectares of land and extends for about 3 kilometres in length. This watercourse is marked in pink. Of the total length, the section up to the 26th chain is lined, while the remaining stretch up to the 55th chain consists of an unlined canal. In this 1.7 km work has been done, but the remaining 1.30 km stretch is lying incomplete so far due to being in the forest area.

Madam, our Hon. Chief Minister, through Jal Swalamban Yojana, is trying to save drops of water in the entire State and work cannot be done without it in my area. There is about five thousand acres of land, where the farmer can only irrigate when he gets water. This time we had to give two TMC water, but we could not. Today, there has not been a farmers' crop and those poor have not even got compensation.

Therefore, I request through you, that the Hon. Minister should get a re-survey conducted of this and sanction the construction of the canal by making a statement of the approval of the canal, so that all the villages around me can get the benefit of irrigation. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Sukhbir Singh Jaunapuria.

[Translation]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam, there is a wide gap between requirement and allocation of funds for maintenance of National Highways in Odisha. Due to want of adequate funds maintenance of National Highways is not being taken up at the desired level. Allocation under ordinary repair for the year 2015-16 was only Rs.20.93 crore against minimum requirement of around Rs.45 crore. In the meanwhile, the Ministry has decided to take up road safety work out of ordinary repair grant. The Ministry may consider augmentation of allocation under ordinary repair to at least Rs. 50 crore in order to keep the National Highway in traffic-worthy condition and execution of road safety works. A similar provision also needs to be made for the year 1916-17.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Rabindra Kumar Jena is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab.

[Translation]

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA (MUMBAI NORTH EAST): Madam, for the last few days, there have been many news reports in the newspapers regarding Ishrat Jahan case. In the last session, I had presented this subject by the Calling Attention and the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs had said that a committee will be formed for that and the four papers which have

disappeared, that committee will give a report about it. I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs and the Government whether those four papers have been found out, whether the report of the Committee has come? Last week, it appeared in some channels and newspapers that the first affidavit which was filed in the Ishrat Jahan case was signed, authenticated by the then former Hon. Minister of Home Affairs.* In the first affidavit, Ishrat Jahan was considered an extremist, an ally of terrorists and it was said that it is an encounter. After a few months, the second affidavit was filed, which was also authenticated by the then former Hon. Minister of Home Affairs...*. Notings of that file have been found. Affidavit was approved by former Minister of Home Affairs *, that has been found. I would like to know that within three months the then Congress Government named Ishrat Jahan as a terrorist on one hand and in the second affidavit called her a martyr. Congress leaders continued to call Ishrat Jahan a martyr for six years, the whole country wants to know, through the House, that Ishrat Jahan, who was a terrorist, who made her a martyr, who called her a martyr? ... (*Interruptions*)

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam, I am on a point of order. ... (*Interruptions*) The issue is *sub judice*. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Even if there was no point of order, I would still listen to your point.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: This file noting, ...* why did the two former Home Ministers hid these things from the society? ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Why do you take names?

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will listen to you if you want.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. KIRIT SOMAIYA: Is it not playing with the security of the country, we want to know from the Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Well, thank you. It is not right to take name of any of them, only former Hon. Minister of Home Affairs can be used.

* Not recorded.

Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Devji M. Patel, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Uday Pratap Singh, Shri P. P. Chaudhary and Shri Ajay Mishra Teni are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Dr. Kirit Somaiya.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: Madam, the issue is pending before the court. How can a Member refer his name and discuss. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is not discussed.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: How can he refer his name. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: This is not being discussed. He has asked only a few questions, he has not even answered. [English] So, it is not discussed.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: You sit down. You have said your point.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRIMATI ANUPRIYA PATEL (MIRZAPUR): Thank you, hon. Speaker Madam. I wish to draw the attention of the House towards the recent protest against the real estate developers and builders in the NCR like Amrapali Group, Antariksh Group, Jaypee Group and such others who are not fulfilling their commitments and promises to timely hand over houses to the buyers. Madam, this is not a new phenomenon in the NCR. People here have been facing this problem for almost three years wherein the developers and builders are delaying the handing over of possession for three to four years and in certain cases even for longer periods. Ordinary citizens from middle income groups are investing their life time savings and future earnings in a dream to get a roof above their heads. But they feel cheated and they are left helpless and disappointed and what further complicates the problem is the fact that we have celebrity endorsements. In our country people just not love and admire celebrities but they worship them and perceive them as Gods and role models. So, when a celebrity is endorsing a product or a brand, people's faith is strengthened. Celebrities may not have any intent to harm anyone, but because they are promoting a brand, they tend to unintentionally or intentionally dictate consumer choices. That is why I feel that they do

have a moral obligation. I am proud that my Government has recently brought and given the Real Estate Act, 2016 to the nation which is aimed at making the real estate sector in India more transparent and accountable and also aimed at weeding out all the problems and malpractices more timely. I only appeal to my Government that the Act be implemented as soon as possible so that people do not go through this financial stress any more. They do not lose their hard earned money and more than that their dream to possess a house does not fall a prey to some of the mal-intentioned builder lobby. Early implementation of this Act will definitely wipe the tears of the suffering lot and our celebrities will also be regulated so that they do not become a part of this public harassment process.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri C. P. Joshi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Rodmal Nagar, Shri Sudhir Gupta, Shri Uday Pratap Singh, Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi and Shri Udit Raj are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati Anupriya Patel.

Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal. You can say your thing without taking anyone's name.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL (BIKANER): Hon. Speaker, I will not name anyone. I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on

a very important subject. I want to tell the House, through you today, that the framers of our Constitution have made arrangements for Separation of Powers in the Constitution. Legislature has different powers, executive has different powers and judiciary has different powers. In the present days, judges of the Judiciary, while hearing during the judicial process, do the running commentary and that becomes the law. They say that under Article 141 this is the law of the land. According to me, this is absolutely wrong tradition. The framers of the Constitution never thought that the people of Judiciary, be it higher Judiciary or lower Judiciary, do any running commentary on anyone during the hearing. If you do commentary, it can be done differently. Do not do running commentary on a constitutional institution, and any way they do running commentary on constitutional posts, who is sitting on a highest level, and then they say that under Article 141 it is Law of the Land, it is not right. ... *(Interruptions)* Kharge sir, I am not doing politics in this.

HON. SPEAKER: A balance should be there.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: I am raising a constitutional issue that laws are made in three ways. H.E. President can also make laws through ordinances, the Judiciary people can make any law under any interpretation, but the main task of making the laws is that of this Parliament and the Judiciary nowadays have started saying that they are

making the laws. It is going in the wrong direction. For this, I am trying to say, through you, that it is making two traditions, both in higher courts as well as in lower courts. The running commentary that is becoming a trend, they say that the spoken sentence during the running commentary is becoming a law. This is not good for democracy.

Second issue which he raised is of the Judicial Review, Parliament had inserted the Judicial Review in 9th Schedule first. 9th Schedule does not fall under the Judicial Review. Now the court is saying that if you give Judicial Review, 9th Schedule also we are doing. It's fine even up to this. The President also comes under Judicial Review, it was said in the running commentary, it was not said in the decision. Our point is that we respect the judges of the Judiciary, but through the running commentary, no one should pass any kind of comment on our constitutional institutions, whether it is Parliament, whether it is President or Speaker, and the court should not decide on itself to make laws. This Parliament itself should have this right. I demand from the Government, through you, that the running commentary should be stopped. To what extent this running commentary should be done, it should be decided and Parliament should decide this, the court should not decide this.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P.P. Chaudhary, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shrimati Kothapalli Geeta, Shri Ajay Mishra Teni, Kunwar Pushpendra

Singh Chandel, Shri C.P. Joshi, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Devji M. Patel, Dr. Satyapal Singh, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Sudheer Gupta, Shri Uday Pratap Singh, Shri Rodmal Nagar and Shri Sunil Kumar Singh are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Arvind Sawant.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: It is not being discussed here now. [English] Nothing will go on record.

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

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT (MUMBAI SOUTH): Hon. Madam Speaker, you know that farmers are committing suicide in this country, there is a huge crisis because of climate change, workers are also committing suicide and unfortunately the workers of jewellers are also committing suicide. In this country, in the past few days, our jewellers and goldsmiths went on strike for 40-45 days, kept their shops closed, yet

* Not recorded.

their problem was not resolved. They are going to close again for three days from today. You know there was an old song in this country, “Jahan daal-daal par sone ki chidiyan karti hain basera, wo Bharat desh hai mera” (Where golden birds perch on every branch that is my India, Where every branch is home to golden birds that is my India, my beloved land), where the gold smoke used to come out, today the goldsmiths are very distressed for the last several months and they are demanding that the central excise which is imposed by the Government should be removed.

I request the Government, through you, that when we say that we are going to bring GST, when GST will come into effect, central excise will not be exposed. On the other hand, we talk about Sab Ka Saath Sabka Vikas (Collective efforts, Inclusive growth), Ease of Business, Single Window, so why did we put this different excise window. They do not refuse to pay taxes. They say they are ready to give not 1 but 2 percent, but central excise should not be imposed, because they have experienced it that they have been harassed, committed suicides, suicides are happening again. I request, through you, that these jewellers who are protesting today, when our Hon. Prime Minister was not the Prime Minister, the speech which he made and when the Congress Government wanted to bring this law, he also talked about the problems of artisans. We know that gold is not an essential item, but there are so many people

who make it, so many artisans, today they are sitting at home for the last one month, now they will be grounded again, their livelihood has to be taken care of by the Government. Don't just look at gold, how many people are dependent on that business, that should also be taken into account. So, through you, I again request to the Government that when GST is going to be brought in, can we not stop this central excise? We can comfort them a little, and do at least something so that our goldsmiths do not go on strike. That's my request. Jai Hind.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Rajeev Satav, Kumari Sushmita Dev, Shri Gajanan Kirtikar, Shri Vinayak, Raut, Shri Sanjay Jadhav, Shri Shrirang Appa Barne, Shri C. P. Joshi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Arvind Sawant.

SHRI P. P. CHAUDHARY (PALI): Hon. Speaker, Arvind Sawant ji told the whole thing, but I would like to tell more in brief. It has been almost more than a month since the bullion association is opposing the Government's imposition of as much charges on jewellery without input tax credit and with 12.5 percent input tax credit in 2015-16. Bullion traders are demanding that the Government withdraw the decision. They are of the view that the excise duty will make it more expensive for the common people to buy jewellery. Small traders and artisans will have to

do paperwork. Even it is being said that applying duty will end the culture, as gold is an integral part of Indian culture. The State Governments have also requested for leniency in this regard. The anger of traders is increasing. The possibility of fierce protest cannot be ignored. Bullion traders and artisans come with their pleas from every nook and corner of my Parliamentary Constituency.

Same will be the case in Parliamentary Constituencies across the country. Bullion traders had also protested against the Gold Control Act, which lasted more than 60 days. I request the Hon. Minister of Finance through the House to remove the central excise duty being imposed on jewellery, so that bullion traders across the country and the people associated with this business can get relief. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Satyapal Singh, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Shri C.P. Joshi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat are permitted to associate on the subject raised by Shri P. P. Chaudhary.

Shri Ravneet Singh ji, although it is a State matter, but say what you want to say without making allegations.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Madam, today there was my question also, but that too was missed. I am grateful to you for giving me this opportunity. Today, the farmers of Punjab are in a very difficult

situation. Farmers of the country are also in problem but particularly of Punjab, the reason behind it is that the CCL limit, the cash credit limit which is available, has not been received for a long time continuously, the mandis are full of food grains, the reason behind it is that about 30 banks, among which SBI is the biggest bank, that give the money, when they did the physical survey, they did the physical verification of the crop which has been lying in the warehouse for the last nine years, then there was a mismatch of Rs. 20 thousand crore, there is no food grains. They stopped the money now. The CAG report which came, you look at the situation of the Punjab Government, the report which came, only 87 trucks were found to be physically correct to carry crops in godowns out of 3,319 trucks. Among them there were 15 two wheelers. There has been such a big scandal. Today, there are too many mandis. Where did the crop go? It seems that the rats have not eaten, it is the Government which has eaten it. Whether food grains worth 20 thousand crores went to Pakistan or Afghanistan. Hon. Minister Paswan ji must answer about this here. If you can't answer, it should be investigated by the CBI. Who will save the farmers of Punjab in the mandis today? Be sure to pay attention to this. Three or four farmers of Punjab are committing suicide every day. Madam, I want your help in this. The grain worth Rs. 20 thousand crores

has been missing and the CCL limit to buy food grains, please help in these two matters otherwise Punjab will be ruined.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhagwant Mann is permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Ravneet Singh.

Dr. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARIDWAR): Hon. Speaker, there is immense potential for horticulture, forestry and Sanjeevani herbs in the region of Uttarakhand and Himalayas. As everybody knows, but due to lack of resources and lack of proper, advanced methods, the production of this horticulture and herb expected due to lack of technology has not yet received any incentive. If compared with the US and European countries, our per hectare production is very low. Therefore, I would like to especially request that the frontline cultivation and production of vegetables and fruits can be done to an unlimited extent in all belts of the Himalayan region, these belts should be promoted under a special scheme, so that the unemployment there can be removed. I would like to say that it is very important to provide advanced variety of fruits distribution, expansion of production sector, establishment of nursery, assistance for training and marketing of farmers on various aspects, development of appropriate system for organised market and development of export potential and promotion of R&D as well as providing new technology of storage and processing. This will

also lead to the development of the whole nation and the major migration problem will also be solved.

I kindly request you to take into consideration that around 65 to 70 percent of this area is covered by forest, so the people of that area should be connected with the forests by adding green bonus with the protection and promotion of those forests. An international centre of horticulture and forestry should be established in Haridwar. Biodiversity is there, so the economics should be strengthened by setting up a large centre of organic farming by engaging with the people of that area. Thank you ver much.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi, Shri Rodmal Nagar and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Madam, the discussion that Ramachandran ji raised this morning, today's situation for the country is a big crisis and about 33 crore people are affected by drought in some way or the other. People are not getting drinking water, animals are not getting drinking water and farmers are not getting the means of irrigation. The condition of the state where I come from is even worse, only 8 percent of the farming is irrigated while 92 percent of the farms have not been able to get water till date. When Jharkhand and Bihar were divided

in the year 2000, the situation has remained same in Jharkhand even today.

Madam, our situation is all the more different. In the year 1978, the Bihar Government mortgaged our dams with Bengal. Dam is in our area, it is on our land, it is on the land of Jharkhand; Masanjor, Panchait and Mathon, these three dams are on our land and their entire water goes only and only to the Bengal Government. You cannot find a bigger irony than this with any State. The Hon. Prime Minister is doing a great job in this regard. He has given the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana. How to have a good means of irrigation, how to arrange drinking water? My big question to you is that the way people were not getting education, the Government of India gave a scheme under the Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and decided where the school will open, where the middle school will open, where the high school will open. Since it is believed that there are some subjects which are under Centre and some are under State and water is considered as State subject, while both international and national governments are affected. Secondly, NRHM which he has created for the health sector. If the State Government is not working in the health sector, then money is going through NRHM. If the States are not constructing roads, then there is the P.M.G.S. scheme.

I request the Government through you that the day has come that the Union Government should take an initiative and make a national policy for water collaborating with the states like P.M.G.S.Y. Yojna, NRHM Yojna, Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Deendayal Gram Jyoti Yojana for electricity. How the people, animals and fields get water in the centre and the state, it would be appropriate if its arrangement is made. Thank you. Jai Hind, Jai Bharat.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Dr.Satyapal Singh, Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, Shri Ravindra Kumar Jena, Shri Dushyant Singh, Shri Anurag Singh Thakur, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Rodmal Nagar and Shri Sudheer Gupta are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Nishikant Dubey.

SHRIMATI MEENAKSHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak. Through you, I want to raise a very important subject in the House. This news came through today's newspaper 'Economic Times'. ... (*Interruptions*) The 'Agusta Westland' case was being heard in the Italian court, they have lambasted the then Government and have also asked how the submissions were sent to the Ministry of Defence and through those submissions it was told to send the entire document. The request was sent in the year 2013 but by

the year 2014 those documents did not reach. Only three documents were sent to them in the year 2014. At the same time, he also said that there was a person called Orsi in the prison, who was the head of AgustaWestland. He conveyed the message through a hand-written letter that Mario Maanty and Taricino, should be talked by taking his name. Those people were also speaking with our Prime Minister at the time. A very serious remark was made questioning what message they (R.C.) intended to convey. While the court there may not be able to determine that, the way the Government of India failed to send the required documents and showed irregularities in its functioning perhaps serves as the best answer to that question. Furthermore, it was also remarked that a thorough investigation must be conducted. According to the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) in our country, this was a scam worth ₹3,565 crore. It is important to investigate who were involved at that time, what methods were used, and how the so-called Italian mafia operated. In particular, the British middleman, Christian Michel, was also strongly criticised by the court. If, in any foreign country, a judgment is issued by the Court of Appeals that consistently undermines the credibility of the Government of India through certain official actions, then through your medium, I would like to respectfully urge the Government to conduct a thorough investigation into the matter.

Specifically, the Ministry of Defence and the Hon'ble Defence Minister should look into it and present their findings before Parliament. ... (*Interruptions*) There should be a detailed discussion on this issue in Parliament, and the Defence Minister should also make an official statement. A full investigation must be carried out, and the matter should be debated in Parliament as well.

HON. SPEAKER: Anurag ji, you can associate yourself with the subject raised by Meenakshi Lekhi ji.

Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel, Shri Shivkumar Udasi, Dr. Satyapal Singh, Shri Sunil Kumar Singh, Shri Nishikant Dubey, Shri Devji M Patel, Shri Vinod Lakhmashi Chavda and Shri Anurag Singh Thakur are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT; MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION; AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU):

The issue raised in the House is a serious matter. This is related to other countries. Therefore, I will convey it to the Hon. Defence Minister that

this notice has been given and a subject like this has been mentioned. The Defence Minister will tell what is to be done next.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Y. S. Avinash Reddy, not present.

SHRI CHHEDI PASWAN (SASARAM): Hon. Speaker, it may be noted that due to his popularity, known as Jannayak, the eleventh Chief Minister of Bihar, Late Shri Karpoori Thakur, struggled for the protection of the rights of the deprived sections of the society for life. Coming from a rural background, the great son made many successful experiments through governance for social justice. Leaving his college studies, he jumped into the 'Quit India Movement' and was tortured in jail for 26 months.

Even in independent India, he was tortured in jail while fighting against the exploitation of Telco workers. People's leader Karpoori Thakur was a pioneer fighter of the complete revolution, a great socialist thinker and a gem in the rags. His fame as an honest ruler is inspiring. Late Karpoori Thakur ended the compulsion of English language from the course of matriculation so that students from rural background disadvantaged sections of Bihar could secure minimum educational qualifications and further make them participate in public services through reservation. The void left by the late Karpoori Thakur—a

remarkable leader, and a Chief Minister known for his transparency and integrity—can never be filled.

Therefore, I earnestly request that the late Karpoori Thakur be posthumously awarded the Bharat Ratna at the earliest, in order to give him due recognition and to keep his memory alive. Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra, Shri Ashwini Kumar Choubey and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate with the issue raised by Shri Chhedi Paswan.

[English]

SHRI GAJANAN KIRTIKAR (MUMBAI NORTH WEST): Madam Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to raise an important issue on the floor of this august House.

It has been brought to my notice by the *Sthaniya Lokadhikar Samiti* working in the Mumbai Office of the Income Tax Department that 118 casual workers are working since 1995 in the Income Tax Department. All these casual employees are waiting for regularization in the Government service.

In this connection, I want to mention that majority of these casual employees are non-matriculates and are now beyond the maximum

permissible age limit for direct entry to the lower post cadre in the Income Tax Department. They are coming from poor socio-economic background. Since 1995, three casual employees have lost their lives due to abject poverty. The casual employees are working there since 1995 in the hope of getting regularized.

It has also been brought to my notice that the Income Tax Department has undergone restructuring recently, thereby creating vacancies in the lower post cadre so that they can be regularized.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Chandra Prakash Joshi and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are permitted to associate with the matter raised by Shri Gajanan Kirtikar.

12.57 hours

SUBMISSIONS BY MEMBERS....Contd.

(ii) Re : Fire cracker accident in a temple at Kollam, Kerala

[English]

PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED): Hon. Speaker, I would like to bring an important and a heart rending matter before this august House and that is about the horrendous and most shocking fireworks accident that took place at Paravur in Kollam District of Kerala recently.

The cause of explosion is even now shrouded in mystery and 109 persons died in the incident, some on the spot, some on the way to hospital and some at the hospitals. I pray for their souls.

Due to the impact of the blasts, bodies and body parts were strewn all over the place. The inferno, in the shape of a huge fireball, engulfed the whole temple ground where several thousands had gathered.

The hon. Prime Minister, hon. Health Minister and hon. Minister of Skill Development were present at the hospital. The hon. Prime Minister soothed the feelings of the victims and it was a great healer.

The fire crackers used were potassium nitrate, a dangerous chemical which can cause heavy damage in any situation. The Government of India must conduct an investigation and find out the role of the State

Government machinery who never took the decision to forbid the use of such toxic and dangerous chemicals even though they were warned from time to time about the devastating consequences of using such chemicals like potassium nitrate and 109 people died in which many more bodies have to be checked and identified by DNA test.

This incident has happened in Kerala and this can happen anywhere in the country also. In this connection, I would like to bring to the notice of this august House that the Home Secretary of the Government of Kerala was contradicting the stand taken by the State Government regarding the failure of field officers to implement DM's orders. This has come in newspapers. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to strongly urge the Union Government to pass appropriate laws to maintain safety restrictions in the use of fire crackers all over the country so that such accidents could be avoided. I would also request that proper compensation may be provided to the orphans of victims in this case.

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Madam Speaker, the massive and terrific firework mishap happened in Puttingal Temple near Paravur in Kollam District of Kerala has put the entire nation in shock and grief. The unfortunate incident took the lives of more than 100 people and grievously injured hundreds of common people including children

and women. The explosion was highly terrific which destroyed many houses and shelters near the temple.

The tragic incident shook people across the world and Heads of many States expressed their concern. The hon. Prime Minister and the Congress Vice President Rahul Gandhiji visited the venue and made all efforts to coordinate the rescue operation and console the injured. The visit of the hon. Prime Minister and Shri Rahul Gandhi provided confidence to the State Government and the common people to cope up with the situation. It was a good sign of humanitarian care.

