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Shravana 19, 1939(Saka)

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(English Version)

Twelfth Session

(Sixteenth Lok Sabha)



(Vol. XXVI contains Nos.1 to 20)

LOK SABHA SECRETARIAT

NEW DELHI

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THE DEPUTY SPEAKER

Dr. M. Thambidurai

PANEL OF CHAIRPERSONS

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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

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Shri Anoop Mishra

LOK SABHA DEBATES

LOK SABHA

Thursday, August 10, 2017/Shravana 19, 1939 (Saka)

The Lok Sabha met at Eleven of the Clock

[HON. SPEAKER *in the Chair*]

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Madam Speaker, I have given an Adjournment Notice with regard to the formation of Mahanadi River Tribunal. ... (*Interruptions*)

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

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Bhartruhari Ji, please do not do this. You can raise your issue in Zero Hour.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Bhartruhari ji, what is the issue?

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Madam, the issue is regarding formation of Mahanadi Tribunal. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I will allow you to speak in Zero Hour. Bhartruhari ji, you will be the first speaker.

... (*Interruptions*)

11.02 hours

(At this stage, Shri K.N. Ramachandran, Shrimati Rita Tarai and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

HON. SPEAKER: Please do not do that. Hon. Members, I will allow you all to speak in Zero Hour.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Now, let us take up Question Hour.

11.03 hours***ORAL ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

HON. SPEAKER: Question No. 341.

(Q.341)

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: Madam Speaker, textile industry is one of the largest employers in this country and it contributes about 14 per cent towards industrial production and 4 per cent towards the GDP. ... (*Interruptions*) It gives direct employment to about 51 million people and indirect employment to about 68 million people in this country. ... (*Interruptions*)

11.03½ hours

(At this stage, Shri K.N. Ramachandran and some other Hon. Members went back to their seats.)

Madam, the industry has gone through a lot of difficulties after demonetization and imposition of GST... (*Interruptions*) A lot of mills have been closed during the last three years. ... (*Interruptions*) The reasons for closing down of these textile industries, as assigned by the Hon. Minister in her reply on 2nd February, 2017, are

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

inadequate working capital, insufficient cash flow, increase in cost of production, squeezed profit margin, stressed assets, etc. ...
(*Interruptions*)

In addition to this, during the second week of July 2017, lakhs of labourers in Surat came on the street as they were rendered jobless since many of the textile units were closed because of the GST. ...
(*Interruptions*) The same situation is prevailing in the whole country.
... (*Interruptions*)

My question to the Hon. Minister is, whether there is any impact of GST on the textile industry rendering lakhs of labourers unemployed. ... (*Interruptions*) If it is so, what is the action plan and what is the measure taken by the Government of India to ease out the situation? ... (*Interruptions*)

11.04 hours

(At this stage, Shrimati Rita Tarai and some other Hon.

Members went back to their seats.)

[Translation]

SHRI AJAY TAMTA: Hon. Madam Speaker, the concern expressed by the Hon. Member is valid. The difficulties that have arisen due to the closure of mills are significant, with 89 mills shut down and 28

operational. The second question concerned whether there are any difficulties due to GST. I wish to inform the Hon. Member that GST is a courageous step taken by the Government and a historic decision for tax reform taken by the Hon. Prime Minister with a view towards transparency. Our Government is sensitive to the issues arising in its tax-viable sectors. The GST rate for textile and related items is normal.

It has been placed in the minimum tax bracket. I want to state that in our Ministry of Textiles, the majority of our weavers, approximately 43 lakh people, fall below the Rs. 20 lakh category.

Secondly, among those working in power looms, 87% of our country's power loom workers also fall below the Rs. 20 lakh category. The rest of the people are being involved under GST, and no difficulties have surfaced during our tenure.

[English]

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: Madam Speaker, in Karnataka, unfortunately, 27 textile mills were closed and only 18 are operational. There are two major broad segments in the textile industry – unorganized sector and organized sector. In unorganized

sector, mainly small industries like handlooms, sericulture etc. will come.

Karnataka is one of the major potential textile industry areas where unorganized sector, which is based on the use of traditional methods and traditional tools, is there. Earlier, lakhs of people were employed in this industry in Karnataka. So, it used to generate a very good employment, though traditional methods and tools were being implemented. Unfortunately now, in spite of the power handlooms, in handlooms, handicrafts and sericulture etc. in this area, there is a huge loss of employment. Karnataka, which is mainly based on the unorganized segment of textile industry, is once again depending upon the Government of India for any special package.