The Government of Kerala has taken all necessary measure to ensure emergency rescue operation and medical help for the injured. An immediate Cabinet Meeting was held and took all measures to cope up with the situation.

13.00 hours

The festival and firework competition at the temple was a traditional ritual. The administration of the temple is not under the State Government and it is managed by local individuals. Following complaints from local people, the District Administration had denied permission for firework competition, locally known as *kambam*. I am not going into the details of the incident as it is under investigation.

I would request the hon. Prime Minister to declare this tragic incident as a 'National Calamity' to ensure adequate compensation to the families of the deceased and speedy medical treatment for the injured. The incident has devastated the entire locality. Hundreds of houses and buildings in the area were damaged. Every family in the area has lost one or two of their beloved in this tragic incident. People living in the area are still in shock and mental agony. It is highly necessary to provide moral support to them. There are hundreds of common people critically injured going through critical stage. So, it is highly essential to provide adequate financial compensation to them.

To meet these urgent demands, the Government of Kerala has already requested the Union Government for financial assistance. So, I demand that this incident should be declared as a 'National Calamity'. I would request the Government to take an immediate decision in this regard.

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Madam Speaker, this matter is very serious. The Government should respond to this issue here.

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. VENKAIAH NAIDU): Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister himself has

gone there immediately with relief and with medical team. Whatever could be done has been done also. We are all aware what a 'national calamity' is. That is not an issue for discussion now. That has to be discussed separately because rarest national calamity has been now differentiated from other calamities. That has to be studied. I cannot say anything on that as of now because both the State Government and the Union Government are seized of the matter and they are doing their best. So, let us not make it into a controversial issue.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH RANJAN (MADHEPURA): Hon. Speaker, a trend is emerging in the country today where politics is increasingly being viewed by politicians purely in terms of profit and loss—whether it is power politics, vote-bank politics, or economic politics. We are witnessing how certain political gamblers have created an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty that affects every section of society—be it the common man, children, the elderly, women, or mothers. In a survey conducted by the IIT Kanpur in Delhi, it was told how 35 percent of pollution in Delhi is caused by trucks, 30 percent by dust, 30 percent by motorcycle pollution and only 5 percent by other means i.e. small car i.e. four wheeler. I do not

understand one thing that there is no discussion on 95 percent pollution, 5 percent pollution is being discussed continuously. A judge said that I support it. I will not take anyone's name, the same judge gave the ruling again. The odd-even process was started to gain cheap popularity. ...
(*Interruptions*)

I want to say very humbly, who is benefited? ... (*Interruptions*) One, purchasing the bus and collecting the entire money, purchase of new buses, second helping the CNG company, third helping the car company, fourth the one who voted ... (*Interruptions*) Middle class people who have a car, Maruti car, children are upset, women of Delhi are upset, the housewives of Delhi are upset. ... (*Interruptions*) ...*

HON. SPEAKER: All these will not go on record.

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

HON. SPEAKER: Shri C. P. Joshi, Shri Sudheer Gupta and Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Rajesh Ranjan.

The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.10 p.m.

* Not recorded.

13.05 hours

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

14.15 hours

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

(Shri Ramen Deka in the Chair)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377*

[English]

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

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

* Treated as laid on the Table.

(i) Need for expeditious approval to the State Action Plan of Government of Rajasthan regarding conservation of Great Indian Bustard

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT SINGH (JHALAWAR-BARAN): Great Indian Bustard (GIB) is the state bird of Rajasthan and its population has drastically decreased over the years to around 100 in Rajasthan. There is an urgency to protect GIB which has already been classified as a critically endangered species by International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). For its conservation, Rajasthan had submitted a State Action Plan in June, 2014 as per the guidelines issued by GoI in June, 2012. It focuses on providing natural habitat to GIBs for their conservation (in situ conservation). The plan has not yet been approved by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. As per the guidelines issued by MOEFCC, the Annual Recovery Plan for the GIB will be provided Central funding under a Centrally sponsored Scheme i.e. Integrated Development of Wildlife Habitats. Therefore, I request Government of India to approve the State Action Plan to prevent Great Indian Bustard from becoming an extinct species.

(ii) Need to revive the closed sugar mills in North Bihar.

[Translation]

SHRI KIRTI AZAD (DARBHANGA): Since the British period in North Bihar, sugar mills were established in Lohat, Rayam and Sakari, due to which sugarcane cultivation was flourishing. Today all the sugar mills have been closed, due to which cultivation of cash crops like sugarcane is stopped. Due to the closure of mills, the people of North Bihar have become unemployed, due to which they are forced to migrate and work in other states. Once economically capable North Bihar, is facing the problems of poverty, hunger, migration, unemployment today due to the closure of sugar mills and factories.

It is necessary for the development of North Bihar that the closed sugar mills should be made functional, which will pave the way for economic progress. Due to the sugarcane cash crop, the farmers will move forward in infusing capital in agriculture, which will increase investment in agriculture. The soil, water and weather of North Bihar are conducive for sugarcane cultivation. With the start of sugarcane cultivation, the migration of the working class will stop.

(iii) Need to expedite the construction of North Koel Reservoir Project and other irrigation in Jharkhand.

[Translation]

SHRI SUNIL KUMAR SINGH (CHATRA): According to the Central Water Commission, there are currently 4857 large dams constructed in the country and 314 large dams under construction. But due to lack of coordination between Union and State Governments, many dams are not being fully utilised due to lack of proper maintenance and timely repair. The Union Government says that due to ‘Jal’ being a State subject, water resources projects are planned, executed, operated and maintained by the respective State Governments as per their requirements and priorities. Therefore, the schemes remain pending due to lack of coordination between the Centre and the states.

The North Koel Reservoir Project is an important multi-purpose irrigation project of the State in Barwadih block of Latehar district of Jharkhand state. The project will benefit the detailed irrigated area of the state of Bihar and Jharkhand. The districts of Palamu, Latehar, and Garhwa in Jharkhand, along with Aurangabad and Gaya in Bihar—areas affected by a lack of rainfall—will benefit from this. Additionally, the over-a-century-old Sone Canal irrigation system, which has been struggling due to water scarcity, will also be revived. On completion of

this project, 1,24,000 hectares of land from both Jharkhand and Bihar will be provided water for irrigation. There will also be effective prohibition of continuous degradation of ground water level in Latehar, Palamu and Garhwa districts. Drinking water problem will also be solved. Also, 25 MW of hydel power will be generated, which is a medium of most environmentally fitted energy. The completion of the North Koel Reservoir Project will give tangible shape to the dream of the second green revolution. However, even after more than 40 years have passed, this project has not yet been completed.

Therefore, I demand from the Union Government that in the direction of completing all the pending projects of the state, including North Koel Reservoir, Amanat, Auranga, Kanhar, Tahle, Garhi, Muhane, Sonrekha, Malay, Ajay, the Union Government and the State Government should take positive steps soon and these schemes should be completed.

(iv) Need to extend social security benefits to constructions workers.

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Today, the modernisation and development work in the country is progressing very fast and our country is marching forward with other developing countries of the world. With all this development, the diminishing human sensibilities are also a matter of concern today. Recently, a large number of labourers and common people were injured and lost their lives when flyovers and metro shutters respectively broke in Bengal and Lucknow. The loss of lives of labourers in these accidents, so long after independence is very unfortunate and a matter of concern. In such a situation, In this context, I urge the Government to show sensitivity towards the labourers engaged in such construction work, to consider the financial future of their dependent families, and to ensure a safe working environment for these workers.

(v) Need to speed up the construction work of National Highway Nos. 75 and 98 in Jharkhand.

[Translation]

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): The construction work of Padwa to Gurisemar via Garhwa National Highway-75 in my Parliamentary Constituency Palamu started in the year 2010 and the completion date of this project was fixed for the year 2012 but this work has not been completed so far. Due to the deep potholes on the road, there is a lot of inconvenience to the traffic and accidents happen every day. Locals and other passengers are suffering from respiratory ailments due to dust flying on this route. Hon. Minister of Road, Transport and Highways had a review meeting on National Highways with all Members of Parliament of Jharkhand on 19th March, 2015. In this meeting, the contractor related to the construction of National Highway-75 was instructed to complete this work by 15th June, 2015, but after that only a few miles of construction work were done on it and later the work was stopped. The construction of this National Highway starts at a slow pace and suddenly stops without citing any reason. I request the Hon. Minister to issue an order to complete the unfinished work of National Highway-75 at the earliest.

NH-98 passing near my Parliamentary Constituency Palamu is also in a dilapidated condition. I urge upon the Hon. Minister of Road, Transport and Highways, Shri Nitin Gadkari ji to urgently send a high level committee to Jharkhand to take stock of the condition of these dilapidated national highways, which should submit its report to the Hon. Minister in 15 days. Along with this, I request the Hon. Minister of Road, Transport and Highways to impose heavy fines on the companies delaying the construction of these National Highways and not to allocate any work related to the construction of National Highways in any part of the country to such companies in future.

(vi) Need to set up desalination plant in coastal area of Maharashtra.

[Translation]

SHRI HARISHCHANDRA CHAVAN (DINDORI): My home state Maharashtra has been facing the problem of drought for the last several years. The problems related to irrigation and drinking water are becoming increasingly severe with each passing day. The economic condition of farmers across Maharashtra has become extremely dire due to the lack of water — there is no water for the fields, none for the animals, and not even drinking water for the people. Farmers in Maharashtra are being driven to suicide due to their inability to repay loans taken from banks, as their crops are drying up due to water scarcity in their fields. Located in the nearby areas of my Parliamentary Constituency Dindori, there are Bhatsa Dam, Vaitarna Dam and Tadsa Dam, water of which is going to the entire Mumbai. If modern plants are set up on the coasts of Maharashtra to convert sea water into drinking water, the above dams can be used for northern Maharashtra. Through this, some relief can be given to farmers and citizens suffering from drought in north Maharashtra. Many such plants are running successfully to convert sea water into drinking water on the beaches of West Bengal and Tamil Nadu. It is necessary for the Union Government to take initiative in this regard. For this, I myself met the Hon. Prime Minister. The Ministry of Drinking

Water and Sanitation had also taken action in this regard, but so far no desalination plant has been announced on any coast to make drinking water from the sea water in Maharashtra.

The Government is requested to set up desalination plants on the coasts of Maharashtra to solve the problem of drought in Maharashtra at present, so that water can be supplied to Mumbai and the water that goes to Mumbai from Bhatsa Dam, Vaitarna Dam and Tadsa Dam can be given to the drought affected areas of northern Maharashtra.

(vii) Need to stop illegal mining activities in Kairana Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): In Kairana Lok Sabha constituency, especially in the Jhinjhana area, the mining mafia holds significant influence. At present, mining is going on through J.C.B. in Sheetalgarhi, Bidauli Sadat, Khwajpura, Mangalore, Chautra, Mansoor and Bhadi in Chausana. Vehicles filled with sand pass through Shamli-Karnal highway, Un-Thanabhawan and Gangoh-Chausana all night. Due to overloading, the roads in the villages and surrounding areas have been completely destroyed. These heavily loaded vehicles, filled with sand, are becoming life-threatening for the local people. In Sheetalgarhi, there was previously a mining lease, but its tenure has now ended. Yet, mining continues illegally. The mining mafia now falsely claim that the sand is already stocked and carry out illegal excavation at night using JCB machines. During the day, they transport sand using tractor-trolleys under the pretext of paying royalty. On average, about 20 trolleys with royalty are dispatched daily, but from six other illegal mining sites, nearly 300 trolleys of sand are being transported without any legal documentation. From these trolleys, an alleged collection of Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 2,000 per trip is being extorted. The villagers lodged a complaint with the police

but no action was taken. If the mining is not stopped immediately, the very existence of the legendary river Yamuna will be in danger.

I demand from the Government that necessary steps should be taken in this direction so that illegal mining can be stopped.

(viii) Need to fix Minimum Support Price of Onion at Rs. 1000 per tonne and also provide remunerative price for Beans.

[Translation]

SHRI C. R. CHAUDHARY (NAGAUR): I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Agriculture to the burning problem of the farmers of Rajasthan. Under the programme 'Gramodaya Se Bharat Uday', the concept of Hon. Prime Minister, I attended Kisan Seminars in rural areas. Farmers say that onion production in irrigated areas has improved this year compared to the last several years. Whenever the yield is fine the price is very low. This year, onion is being sold at Rs. 450-500 per quintal and it is causing loss to the farmer. Farmers are not getting even half of the cost price and there is a lot of anger amongst the farmers.

Similarly, Guar which got the price of 25 to 30 thousand rupees per quintal three years ago has now come down to less than three thousand rupees per quintal. Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of Agriculture that our Government and Hon. Prime Minister have taken very good decisions in the interest of farmers, such as increasing the compensation amount for the loss due to natural outbreaks by one and a half times, making the extent of loss from 50 percent to 33 percent, crop insurance scheme, One Drop-More Crop, Pradhan Mantri Sinchayi Yojana, soil health card and neem coated urea etc. Because of these farmer-friendly

schemes and decisions, the nation's cultivators are genuinely grateful from the heart. Further to this, I request the Hon. Prime Minister and Hon. Minister of Agriculture to issue orders for procurement of onion at Rs.1000/- per quintal at the earliest so that onion producers can get cost price and also provide fair price for Guar and if there is any restriction on the export of Guar, then it should be removed in the interest of cultivators.

(ix) Need to launch an awareness and training programme to impart technological know-how and expertise for Organic farming to farmers in Kheri Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY MISRA TENI (KHERI): The basis of the economy of my Lok Sabha constituency Lakhimpur and the main source of income of the people is agriculture. Overall, farmers cultivate a variety of crops, but rising agricultural costs, non-remunerative prices, lack of access to new technology and advanced seeds, and insufficient knowledge regarding the appropriate use of fertilisers have led to continuous losses. As a result, the economic condition of farmers has significantly deteriorated. Considering agriculture as a loss making business, people are thinking of quitting farming. I have had personal interactions with several farming groups and many people, it seems that people do not want to quit farming and are looking for alternatives. In such a situation, organic farming can be a better option. But due to lack of law, technology and knowledge regarding organic farming, the farmers of the district are not able to promote it. This can be a good option for the environment and the health of the people as well as for the agriculture sector.

Therefore, I request the Government to further undertake an awareness and training programme for the construction of poly houses

and providing information about poly house farming along with information on the method and technique of farming and also to announce the inclusion of district Lakhimpur Kheri in the activities of the National Horticulture Board, so that the district Lakhimpur Kheri can strengthen its economy as well as extend its support to the country.

(x) Need to release funds for Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in Maharashtra particularly in Wardha and Amravati districts in the State.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMDAS C. TADAS (WARDHA): While drawing the attention of the Hon. Minister of Rural Development, it is requested that the works which have been done under Pradhan Mantri Gramin Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) in Maharashtra, payments for them have not been made. Also, the new tasks which have been planned, they have not yet started due to non-availability of administrative approval. The work of PMGSY is stalled all over the State. There is a lot of anger among the common citizens and due to non-construction of roads, people have to face the crisis. Common citizens, intellectuals are also demonstrating in my Parliamentary Constituency. Particularly, work has been stopped in Wardha and Amravati districts. It needs to start soon.

Therefore, the Hon. Minister is requested to review the work being done by PMGSY at the earliest and try to get the closed sanctioned schemes started and allocate funds for the pending payment.

(xi) Need to take suitable steps for completion of various irrigation schemes in Jharkhand

[English]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): The second Jharkhand state irrigation commission had made an assessment of the water resource in the state and identified 16 river basins which can be harnessed through major, medium and minor irrigation schemes. The Commission had identified potential for these schemes which requires your kind attention.

1. Kalipur Reservoir Scheme on Motihara Nadi;
2. Bhubhuri Reservoir Scheme on Bhurbhuri Nadi;
3. Bishanpur Reservoir Scheme on Tepra Nadi;
4. Jamunia Reservoir Scheme on Jamuna Nadi;
5. Banslai Reservoir Scheme near Pargodih (Poryaihat) at Godda on Banslai river;
6. Dumaria beer in Godda;
7. Pakaria beer in Godda;
8. Sugga Bathan Reservoir Scheme;
9. Krishnasagar Reservoir Scheme: Presently the work is at standstill;

10. The following old and ongoing projects need immediate help from the Union Government. The present status of these projects are as follows:-

- (i) Punasi: Waiting for forest clearance in Delhi;
- (ii) Triveni: Tender of brick lining is awaited;
- (iii) Sugga Bathan: DPR is in process, project started in 1978;
- (iv) Sundar Dam: Command area is not getting water, Rs.4-5 crore being given to contractors annually;
- (v) Harnabeer: Closed since 1980;
- (vi) Budhai: Foundation stone laid in 1978, clearance awaited from CWC;
- (vii) Saidapur and Tardihabeer: DPR is awaited;
- (viii) Darhwa and Dahubeer: Money given through 13th Finance Commission;
- (ix) Kajhia, Sonapur, Bhoura Bandh, Lahtan Pakaria Extension;
- (x) Krishnasagar: Work started in 1985;
- (xi) Trikut Jalashaya: Administrative nod in 2010, waiting for forest clearance ;
- (xii) Raja Bandh and Mahagama Canal: Pending since 1985;

(xiii) 200 Lift Irrigation Projects of minor irrigation and 5 major ponds: Centre allocating funds in RRR Policy and Series Check dams under AIBP, as much as 90%, but state unable to take advantage.

The state is facing fund constraint and hence it will be very difficult for the state to take new schemes for execution under state plan, but these are old projects and need your kind attention. As regards new projects, detailed survey and DPR are still awaited and also need active and sympathetic help of the Union Government.

(xii) Need to provide financial relief to all the farmers distressed due to acute drought situation in Banda and Chitrakoot districts in Uttar Pradesh.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAIRON PRASAD MISHRA (BANDA): The farmer has been devastated by the grave problem of drought in Banda and Chitrakoot districts of my Parliamentary Constituency. The relief amount sent to it by the Centre is also not being provided by the State Government officials. Even the old amount of excessive rainfall has not been distributed to everyone. The amount of drought has also been given to some farmers, not everyone. No relief has been given to any of the farmers who have holdings above one hectare. Farmers are hopeless and frustrated. There is anger amongst the people. People don't have food to eat.

The Government is requested to instruct the State Government for expeditious release of the funds to all the small and big farmers and try to distribute the relief amount to all in the presence of the central team.

(xiii) Need for laying emphasis on rainwater harvesting and inter-linking of rivers to overcome water scarcity in the country.

[English]

DR. UDIT RAJ (NORTH WEST DELHI): The present water scarcity is affecting almost all parts of the country today- be it the factories in Maharashtra or the tourists in Shimla. The NTPC plant at Farakka had to be shut down in the absence of water, which has also affected electricity and industrial output not only in West Bengal, but also in East India. Drought conditions are seen in 10 states, and many others are on the verge of drought. It is indeed strange that Section 144 had to be imposed in Latur, Maharashtra to avoid riots during distribution of water. Even in Delhi, especially in North West Delhi Constituency, during the summer months people are dependent only on tankers for drinking water; the situation is also similar for industries. The lack of water has forced many industries to shut down; due to this, the Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is expected to fall 50 to 100 basis points. In a situation where the overall storage in reservoirs is hovering below 24%, interlinking of rivers and proper emphasis on rain water harvesting should become the immediate priority of the Government.

(xiv) Need to increase the amount of grant for construction of toilets under Swachh Bharat Mission in urban areas

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI (DHARWAD): This Government through the Swachh Bharat Mission (SBM) has taken long strides in improving hygiene, sanitation and as a consequence, sanitation scenario in the country has improved. In respect of SBM, against expected outcome of 50 lakh for individual household toilets for the year 2014-15, 58,54,987 toilets were constructed, which is an achievement of 117% as compared to the set target. Of these, 49.49 lakh household toilets were constructed after launch of SBM indicating more than 446% increase in construction of toilets after the Launch of SBM (Gramin) as compared to pre SBM. In order to incentivize construction of toilets, the Government gives grant of Rs.12,000 to 15,000 for SC/ST in rural areas. However, in urban areas only Rs.4000 is given. For urban poor, it is too little. Hence, I urge the Government to look into the matter and increase the amount given to construct toilets in urban areas.

(xv) Need to include Kadugolla (Adavigolla) community of Karnataka in the list of Scheduled Tribes

[English]

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the hon. Minister of Tribal Affairs to consider the proposal for inclusion of Kadugolla (Adavigolla) community in the Scheduled Tribe list in Karnataka.

Kadugolla (Adavigolla) community in Karnataka is geographically isolated and also socially exclusive and practising their own administration. They also practice seclusion of women at the time of child birth and menstruation. Kadugollas are living below poverty line and their condition is pathetic. More than 80% of the families are landless and about 75% families engage in occupation of rearing sheep and cows.

Government of Karnataka has sent the proposal for inclusion of Kadugolla (Advavigolla) and its other synonyms like Hattigolla in the list of Scheduled Tribes in Karnataka along with ethnographic study.

I urge upon the Union Government through the Hon. Minister of Tribal affairs to consider the proposal for inclusion of Kadugolla (Adavigolla) community in the Scheduled Tribe list under clause (1) and

(2) of Article 341 and 342 of the Constitution by increasing the reservation quota of Scheduled Tribes.

(xvi) Need for allocation of sufficient funds and its timely release for protection and conservation of BRT Tiger Reserve in Chamarajanagar constituency, Karnataka.

[English]

SHRI R. DHRUVANARAYANA (CHAMARAJNAGAR): I would like to bring it to the notice of the Government that BRT Tiger Reserve of my constituency having an area of 574.83 sq. Kms. is the pristine habitat for tiger and is a part of the most promising Tiger landscape in the world. The present tiger density in the reserve is 10.21/100 Sq. Km. which indicates the presence of healthy tiger population and consequent demand for high protection.

The management issues in the tiger reserve include protection against hunting/poaching and fire, habitat improvement, man-animal conflicts, etc. These activities require sufficient budget and timely release of funds. But the fact is that every year there is a difference between the sanctioned and the released budget and also every year there is decrease in budget allotment which is affecting the management/protection issues of the Tiger reserve.

During 2013-14, Rs.188.360 lakhs released out of the sanctioned amount of Rs.235.452 lakhs. During 2014-15, Rs.148.2286 lakhs released out of sanctioned amount of Rs.185.286 lakhs and during 2015-16 till

today Rs.116.0581 lakhs released out of sanctioned amount of Rs.145.0727 lakhs.

Hence, I urge upon the Union Government to take up the issue on priority basis and help the BRT reserve to get sufficient allotment and timely release of funds for protection and conservation of this natural resource of my Constituency.

(xvii) Need to take necessary steps for setting up of Petroleum, Chemicals & Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) at Paradip, Odisha

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The Government has proposed to develop a Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemicals Investment Region (PCPIR) at Paradip to promote investment, both domestic and foreign in Petroleum, Chemical and Petrochemical segments. This PCPIR was sanctioned by the Government wherein Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) was entrusted to develop petrochemical complex in the capacity of Anchor Tenant. However, due to the delay in setting up of the petrochemical complex by IOCL, the Government is unable to kick off the work of PCPIR at Paradip. Consequently, the Government of India has not provided funds for development of basic infrastructure for the petrochemical complex despite repeated requests from the Government of Odisha. I, therefore, urge the Government that urgent necessary steps may be taken for setting up of PCPIR at Paradip and provide adequate funds for the purpose.

(xviii) Need to take necessary action to secure safe return of youth belonging to Parbhani district of Maharashtra held captive in Iran.

[Translation]

SHRI SANJAY BHAURAO JADHAV (PARBHANI): Some youth from the State of Maharashtra went abroad to get jobs but such youth have not been given jobs in those countries. Some such youths were recently sent to Iran for jobs by foreign companies from Aurangabad/Parbhani district of Maharashtra also, but a young man died there. But no compensation was provided by the company and neither any arrangements were made to bring the dead youth Prakash Bathsekhar's body to his ancestral place in Maharashtra. Some of them are still imprisoned and are suffering from torture. The Government should immediately make arrangements to deal with such foreign companies and rescue the youth of the country.

(xix) Need to strengthen the defence preparedness and capability of the armed forces of the country

[English]

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM) :

Today I wish to raise one issue which holds utmost national importance. The armed forces form the backbone of India keeping the entire nation safe and secure. It is, therefore, greatly important to ensure that they are equipped with the latest possible arms and ammunition that our country can afford to procure. The recent CAG report on this issue is not very encouraging in this regard. The CAG report has revealed some ghastly facts which expose some glaring errors in our defence preparedness and capabilities. Various reasons like complex procurement policies are to be blamed for this mess. The armed forces of this country are facing an impending threat from our surroundings and they also have the added responsibility of dealing with the internal aggression caused by the Maoists. Our current government has taken some bold decisions under the effective leadership of our hon. Prime Minister, in the area of Defence procurement. Make in India is a huge step towards this. Clarity is also being given to procurement policies which is a welcome move. Much is being done but there is a long way to go before we reach the desired state.

(xx)Need to increase the number of mandays under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Tripura

[English]

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST): Since 2011-12 financial year to last financial year 2015-16 Tripura stood first in implementing Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS). This is a record throughout the country that a small state like Tripura is continuously in the forefront to provide work amongst the MGNREGS card holders and in the recently concluded financial year, it managed to provide 94 days work. With such a good record, naturally, one can hope that Tripura would get allocation for more man-days in the recent financial year. But it has been found that the Union Governments' Rural Development Ministry has proposed to decrease 1,92,36,000 man days as compared to previous financial year. While in his budget speech hon. Finance Minister stated that this year MGNREGS allocation would be more than the previous year, I strongly urge upon the Rural Development Ministry to recast their budget proposal for Tripura and also increase man days for the current financial year.

(xxi) Need to issue a clarification regarding increase in number of seats in Legislative Assembly of Andhra Pradesh before 2019 elections.

SHRI Y.V. SUBBA REDDY (ONGOLE): Section 26 to AP Reorganisation Act, 2014 deals with delimitation of Assembly Constituencies in AP and Telangana. Section 26(1) says :

"Subject to the provisions contained in article 170 of the Constitution.the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the successor States of Andhra Pradesh and Telangana shall be increased from 175 and 119 to 225 and 153, respectively, and delimitation of the constituencies may be determined by the Election Commission...."

On a plain reading of the above Section, it becomes clear that Assembly Constituencies would be increased subject to article 170 of the Constitution. Proviso to sub-clause (3) to article 170 says :

"Provided also that until the relevant figures for the first census taken after the year 2026 have been published, it shall not be necessary to readjust the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of each State...."

This makes it abundantly clear that article 170 prevents such exercise till the results of 2026 Census. However, there is an impression in political circles in Andhra Pradesh that the number of Assembly constituencies would be increased before 2019 elections.

Hence, I request the Government of India to issue clarification as to what section 26 means.

(xxii) Need to accord approval to the proposals of Lakshadweep administration for various harbour development projects

[English]

MOHAMMED FAIZAL (LAKSHADWEEP): There are proposals pending in the concerned Ministry for various harbour development projects of Lakshadweep administration, namely construction of breakwater (3rd phase) at Andrott, deepening and widening of entrance channel at Kadmat island, construction of eastern side jetties in various islands for which surveys are underway and proposal for construction of breakwater at Kitan island.

Similarly, effective utilization of eastern side jetties has already been constructed, deepening and widening of entrance channel of all the islands, construction of wharfs inside the breakwater also need to be undertaken.

These structures are very much important for the easy embarkation and disembarkation of the islanders. Therefore, I urge the Government of India especially the Ministry of Shipping and Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change to clear all the pending projects at the earliest.

(xxiii) Need to undertake repair of National Highway No. 80 in Bhagalpur district, Bihar and also convert in into four lane.

[Translation]

SHRI SHAILESH KUMAR (BHAGALPUR): Almost all the roads of National Highway No. 80 located in Bhagalpur in the State of Bihar are completely damaged and are not fit for movement of any kind of vehicles. Potholes have formed at many places where accidents are taking place every day and there is huge loss of life and property. Due to the damage to the road, there is a traffic jam on the road. It is very risky for the public to travel through this road. Vehicles of patients do not reach the hospital on time and patients die on the way. The people of this area have been agitated on several occasions. This issue has been raised by me in the House earlier also, but no positive steps have been taken so far, due to which the situation is becoming worse. Due to no repair work, the condition of National Highway No. 80 is constantly deteriorating.

Therefore, in public interest, I demand from the Government of India that the poor road condition of National Highway No. 80 should be taken up on priority basis for a large scale repair work and by giving approval for conversion of two-lane road into four-lane road, work on road construction should be started soon.

(xxiv)Need to undertake timely completion of four-lane national highway No. 65

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I would like to urge the government to take steps for the early completion of four-laned National Highway No.65 connecting Kaithal-Narwana-Hisar-Siwani. Hon. Prime Minister has laid foundation stone for this National Highway in 2014 with the estimated cost of Rs.1400 crore. It was informed that the project will be completed within August 2016. Despite the deadline approaching near, there is no substantial progress and the pace of work is quite tardy. This project is of great importance for the people of Hisar region, since the NH 65 connects Hisar with Chandigarh, Jaipur as well as Salasar, an important religious place for the people of this region. We have experienced that the prolonged delay in the completion of the project would lead to escalation of the cost and in turn would cause further delay. Therefore, I request the Government to take step for timely completion of this project.

14.16 hours**SIKH GURDWARAS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2016**

(As passed by Rajya Sabha)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, the hon. Home Minister.

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJNATH SINGH):

Sir, I beg to move:

“That the Bill further to amend the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Home Minister, do you want to speak?

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Hon. Chairperson sir, the Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925 is an Act whose jurisdiction was earlier limited to only the state of Punjab, but after the division of the state of Punjab, at present the Punjab, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Chandigarh Union Territory also come under it. Although the Haryana Sikh Gurdwara Management Act, 2016 has been implemented in the state of Haryana for the gurdwaras located in Haryana, but the matter related to the Legislative Powers of the state of Haryana is still under consideration in the Supreme Court.

After the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, the SGPC Board becomes an Interstate Corporation and the Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925 has been recorded at Sl. No. 45 of the Schedule of the Interstate Corporation Act, 1957. In exercise of the powers conferred by Parliament under Section 72 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, the Union Government, through a notification dated 8th October, 2003, directed the Sehajdhari Sikhs to abolish the exceptions relating to grant of franchise in the committees constituted under the said Board and Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925. Still, the said notification was revoked by the Punjab and Haryana High Court by its judgement dated 20th December, 2011 and it was left to the appropriate and competent Legislature to decide whether or not to amend the said intent in the above Act. The matter relating to denial of right of innate Sikhs to exercise franchise through notification is pending in the Supreme Court at present and the final decision in the matter may take longer to come. Even if the order of quashing the notification of the High Court is confirmed, it cannot be prevented from promulgating the legislation on this matter. The reality is that the judgement of the High Court itself says the same. Therefore, for the purpose of abolishing the exception relating to the franchise granted to innate Sikhs without prejudice to the powers conferred by Parliament under Section 72 of the Punjab Reorganisation Act, 1966, this Bill has

been introduced for making amendments in the provisions of Section 49 and Section 92 of the Sikh Gurdwara Act, 1925 with effect from 8th October, 2003.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Motion moved:

“That the Bill further to amend the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

Now, Shri Santokh Singh Chaudhary.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SKILL DEVELOPMENT AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): Sir, just a minute, she wants to intervene.

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SMT. HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL): Sir, this is such a religious issue which is linked with a small community, [English] which is one of the smallest communities, which is probably two per cent of the entire

population of our country, but which played a huge role in the freedom struggle.

[Translation]

During the time of the country's freedom struggle, the people of this Sikh community were hanged, who were sent to black water. Amongst those who fought for the country, 70-80 percent were Sikhs. This small community has given great sacrifices for the freedom of this country. Before the independence of the country, in 1920, Mughals and Britishers to our Gurudwaras, creation of Khalsa Panth, [English] the Great Guru Gobind Singhji, our father, who made the Khalsa Panth had laid down certain tenets for the Khalsa and the Sikhs to follow.

Sir, from 1600, the time the Khalsa Panth came into formation, the Sikhs were fighting for... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Sir, what is this? It is the term of our Member, now to speak.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is just an intervention.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Is she participating in the debate?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: No.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: No, there is no debate. I am putting a request. I am not making a speech. I am just saying that this is a community, which has been walking on the lines as laid down by our fathers; and to keep following the lines, as laid down by our great Gurus...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The Minister can intervene.

... *(Interruptions)*

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I will call you to speak after her.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, in 1920, the Sikhs fought a valiant battle to free their religious Gurudwaras from the hands of the people, the Mahants who the Britishers had put there. Thousands lost their lives; hundreds were sacrificed; and they fought such a battle that the British were forced to bend; and eventually in 1925, the Britishers passed an Act -- the Sikha Gurudwara Act -- giving the Sikhs the right to control their Gurudwaras and their religious affairs through a democratically elected body.

Sir, in 1944, an effort was made to meddle with the Sikhs and to dilute the religious affairs of the Sikh body; and others were also given an opportunity to vote for this... *(Interruptions)*

Sir, after laying down thousands of lives, who had fought for the Sikh Gurdwara Act, the British had to bend to it; and Mahatma Gandhi said that this Sikh Gurdwara Act was a first battle of Independence which had been won. After that, the Sikhs laid down their lives to free this country...

(Interruptions)

Sir, today, I request everybody in this House, as this is an issue, which affects nobody, that is only about the Sikhs voting for their Gurudwaras. It will not affect any other community; it will not affect any State. It is for the Sikhs to decide who should vote for their Gurudwaras and who should not. If anybody has an objection, I do not think, non-Sikhs are in a position that they should decide who is a Sikh and who is not. Our country gives us the liberty to practise our Sikhism. Our great Guru Gobind Singhji, our father, said:

[Translation]

‘Khalsa Mero Roop Khas, Khalsa Me Hu Karo Niwas’

(The Khalsa is my special form; in the Khalsa do I reside.)

[English]

Anybody who wants to vote, is most welcome to follow the tenets and the things laid down by the Great Guru Gobind Singhji, and they are most welcome to vote. But I do not see people, who do not even follow what

the great Guru Gobind Singhji had laid down, should decide and comment on what has been decided by our Guru. If anyone has a right to decide, it is my community; it is us Sikhs and not anybody else; and I think, it is highly shameful that when we do not interfere in any other community as to whether you are a Hindu or whether you are a Christian or whether you are a Muslim, why should anybody else comment on whether we are Sikhs or not? So, my humble appeal to this House is that please do not play politics in this.

This is about the emotions of a community. I appeal to all Sikhs present in this House that let us not make a mockery of ourselves by getting others to comment on who is a Sikh and who is not. If we have issues, we will decide; and we have a democratically elected body, who can decide that. Please go there and discuss it. But let us not let everybody decide over here as to who is a Sikh and who is not, and play politics on these norms laid down by our great Guru Gobind Singhji, who had said:

[Translation]

‘Sab Sikkhan Ko Hukum Hai Guru Manyo Granth’

(All Sikhs are commanded to accept the Granth as their Guru.)

[English]

So, anybody who believes in the Guru Granth Sahib, must follow what the Guru has said to follow about Sikhism; and if you follow that, you are most welcome into Sikhism. But to stand here and decide that who should and who should not, I appeal humbly to everybody, let us not make a mockery of this. Like it was passed unanimously in the Rajya Sabha, please bear with us and support it so that we can run our religion the way we want, without your interfering and telling us how to run it.

Thank you, so much.

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Sir, we support it.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY (JALANDHAR): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, this issue is very serious, spiritual and also religious and as Hon. Madam said, they have defined Sikhs. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: You said that I have defined Sikhs, you tell me, how have I defined Sikhs. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: [English] Let me speak please. [Translation] This is Parliament of India, this Bill has come in this, so you are referring to all the Members of Parliament sitting here, [English] Anybody cannot decide. [Translation] They are anybody.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Will you decide who is the biggest Sikh and who is not? Who are you to decide that? First you become a Sikh, then I tell you. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: These Hon. Members of Parliament have been elected. ... (*Interruptions*) Please, have some patience, listen to me first. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let him speak, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: Hon. Chairperson, no doubt, Punjab is a very big State and has a very long history. The Sikh history of Punjab is very long. I believe that the people of Punjab, the Sikh rulers of Punjab, the Sikh Gurus of Punjab, have sent a huge message to the entire country. Guru Nanak Dev Ji was the first Guru and gave a message to all the people who lived on the land of this country to live in brotherhood for the sake of humanity. He was followed by nine Gurus and Guru Arjun Dev ji, who composed the Guru Granth Saheb, during his time, Darbar Saheb took place. But his martyrdom was for those who were Hindus, Brahmins and all brotherly people living in the country, he raised voice for them and the martyrdom of Guru Arjun Dev ji, who was made to sit on a hot pan, warm sand was poured on him and thus he was tortured by the the Mughal rulers of that time. He was followed by more Gurus and it continued that of all those who are here, there is one God and their origin is one. Then Guru Govind Singh ji was mentioned, who became very great Guru on this land of ours, he established the Khalsa Panth in 1699. ... (*Interruptions*) Please have a seat.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let him speak, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: You are a Sikh and you do not want to hear the name of Guru Govind Singh ji, you call yourself a Sikh, you better sit down. ... (*Interruptions*) You do not want to listen to the name of Guru Govind Singh ji while being a Sikh, what kind of Sikh are you. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let him speak, please.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: That is what I am saying, but you are not ready to listen to me. ... (*Interruptions*) Guru Govind Singh ji established the Khalsa Panth in 1699, so when he created the Khalsa, at that time, Guru ji declared in Anandpur Sahib that I want sacrifice. Who is that one follower who can sacrifice himself, and it was then when the Panch Pyare came to front. The Panch Pyare who came out, he took them to the tent and everybody outside thought that they were sacrificed, because when he used to take one inside and come out, there used to be blood on his sword. One of the Panch pyare was Chhimba, a barber, they belonged to different stratas of societies and came from different places. I mean to say that Guru Gobind Singh ji had said – every

one is human, everybody has the same identity that everyone is equal. When the Hindus, the Brahmins and the ladies of that time were arrested in Aminabad, Guru Nanak Dev ji was arrested along with them. At that time, there was such a situation that Guru Nanak Dev Ji himself said that Hindustan daraya, Hurasan khasmana kiya, aiti maar padi kurnale, tain ki dard na aaya, (You attacked Hindustan, while sparing Hurasan (Persia); Such devastation you caused—did you not feel any pain?) Who did he say this to? He had said for all the people of the society at that time. ...
(*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record.

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

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: Sir, these gurudwaras, as Madam said that Tenth Guru Sahib said that all Sikhs are commanded to worship Grantha as Guru. ... (*Interruptions*) Today, Guru Granth Saheb ji's light is there in all the Gurudwaras, you believe this? You meditate on Guru Granth Saheb daily, you read daily, I also do it, you also do it. Sir, Guru Granth Sahib is a book in which the voices of devotees of

* Not recorded.

different society, devotees of Bhakti Movement, spiritual heirs are included. In the Guru Granth Sahib, words of Guru Ravidas, who was a very great saint, is also there. He created a society, the name of Begumpura city is *Dukh andhho nahin thanvon, na tazweez khirajan mal, Dhauf, na khata, tars jamal, Kahai Ravidas khalas chamara, vahi sahari so meet hamara.* (There is no pain, no darkness, no fear in His abode. No need for amulets, rituals, taxes, or possessions. There is no guilt, no debt—only compassion and beauty. Says Ravidas, a humble tanner by caste: That divine city is my true companion and friend). These are the words of Guru Ravidas ji. He created such a society at that time that everyone was equal here. Hindus, Sikhs and Muslims are all equal here. Chandumajra sahib, most of the words are of Bhakt Kabir. Bhakt Kabir ji has said, “*Avval Allah noor upaya, kudrat ke sab bande, ek noor se sab jag upjya, kaun bhale, kaun mande.*” (First, God created the Divine Light; then, by His creative power, He made all human beings. From the same Light, the entire world was born, so how can anyone be called good or bad?) All these devotees, all those saints, their words are inscribed in the Guru Granth Sahib. Whoever are their followers, for example, I follow Guru Ravidas ji, he follows Kabir ji. Sain is the voice of the devotee. Bhakt Ravidas belonged to tanner fraternity. Bhakt Kabir belonged to weaver community. All these spiritual heads are there in the

Guru Granth Sahib. When we go to the Gurudwara, we all bow to all of them who reside in the Guru Granth Sahib. The definition which you are creating, sorry to say, According to the 2011 Census, there are 1.75 crore (17.5 million) Sikhs in India. However, as per the voter rolls created in 2011, only 55 lakh (5.5 million) Sikhs were enrolled. Even if we assume that around 50 lakh (5 million) among them were minors at the time, there still remain nearly 70 lakh (7 million) individuals who identified themselves as Sikhs in the census. Why, then, are you denying them their rights? These individuals believe in the Guru Granth Sahib, they revere the ten Sikh Gurus, and they follow their teachings. Then why are these 70 lakh people — and many others, like those from the Julaha community or the Ramdasia community, who also number in the lakhs, being excluded? Does that mean they have no rightful connection? What kind of reasoning is this? What kind of irony is this? ... (*Interruptions*)

Just earlier today, Kharge ji was speaking, in zero hour he said, at that time, the Hon. Home Minister said that this matter is sub-judice, he said at that time. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please sit down.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing is going on record.

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

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: This is what I am talking about. ... (*Interruptions*) This matter is also sub-judice. ... (*Interruptions*) you must listen, you are getting an opportunity. ... (*Interruptions*) I am initiating on behalf of my party. ... (*Interruptions*) You were not initiating. ... (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Home Minister initiated it. ... (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Home Minister presented the Bill, he initiated it, he said. ... (*Interruptions*) “I am initiating on behalf of my party, I am speaking during the time of my party. ... (*Interruptions*) This is also sub judice. ... (*Interruptions*) You brought the Bill in the Rajya Sabha with the retrospective effect from the year 2003. ... (*Interruptions*) Since the year 2011, the election of the SGPC Gurdwara Management Committee was not held. ... (*Interruptions*) I am giving the data. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please take your seat.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: After that the court has arranged, interim arrangement is going on. ... (*Interruptions*) When it is

* Not recorded.

pending in the court, it is pending in the Supreme Court, the matter is sub judice. On the other issues you say that matter is sub judice, do not discuss it here, do not bring it, then why are you bringing it. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You please sit down. Let him speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: Who laid the terrorists in Darbar Sahib?... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Sit down please. Address the chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: Sir, the Home Minister is sitting. ... (*Interruptions*) How can terrorists reach Darbar Saheb, whom the whole world prostrates? ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing is going on record.

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

* Not recorded.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: At that Darbar Sahib, an earthen pot was placed, and slips of paper were put into it. A slip would be drawn, and whoever's name was on it would be handed a motorcycle and a sten gun. These individuals would then roam around Punjab, spreading terror. ... (*Interruptions*) A toffee seller was killed. ... (*Interruptions*) A newspaper vendor was killed. ... (*Interruptions*) Somebody killed a Brahmin. ... (*Interruptions*) A Hindu was killed. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Kindly look this way while speaking.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: Hindus were being killed. ... (*Interruptions*) Who brought him, you brought him. ... (*Interruptions*) Bittu ji is sitting with me. ... (*Interruptions*) I was with his grand father Sardar Beant Singh. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please, take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: We used to attend hundreds of gatherings every day. ... (*Interruptions*) the people whom terrorists used to kill. ... (*Interruptions*) We used to go there. ... (*Interruptions*) Your father-in-law used to give gifts to those who used to

kill, what are you talking about. ... (*Interruptions*) You have brought all these things. ... (*Interruptions*) Now you are bringing this Bill for your political gains. ... (*Interruptions*) So that your Gurudwaras are ruled by you. ... (*Interruptions*) You spend the money, that is offered there, for your political end. ... (*Interruptions*) That is why you want to bring it. ... (*Interruptions*) What you talk about minority, you want to create a sub-minority in minority. ... (*Interruptions*) These are 70 lakh people. ... (*Interruptions*) You talk about minority. ... (*Interruptions*) You want to create a word minority in it. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri A. P. Jitendra Reddy.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: Sir, one minute.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Well, now you conclude.