My question to the Hon. Minister is whether any special package is being thought of by the Government of India to restore and revive the unorganized segment of textile industry in Karnataka, particularly handlooms and powerlooms etc.

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI): Madam Speaker, at the outset, let me here clarify to the Hon. Member that it is this Government that gave a special

package worth Rs. 6,000 crore for the garmenting sector and for the made-up sector, recognizing that per crore of investment made generates close to 70 direct jobs and many other indirect jobs. The entire sector has unanimously welcomed not only the GST but also the labour reforms undertaken by this very Government to ensure that investments, both domestic and international, are facilitated.

Madam, I also want to put on record that it is under this Government that the largest amount of FDI coming in for this sector of the textile industry was witnessed by the entire industry and by the entire nation.

In so far as the Hon. Member here putting forth his concerns with regard to the handloom industry is concerned, I would like here to bring out two or three points for his observation. Firstly, in the year 2009-2010, there was a Handloom Census done wherein it was found that only one per cent of weaver families were completing higher education. It is under this Government that a decision was taken that through the National Open School and the National Open University, all weaver families, their children and weavers themselves will have the facilitation of education so that it helps enhance not only their productivity but also their engagement with their markets.

So much so, Madam Speaker, that this Government ensured that for SC/ST, *divyang-jans*, women and BPL category citizens, 75 per cent of the fees will be borne by this Government led by the Hon. Prime Minister, Shri Narendrabhai Modi.

I also want to bring to the notice of the Hon. Member that many a weavers across the nation for years were crying out that the subsidy, which is to be given to the weavers in the form of thread, *dhaga*, was not reaching the weaver concerned.

It is this Government led by the Hon. Prime Minister that started an *E-Dhaga* App through which, including in Kannada, any weaver who wants to place an order for the subsidized yarn 40 kilo coarse cotton and 4 kilo silk yarn subsidized can place it on the App and trace his shipment from the depot to the final destination, that is, the weaver's place of work.

I would also like to bring here to the notice of the Hon. Member that it is under this Government that for the first time in the history of our country we established a helpline especially for handloom weavers. I would like to tell the Hon. Member, through you, Madam, that the number is 1800-208-9988. I implore you that any weaver who has a problem -- this helpline is working seven days a week -- can

avail of any subsidy, any opportunity and any facilitation under this Government through this helpline. This helpline began on the 4th January and till now close to 6,500 complaints have been duly met through this landline. Thank you.

[Translation]

SHRI RAMSINH RATHWA: Hon. Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask supplementary questions. Cotton is produced in large quantities in Gujarat. Ahmedabad and Surat of Gujarat are considered to be the Manchester of textile mills. Many textile mills are closed in Gujarat. Because of that, many labourers have become unemployed. To provide wages to these labourers again, does the Government think of bringing a new textile policy so that the closed mills can be started and the laborers can get wages again?

[English]

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Madam Speaker, there is still in existence a Textile Workers Relief Fund. If the Hon. Member has any such challenge that the workers face and if they so deserve to be compensated under this scheme, then the Ministry will look at the application if the Hon. Member is so kind to forward it to the Ministry.

[Translation]

SHRI ARVIND SAWANT: I extend my respectful greetings to the Hon. Minister. She has once again achieved success for the Ministry of Textiles.

It is well known that Mumbai city was vibrant due to its textile mills and the porters. Today, 85 mills in Mumbai city have closed, while 135 mills remain operational.

I have a special request to the Hon. Minister. Residential complexes are being constructed on the sites of these closed mills, which require revival. If we are to generate employment, the Government must adopt a policy to utilise the open spaces within these mills to establish new industries. This measure would preserve Mumbai's vibrancy and create much-needed employment, which is a matter of great importance.

Some mills, particularly their residential complexes like 'Bhaskar', have engaged in some unknown joint venture with India United Mill. They neither undertake any work themselves nor allow anyone else to. The floors of these buildings could collapse at any moment. The residential floors of Digvijay Mill are at risk of collapsing, and for all

NTC mill residential and commercial floors, attempts are being made to apply the Public Premises Eviction Act to demand higher rents. All these problems are being faced by Mumbai's mill workers and their families.

Through you, I want to ask the Hon. Minister what policy the Government is adopting to revitalise these mills so that they don't become mere residential complexes. Instead, how will industries be established to generate employment? Furthermore, what policy will the Government adopt for the redevelopment of old buildings?