SHRI SANTOKH SINGH CHAUDHARY: Sir, there is a saying in Punjab. ... (*Interruptions*) Then you will get up. ... (*Interruptions*) An old woman went to offer prayers at the Gurudwara Saheb. When she was going inside to bow, the sun was very high, this is to be heard, from there, the father-in-law of our Hon. Member was passing by. ... (*Interruptions*) The old woman took out Rs.10 from her pocket and put it on his steps. ... (*Interruptions*) He asked why are you putting it at my steps? ... (*Interruptions*) The old woman said that even if I put this inside, it will eventually go to your pocket.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now you speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Nothing will go on record. Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy will speak now.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY (MAHABUBNAGAR): Sir, on the Sikh Gurdwaras (Amendment) Bill 2016, I would like to just say that ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): Sir, when he is speaking, he is initiating the Bill. [Translation] The Bill which has been introduced by the Hon. Home Minister here, they are talking on that Bill. Why the interference is happening, I do not understand. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: It was five minutes for them. You have one more speaker, we will give him five more minutes to speak.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: He is the first speaker. You are not allowing him to speak. Every time she is interfering.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I have allowed him. He has already spoken. Shri A.P. Jithender Reddy will speak now.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE: You have the right, then we will talk about it. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Reddy ji, you speak. Madam, you sit down. You have intervened.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Sir, we respect the Sikh community staying in Hyderabad for many years. Our Chief Minister Shri K. Chandrasekhar Rao participated in the Guru Nanak Jayanti recently and has allotted a land for Gurudwara and sanctioned Rs 100 crore for the building also. I am impressed with the appeal made by Madam Minister and therefore I support the Bill wholeheartedly.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): At the outset, let me give unconditional support and surrender before our very honourable, young, firebrand Minister Shrimati Harsimrat Kaur Badal. The year 1925 was a historical year for India because the same year the Gurdwara Act was created, the Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee was born and so also two other very illustrious organizations. One was the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh and the other was the Indian Muslim League. All three catered to small sections of the Indian populace.

The Hindu majority in this country, maybe erroneously or maybe correctly, still believes that Sikhs are an integral part of this country, they are a brave race and they are primarily responsible for thwarting any kind of attacks from the marauders, from the foreigners coming in from Central Asia and many other parts of the world. They were the bulwark which protected the sanity, the security of the subcontinent called India. In your language, you may call Bharat, some may call Hindustan, and I call it India.

First, I must prove my personal, my State's and my party's *bona fides* in participating in this discussion. Why am I participating in this discussion? If you see, it doesn't involve us, maybe perfunctorily. We are outsiders; we have nothing to do with Punjab and their internal

politics. But I am a great admirer of Harsimratji. She is a firebrand person. I requested my leader and he was kind enough to give me time. So, I thought that I must participate. I must prove my State's *bona fides* first.

Guru Nanakji, one of the greatest saints of the Bhakti Movement that history has seen, was a great devotee of Lord Jagannath; not many people are aware of this. He had gone to Odisha and even today three places – Bhadrak, Cuttack and Puri – still have locations where locals go and pray. Those are places of worship because that is where Guru Nankji had stopped to rest on his way to the Lord Jagannath Temple. Interestingly, in Cuttack, there is a Gurudwara called Datan Sahib Gurudwara. It is in a place called Kalu Bedi, which is now called Kalia Buda; but Kalu Bedi was the name of the Guru's father. That is where the Guru had rested. There is an active and live Gurudwara right there now. So, we have the direct connections – spiritual and historical – with Guru Nanakji. As much as the Sikhs of today love him, admire him, and respect and pray to him, so also Odiyas have equal respect. In many Odiya homes, you will find pictures of Guru Nanakji; amongst Jangannath and other deities, they have the pictures of Guru Nanakji. They pray to Guru Nankji. So, legally, I think, we have a right to speak here and to support you. ...
(*Interruptions*)

I would like to point out a few more things. It is also known that the first male child of every Hindu family used to become a Sikh. All of us personally feel that the fall of the Mughal and the Maratha Empires were primarily due to the fighting spirit and courage of the Sikhs, a part of whom were slightly misguided during the Khalistan movement. We must admire that it is the Akalis who actually brought back the few limited Sikhs who were misguided into the mainstream of Indian society and Indian life. I am not talking about 'SAD' because they might be 'SAD' now! But I am talking about the Akali movement. The Akali movement has made a great contribution to upkeep the unity and the sanctity of the Indian nation which can never be ignored.

Coming to present times, the hon. Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Parkash Singh Badal used to be a great friend of our late leader Shri Biju Patnaik and his blessings with the present Chief Minister Shri Navin Patnaik are still there. We consider that Shri Parkash Singh Badal is also somebody whom we can feel one with. Although Madam Harsimrat may not admit we are also a part of Shri Parkash Singh Badal's family. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please conclude.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Honestly, I will conclude in two minutes. You will be surprised.

We see a situation in this country that a mindset is formed which tries to take into account exclusivity. It is from a pained heart that I say that in a situation where we should be inclusive in our attitude we are trying to become exclusive. In the Hindu society, we are looking down on casteism as an exclusive formula by which we will get political benefits. So, these people had engineered such a situation in this country where they created smaller groups whereby these people thought they would benefit by way of votes. Fortunately, the Indian populace understood their evil games and has thrown them to the backyards of Indian politics.

The other cousins, who have come to power now, believe that exclusivity is their exclusive right and, therefore, they are creating more and more smaller groups and their admiration and love for minorities is known all over the globe. So, it is not something I have to tell you, Sir. You are a very learned person. So, their attitude of creating smaller groups is something that one should condone and one should forgive them for they do not know what great damage they are doing to this country. Thank you, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Sir, thank you very much. Today, an amendment is being debated in the Gurudwara Act. I want to ask that there have been many amendments before, why this time only this Bill came in the Parliament and what is the timing of it? What is the reality, as the speakers before me have said that Guru Gobind Singh ji had said that all Sikhs are ordered to treat Granth as Guru, so we consider Guru Granth Sahib as our Guru, we prostrate, we do Ardas everyday, but it has been occupied by some people by mixing religion and politics. ...
(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Who goes inebriated in their Hujuri? ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: Sit down Harsimrat ji. Please sit down. You are the Minister. ... *(Interruptions)* Let us also speak. We have also been elected. You sit down.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please address the Chair.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: They have occupied religion. Now their chairs are slipping, so they are languishing. Tell them, otherwise I won't

... speak. Ask them to sit down, speak when their turn comes. ...
(*Interruptions*) Standing up on everything. ... (*Interruptions*) You have
made up your mind to disturb. You sit down. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Rudi ji, you tell Madam.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: Why are you speaking? I have also been
elected. I have won with the most votes. I have defeated your Sukhdekh
Singh Dhindsa. You sit down. ... (*Interruptions*) You make her sit down.

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Who goes inebriated in
their Hujuri of Guru Sahib?... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: They have taken the contract of religion
and Gurudwaras. ... (*Interruptions*) Make her sit down. ... (*Interruptions*)
Harsimrat Kaur ji, sit down. You speak when your turn comes. Just listen.
... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your time is passing.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: It is difficult to hear the truth. Make her
sit down.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: You are losing your own time.

[Translation]

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: She is not letting me speak. ...
(*Interruptions*) SGPC meant Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, nowadays SGPC means Shiromani Golak Parbandhak Committee.

[English]

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: Sir, I object to it. ...
(*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: The offerings (chadhava) that come in are being used for political purposes. The Jathedars come out of their pockets. Even the decisions of the Akal Takht Saheb seem to come from their pockets. They pardon whoever they want, cancel the pardon of whoever they want. They have gripped religion tightly in their fists. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Speak about the Bill.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: I am speaking about the same. Religion is taken into a fist. No one stop us when we go to pray. We can't vote though.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is the matter of State, you speak about the Bill.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: Why can't we vote? You also can't vote.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: This is the matter of State. You speak about the Bill.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN: They have taken the religion in their control. I oppose this Bill. I want those who consider Guru Granth Saheb as Guru, who go to Gurdwara Saheb every day, all of them should have the right to exercise their right to vote in choosing the Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee. We cannot grant religious legitimacy to a handful of individuals acting in a group. The Sikh faith is far greater than that. We must protect it from such influences. Just as gurdwaras were once freed from the old mahants (priests), today, they may need to be freed again from the new mahants who have taken their place. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB): I wholeheartedly welcome the Sikh Gurdwara Amendment Bill brought by Hon. Home Minister. I want to make two or three things clear in the House. Everyone needs to know why it was required. Those who honestly understand, I think they will understand it correctly. This was because because when this Act was enacted, our colleague went out of the House, he started saying that in the year 1925 they talked about other organisation.

This act was made after a lot of struggles, losing blood, making sacrifices, facing bullets. The day this Act was enacted, Mahatma Gandhi and Nehru ji, the leaders of the country, wrote letter to the Akalis, wrote letter to the President of Akalis. He said that today you have won the first war of freedom of the country, we congratulate you. This letter was written to the President of Akali Dal.

Hon. Chairperson, why was it necessary? In the year 1944, when the British realised that a blunder took place. The Sikh community came to the forefront in the freedom struggle of the country. They will not allow us to rule the country, their aspiration centre needs to be demolished. It should be infiltrated. Our Gurudwara has a dignity. The Sikhism is not made just like that, it is also made by taking head and what Guru Govind

Singh had said about who is a Sikh? “Saabat surat dastaar sajaye, wah mera Sikh kahlaye.” (One who maintains an unshorn form and adorns a turban. he alone shall be called my Sikh.) He is Sabat Surat. One can not become Sikh by tying a turban. He should be full Sabat Surat. This definition has been given by Guru Saheb. ... (*Interruptions*)

I want to say the second thing that in the year 1944 the British again played mischief. They intruded and brought in a new clause of Sehajdhari to reduce our power and from the day they brought clause, till the year 2003, the Shiromani Akali Dal continued to fight. I am saddened by the people who were in power, these people did thing wittily, cleverly, deceitfully. Mahatma Gandhi congratulated the Akalis in Chandni Chowk, the people who were called the mentor of his party stamped the mischief of the British.

I would like to thank Hon. Vajpayee ji who issued a notification in the year 2003 and gave us justice under it. These people instigated some people of the society and sent them to court and the court gave the verdict. We appealed in the Supreme Court, as Chaudhary ji was saying that this is a sub judice matter, this is not subjudice matter, Supreme Court has demanded that there cannot be an amendment by notification, bring it through legislature. That is why, today the Government of India has brought this Bill.

I congratulate and thank the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs. As far as Sikhism is concerned, Chaudhary Santokh Singh ji said very good things about Guru Granth Sahib, I thank him for this, but I want to ask that where Kabir ji's speech is there, where Guru Ravidas ji's speech is there, in which Guru Nanak ji's voice is there, for which we say that all Sikh are ordered to treat Granth as Guru, we consider Granth as Guru, who shot that Guru? Who targeted Guru Saheb's Hikk, they were the ones who shot the bullets. Those who always talk about dividing the country, want to create misunderstanding among people, they will not agree with it. There will be no division in this regard. I want to clarify that a wrong message is going to the public. After the introduction of this Act, there will be no division in the society. Those who are actually Sikhs who believe in decorum, only those who follow the dignity of the Gurdwara have the right to manage the Gurdwara. ... (*Interruptions*) Those who are hypocrites, they cannot manage the Gurudwara. ... (*Interruptions*) They go to the Gurudwara and consume drugs there and eat Chhittar. ... (*Interruptions*) And they pretend to be leader here. ... (*Interruptions*) I want to say that we have a religion, our dignity, we have made the Gurudwara Act after a lot of struggles. Today, the Government of India is going to fulfill our demand and they are pained by this.

Haryana, UT Chandigarh, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab are covered under this Act. When they were in power in the State of Haryana, they formed a new committee there on their own will. They say on the one hand that we are the protectors of religion, on the other hand. ...
(Interruptions)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now their point will not go on record.

... *(Interruptions)**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Charanjit Singh Rodi, you speak.

... *(Interruptions)*

* Not recorded.

15.00 hours

[English]

***SHRI CHARANJEET SINGH RORI (SIRSA):** Hon'ble Chairman Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important bill.

Hon'ble Minister has great regard for the feelings of Sikhs. This is the reason why he brought this bill in this august House. I and my party INLD whole-heartedly support this Bill.

Sir, Sikhs are present in all parts of India. They are present in large number of Haryana too. They have always been at the vanguard to protect the country. Sikhs are very kind and helpful by nature.

Sir, the previous Congress Government in Haryana under Shri Hooda tried to divide the Sikh brotherhood. He tried to set up a separate SGPC for the Sikhs of Haryana. It was a divisive policy. But the Sikhs of Haryana did not fall in this trap and SGPC remains united.

Sir, this bill seeks to unite and strengthen the Sikh brotherhood. It is a move in the right direction. All the Sikhs welcome this Bill. We should pass this bill unanimously.

* English translation of the speech originally delivered in Punjabi

Sir, the Sikhs have made many sacrifices for India. They had to bear a lot of atrocities. The wounds of 1984 and Anti-Sikh Riots are still fresh in our minds. The windows of 1984 are still awaiting justice. They must be provided justice. It has been a long wait of decades now.

In the end, I would like to reiterate my and my party's full support to this bill. Thank you.

15.03 hours

(Shri Pralhad Joshi *in the Chair*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH (LUDHIANA): Chairperson Sir, I am grateful to you. Firstly, I want to say that we are very small in number in the Parliament. Despite that, if we do not listen to each other, then the biggest democracy that we talk about, it would mean that we are not implementing it. We must listen to each other. The one who has majority will get the decision in his favour, but I understand that there is nothing wrong in listening to others. We are from Punjab. First of all, Chaudhary Ji said and several other Hon. Members also stated that the Sikh population in Punjab is approximately 1 crore 75 lakhs. Out of that, there are 55 lakh people who are entitled to cast their vote for the SGPC. 50 lakh people are minors. There is a huge number of Sikhs in this. The new decision being taken will result in nearly 70 lakh people being unable to vote, which means a large section of Sikhs will have no role in the management and upkeep of their Gurdwaras. This clearly shows how right or wrong this decision is. These 70 lakh people will be excluded and will have no say or involvement in the administration of Sikh Gurdwaras. This is the Sikh Gurudwara Amendment Bill 2016, Chandumajra ji spoke about the court, there are two separate cases going on in the court. He

hasn't said that. It is pending in the Supreme Court. Before this, the matter of election of 2011 and 2016 is in court so this is even more wrong if we take this decision here. There were 170 members of SGPC, they have not been able to do their work. If we bring the Bill here, make amendments then it will be non-reasonable. We are talking about Sehajdari Sikh, they are not a non Sikh.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: If you want them to be considered Sikh, then get the amendment made.

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: The definition of Sehajdari Sikh in Sikh Gurdwara Act 1925 is evident on page 46, section 2 in 10(a), in which the definition of Sehajdari Sikh has been clarified. If the Sehajdari Sikhs have been using the right to cast their votes for the last 60 years, what has happened that made us to stop them. It must be answered. What is the problem when they have been voting for 60 years? Will four MPs of Parliament decide about Sikhs? Who gave the right to those who have been voting for 60 years? The BJP is not understanding this issue. They have support in Punjab because they have Chief Minister and their Ministers there. Are they supporting this without even reviewing it, just for the sake of being part of the Council of Ministers. They are doing injustice to 70 lakh people. This matter will not be limited to just Akali Dal. ... (*Interruptions*) It is a very small party in Punjab. The BJP, which

is a party of the country, should be more cautious about it, which is bringing this Bill, this is causing great injustice to the Sikhs, they will have to answer this. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: I am asking him to conclude now. Shri Ravneet Singh, please conclude now.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: As per Section 45, only Amritdhari Sikhs have the right to contest elections. Amritdhari Sikh can contest the elections and the right to vote is that of Sehajdari Sikh. Why do you need to be scared and afraid? If someone is born in a Hindu family, is called a Hindu, if someone is born in a Muslim family then he will be called a Muslim and if someone is born in a Sikh family, then why are you not calling him a Sikh? What's the problem with that? You are removing, Akali Dal is removing. How big divide you are creating that his father will vote but his son will not vote. ... (*Interruptions*) It is a conspiracy to divide the families. The Akali Dal will divide the families.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister will reply at the end.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Harsimrat Kaur ji is our revered, who is very keen to get this Bill passed. I want to tell her that nowhere in the Sikh Gurudwara Act 1925 has it been written that Sehajdari Sikh is a non-Sikh or people of other religion, it is nowhere written in it.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ravneet Singh, you have made your point on that. Please conclude now.

[Translation]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: Then change it to Badal Gurdwara Act. Leave Sikh Gurdwara. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ravneet Singh, please address the Chair.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Hon. Chairperson, he is not quoting this right. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please address the Chair. Please conclude in one minute.

... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: It does not even have the definition of Keshdhari Sikh. If there is a definition of Keshadhari, then let me know. ... (*Interruptions*) If both of my points are proved wrong, I will sit down. This is my challenge. ... (*Interruptions*)

If we talk about 1699, Guru Gobind Singh ji had given nectar to Five Beloved Ones. There were 80,000 Sikh people sitting, Sikh Sangat was sitting, they had not called anyone a non-Sikh. He had called 80,000 people Sikhs after giving nectar to five people. ... (*Interruptions*)

Now I will just take a minute. I want to tell the Parliament that the one who tastes Amrit is called Khalsa and those who did not, are called Sikhs. I want to tell them that there is a difference between the two. ... (*Interruptions*)

I want to tell the House what is the reason behind bringing the amendment? The reason behind this is the budget of Rs. 1,000 crore of SGPC's alone. The Langars, tents, and chairs which go to their rallies, the

SGPC is ordered and the langar starts with queues from the Gurudwaras. They are concerned about this. ... (*Interruptions*) People's Golak money goes up to the langar. They all eat that langar in rallies. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI HARSIMRAT KAUR BADAL: They shoot directly at Darbar Sahib. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: There is an attempt to break Sikhism. This Bill will divide the Minority Sikh Religion into sub-minority. I request you to save Sikhs, save Punjab.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Only Shrimati Meenakashi Lekhi's speech will go on record.

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

* Not recorded.

[English]

SHRIMATI MEENAKASHI LEKHI (NEW DELHI): Hon. Chairman, Sir, I welcome this Act but I wish to support the enactment and the reason is a little historical background which I would like to give. It is pertinent to mention here that the hon. High Court in its judgement dated 20.12.2011 quashed the notification by holding back the said Gurudwara Act cannot be amended through Executive notification. The hon. High Court while quashing the said notification observed: “quashed leaving it for appropriate and competent Legislature to decide as to whether or not any amendment in Sections 45 and 92 or other provisions of Sikh Gurudwara Act, 1925 is to be carried out”.

[Translation]

My first submission is that the reason behind this act has been brought, this amendment has been brought, is the court's judgement. The court judgement ordered that the matter cannot be rectified by notification, you will have to amend the Act before the appropriate authority i.e. the Parliament to rectify this matter.

I was listening to my friends, at first they were trying to create confusion, they quote 1925 Act, they say 1925 Act, but what they cite is the 1944 Act. A difference has been inserted in 1944 Act, I explain it by reading it out. This provision has been mentioned in the proviso -

[English] Provided relevant portion of Section 49 of Sikh Gurudwara Act is reproduced for ready reference provided that no person shall be registered as an elector who trims or shaves his beard or *Kes* except in case of *Sehajdari* Sikh smokes, takes alcoholic drink. Section 92 provides - the Sikh Gurudwara Act says that provided that no person shall be registered as an elector who trims or shaves his beard or *kes* except in case of *Sehajdari* Sikh smokes, takes alcoholic drink.

[Translation]

Now what is to be understood in this, about which our friends have tried to create confusion, it is to think about what work the Gurudwara is for and who the management is for. No one is prohibited to enter the Gurudwara. One who believes in the dignity of the Gurudwara and can also fulfil the responsibility of its maintenance. Voters should be the one who can manage as well. Whoever may contest for the management's election, should be the voter. The reason for this is that when Guru Gobind Singh ji laid the foundation of Sikh religion, he said that five "K" would have to be kept by followers of Sikhism like Kangha, Kesh, Kirpan, Kachha and Kada. Guru ji had said that Khalsa is my form. How can people who cannot keep the form of Khalsa manage the Gurudwaras?

[English]

So, I am supporting this particular enactment only on the basis of one particular statement that when Guru Gobind Singhji laid the foundation for Sikhism, he got people from every community and called it *panch pyaras* and then there were five conditions to be called as Sikhs. Now, people who may believe in Sikhism but do not possess the appearance of a Sikh and do not follow the basic tenets of Sikhism cannot be allowed as part of the management. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, I can go to the extent of mentioning that I have roots in Sikhism. But I cannot be part of the management. Why should I even choose to be part of the management? The only amendment which is sought to be brought now is, bring it back to 1925 Act and amend the 1944 enactment and on the basis of this, I support the amendment.

[Translation]

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: Hon. Chairperson, many Hon. Members have expressed their views in the House regarding the amendment of the Act of the Sikh Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee, I consider the views of all the Hon. Members equally important. Shri Santosh Chaudhary, Shri Jitendra ji, Shri Satpathy, Shri Bhagwant Mann, Shri Chandumajra, Shri Charanjit Singh Rodi, Shri Ravneet Singh and Shrimati Meenakshi Lekhi have expressed their views in this regard. As far as the history of Sikhism is concerned, there is no denying the truth whoever knows the history of India that the biggest contribution in protecting the culture of India is of the people who believe in Sikhism. Even today, the way the Sikh community has protected Indian culture, as a result of this Indian culture has been propagated, disseminated even in other countries of the world and even today people living in other countries of the world have faith and belief in Indian culture. As far as this Act is concerned, I must say about this Act that the Government had received a complaint. A complaint was received by the office bearers of the SGPC by the members that whenever the SGPC elections are held, such people who are not Sikhs are also made voters at the time of elections and it is also tried that they play their role as voters. SGPC management should only be in the hands of those who believe in Sikhism. This is not happening because of such

voters, such complaints were received. General Assembly of the SGPC had passed a resolution in its meeting in 2001 in which they had said to separate the Sehajdhari people from the elections, a resolution was passed only to give voting rights to the Keshadhari, which was supported by the Punjab Government at that time.

Some Hon. Members have also raised the question about the number of Sehajdhari Sikhs and the number of Keshdhari Sikhs here. I don't want to get into that controversy. But I want to place before the House a figure which is available to me at this point of time. When preparations were being made for the election of SGPC in the year 2004, in the calculation of Sehajdhari Sikhs and Keshdhari Sikhs, the number of Keshdhari Sikhs was more than 54 lakhs and the number of Sehajdhari Sikhs was 7.96 lakhs. That means the percentage of Sehajdhari Sikhs in total Sikh population was 12.8 percent at that time. Even if this electoral roll is not made at that time, the innate Sikhs could not use their votes in the elections of 2004 and 2011. In such a situation, what Meenakshi Lekhi ji has thoughtfully said, the Punjab and Haryana High Court had already said that if a competent legislature wants any decision can be taken in this regard. That is why the Government has had to come to the House regarding this Amendment Bill and the Rajya Sabha has passed it unanimously. No party understood the need for a discussion on this.

Everyone has passed it unanimously and I think in this House as well, all the Hon. Members will pass this Bill unanimously because people belonging to every religion have the right to take a final decision on how they want to run their system of religion.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House will now take up motion for consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

“That the Bill further to amend the Sikh Gurdwaras Act, 1925, as passed by Rajya Sabha, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House will now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Shri Ravneet Singh *ji*, would you like to move your amendment No. 1 to Clause 2?

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: No, Sir, I am not moving.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He is not pressing for his amendment.

The question is:

“That clause 2 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Ravneet Singh *ji*, would you like to move your amendment No. 2 to Clause 3?

SHRI RAVNEET SINGH: No, Sir, I am not moving.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That clause 3 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clause 3 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI RAJNATH SINGH: I beg to move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

15.23 hours**REGIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY BILL, 2016**

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Now, Item No. 13, Dr. Harsh Vardhan.

**THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):** I

beg to move:

“That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an institution of national importance to be known as Regional Centre for Biotechnology and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Do you want to speak anything in this regard?

[English]

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I will just briefly introduce about this Bill. This is basically a Bill for the establishment of a Regional Centre for Biotechnology under UNESCO.

In this Bill, we want to give this Institution importance of national level. I wish to inform all the hon. Members that the genesis of this Bill dates back to 2003. At the 167th Meeting of the General Body of UNESCO, the then Science and Technology Minister of this country, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi had moved a proposal that a Regional Centre for Bio Technology should be created in India which should coordinate with all the countries of Asia, share their experiences, research and help each other in all the cutting edge technologies. So, the whole thing started at that Meeting. Since then the subsequent Government also took it up. There was a consultative meeting of the member countries. Then it was taken up by the subsequent Cabinet. Since then it has been crawling at a very slow speed. I feel fortunate that the time has finally come when it came to Parliament for passing.

I have to emphasise a few things. The biotechnology today is that branch of science which is the closest to helping human welfare and helping human beings. This is through bio technology that a lot of cutting edge research is happening for vaccine development, for drug discoveries, for health, human genome activities, genetic engineering, agriculture, clean energy, etc. With these advancements, there is a need for sharing of information and knowledge at the international level also. With every day advances in this field, there is always a need for changing in curriculum

also; in fact, developing new manpower. This Institution is basically going to focus on the education part, the training part and the research part. There will be a huge number of post-graduates and PhDs created through this Institution and they will further help the people and the manpower all-over the country to train them in various fields. Then there will be good quality coordination with the other countries in the Asian Region.

If I have to sum up, the objectives of this Regional Centre are: to disseminate and advance knowledge by providing instructional and research facilities in such branches of biotechnology and related fields as it may deem fit including technology policy development; to provide capacity-building through education, training, research and development in biotechnology and related academic fields for sustainable development objectives through regional and international cooperation; to facilitate transfer of knowledge and technology relating to biotechnology at the regional level; to create a hub of biotechnology expertise in the countries in South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation region, and more generally in the Asia region, and to address human resource needs in the region; to promote and strengthen international cooperation to improve the social and economic conditions and welfare of the people; to promote

and facilitate a network of satellite centres in the region as well as within India.

I have to say that this biotechnology is relatively a new field which emerged in the last 15 years or 20 years in a big way. Around 30 years back, the Department of Biotechnology was created in India. At the moment, we are in a position to become a global leader. This field has a huge potential for societal benefits and economic transformation.

With the coming up and development of this Institute, the level of research that we intend to do in this country under the leadership of Shri Narendra Modi, I think, will go up to the international global standards. We are already in the process of becoming a global leader. By the year 2025 we want to have 100 billion dollars revenue and back up in this industry, that is, biotechnology, in our country.

We have developed several vaccines. The Hepatitis B vaccine is available in this country at 40 times lesser price as compared to the price in the international market. That is why, we can say now that every second vaccine out of three vaccines is from India. We have recently developed the Rotavirus vaccine. A lot of things are happening in the drug discovery field.

We know that we have the problem of the production of pulses. In fact, we grow something like 17 to 18 million tonnes of pulses. Our

requirement is 23 million tonnes. With the advancing biotechnology field and with the genetic engineering that we can, in fact, add to, we can certainly ensure that the growth in pulses, its productivity and all these things are improved. So, we have the potential to solve many critical issues of the society which are related to agriculture and health.

Of course, in the clean energy field, our Department has done well, in fact, from waste to wealth. Recently, two days back I was in Kashipur and inaugurated a plant, where we are going to produce 2G-Ethanol. From a plant, with the ten tons of agricultural waste, we are producing thousands of litres of 2G-Ethanol. Then, we have the potential to create plants with 250 tonnes and 500-tonnes, capacity, which we have developed.

I would say that this is a very long pending Bill. If Parliament gives its consent to this Bill, then this Institute can start functioning in a big way and we can train people from all over the country in a big way. We can become Asian hub and also a hub for the whole country for coordinating our activities in the best possible manner.

Thank you.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an institution of national importance to be known as Regional Centre for

Biotechnology and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

[English]

DR. SHASHI THAROOR (THIRUVANANTHAPURAM): Thank you very much, Hon. Chairperson. I rise to speak in support- but in conditional support-of the Bill that Dr. Harsh Vardhan ji has just introduced before us.

We all know, as he pointed out, that the growth of technology is revolutionizing the way we all lead our lives. Frankly we are struggling in many ways to adapt to its demands. So, the Bill is important. I was listening attentively to his introduction. Biotechnology, of course, is not really a new Science, in the sense that in earlier forms it has existed perhaps for centuries. But, as he rightly said, in its modern manifestation, Biotechnology involves the manipulation of the genetic structure of organisms and introduction of characteristics that can actually bring in specific traits that are helpful to human beings. This is relatively a new Science and I am very pleased that India is very much in the forefront in Biotechnology.

One could argue that the development of the field through, for example, the advent of genetics, has opened really exciting opportunities in this sector. There are many applications-and he has given some examples, which I would not repeat- but overall they promote the improvement of human health, food production, reduction of

environmental or damage. Insulin and Hepatitis vaccine have already been mentioned. BT cotton has been a big success story. We used to be short of cotton, now we are exporting cotton. It is one of the great satisfactions of the UPA Government that we did the work on BT cotton.

I do want to stress, hon. Chairperson, that in this new era in the history of mankind that we are talking about, biotechnology is going to increase rapidly in India. There is no question about it. The applications of modern biotechnology have a great future here, the same for around the world. It holds great potential to give us new solutions, solutions we cannot perhaps even imagine today, for the health and quality of life of our Indian citizens, plus, of course, the significant improvements in agricultural productivity that he mentioned, more nutritious food as well as sustainable development. Sustainable development means development where we pay regard to the environment, and that may be easier to do with biotechnology.

I am increasingly convinced that biotechnology has the potential, Mr. Chairman, to replace information technology as the main engine for development of India and, indeed, of the world. This is why I am quite pleased to welcome the points made here by Dr. Harsh Vardhan. I would add to those, gene therapy, another tool that holds great potential for hope. Even though we do not know enough about it yet but the prospects are

there. Xeno transplantation, which involves transplanting body parts from animals into human beings, is being talked about. We are not yet there in that area. The Chinese are ahead of us. Nano technology is in a process of transition here. Then, of course, from a security point of view, the risk of bio-terrorism cannot be underestimated. We are facing such serious terrorism threats in our country, and the fact is that there are serious implications if biological agents can be used to harm our people.

I agree with the hon. Minister that India is poised to emerge as a force, a real force to reckon with, in the biotechnology sector. We are well on the way to being a 10-billion dollar industry already. That is why the industrial applications are important. It is a great opportunity for companies in the private sector as well, and they need to work with academic institutions to network and develop ties between universities and industry so that our growth of biotechnology can proceed in both areas.

This is why, Mr. Chairman, I am so pleased to welcome the Bill as it has been put forward to us here by the hon. Minister. Nonetheless, there are a few things that I want to bring to his attention as he moves forward with this Bill. That is why I spoke of conditional support.

Firstly, we still need to do a great deal more, Mr. Minister, in improving the quality and quantity of our biotechnology graduates to

meet the demands of the biotech industry. There is an independent report by Ernst & Young, which is actually quite critical both of the number of biotech graduates that we have -- perhaps because of the paucity of institutions -- and also of the quality of many of these graduates. I think, we need to address that.

Secondly, the Government itself is lagging behind. Dr. Harsh Vardhan said that this has taken a long time. There are other things that have taken a long time. I think that the Indian Government quickly needs to enact regulatory reforms and do much more on the infrastructure front as well, as well as providing more incentives to biotechnology.

I will come back to regulation in a minute. But inadequate infrastructure is pointed to by everybody. Even the existing leaders of the biotechnology industry such as the founder chairman of Biocon, Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw, said in an interview that 'it is really a crying shame' what our infrastructure is. And, I am sure that Dr. Harsh Vardhan will want to talk to his colleague, the Finance Minister, about providing some financial incentives to the biotech industry, which frankly, are simply not present, right now.

The hon. Minister mentioned that this Bill will grant the new institution in Faridabad set up in 2009, the status of an Institution of National Importance. That is very important. I welcome that. But I do

want to point out that in my Constituency, Thiruvananthapuram, the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology, which Dr. Harsh Vardhanji had visited with me a few months ago, was established seven years before the institution in Faridabad, in 2002. I have also been requesting its upgradation to the status of an Institution of National Importance. We know the case for the Faridabad centre is that it would provide them with facilities such as ease of technology transfer, recognition as a global platform, the right to give degrees, resources for conducting quality research. But in their welcome focus on this new institution, they should not forget the earlier ones, and I am sure that Dr. Harsh Vardhan, who had a very positive visit to the Rajiv Gandhi Institute in Thiruvananthapuram, will agree with me that we do not want to leave a pioneer in this area by the wayside. I really feel that we need to offer this kind of support.

I want to point if I may, to Wikipedia, which has a ranking of the top 10 schools/universities offering courses in biotechnology in India. Number one is the Institute of Chemical Technology in Mumbai and number two is the Rajiv Gandhi Centre for Biotechnology in Thiruvananthapuram. I am afraid the Faridabad Centre does not get featured in the top 10. So, we have a long way to go. I am not in any way speaking against an institution. I want more institutions in our country

and I want them all to be good. But please honour the ones that are doing well; that are working well; and that require support.

I also want to point to one particular point in the Bill that Dr. Harsh Vardhan did not mention in his remarks. He mentioned the various objectives in the Bill and I do not think we have any fundamental problem with them. But one of the functions spelt out in Section 9 is, “to develop and implement a policy for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) with equitable and just provisions for all stakeholders”. Now, this is a priority function, as you know, Mr. Chairman. The preservation of intellectual property is a broad principle that India is committed to but the Intellectual Property Rights of biotechnology research has been a major concern, partly because of the complexity of provisions in IPR laws around the world, and certainly our own IPR laws have left something to be desired.

Now, in this context I do want to mention that there are a whole number of issues with regard to TRIPS. Our patent laws do not match the trade related intellectual property laws that we have signed up to as a Government and I would urge the Minister to pay some serious attention to this question of reconciling trade related intellectual property rights to our Indian patent laws, and if necessary, moving to amend our laws as appropriate or if not, at least then to put conditions on our accession to

the TRIPS because this again becomes a significant factor in the growth of the biotechnology industry.

Mr. Chairman, then, I want to express some concerns. Many of us have some disappointment that this House has not enacted a Bill from the UPA era, the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill, 2013. We introduced it in the Lok Sabha in April of 2013. It was referred to a Committee. It never came back to the floor with all the various disruptions of the House and in the end it was not adopted. Of course, the Bill that was introduced in the Lok Sabha lapsed when the previous Lok Sabha got dissolved. I would like to urge my good friend, the hon. Minister to take up this issue.

The question of regulating biotechnology has to move side by side with all the enthusiasm that he has rightly shown for this creation of the institute in Faridabad. And, in regard to the new Bill, I am all in favour of us cooperating with UNESCO. I have welcomed the fact that we want to be a hub for the other countries of South Asia and South East Asia. All that is fine. But what is the regulatory framework under which our biotechnology work is going? This institute has not been planted out of nowhere. There is a context. The context lies in the laws, rules and regulations of India, which, very frankly in our own estimation as a Government, when we were in Government we felt, were inadequate for

the challenges that the country faces, and, we, therefore, produced a draft Bill for regulation.

Now, we are not wedded to one particular Bill or former Bill. But we would urge the Minister to go back to that Bill, resurrect it, taking into account the findings of the Committee that looked into the Bill in 2013, which I believe, has submitted its report and then to see whether we cannot move both side by side. Yes, we can go ahead and adopt this Bill today. But as part of the process, you are creating institutions. You are saying they are of national importance. Let us also, as part of that process, have an adequate regulatory framework. That is also of national importance. This is required by the Convention on Biological Diversity which we are a signatory of. It is also a part of the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety because after all, regulation is not only about control or command and control. It is about safety as well. I myself am not a great fan of command and control systems. What we are worried about is, under what framework will these institutions grow and how can we ensure that we are also kept safe in the process?

The purpose of regulation must be the protection of the Indian people just as the purpose of the growth of biotechnology must be the prosperity, the health and the wellbeing of the Indian people. So, I think we cannot disagree with the objectives. We are all of the same view. We do know

that some of our friends in the environmental NGOs have a slightly more challenging notion of some of these issues when it comes to us and when it comes to issues of biotechnology.

I do not want to enter into all those debates here because we will needlessly take up the time of this House. It is certainly worth returning to this debate on a later date because very recently, one of our major media outlets had an interesting column attacking the political establishment for having been so backward in its attitude towards biotechnology in relation to agriculture. I am sure that many would agree that we can be more imaginative in extending the benefits of biotechnology.

Having said all this, let me once again welcome this Bill and request the hon. Minister to, along with it, look at the Regulatory Authority Bill, to look at the patent structures in the country, to look further at the inadequate infrastructure that is hobbling our biotechnology companies and, finally, to encourage our biotechnology companies and academic institutions to work together. When you have an institution like this one in Faridabad, it would be very helpful if they were encouraged – indeed permitted in the first place – to have a relationship with private sector companies so that they can do collaborative research with industrial applications and marketing potential. Can you imagine a situation where

a company goes to this institute and says that ‘we have here ‘X’ number of rupees to offer. If you have the right kind of Ph.D. students, we want you to research this and we will help you. Then, if you actually find a solution, we can patent it together or you can patent it and we can produce it and we can share the profits.’? This kind of thing happens routinely in the Western world. It does not happen enough, if at all, in our country. I urge the hon. Minister, in administering this institution, to ensure that all these possibilities are also included.

With these words, Mr. Chairman, I would like to express our support for the passage of this Bill and hope that these other ideas will be taken forward in its implementation in the years to come.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL (DOMARIYAGANJ): Hon. Chairperson, I am extremely grateful to you that you have introduced a Bill of national importance “The Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016” which the Hon. Minister has just presented before the House and the way he has brought an amendment regarding sharing each other’s knowledge in education, research, in training and matters of national importance with international and SAARC members, I definitely welcome it.

Just now, Tharoor ji himself admitted that today we have a large share in the world in the field of biotechnology. Certainly, our credibility has also increased. Today to fulfil the purpose of this Bill in the field of biotechnology, our Government is amending this Bill with four main objectives. [English] The first objective is of disseminating knowledge by providing teaching and research facilities in biotechnology and related fields. The second one is to facilitate transfer of technology and knowledge in the SAARC region and generally Asia. The third one is to create a hub of biotechnology expertise. The fourth one is of promoting cooperation at the international level. [Translation] It is natural that there is not need to define its importance today, as it has certainly been highlighted — especially what the Hon’ble Minister began his address with, mentioning that in the year 2006, a Memorandum of Understanding

was signed, in which India was also a party [English] with United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation, UNESCO regarding establishment of the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Training and Education in India. [Translation] That year, by signing the MoU of 2006, India with its SAARC Countries, in an agreement with UNESCO and then from the executive order of the Government with respect to the year 2009 we have opened a National Level Biotechnology Training and Education Centre at Faridabad, Haryana.

But the esteemed House also knows, Tharoor ji also knows that the Biotechnology Regional Centre which we opened in 2009 through an Executive Order, it is natural that any centre established through such an Executive Order would have a governing or controlling body, and that body would naturally be of the Government of India. Unless we make it a statutory body, it does not have that sanctity. An institution created through an Executive Order does not enjoy autonomy; it lacks independent status. It ultimately works on the sweet will of the Government of India. If anyone wants to do changes, it is done with the opinion of the Government of India and there is also the interference of the Government of India. Today I understand that the amendment that the Hon. Minister has made, has done completely to give this regional centre a Legislative backing. After the passage of this Bill, I can say with

certainty that where Mr. Shashi Tharoor is saying that they are giving conditional support to it—what exactly is that support for? Until now, whatever regulation this body was under, or whatever regulations were being made, it was the Government of India that was making them.

Now, from the day this Amendment Bill is passed by this House unanimously, then definitely after the introduction of this Bill, this regional centre will become autonomous in a way to regulate itself, they will create their own rules and regulations. Certainly, the Government is going to give a legislative authority to that body. It was formed around 2009. I believe that if legislative power was truly intended to be conferred—such that any changes could be made only by Parliament—then this should have been done by the previous government. Today, we would like to congratulate Modi ji's government for granting this institution of national importance a legal authority, for giving it legislative backing.

I think what is its significance. If you see, definitely the education, research or training which is in it, after all, its scope is not limited to biomedical sciences or to pharmaceuticals only. It has a very broad range now that today we also study, train and research about biomedical sciences from this centre. It is also working on molecular and cellular biology. Work is also being done on bioengineering and devices. Work is

also being done on biochemistry, on biophysics and on industrial biology. Climate sciences—on which Prime Minister Modi has focused extensively, especially in international conferences—have seen significant efforts by India in the areas of global warming and climate change. India has, in a way, taken a leadership role, and today the entire world is agreeing with our stance on reducing carbon emissions. Work is also progressing in the field of climate science. Work is also being done on agriculture and environment. The discussions around biotechnology regulatory affairs or IPR and their related policies make it evident that the Regional Centre for Biotechnology is becoming increasingly significant, not just regionally, but globally, as the world has recognised the importance of this field. Therefore, it is natural that if we are bringing a Bill or an amendment today to provide this institution with statutory power and legislative backing, then surely, this is a historic day for the institution itself. Because once this Bill is given legislative backing, the status it will attain will be of national importance. And with this national importance, whether it is scientific, technical education, or the authority to grant degrees, the powers of the Regional Centres will certainly increase. [English]The powers of the Regional Centre will include providing for Masters degree, post-graduate diploma and doctoral degrees in biotechnology and related subjects including biological, medical,

agricultural and engineering and other relevant sciences; instituting academic positions like professorship and appointing persons to such positions; determining standards of admission to the regional centre; and fix, demand and receive payment of fees. [Translation] So, there will be an autonomy in all these things.

Today definitely, as long as this institution is working as an executive body, you will agree that there is also a day to day interference in it. From the day this Bill is passed, definitely, the Government is withdrawing its own interference. Whether it is its day-to day affairs or the board's powers or making laws in relation to that board, that power, that autonomy is definitely going to give this institution through this Act. This Act is definitely going to give a strength to the Regional Centre for Biotechnology in itself. When strength is available, the way our learned Member said that I will request the Hon. Minister, I think maybe he still feels that this is the institution of executive body, the Government's interference or that kind of interference will continue to remain in it, I think the way skill development is discussed today, the way our Government has priorities in the field of biotechnology, there is a clear vision of our Government that our scientists, they are creating some cheapest medicines in the world which is being used by every third person in the world. How big of an achievement is this. Perhaps we will give

autonomy to it, then we will be the most pioneer institution in the world and this country will grow further in the field of medicine or in the field of pharmaceuticals in the way we are growing today. Naturally, when we grow in this field, there will be placements for those students of ours from the field of biotechnology or biomedical in this country, there will be scope for them to do research. There will also be a great scope of training for them, which is very limited as of now.

Today, if you observe, our excellence, the talent of our country, can be seen at various centres across the world. If you go to any biotechnology centre, you will find Indian scientists there. So, naturally, this amendment will prove to be a milestone in that direction. The way the Hon. Minister has brought this, I would definitely congratulate the Hon. Minister that the authority over the Regional Centre is of administration, functionalities, Board of Governors or the Programme Advisory Committee, Executive Committee, Finance Committee. I do not want to go into detail in these things, but what happens today is that all these kinds of bodies of excellence or the way we have such bodies, if they have to take a permission or approval from the Government for day to day working, whether it is a matter of any policy decision or related aspects like financing, required funds, or the standards to be followed—naturally, our research will also be impacted. When the very purpose of this centre

was to develop it in such a way, as agreed in the memorandum, it is only natural that as we aim to make this institution more autonomous among SAARC countries, granting it autonomy will certainly enhance the quality of research, training, and education. Therefore, I believe that after the passage of this Bill, the Governing Body will gain the freedom to make its own decisions. This autonomy will empower the Board of Governors, not just for the interests of our own country, but also in the context of SAARC nations and other countries where such research is taking place. ... (*Interruptions*) I am concluding.

Then, in a way, we will have healthy competition with the rest of the world. I am confident that, following this Bill presented by the Hon. Minister, everyone will support its unanimous passage. After this Bill is passed, the centre in Faridabad, Haryana will not only be of national importance but will also emerge as an international centre for education.

I definitely support the Bill which has been presented by the Hon. Minister and I would appeal that this Bill should at least be passed unanimously and no one should put conditions, because today it is a matter of forming regulations, its freedom or it is a matter of legislative backing. Thank you very much.

[English]

DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANAGHAT): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016. It is a welcome decision by the Government to introduce this Bill. Though we have enough human resources and world-class laboratories, the point is what its contribution in real terms for the development of biotechnology sector is. We are among the 12 top countries in the world. But what is our contribution? We have only two per cent of the global trade share. It is almost negligible.

16.00 hours

(Shri K.H. Muniyappa *in the Chair*)

It is not that hon. Shri Narendra Modiji started research on biotechnology. Biotechnology research is a continuous process. It is a research of long years of glorious past. If we critically examine the history and achievement of bio-technological research in India, our achievement is almost negligible. It is almost zero because there is no significant patent credited to our institutes. They are not filing a considerable number of patents for their credits. There are lots of institutes. But those institutes are only for giving degrees. They do not have sufficient teaching facilities; they do not have laboratory facilities. There are many private colleges, many institutes across the country. Every year, a lot of students

are coming out of these institutes. But what is their contribution in the field of bio-technology? That is my first question to the hon. Minister.

It is not a solution to give national importance to an institute. It is better to strengthen all the institutes uniformly. Most of the time, the Union Government is giving importance to North India or South India. The Eastern part of India is being neglected by almost all the Governments. Please try to set up institutes related to bio-technology in West Bengal because West Bengal is very sound agriculturally. It has higher productivity in agriculture sector. But there is no bio-technology institute related to agriculture in the Eastern part of India. Therefore, I would urge upon the Union Minister to please look into the matter. It is good to give national importance to one Institute. But it is more important to give importance to other institutes also so that we can exclusively go towards the destination where we can satisfy our people. We can feed our huge population at large.

The Regional Centre for Bio-technology was established in 2006 by the Department of Science and Technology under the auspices of UNESCO. It is not an Institute of national importance right now. It is also not listed among the top ten bio-technology institutes. However, Faridabad is blessed with this Institute where the Union Government paid their attention. In West Bengal, there is an Indian Institute of Chemical

Biology. A good quality research work is going on there. But the Union Government is not taking care of that Institute. So, wherever we have biotechnology institutes in India, please ensure that laboratory facilities, teaching facilities and its quality. Otherwise, those who are passing out from these Institutes may not be the wealth of the nation; they may be the burden of the nation. Even it is a quick growing industry. The Minister is expecting 30 per cent annual growth in the coming years. But we do not have qualified human resource for these upcoming industries. I would urge the Government to please ensure that.

This institute particularly in Faridabad has some important jobs. One is research on the pre-term neonatal deaths. In that field they are doing good work. They have a memorandum of understanding with another important institute of Japan. So, some of the important work they have started but they need to establish sub-centres in different States where it is required. And they should develop laboratories in different parts of the country so that they become really a nationally important institute. Otherwise, if you equip this Faridabad institute and do not look at other institutes, it will not work. My submission is that an agriculturally sound State like West Bengal may be given due importance in the field of setting up biotechnology institutes. This way you can serve the nation.

The mandate of this centre is to provide a platform for biotechnology education, training and research at the interface of multiple disciplines. The programmes of the centre will be designed to create opportunities for students to engage in a multidisciplinary research where they learn biotech science while integrating engineering, medicine and science to provide solutions for human and animal health, agricultural and environmental technologies.

We have reservations to accept new innovative sciences and discoveries. Bt Cotton, Bt Brinjal are simple examples. This is not accepted by a section of society and some are advocating for that. A uniform decision is not taken by the Government. We do not know. It is important as to what regulations, what guidelines are to be incorporated. I think personally that regulation in the field of research is not working. Scientists do their work independently. Research should be fundamental and no Government interference should be there. But guidelines should be imposed on a certain section. But Government should take a decision whether biotechnologically engineered crops or genetically modified crops are advocated or not, are advisable to cater to the needs of society or not. That should be decided by the Government. That is my request to the Government. Please look into the matter. Make regulations, make guidelines, but there should be certain limits. You should not interfere

with the fundamental research and you should not give instructions to scientists. They independently do their own work. And it is not that this present Government has started research on biotechnology or other sciences.

Nanotechnology is equally important but that is not given due importance.

As biotechnology, the modern science, has a glorious past and an untapped great future, it should be allowed to develop. Simultaneously, there should be one nationally important nanotechnology research centre in India so that we can at least cater to the needs of the coming years of this country. Thank you.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Sir, I have in my hand a 26-page Bill brought forward by most respected Minister Shri Harshvardhanji. Amazingly, all these 26 pages are full of hows, whens, whos and about how to run an institution. All of that boils down to three lines at the end of the Bill which says, ‘This is a Bill. I am talking about the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill 2016- a Bill to provide for the establishment of an institution of national importance to be known as Regional Centre for Biotechnology and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.’

That is very good. My question to the Government and to the hon. Minister is how long we would continue with creating these stand-alone and isolated institutions whose investment is high? The youngsters who pass out, who are trained, who are educated there and who have done research, are brilliant. But if you go to Google and you search Indian scientists, you will be surprised to get a plethora of names of Indian scientists. But the interesting fact is that all of them have done research and found very interesting things. Where? In the US, in Germany, in England, in some other country except India. Sadly, there are many brilliant scientists in India who have invented usable things which can actually be very beneficial to our agriculture, to our healthcare system.

But there is no connect between the outputs of those institutions such as the one we are now going to vote and obviously pass because they are in a brute majority, and the ground level as far as a doctor is concerned or as far as a farmer is concerned.

I would like to point out just one small example of a thing called pheronorm which has been developed by very young and very capable scientists at Bhubaneswar in Odisha. These are like little plastic pallets and each one costs around Rs 4 to 5. For an acre of land, all you have to do is to put four of these tablets at four corners and one in the middle. Amazingly, for a whole season, you will not have the problems of pests attacking your crops. Pesticides which are very expensive, which are damaging to the health and environment and are destroying the groundwater of this country will not be required to be used. But because of this massive disconnect between our researchers, our brilliant scientists, however few they may be but their practical inventions at the ground level, we are not actually benefiting from these stand-alone institutes.

At the very outset, I am not opposing this Bill. That is not my intention. I am a positive man. I do not oppose for the sake of opposition but I oppose because over so many years in Parliament I am seeing that our policy has been such that we do not take cognizance of what is

required at the ground, what we can do, and how we can benefit the poorest of the poor.

As you know and as the hon. Minister said so, vaccines developed by Indian agencies are 40 times less expensive than the international brands. I hope I am correct. Some of the medicines are actually going down to the public and are benefiting them. There is no doubt about that. Some of them which you sell for Rs. 210, a SmithKline or a Hoechst or a Merck would be selling for Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 4,000.

There is also the other aspect about the generic medicines. Our generic medicines, if you see their packaging, are not necessarily packaged as the international brands are. But whatever their packaging is, if a price of Rs. 140 is written on it, when you go and buy it, they sell it to you at Rs. 20 or Rs. 40. Now, there is confusion among the users: Is this genuine? Can I depend on this medicine? Will it save my life?

Generic medicines developed in India have been able to produce antibiotics, TB, HIV and anti-malaria medicines. All of these have been done India but because we do not take care of the smallest need of what has been done at the retail level, we are losing out. When we are losing out, our people are losing out on the benefits that the system is offering. It does not reach the people. They are suspicious of generic medicines.

On the one hand our brother-doctors are very hesitant to prescribe generic medicines because doctors themselves need to be made aware of what the generic medicines are capable of. Some of them are frightened. Some of them are influenced by multinational pharma companies. I will not blame the whole doctor brotherhood and sisterhood just because a few bad apples do not spoil the whole bunch. It is the same here amongst politicians also. There is a bad bunch here or there but it does not mean all of us are bad. So, all doctors are not bad. But generic medicine is not generally being prescribed which makes them out of reach or it does not reach the people.

Big corporate hospitals are generally not going for generic medicines. This Institute is coming up in Faridabad. You have to take care whether the Jats will not bring it down or not; will it produce something that will benefit the public; and if it does produce something does it actually sink down and come to the people. This is one thing we have to take care where the functionality of our inventions and our creations are concerned.

The other part that really concerns me and bothers me is the weak-kneed approach of our Government. I am talking about the Government of India; I am not talking about the UPA Government or the NDA Government. It is all the same. They were bowing down before the US;

these people are kneeling down before the US. There is no difference for me. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI SONIA GANDHI (RAIBAREILLY): There is a difference. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: But Madam with all respect, you know we were all happy and proud of this Government and our administrators that they had the courage to give visa to a Chinese dissenter. I personally thought that this Government had the gumption and courage and has the – what you Hindi people say – *manobal*, the innate strength to stand up to the bully that China has evolved itself into.

But, lo and behold, last night they revoked that visa. It is a shame. Either you did not give the visa at all from the beginning so you know you have a policy or if you did give it you should have the courage to stand by it, where also you fell flat.

Therefore, the other concern for me is, today the 25th of April, 2016 in Perth, Australia there is a free trade talk starting between the big leagues. Some of the social activist groups have produced data from leaked documents which says that pharmaceutical companies and the US Government directly are putting pressure to ensure that generic medicines will become far more difficult and far more expensive to be accessed in Asia and particularly in India. When these international NGOs are trying

to talk to the Indian Government and convince them not to falter, not to bow down before the US because our generic medicines are not only being sold in India they are being sold in Thailand, Vietnam and in many other neighbouring countries and that is where you should actually prove that you are a super power. It is another matter that you cannot give a glass of water to your citizens, that you do not have potable water. That failure is amazing but that is not the issue.

The issue is, Sir, that when pressure will mount on you what will these single stand alone institutes do. It is your policy that will decide the fate of this country. It is your courage that will decide the fate of this country.

So, before I wind up, I will wind up Sir I am disciplined, I would like to plead before the Government – I am willing to kneel down before you but I do not wish you to kneel before China – and say do not kneel before the US, do not kneel before the multinational pharma companies. They may bribe, may give favours to many people around. Let us stand up and let us take a stand that we will make generic medicines and biotechnology as a science accessible to our farmers and to our poor, to the unhealthy, to the health care system.

These two things I believe biotechnology will cover very intensely. I expect you to make up your mind whether you want to address these issues and take the country forward on a path to become a super power

which seems like a very far away dream because we do not even have drinking water. So, all these things, all these paraphernalia, that we are showing now as being achievements of the Government, I would request the Government to reconsider whether all this investment is worth or not and if you are making these investments what will be the result of those investments. Thank you, Sir.

[English]

SHRI MUTHAMSETTI SRINIVASA RAO (AVANTHI) (ANAKAPALLI): Thank you, Sir. I rise to support the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016.

The Government has brought this Bill because India had entered into an agreement in 2006 with the UNESCO to set up a Regional Centre for Biotechnology at Faridabad, Haryana, to serve the member countries of UNESCO. So, this Bill provides a legislative backing to the regional centre. Moreover, it confers upon the status of an institution of national importance.

Sir, as the House is aware an institution of national importance is an institute that imparts scientific and technical education and is empowered to grant degrees. The objective of the Bill is laudable. It aims at disseminating knowledge by providing teaching and research facilities in bio-technology and related fields. It also aims at facilitating transfer of technology and knowledge in the SAARC region and Asia. It will also create a hub of bio-technology and create expertise and promote cooperation at the international level. There are already a number of biotechnology research centres in various universities and institutes in the country including the CCMB at Hyderabad. I feel there should not be any duplication of work, particularly in respect of research publications. If

possible, the hon. Minister may consider inviting foreign faculties as guest speakers to meet the shortage of staff in these centres.

Sir, the Board of Governors do not have in its Board a public representative. Perhaps, the hon. Minister may think of considering this suggestion of including a public representative in the Board of Governors. Regarding review of the functioning of the centre, review should be held every two years instead of four years by persons appointed by the Union Government. The hon. Minister has not mentioned about the funds, particularly about the contribution of the UNESCO to the centre. Government of India is spending a sum of Rs. 55 crore on this centre and the recurring expenditure on this centre would be around Rs. 25 crore. So, while setting up of a centre in Southern India in near future, the Government may consider setting up of such a centre in the State of Andhra Pradesh because of the rich bio-diversity of the State and because of the scope of scientific development in the place, particularly at Visakhapatnam.

My friends spoke about research and development. First of all, I would like to appreciate the Government of India for allocating a sum of Rs. 7280 crore in the Union Budget 2016-17 for conducting research which is an increase of Rs. 793 crore as compared to the Budget of 2015-16. Many exemptions like Service Tax and others have been provided.

My colleagues in the House have already mentioned that the Indian Bio-Tech industry holds merely 2 per cent share of the global Bio-tech Industry. We have nearly 800 bio-tech companies in India which are growing at an average rate of about 20 per cent. But there is scope for improvement in both research and development. Some of my friends mentioned about education. First of all, we have to think about stopping the brain drain that is taking place.

Once upon a time India was the source of inventions. There has been mention about the ICBM but the first rocket was invented and used in 1790 in the war fought by Tipu Sultan in Mysore. NASA has the records in this regard. Our hon. Minister is a doctor by profession and he understands the importance of scientists and research and development. Many Indian scientists are going abroad because of so many reasons. Even in recent times there are instances of scientists leaving the country. In the universities now we are witnessing a lot of political interference. There is castism, regionalism, communalism in the universities. So, the universities should work independently without any political interference, without any disturbances and it is then only that we can stop this brain drain.

The other point is that we should also increase the Budget for research and development, not only in the field of biotechnology but in other

spheres of research also. If you look at the developed countries like the USA, Europe or China, you would find that because of advantage of technology, these countries have developed so much. We have a lot of human resources in the country. About 60 per cent of our population are below 35 years. So, these people have a lot of energy, courage and potential but we have to guide them in the right way. If they are guided properly, then India will definitely become a super power.

Some of our friends mentioned about bio-terrorism. We have to take care of that as well. It is because our neighbouring countries are more focussed on spreading terrorism, instead of development. For any institution, be it this institution or any private institution or Government institution, industry-institution interaction is very important. If we are simply focusing only on training without industrial expectations, after finishing their degree or post graduation or Ph.D. again it will be a problem to the students. So, on par with education and research, if they have industry-institution interaction as a part of the curriculum, definitely, it will help the students so that after they finish their studies, they will join the industry and be useful to the industry.

Then, Biotechnology Regulatory Authority Bill should be introduced because biotechnology or biopharma are one of the thrust areas in society. Without a Regulatory Authority, we cannot proceed

further. With the country offering numerous comparative advantages in terms of R&D facilities, knowledge, skills and cost effectiveness, the biotechnology industry has immense potential to emerge as a global key player.

India constitutes around 8 per cent of the total global generics market by volume indicating a huge untapped opportunity in the sector. Outsourcing to India is projected to spike up after the discovery and manufacture of formulations. Hybrid seeds, including GM seeds represent new business opportunities in India based on yield improvement.

India currently has a marginal share in the global market for industrial enzymes that is estimated to reach about 4.4 billion US dollars by 2015. Hence, there is an opportunity in focused R&D and knowledge-based innovation in the field of industrial enzymes which can innovatively replace polluting chemical processes into eco-friendly processes that also deliver environmental sustainability.

Another interesting field of study is the area of bio-markers and companion diagnostics which will enable to optimize the benefits of biotech drugs.

Lastly, I appreciate the Government and the Minister. Even after seven to eight years, they are giving legality to this institution. I do not

know about the students who have already completed their degree and their Ph.D. without this legality.

India has all the ingredients to become a global leader in affordable healthcare. If there is an annual investment of 4 billion dollars to 5 billion dollars in the next five years, the biotech industry can grow to 100 billion dollars by 2025 with a 25 per cent return on investment and set a growth rate of 30 per cent year on year.

With these few words, I support the Bill. I thank you for giving this opportunity.

[English]

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY (CHEVELLA): Sir, we have had some very visionary leaders in the past. Almost 15 years ago, during his term as the Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee said: “While Information Technology stands for India Today, Biotechnology stands for Bharat Tomorrow.” I think that tomorrow has arrived and we are now discussing the Biotechnology Bill for introducing an institution in Faridabad.

Hon. Minister, Shri Harsh Vardhan himself had said that he believes that this industry has a potential to grow like the IT industry over the next ten years and beyond. We all agree with him. It is not only that. Since early 2000, successive Governments have also contributed and we have reached this point that we have a Strategy of 2015-2020 for developing Centres of Excellence and now, the establishment of the Regional Centre for Biotechnology as an autonomous body. It is a positive step for the development of a country.

Biotechnology will have a huge positive impact on various sectors and some of our colleagues have covered that point. It has impacts on agriculture, healthcare, pharma, vaccines, food processing, sanitation, textiles, mining and other areas like sanitation and garbage management.

The bio-technology actually converts or replaces physical, chemical and mechanical process into a bio-technological process which is environment friendly and uses less energy and has less pollution. There are many examples for that. There are some cutting edge research which is happening the world over and many of them have solutions from Swachh Bharat to Make in India to all the schemes and all the sectors the Government is involved in. I think one of the recent developments is the Delhi garbage burning. There is an enzyme called cellulase that converts cellulose into carbohydrates and carbohydrates into bio-fuels like alcohol, which again has to be used in petrol for blending. We are at that cutting edge. We need a little more impetus. There is an Indian scientist who has discovered bacteria which makes garbage smell like fragrance. There is a stonewash jeans. We actually washed with stones in the past and now we just put some enzymes. These are frivolous. But the more important things are agriculture, healthcare and vaccine. These make huge impact.

While we support this Bill, which is very much required, we need some clarity and we have some suggestions also to make. Clause 6 of the Bill provides that the jurisdiction of this Centre would extend to other Centres as well, new and existing. So, while this Centre will gain autonomy, do existing autonomous Centres lose their autonomy to this Centre? There is a scope where existing Centres can be taken over by this

Centre. I think that may not be very desirable. While this has to be encouraged, the other independent Centres at Hyderabad, Thiruvananthapuram and the other 23 Centres also need to be encouraged.

The Department of Biotechnology is providing teaching programmes in 71 universities across the country. Apart from these places, there are other Centres, such as National Agri Food Biotechnology Centre in Mohali and Biotech Genomics in Kalyani, West Bengal. So, there is a biotech centre in West Bengal. Many States like Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Chhattisgarh have their own biotechnology strategy. Now, are these in conflict with this Centre? I think the Centre needs to take cognizance of the States schemes also and what they are doing because that is very significant.

The Bill is silent on the affiliation of these Centres after the passing of the Bill and also about the integration of the State policy. Is this going to be a nodal Centre for the whole country or is this going to be just one more like the other 23 Centres? I feel it should be one of the Centres of excellence and should not be the nodal agency because that may imply that the other Centres of excellence will lose their autonomy.

Clause 17 says that two members can be nominated by the UNESCO and three members by Member States of UNESCO. Is there a scope of losing the real autonomy that we can have if only the Government of India

decides who will be the members? This is a question which you may like to reply. I think there are totally 14 members. Six or seven members can be UNESCO nominees. So, I hope we do not lose our autonomy in this process because I think we need to look at the administrative process, whether it requires a simple majority or two-thirds majority for passing any Resolution of the Board.

Another significant aspect is this. I think Dr. Shashi Tharoor and other hon. Members raised this point. The Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India Bill was introduced in 2013 and lapsed in the Fifteenth Lok Sabha. I think that needs to be revived. The Bill envisaged setting up an independent authority, the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India to regulate organisms and products of modern biotechnology. Having an independent authority would help solve the other issues and ensure focused and efficient research in the field.

Some of the critical areas of biotechnology are missing. Probably they are implied but they are missing in the Bill. While the Centre is already engaged in education and research in the field of bio-drug, discovery science, nano science, medicine, imaging techniques, designer crop, etc., I think it misses the important aspects of bio-fuels, enzymes, and cellulose, which is a cutting edge technique, and vaccine technologies. They are not mentioned in this Bill.

Earlier, today hon. Member, Shri Satpathy and hon. Minister Shrimati Nirmala Sitharaman talked about cell phones here. That is one area wherein China is giving run for our money. But if there is one sector where India is giving run for the money to the Chinese, it is biotechnology. It is not just India - specifically we have to take Hyderabad and Telangana. That itself is sufficient. While the world is bracing itself under Zika virus, a Hyderabad company has already developed a Zika virus vaccine and the same is patented. In the past also, there were several other examples. I think, we have developed HIV vaccine. ...
(Interruptions)

DR. TAPAS MANDAL: If we go through international publications having high impact factor, if there are 10 or 11 authors, out of that, seven or eight authors are only from China. So, they are much ahead in biotechnology research than India.

SHRI KONDA VISHWESHWAR REDDY: I will address it. That is the concern and I am coming to that exact concern. But historically if we see, we have been ahead of China and even today, when it comes to very many vaccines and basic bulk drugs, we are ahead. Yes, you are right in the sense that China is overtaking, and that is exactly our concern. But as of today, if in one area, we are giving run for the money to the Chinese,

it is the companies in India. We have to continue to keep that edge. This is one of the methodologies and that concern is a valid concern.

We developed the rotavirus vaccine at 50 per cent of the cost available in the US. The cheapest vaccine for Hepatitis B was developed in Hyderabad. There are many stories born out of Hyderabad.

In Hyderabad, we already have a policy; we have the Bio-Technology Centre. Recently, our hon. Chief Minister, Shri KCR announced a pharma city. It is very important to ensure that institutions and academicians work with the industry and that is what generates good research.

While I do support the Faridabad one, I think, the Bio-Technology Centres in Hyderabad – they are two of them – are doing good work. One is to do with the fingerprinting, and the other is to do with animal biotechnology. These are not taking the full advantage that Hyderabad and Telangana presents to the nation and to the world. So, we need to focus on the area of bio-technology concerning vaccine and drug discovery cycle in Hyderabad. That would really add and keep up our continued cutting edge over the Chinese competition.

Lastly, the Programme Advisory Committee should have equal voting rights. The UNESCO, the funding agency, probably should not have any additional voting rights. That is not mentioned as to who will have the voting rights in this.

In the end, I think that re-introduction of the Bio-Technology Authority Bill will be very beneficial. Thank you so much, Sir.

[English]

SHRI SANKAR PRASAD DATTA (TRIPURA WEST): Sir, I rise to speak on the Bill, the Regional Centre for Bio-Technology Bill, 2016. All of us know that in this modern era, bio-technology has been recognized globally as a rapidly advancing science using molecular technique in the development of healthcare and solutions for human, animal, environment and other technological fields. We know that in this era, bio-technology is gradually increasing throughout the world. But it is a matter of sadness for us, for the Indians that as we see we are having a population of 18 per cent but till now we can engage only two per cent amount of money in the field of bio-technology in the global era.

Sir, we see that in India only 800 companies are involved in the field of biotechnology. But in the field of medical science biotechnology could provide 64 per cent of the total revenue. When we see the Budget of 2015-16, the allocation to this sector was only a meagre sum of Rs. 7,288 crore. We hope to expand to about 100 million dollars by 2025 in the field of biotechnology. To achieve this, each and every year 30 per cent increase should be there in budget allocation. But if we see the Budgets of 2014-15 and 2015-16, only 20 per cent increase was there.

Sir, in the case of generic drugs, in new discoveries and in product development, biotechnology is being used and it is being used for

recognising diseases also. So, for boosting the production of generic medicines, for boosting agricultural production and productivity of our country, for boosting energy production and water supply in our country, biotechnology plays a very important role. As we see today, many of our States are facing drought this year. So, biotechnology is being used in many fields. For the advancement of biotechnology in our country, the Government should look into this matter seriously and sincerely so as to strengthen the field of biotechnology and for this to happen, it is necessary that public investment in this field should be enhanced.

With these words, I hope the Government would look into the matter in all seriousness and see that biotechnology advances in our country in the near future.

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): Hon. Chairperson, I would like to briefly put forth my views on this subject. I would like to congratulate the Hon. Minister that after a very long journey, today this Bill has come in the position that almost all the Hon. Members have an opinion to pass it. Hon. Members of the opposition have also more or less supported it.

This Bill is not limited to just one institution, after this Bill is passed and becomes law, the institution will be capable of playing a very important role at the international level. It will get opportunities for dialogue and exchange of ideas with all UNESCO affiliated institutions. For this reason, I hope that after receiving legislative status, the institution will gain its rightful importance.

Sir, where we used to wait in the sixties and seventies that which country's ship would come to India with food grains, at which port it would land, how many people would get the food grains and the then Prime Minister had forced everyone to eat only once in a day a week. Today, it is only the result of biotechnology that there is no shortage of wheat, no shortage of rice, no shortage of sugar, no shortage of milk in our country. Actually we should congratulate our scientists for this, because of them [English] we are the largest milk producer in the world,

we are the largest fruit producer in the world and we are the largest sugar producer in the world.

[Translation]

How did we reach here? We have achieved this position because of science, because of technology. Many of our State Governments have arranged food at affordable rates. Poor men can go there and eat at cheap prices, because we have food grains in abundance. That's why we have succeeded. Same is the case with fruits.

Sir, through you, I would like to make a request to the Hon. Minister that there is a need for technology and without technology there is no country or nation which is going to survive. But there are two aspects of technology. If we continue to work on one aspect of technology, keep producing more grains, vegetables, fruits and milk, but don't focus on their quality, then it is not going to be good despite our overproduction. What types of diseases have come to our country today. Whether the bad quality food grains, vegetables and fruits are which we are consuming has anything to do with the spread of those diseases, that also needs to be looked into.

Sir, Today, there is a race in our country to have cows that can yield 40 litres of milk at once, just like in Europe. We want to compare ourselves with them. But we must also consider that in Europe, nature has

not been tampered with. Breeds were certainly developed there, but alongside that, adequate pastures and open spaces were provided for grazing and roaming. In contrast, in our country, there is a race to build houses and encroach upon such open fields, so that settlements can be established on them. Cows were reared, big dairy farms were also opened, but they were not given the place which was necessary for them, that's how we played with nature, what was the result of this? I want to give an example that today people who are associated with cow dynasty and do the work of rearing cows. If they have a cow giving 40 litres of milk here then it is almost impossible to keep and take care. There is a disease named mesatitits, which shall spread, because we have only symptomatic treatment. I would like us to maintain a balance on this. If we continue to create all this without balance, then it is of no use.

Same is the case with fruits. We have made the fruits beautiful to look at. The tomato size has doubled. Its colour is very attractive, but what is its quality? There was a time when there were only local tomatoes in the country. Do you compare these two? Today, emphasis should be given on quality in the field of technology. That is my request.

Sir, through you, I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister that Uttar Pradesh is the largest state in the country and there is a park in Lucknow in the name of biotechnology. How much justice has been done

to it? Please pay attention to it. If Faridabad can have a national level institute, then you will need more national level institutions. Before me, other Hon. Members have also said that we need to pay attention to the the level of education of biotechnology being imparted in the existing private institutions, where efforts are being made to work around biotechnology. They are only the centre for giving certificates. The knowledge of students does not increase there, nor is there any facility for any research. China's phobia has come to our minds that we start comparing everything to China. China is in its place. China has its own methodology. There is no democratic ideology. There is utter dictatorship. India is a democratic country. We have our own limitations to work in this democratic country. It is the result of those democratic limitations that after so long this Bill has been able to come to the Lok Sabha only after due consideration at every level. The Standing Committee of the Rajya Sabha was referred, where it was considered. They discussed this with numerous scientists. Their opinion came and after that this Bill has come before us today as an improved version. I would like the Hon. Minister to pay attention to these things. We should be proud that we are becoming self-reliant in every field. But along with self-reliance, we should also keep in mind how much is the quality of the substance we are producing?

Sir, I want to talk about wheat because only wheat brought a green revolution in our country. We had sourced seeds from Mexico and the US. I remember this because I am also an agriculturist. That seed came and it led to a significant increase in yield. But when wheat from 30 years ago and today's wheat were tested, it was found that the former contained about 1 percent of a particular protein that was considered the best for food and nutrition. In today's wheat, the amount of that same protein has reduced to about 6 percent, which is contributing to rising obesity in our country. Doctors and many others have now started advising people to stop eating wheat and instead consume more vegetables and fruits. What the reason is, if we do not pay attention to these kinds of food and continue to consume them, then no matter how much research is done in the medical field, no matter how many hospitals are built, how many our medicines are made, it will be impossible to control the disease.

With these words, I conclude by re-emphasising that we should develop technology by not playing with nature, but also by taking care of natural things and striking a good balance in it. With this, I fully support this Bill and congratulate the Hon. Minister.

[English]

SHRI VARAPRASAD RAO VELAGAPALLI (TIRUPATI): Sir, thank you very much for giving me this opportunity. As a PhD degree holder in Chemistry, I wholeheartedly welcome this Bill. In fact, it is a delayed one. I would like to thank the hon. Minister for bringing this Bill in this House.

After Independence, in fact, the first Prime Minister had mentioned: The research institutes are the temples of modern India. Precisely, what we require is such type of research institutions. The bio technology broadly encompasses the bio technology, micro biology, genetics, etc. In the past also we have wonderful centres of excellence like IITs and IIMs. Another one, which is really a centre of excellence for science, is the Indian Institute of Sciences and the CCMB in Hyderabad. It is more relevant to a country like ours for the simple reason that year after year the population of India is increasing. Therefore, to feed the ever increasing numbers, we need research, research and research. We need more research in the agricultural sector. Thanks to the good policies of our country, we are able to produce adequate grains to match with increase of population. In fact, we are looking forward for another Green Revolution. We also need modern technology every time. Technology needs to be upgraded every time. Therefore, the Centre for Bio

Technology is extremely relevant. But somehow, I am not able to understand the usage of the word 'regional'. Is it for the Asia or is it for the world? I am not able to appreciate the word 'regional centre'. We are also extremely happy for giving an autonomous status for these kinds of institutions. We always interfere with the research institutions. In fact, that is one of the reasons why we are lagging behind in research in India. The temperament of scientists, generally, is very sensitive. Therefore, autonomy in a true sense means that we should respect for the institutions as well as the people who are going to do research there.

According to the present day standards, the funds that we are allocating are extremely meagre. The allocations that we are making for health and education in India are much lesser. When other countries are going forward in this field, we are allocating fund which is really a pittance. Therefore, if you really want to see the quality of research or if you want to attract the best scientists, you need to give them the best salaries and wonderful benefits. It is because they may be working for 20 years. In all the 20 years, they may not produce anything worthwhile but we never know on the 21st year, they may be producing it. So, that is the importance of research. Therefore, we must respect the quality research and the funds and grants should be adequate. Today we have some of the

best institutions like AIIMS, JNU, etc., for the simple reason that funds are generously given to these kinds of institutions.

Therefore, it is extremely important that funds are given very generously.

17.00 hours

(Shri Hukum Singh *in the Chair*)

Sir, I did mention that the freedom for scientists is extremely important in India. We have to see why several of our young scientists are going abroad. At least we were seven in our Andhra University institution. But for me, where I have other interest like the social interest, all other people have gone abroad, maybe to Australia, Canada, U.K. and USA, for the simple reason that there is no adequate infrastructure in India. For a country like ours, we have to sustain ourselves means we need to establish more and more such types of Centres of Excellence. As my earlier colleagues mentioned, we need to have more such Centres. In fact, South India is looking forward to have such kinds of institutions, and Andhra Pradesh is one with wonderful biodiversity.

Sir, genetics is another important thing, which is now very broadly used by all countries not for one purpose but for various purposes. Genetics is a part of Biotechnology which is used for various purposes, production with intensive agriculture and where you want to have more

output and all that. Therefore, it is extremely relevant in the field of genetics as well.

I hope that the Centres of this type will definitely curtail the brain drain and also might reverse the brain drain as well because most of our young scientists are going abroad for the simple reason that we do not have proper atmosphere, proper infrastructure and proper ambience. If these types of Centres are established, I am sure that we will have so much of manpower. India has the third largest manpower in the world. Therefore, we will have to make use of the manpower that we have so that they do not go abroad and we can also attract Indian brains that are settled outside.

The earlier speakers have mentioned that new diseases like cancer virus, bacteria are coming up everyday. Different kinds of diseases are coming up. Producing a vaccine for a particular disease is taking a longer time now. By the time the vaccine is invented, we have lost several lives. So, we have to keep in touch in that way. Suppose we have the Centre of Excellence like this, research could be done quickly the moment the virus appears and appropriate vaccine for that disease could be developed.

Another important thing here is ethics. Ethical part is extremely important and I want to bring this to the kind notice of the hon. Minister who is sitting here, and particularly in medicinal drugs, which is also

related to this. Very poor people, tribals and people in the hilly areas are being used as Guinea pigs. We certainly agree that it has to be tested ultimately on human beings and there is no doubt about it. It can be tested on human beings after testing adequately on animals and all that, and with proper permission from the Government. The kind of people that are going to be used for this has to be properly mentioned. That research before the drugs are put into use should be properly followed because now and then we see in the newspapers that the poorest of the poor and the tribals in the hilly areas are being used as Guinea pigs. That needs to be regulated.

The national importance is quite relevant. We greatly admire taking the initiative to accord national importance.

The last point which I want to mention is that since Andhra Pradesh is always leading with lots of Centres of Excellence and advanced institutions like Andhra University, Osmania University – although it is now Hyderabad – we request the hon. Minister to take immediate steps to establish one of this kind in Andhra Pradesh.

Thank you very much.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Sir, Shri Varaprasad Rao ji has mentioned Biotechnology Institute as the modern temple of India. The modern temples, as called by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, are the industries.

Industrial Revolution was started during the First Five Year Plan. Construction of dams, agricultural research, Indian Institute of Science and industrial development were all started during the time of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. Of course, Biotechnology is a part of it. It is not a modern temple. The modern temples of industries were started by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. It is just a clarification. Thank you.

[Translation]

DR. ARUN KUMAR (JEHANABAD): I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important Bill.

Sir, Knowledge and science are the biggest pillars of the modern world today, and whoever is deprived of them, certainly a large section of India's population will be deprived of it. After a long investigation, thorough testing, passing through the legislative system, and considering the opinions of scientists and intellectuals, this Bill has been brought forward. I would like to thank the Government for this. In the field of biotechnology, India should be able to secure a rightful position in the global competition. This is a field through which we can move forward on the path of development in an integrated and organised manner alongwith our scriptures, life-saving skills and food and nutrition. Today, the negative progress made in science has also created hazards for human life, and even those challenges can be addressed through biotechnology. Be it a virus, which is causing so many viral diseases today and which is happening because of us acting contrary to the scientific method of our life and the natural system. These things can also be solved through biotechnology.

Our forefathers were great scientists, they conducted their life in a scientific way and moulded it in tradition. Today, we have broken those

traditions while competing in the race of the world. This has caused a lot of depression in our lives. We can also address all these sediments through biotechnology. Certainly, we have been guiding the world in many ways, and today, Hon. Members rightly pointed out that Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, with his progressive vision, established various scientific institutions to foster positive competition on the global stage and to lead India in that direction. But in the past few years, there has been a decline in this. This government has taken a resolve to revive all those institutions and scientific disciplines with determination. The Hon. Minister, who is himself a doctor and a scientist, has initiated this effort with genuine intent and commitment. With this, India will also be able to engage in healthy competition, as a provision for it has been made through this Bill.

From this point of view, we have to see that in the last 25-30 years, India has grown weaker in the field of knowledge and it is not that Indians are weak, our institutions have weakened. On one hand, we have produced mathematicians like Vashishtha Narayan Singh, whose contributions have been significant in the field of satellite development globally. People like Dr. Khurana have made major contributions in the health sector, particularly in the field of genetics. In the same way, in all other fields, our Indian scientists have hoisted the flag of their knowledge

in other scientific institutions of the world. We should also stop the brain drain. In our country, knowledge too is clouded by various dark shadows, as many colleagues have pointed out. I do not wish to go into detail on that. But it should be seriously considered—why is our talent fleeing the country? How can this be stopped? These are the questions we must address. Just as the IT sector became a hub and our youth made significant contributions to it, yet due to lack of resources, India did not benefit from it as much as it should have. Developed nations exploited our knowledge, earned wealth from it, and also established dominance. Similarly, in the field of biotechnology, we too have immense talent, no matter how many research papers other countries may submit.

If we build the environment here, then definitely the scientists we have, the youth power who have talent, they can develop bioforce as a viable force for the world to live in a positive environment. Therefore, through this Bill, we will get a golden opportunity to move in this direction. We congratulate the Government and the Hon. Minister for bringing this Bill.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Chairperson, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill 2016.

Hon. Chairperson, while we discuss this Regional Centre, as much as I know, in the UNESCO meeting in 2003, Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi ji signed an agreement under which a Regional Centre of the whole of Asia was to be established in our country. Today, after 13 years, our Parliament is going to allot a whole body and fund for that. I congratulate the Government — better late than never, though it took 13 years. Its establishment began in 2009. After that, it was shifted from Gurgaon to Faridabad and Rs. 55 crore was earmarked by the Government to fully set it up in Faridabad.

Hon. Chairperson, while we talk about bio technology, today if something that is most beneficial for the farmer has been introduced, then it is the BT seeds, especially in cotton, where we have brought biotech breed from the local breed. Since the Hon. Agriculture Minister is also sitting here, I would like to say that they saw that the insecticides etc. did not work on BT seeds and because of white fly, biotechnology seeds were adversely impacted. In that situation, only indigenous seeds proved useful. We are bringing in technology and there is so much brain in this country but we are not able to completely develop it. Developed countries

like America today use Cotton seeds of BT 15 and our country is still stuck on BT 3 right now. There are so many restrictions in our country that our scientists are not allowed to carry out their research freely.

Today, biotechnology is not only successful in the field of agriculture. Today, whether it is medicine, clean energy, biotechnology has a role of its own within every field. I hope that this Regional Centre, which is going to be established for the whole of Asia in our country—and especially in my state of Haryana—will take research to such a level that scientists from abroad come to our country to carry out research at this Regional Centre. But when I read this Bill, only Rs. 25 crore annually is being given to run this Research Centre in our country. I would like to ask the Hon. Minister that the 25 crores will be given from the Consolidated Fund of India. Along with this, also let us know, how much will UNESCO give. If funds are not coming from UNESCO, and it is totally dependent on our Consolidated Fund, then it should be increased to hundred crore rupees, because if our scientists do research with their money, then the product that will come, it will be patented inside India and our money will remain in our country. Because we get to see that big companies come from abroad to our country, utilises the resources of our country, produces products and after getting the products, they go to to developed countries

like America and England and get it patented and earn in crores. Our energy is our utilised but they get the benefit.

I hope that every material studied and researched in this Regional Centre gets patented within our country. Also, the students who complete their research from this Centre should have a binding commitment to serve the nation for at least 10 years and should not work for any foreign company during that period. When we talk about Regional Centres, we must remember that we live in an ever-changing environment. Technology is evolving every day, and biotechnology is a field where a new virus can emerge in seconds, requiring our scientists to work day and night to research and respond. Before me, Reddy ji was telling that work was done to develop a vaccine on the Zika virus that hit Hyderabad. When the swine flu spread in our country in my own Lok Sabha constituency, the National Research Centre on Equines developed a medicine named influenza and did the work of giving a medicine to the whole world, because of which we could get benefit from it and we could prevent that disease. Such development keeps happening in our country, but we have to increase the number of these institutions.

Today, there are only 71 universities in our country which are having departments on the biotechnology, there are 26 such centres of excellence that do research on biotechnology. We have to give them more funds.

Biotechnology research as well as development, both have a future. If we talk about clean energy today, we constantly see that we talk about solar energy in different areas, we talk about wind energy, now research is also done in the name of Odd-Even in Delhi to reduce pollution. But biotechnology has a huge scope, so is of clean energy, green energy and if invested in it, then in the coming times, we will not have to fight on these issues. We will not have to take publicity on small things, but our scientists will be ready to sweat to out for taking our country forward.

AT the end, I would like to say that the Hon'ble Minister has included various members in the body being constituted. In our country, whenever a body is formed—be it AIIMS, any government-funded university, or even ICAR—Members of this House and of the Rajya Sabha are always included in those bodies. Therefore, I would request that, as we are forming this Bill today, an amendment be introduced to include at least two Members of the Lok Sabha and one Member of the Rajya Sabha in the Governing Body. Since public funds are being spent, our elected representatives should also be a part of the monitoring process to ensure full accountability.

Once again, I am grateful that you gave me an opportunity to speak on this important Bill, and I hope that this House will fully pass this important Bill unanimously. Thank you very much.

[Translation]

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Chairperson, Sir, thank you for allowing me to express my views on the Regional Centre for Biotechnology Bill, 2016.

The Government has introduced this Bill to give legal and statutory recognition to the existing Regional Centre for Biotechnology Training and Learning, Faridabad established by the Government through the Executive Ordinance dated 20th April, 2009 as a Regional Centre for Biotechnology, which is a welcome step. I believe that this will be a meaningful step by the Government and it will lead to rapid development in the field of biotechnology in the country. Modern biotechnology will also help in developing health care solutions for the human and animal sector. There will be skilled human resource development in the country and we will be successful in making our mark in the world as well. This will be an autonomous institution, therefore, it will not face any government hindrance in doing its work, this is a good step.

I would like to request the Government to pay attention to one point. This institution works in the field of health, be it human health or animal health, but today there is loot in the field of pharmaceuticals. All types of medicines, equipments and treatment materials have become so expensive that the common citizens are not getting health facilities. Poor

people are not able to get treatment for incurable diseases. The Government has also discontinued 350 types of medicines by analysing about 12 hundred medicines. I believe that all 12 hundred medicines should be restored immediately. You should make such arrangements that the prices of medicines, equipments and health treatment materials should be rational and affordable so that the poor can be treated.

I would like to draw the attention of the Government to another important subject that the Hon. Minister of Science and Technology is looking at a bright future of this sector like the IT sector and has given a target that by the year 2025, the industry related to biotechnology sector will reach one hundred billion dollars. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, where will you reach by the year 2019, how capable will you be? It should also be shown. This will only be possible if the Government establishes Institutions of biotechnology in every state like the IT. I come from Bihar. In this sequence, I urge the Hon. Minister to take action towards establishing Biotechnology training and educational institutions in Bihar as well. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI PRAHLAD SINGH PATEL (DAMOHI): Chairperson Sir, today, with full confidence, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Head of the Government and the Hon. Prime Minister and the Hon. Minister of the Department. It is not because I am a Member of that party but I am happy that when I used to study in college, bio science came to our university for the first time during the year 1975-76. A student who used to study with me at that time, is part of a team of 14 people working on America's jeans today. When he came 3 years ago and we all senior students sat down, he told me that I do not want to earn money, I want to do something in the country instead of my reputation by staying there and I want to come back. Disheartened, I had once told him that there was no work here worthy of his talent. But today, with the introduction of this Bill, I feel reassured that perhaps the trend of brain drain will now probably stop.

Hon. Chairperson, you have also made your point. It has been said with great responsibility in it that training and research of the education of biotechnology, three words have been used. It will get opportunity through this Centre. I want to add one more thing that this country needs authentication. Research is theirs, which we do not have. We have it and we had it before as well. Unfortunately, we did not have any basis for

certification, we did not have any institution, which can decide that this discipline is actually our own.

I have got two more opportunities in the House. Today I want to remember Atal ji. When he was the Prime Minister, the law of plant variation has also been passed in this House, the law of biodiversity has also been passed in this House and after that the matter of biotechnology has come here today. That is why I want to tell all the friends that all the governments must have done good work, but we have delayed bringing the things that the country needed much earlier, this has to be accepted by the House. The way we keep counting the list of people of China, I want to tell them with great request that all the papers which are there in India regarding this bio technology or if we talk about bio diversity, I want to link it, I want to tell the Hon, Minister that if there has to be any research, if there is no bio-diversity, if you ignore its importance, then you will not be able to think much about bio-technology. You need raw material. Which country has it? If we talk about plant variation, I want to take the name of Charaka. How seriously did we take Charaka? Charaka was such a person who had a list of plant variation in the Charaka Samhita. In such a long period of independent India, we have earned a lot of success in science, even after that we have about 16,000 plants in our knowledge, but there are more plants than them in Charak Samhita.

I want to give the second example of Ayurveda. Many times, we become so narrow within our own boundaries that we label other ideas as orthodox, just as our colleague Arun Singh ji had mentioned. We mocked the proverbs of Ghagh and Bhaddari. Have we ever tried authentication? The man who said that if the wind moves eastwards during this period of this month, it will happen and if the wind moves west then that will happen. I think many a times, we were not in a position to validate the state of scientific credibility, perhaps because of this, we have lagged behind. We blindly followed those things, which we were not convinced about. For example, that grain came, which you mentioned, that brought 'Carrot Grass' along with it. Today, a thing like 'Carrot Grass' has become a curse for Madhya Pradesh. But the solution was found by a scientist of Jabalpur Agricultural University. He created an insect, this is formally a part of biotechnology, it eats that plant, but we do not know its consequences as how much damage it will do to the rest of the things. It is not that we did not have biotechnology in our country, but the question of its limits has always been raised. Whether we take the example of Trishanku or other examples, there has always been a sense of restraint. Somewhere, it must be decided to what extent and in which fields we will use it.

Hon. Chairperson, I would like to urge, through you, that I was just looking at one point 8(a) in it, what is worth doing? All of our centres which work on these points, we start thinking about them, try to unite everyone, then I think this will be a golden opportunity for the country.

The Hon. Minister has also said that we will become leaders. But in what aspect will we be leaders? Shouldn't there be some thought on that? It is not that we don't have the capabilities — we do. What we need is to preserve them, to authenticate them, to present them properly, and to evaluate them with full confidence. I believe that the document or solution we produce will not only benefit our country but also the world, because we have never believed in exploitation. We have always believed in balanced solutions. That is why I feel that whatever emerges from our own thinking, from the soil of our land, will be more meaningful.

I want to give an example about the cow. As you also said, we have become a leader in milk production, but how many of them produce A2 milk? It is in the Brazilian breeds but there is 'A-2' in all the breeds of India. Is it not genetics? Is it not a matter of consideration from the point of view of biotechnology. We have the quantity of milk, we have fat but not the thing that really strengthens human life. That 'A-2' is found only in Indian cows. We have focussed a lot about the quantity of milk, we have made a mistake by not caring about its quality? Based on that we

should show our helplessness to the world, I do not believe that this is the right approach.

The foundations laid by our ancient scholars—based on the geology and geography of this land—were far more meaningful. For example, I want to mention that in Bihar and Madhya Pradesh, there was a particular variety of paddy that was cultivated. As the water level in the fields rose, the upper portion of the paddy would grow accordingly, the crop would not get destroyed. But we lost that variety. We lost it because in genetics, we focused only on increasing production. We destroyed that essential quality, its resilience to rising water levels, which could have saved the crop. That used to give us life, that used to give food. I can tell many such things that where there is no water at all, our plants can survive even in less water, like linseed, we never thought about it that how will we fix it. We imported it from the other side and destroyed farming and farmers, its example is Punjab and Haryana.

Hon. Chairperson, we appreciate it. I would appreciate for the fact that whatever talent we have, it will not migrate outside the country, perhaps the Government has succeeded in giving this option, so I want to congratulate the Government. We have brought ordinances, that is why, I have spoken about the Biodiversity and Plant Varieties Bill earlier. But even after such long time, where is the biodiversity? People say that

perhaps it will be in the Himalayas, but no, Chhattisgarh and Madhya Pradesh are on number one in it, followed by the hilly states. So, I think medicines are also there. If we truly want to understand all of that, then all of us must reflect on it; merely knowing their biological names will not suffice. We also need to know their names which are locally known. All I mean to say is that when we struggle in the battle of patents, if they had been written in the local language, they had been mentioned, we could have never lost the battle of patent. We have won many battles of patents with Charaka's example, but till the time we ignored it, we kept losing it in the courts of the world. We do not have the lack of intellectual property, we do not lack capacity, we have that already. So, I would say that research work should be done. But there should also be a provision for authentication of what we have, which is also the purpose of this Bill. I conclude by saying this. You gave me the opportunity to speak on this important subject, I thank you very much.

17.31 hours**MESSAGE FROM RAJYA SABHA**

[English]

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

'I am directed to inform the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha at its sitting held on Monday, the 25th April, 2016 adopted the following Motion regarding filling up of the casual vacancies in the Joint Committee on the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015:-

MOTION

"That this House concurs in the Recommendation of the Lok Sabha that the Rajya Sabha do appoint three Members to the Joint Committee on Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2015 in the vacancies caused by the retirements of Dr. Bhalchandra Mungekar and Shri Naresh Gujral and resignation of Shri Anand Sharma respectively, from the Rajya Sabha and communicate to Lok Sabha the names of the Members so appointed by the Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee and

resolves that Shri Anand Sharma, Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita and Shri Naresh Gujral be appointed to the said Joint Committee to fill the vacancies.' "

17.31 ½ hours**REGIONAL CENTRE FOR BIOTECHNOLOGY BILL, 2016 –
Contd.**

[English]

PROF. RICHARD HAY (NOMINATED): Chairman, Sir, I express my thanks for giving me this opportunity to speak on a crucially important subject.

This is an era of science, technology and digital innovation where, for example, scientists have recently discovered an enzyme that can convert all blood groups into the universal blood type ‘O’.

At the outset, I compliment the hon. Minister of Science and Technology for taking these bold steps to empower the field of bio-technology in our country.

India, though not a pioneer in this field, is making quantum jumps in this important area of Research and Development in bio-technology. This Centre, I believe, would not only facilitate more practical-oriented research, but would also produce more monumental patents that would gauge the success of this Centre in the long run.

This Centre, we believe, would give a big boost to the bio-technology industry in India, which is presently growing at a rate of 20 per cent and is expected to grow at a rate of 30 per cent in the coming years.

Let me narrate a few plus points. It is going to provide immense potential to our scientists who are forced to go to the West to undertake research in this field. Instead, they can happily take up research on the Indian soil. India will emerge as a big player in the field of pharmaceutical industry in the world. New drugs will be discovered, especially, in diabolic diseases like Cancer, HIV, Diabetes, Hypertension, etc. We can discover new vaccines and find everlasting solutions to communicable diseases too.

The food processing industry, by way of value-added products, will find practical solutions to the many problems being faced by our farmers, especially, to double their income by 2022.

The possibility to extend further research in human stem cells would be yet another fabulous boon to medicine and healthcare. So, there are a lot of plus points here. I specially compliment the hon. Minister and I wholeheartedly support the Bill. Thank you.

[English]

**THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND
MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (DR. HARSH VARDHAN):**

Thank you, Sir. First of all, let me thank all the hon. Members, namely, Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Shri Jagdambika Pal, Dr. Tapas Mandal, Shri Tathagata Satpathy, Shri Muthamsetti Srinivasa Rao, Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy, Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, Shri Hukum Singh, Shri Varaprasad Rao Velagapalli, Shri K.H. Muniyappa, Dr. Arun Kumar, Shri Dushyant Chautala, Shri Kaushalendra Kumar, Shri Prahlad Singh Patel and Prof. Richard Hay -- and forgive me if I have left somebody's name -- for participating in this discussion on this very very important Bill.

I feel extremely grateful to all of you and this House, and express my deep heart-felt gratitude for supporting this Bill.

By and large, the Members were generally very positive. Some concerns were raised and some apprehensions were also expressed, but I felt sorry about two particular comments about which I want to talk in the beginning. Somebody said that we were kneeling before America or China. I fail to understand how by bringing a Regional Centre of Biotechnology in the country, which is going to be one of the state-of-the-art things, for the whole of Asia, we are seen as kneeling before

America or China. We can tell the hon. Member that we shall be the last people in this world to ever kneel before anyone. For us, there is only one guiding principle, that is, *Rashtra Dharm, Samaj Dharm and Manav Dharm*. We are only guided by that.

Moreover, this Bill has its origin from the time of our great Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee. As I mentioned in the beginning, for the character or the DNA of our Government or our leaders, you have to recall that incident in March, 1998. Atalji became the Prime Minister of India and you know what he did on 11th May 1998, in spite of all pressures, for which I think anybody could have been seen kneeling. We enjoy our DNA from that great Prime Minister of India Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Now, there is another great leader, Shri Narendra Modi, who enjoys the legacy of that great Prime Minister. He is thoroughly committed to our country's welfare; he is thoroughly committed to science; and he is thoroughly committed to science professionals, scientists, and scientific acumen. He has brilliant and innovative ideas. He is committed to promote science in the best possible manner. He is wanting to put everything into ensuring that science is actually connected to the people and science is actually used for the benefit of the people and particularly for the benefit of the poorest of the poor. That is reflected in all the

policies that he has framed till now and the various programmes which were deliberated in great detail, whether it was the 'Make in India' or the 'Digital India', or the 'Swachh Bharat', etc. Now, the 'Start Up' and the 'Stand Up' movement with so much of money being put for supporting millions of young people in this country to become entrepreneurs and to develop their own innovative ideas, make programmes, use technology, and give back to the country in the best possible manner. Even in science also, I can say that after we took over, we improved the scholarship of our scientists by about 50 per cent, and so many schemes have been introduced to ensure that people who have already gone out of the country come back happily and institutions are created where they get the most ideal environment to work.

I would tell you that this particular institution is one such institution about which Members have expressed concerns and raised doubts that probably this institution is coming up at the cost of other institutions, compromising with their quality, or it will be sort of a 'bossy' institution over others; it is going to hamper or impair the autonomy of other institutions. It is not like that. It is an institution and the words 'Regional Centre' means that it is a 'Regional Centre' for this region of the world, that is, Asia.

It is going to be one of the best collaborating and coordinating centres where we exchange our knowledge, where we exchange our experience in the most optimal manner by sharing of information. This Centre also diagnoses the various problems at various places as to what type of training is required; what type of manpower is to be created; what type of people are required by the industry; and what type of improvement in education for our biotechnology is required. All this is going to be worked out in this Centre. This Centre, with the help of UNESCO and the Member-States is going to actually make sure that our goal of taking biotechnology – which is already moving fast in that direction of becoming a global leader – is achieved well in time.

The other comment about which I felt sorry was this. One hon. Member said that the achievements of biotechnology or of our scientists in this field in our country are literally zero. He used the word ‘zero’. I think, this is really a very sorry comment. I have to invite each one of you to these biotechnology laboratories in the country. When I had not visited these laboratories, when I had not seen them or when I had not interacted with the scientists, I could have also said without knowledge that I do not know as to what is happening in India. I can say, for sure, that we have the state-of-the-art laboratories in this country in biotechnology. This Department was created 30 years back. Now after 30 years, you can really

boost of the best institutions that this world can have because they are all in India. The type of cutting edge research that the scientists in India in this particular field are doing is absolutely fabulous. Now, our molecular biologists or life scientists have done the total human genome sequencing. This human genome sequencing required ten years back 100 million dollars. Now after ten years, the same human genome sequencing can be done in thousand dollars. This is the achievement of our scientists. Cancer is no longer a dreaded disease. Now our scientists are basically working at the cellular level and we are into the 'Precision Medicine', for which Mr. Obama has spent 220 billion dollars in his country.

Somebody said that we have not done anything in nanotechnology. Right now, our status in nanotechnology internationally is that we are the third best in the world in terms of our publications and our contributions. You have to actually visit all those laboratories, meet those scientists to believe what I am saying. This is about those two unfair comments that were made and I thought I must put the record straight.

Shri Reddy recalled the observations made by Shri Atal ji at that time when in the 90s we were having the IT boom. He said that IT is 'India Today' and BT will be 'Bharat Tomorrow'. It is a right time to recall Shri Atal ji at this time. I have to specially thank Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi also for the suggestion that he made at that UNESCO meeting. Of course, I

also thank the previous Government because they took the issue forward. I am the privileged one in the sense that I have got this opportunity to put forward this Bill before you and see that it sees the light of the day now.

I can assure you that the coming up of this institution is not going to in anyway compromise the quality, the support that the Government of India gives to any other institution whether in the Government or in the private sector or in the industry. We help research in biotechnology in all fields, not only in the government sector. We are helping the IITs and we are helping the industry also. Last year itself we may have helped at least 150 start-ups in the country in the field of biotechnology by giving money and all. So, it is not going to compromise on anything.

Coming up of this institution will ensure that we have a very good quality, state of the art institution which will make sure that we are able to take care of whatever is deficient anywhere, we improve education, we improve training, and we create manpower of all types, all levels, all varieties with the help of this institution and with this institution taking the help of UNESCO and other countries of Asian region. That is basically the purpose of this particular institution.

I will just mention some of the specific concerns that were raised. Dr. Tapas Mandal is probably unaware that we already have an institute of biotechnology in Kalyani, West Bengal. It is the National Institute of

Biomedical Genomics (NIBG). He should know about that. I along with the Science and Technology Minister of West Bengal recently inaugurated in Kolkata a new building for the Indian Institute of Chemical Biology in the Salt Lake area. It was only a few weeks back.

At our lab in Lucknow along with the Agriculture Department of West Bengal we have successfully worked on arsenic free rice now. We are already corresponding with Ms. Mamata Banerjee, she is in her election mode, to inaugurate what we have done with the agricultural people in West Bengal. So, it is not that we are not showing our concern for the eastern or north-eastern part of India.

Regarding his comment about Indian scientists, I would say that Indian scientists have done brilliant work in science in India. They have got many top recognitions. We have many world class institutions and we have already had many good quality industrial breakthroughs on record till today.

We also have a very important major agricultural programme in the East and the North-East. There is an initiative which is known as the Institute of Bio Resources and Sustainable Development at Imphal. I have visited that place long back. DBT is also supporting programmes at the Bose Institute in Kolkata and NIBMG in West Bengal as well as at IIT

Kharagpur. These are the places which I myself have visited in the last one year. There may be many others.

DR. TAPAS MANDAL (RANAGHAT): Obviously there are some central institutes in West Bengal. The Institute of Biomedical Genomics is around one kilometre from my residence. That is now working in an abandoned hospital. The new building is under construction. They are ready to shift into it. The scientists and the other staff are passing their time. No research work is going on right now.

Secondly, Bose Institute is one of the major institutes in biotechnology in the whole of eastern India and it caters to the needs of the nation also. There are some important institutes like Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, a State agricultural university has a very small Department of Biotechnology, no infrastructure facilities, no lab facilities, no equipments. My submission is that West Bengal is very sound in agricultural productivity. In fruit production and vegetable production, West Bengal ranks first or second. So, under these circumstances, is it possible to fund a sizeable amount of money for the university to develop biotechnology lab?

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Don't repeat all the things. You have already said all this.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: I don't want to enter into any controversy about it. We may have a difference of opinion about the quality or content. I can tell you that I have visited almost all the labs in Kolkata in the last one year. I also feel proud of them like I feel proud of Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose. You can give any specific suggestions about improvement or having a new building or anything which you feel is already not in the offing. But most of the things that have been brought to our knowledge, we are already in the advanced process of going ahead. But please don't say that we are zero in biotechnology in this country, we have not done anything and our scientists are useless. I think that demoralizes the great people. They are doing excellent work and you belong to a place which can boast of the great Acharya Jagdish Chandra Bose, S.N. Bose and P.C. Ray. So, you should not be talking about that.

You mentioned about nano-biotechnology also. I mentioned that we are third in the world but I tell you that we have a separate special task force on nano-biotechnology and we have a major nano-tech mission and many nano institutes in the country. If you wish, I can organize a visit for you to all these institutions.

Something was mentioned by you about BT cotton and BT brinjal. Let me tell you the factual position about these issues. BT cotton is the only genetically engineered crop which India has approved so far for

commercial cultivation in 2002 when Atalji was the Prime Minister. So far, India has approved six events of BT cotton – MON 53, MON 15985, Event 1, GFM Event, BNLA 601 and MLS 921, expressing different insecticidal proteins alone or in combination to control *Helicoverpa Armigera*, a major pest of cotton, and at the same time reduce the excess use of pesticides. These events were developed by both private and public sector institutes alone or in collaboration. By the year 2014, more than 95 per cent of Indian farmers that is 7.7 million adopted BT cotton. Out of 12.5 million hectares of total cotton area in India, 11.6 million hectares is covered by BT cotton by 2015. India tripled cotton production from 13 million bales in 2002, the year it released first BT cotton, to more than 39 million bales in 2014. At present, India is the number one cotton producing country in the world surpassing even the USA and China. This is the factual statement about it.

Now let me tell you about BT brinjal. Mahyco, an Indian seed company has developed the BT brinjal to provide resistance against Lepidopteran insect pest, in particular the fruit and shoot borer. After several years of bio-safety testing, the Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee has cleared the BT brinjal for commercialization in 2009.

Following concerns raised by some stakeholders and anti-GMO activists, the Government of India imposed a moratorium on its release in 2010.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Minister, it is about to be 6 o'clock.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: In the year 2013, the same Bt. Brinjal event was approved by Bangladesh for commercial cultivation. Some concerns were expressed here also. I can tell you that there was opposition from some groups. We are talking to them and right now the opposition has reduced to the minimal levels and we are developing a consensus. There will hardly be any opposition about the whole issue.

[Translation]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let the Hon. Minister's point be fulfilled.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI MALLIKARJUN KHARGE (GULBARGA): I want to bring to his kind notice that no member opposed this bill. everybody supported it but you are repeatedly saying that some members are opposing it. you should appreciate that [Translation] we are ready to pass the Bill.

HON. SPEAKER: Minister has already thanked you all for this.

[English]

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: I say on record once again, I appreciate the spirit of each and every one of you and express my heartfelt gratitude but as some of the concerns were raised I am just trying to answer them.

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Speaker, I want a clarification from the Minister.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Let the Minister conclude.

[ENGLISH]

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: There was a concern raised by Dr. Shashi Tharoor about the biotechnology regulatory Bill. I can tell you that the Bill is already in an advanced process. We are going to bring that regulatory Bill. Moreover, we are not compromising on any of the

regulatory mechanisms even without the Bill right now. This is just for the purpose of record.

I have to say on record that this institution is only going to harmonise the relationship with the other institutions in the country and outside the country since this was also one of the concerns raised. No existing centre is going to lose its autonomy. Some issue was raised about the majority voting right, about the Indian members, and all. The majority voting rights in the Board of Governors is with the Indian members. You can be assured about that.

Somebody mentioned about the economic benefits to the country. The Centre is expected to produce highly trained and skilled manpower capable of delivering low-cost, effective healthcare, agricultural and veterinary technologies. The investment would also result in the creation of space, unique infrastructure and critical core facilities which can be shared with other institutions. The Centre would serve as a window for showcasing Indian competence in the global market for economic gains.

Somebody mentioned about industry collaboration, etc. I can tell you that one of the mandates is education will be linked with industry requirements and will be dynamic and based on the industry needs also. The need for this autonomous institution with national importance is that they can make their own curricula; and depending on the advancing

changes etc. in the field, they can always make changes to the curricula without any control from any side.

There was a mention where somebody wanted a similar institute in Andhra Pradesh and somebody wanted it somewhere else. This is a different type of institution. It is not something which could be created but obviously if there is a need for a biotechnology facility of great nature which is lacking somewhere and which the Department feels is the need of the hour we will certainly look at it.

18.00 hours

The foreign faculty, etc. are going to be involved in this. There was a suggestion given that the review should be every two years. We can actively consider that. There was a suggestion given about public representatives, that also can be taken care of as to how the public representatives' involvement can be there.

A Member raised an issue about funding that we may be getting from UNESO.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The time of the House is extended up to the passing of this Bill. I think the House agrees to it.

SEVERAL HON. MEMBERS: Yes, Sir.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: A Member asked about UNESCO. UNESCO is not going to provide us any fund *per se* but the member States will be giving contributions. The Centre may receive contributions from the member States within the region. They are going to be the voluntary contributions which will add to the core fund.

All non-statutory aspects of the regulatory Bill are being implemented. This is what I have mentioned to you just now.

I think broadly these were the issues which were raised. Shri Hukum Singh, the Chair, mentioned about the biotechnology park in Lucknow. In fact I have to tell you that we have five state-of-the-art science institutions in Lucknow. I have visited all five of them: CIMAP, NBRI, CDRI, Indian Institute of Toxicological Research and the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences. So, you need not worry about the facility that the Government of India has created in Lucknow.

There was a mention about the generic medicines. Shri Satpathy is not here. I can agree with him to some extent. We are a leader in generic medicines. There cannot be two opinions about it but with regard to the benefits of those generic medicines, we have to cover a long way to make sure that we make generic medicines available to each and every person in this country and promote the rational prescribing of such medicines amongst our doctors. That of course is something which I agree.

Shri Jagdambika Pal had studied the Bill thoroughly and he answered for me most of the questions that Shri Tharoor had raised.

There were issues raised about the quality and quantity of biotech graduates, regulatory reforms, financial incentives to the biotech industry, upgradation of the centre. I can tell you that these are all concerns which are basically the concerns which have been taken care of by making this institute. We are going to improve all these institutions.

I can talk and talk about biotechnology. It is such a great sector. It is a very fascinating sector. It has a huge potential to help people, mankind, agriculture, farmers, health and, of course, clean energy. You mentioned about cellulose getting converted into 2G Ethanol. Only on 22nd April, two days back, we have inaugurated the first plant of its kind in the whole world, not only in India, where we are converting all that into 2G. It is such a huge plant which converts 10 tonnes right now and we can do that up to 250 - 500 tonnes. We are already in a very-very advanced stage with regard to waste to wealth thing. Under the National Innovation Mission the Department of Biotechnology is leading the Clean Energy Mission with other departments of the Government of India, whether they are the Power Ministry or the Environment Ministry and we are taking a leading and ensuring that with those collaboration we can make sure that - now

from 2G Alcohol or 2G Ethanol – we convert that Ethanol into Butanol, the next generation plant that we are working on.

Bigger plants have also been designed with the help of bio-technology. Bio-technology is now on a very strong footing. One of the hon. Members mentioned about how much will be the progress in another five years. He can very well calculate how much it will be in five years. We are trying to move at the fastest possible pace. We are trying to put our heart and soul into whatever we are trying to do. We need the support of everyone. We want all the hon. Members to participate in all the scientific activities in their respective areas.

With these words, I would now once again request the hon. Members to pass this Bill.

Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Chairperson, I want a clarification from the Hon. Minister. Hon. Minister in his response, has stated that due to the BT (biotech) cotton product, cotton production has significantly increased in the last three years. The Hon. Agriculture Minister is sitting with you, ask him, last year in Maharashtra, whether it is due to drought, most of the cotton crops, BT product cotton, which produces more in less water, they have failed. Similarly, the seeds that came in North India with the utilisation of your department and bio technology, neither they were of good quality seeds and they were ruined due to insects like White Fly. Will your department in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture do any good there through this centre?

[English]

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, these are all scientific aspects.

[English]

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That the Bill to provide for the establishment of an institution of national importance to be known as Regional Centre for Biotechnology and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House will now take up Clause by Clause consideration of the Bill.

The question is:

“That clauses 2 to 46 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 46 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, Enacting Formula, Preamble and the Long Title were added to the Bill.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The hon. Minister may move that the Bill be passed.

DR. HARSH VARDHAN: Sir, I beg move:

“That the Bill be passed.”

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House stands adjourned to meet again tomorrow, Tuesday, April 26, 2016 at 11.00 a.m

18.08 hours

*The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Tuesday,
April 26, 2016/Vaisakha 6, 1938 (Saka)*

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