HON. SPEAKER: You have three questions in one question only.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Hon. Madam Speaker, our friend has asked a question regarding the closed mills. This question has been troubling Mumbai since 2008. The current situation of textile mills in Maharashtra is that more than two thousand workers are employed in different mills there. Mumbai's specific challenge is in the context of NTC. This is a challenge because the cost of real estate, cost of electricity and the cost of other peripherals are becoming very expensive for the millers to run the mills in Mumbai.

NTC is an independent PSU of Government of India. Whatever concerns the Hon. MP has, we will send them to NTC. Certainly, our

structure and efforts are to employ the maximum number of workers and increase the chances of more industries in Maharashtra. In this regard, I can only say to the Hon. MP that the Government of India will fully cooperate in whatever steps are taken by the Government of Maharashtra towards revolutionising textiles in Mumbai or other parts of Maharashtra.

[English]

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER: Madam, thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask a supplementary on textile industry. There is a National Textile Mill in my constituency, which is facing many deficiencies.

Madam, there is no post loom processes like wider width fabric dyeing and printing in public domain which can cater to all types of fabric manufacturing units including handlooms. No pre-loom processes like mill warping and sizing for catering to powerlooms are available in Kerala for production with single yarn. Ultimately, it is limited to production of fabric with double yarn only.

There is a full fledged NABL Accredited Textile Testing Laboratory under the Ministry of Textiles run by a Textile Committee at Kannur. I had a chance to visit the said lab at Kannur sometime

back. I found that most of the instruments available there are very old and need replacement. Hon. Minister, you gave an assurance to me to undertake a visit to all the NIFT, National Textile Mills, and NABL. Is the Government and the Minister ready to provide all the new facilities to the textile mill and a lab also?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: I would like to bring to the kind attention that just like the Hon. Member spoke about my engagement with her with regard to her constituency, Kannur, she had brought forth to my attention issues with regard to handloom. I have tried to the best of my ability to support her endeavours for handloom weavers in her constituency.

Today, she has brought forth an issue with regard to powerloom. I would like to bring to her kind attention through you, Madam Speaker, with regard to powerloom, the Government of India has started a scheme for Power Tex on the 1st of April. This is a scheme which has duly been started in conjunction with the State Governments and authorities and has put forth for all the administrative bodies that work in the segment of powerloom so that more and more support can be given.

Insofar as her concern with regard to upgrading of labs is concerned, the Textile Committee has entered into an MoU with countries like Japan where targeted labs are upgraded. I would also like to bring to her kind attention that just like my colleague from Karnataka spoke about and I had answered about a Helpline for handloom weavers, we have established a similar Helpline for powerloom weavers as well. Any powerloom weaver who has a targeted challenge that needs support can get that support through this Helpline. I will personally engage with the Hon. Member to ensure that the lab facility challenges are met and Power Tex Helpline No. is 1800222017. I hope that this can be forwarded by the Hon. Member to the powerloom weavers in her constituency for their help.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Jay Prakash Ji, please ask your question in short. I am aware that this issue affects every constituency and has persisted for a considerable time.

SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV: Hon. Madam Speaker, Shivtisar and the weaving industry have long been renowned in Banka and Bhagalpur, Bihar. Lakhs of families in these regions are engaged in the weaving industry.

I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, through you, whether the Government is taking any concrete measures to promote the weaving industry in Banka and Bhagalpur. Is the Government considering steps to provide employment to the lakhs of unemployed families engaged in this sector in Banka and Bhagalpur, including the establishment of power looms and mills through financial assistance?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Hon. Madam Speaker, I wish to inform the Hon. Member that with regard to Tussar silk production in Bhagalpur, numerous weavers and artisans have brought their concerns to our attention. It is particularly noteworthy that women weavers frequently undertake the arduous task of thigh reeling. To alleviate this strenuous practice, the Government has introduced a reeling machine known as the “Buniyad,” which enables them to dispense with thigh reeling. Concerning the wider issues pertaining to Bhagalpur,

HON. SPEAKER: I think you have studied it more than they have.

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: I want to inform the Hon. Member that in the context of handloom weavers in Bhagalpur and the handloom weavers there want more support from the handloom point of view, then we are capable of providing that.

SHRI SUBHASH CHANDRA BAHERIA: Hon. Madam Speaker, I want to know that under the GST regime, the tax on synthetic fabric worth Rs. 100 per meter of power loom is Rs. 7 more than that of composite mill, so will the Minister take any initiative in this regard so that power looms can be saved from closure?

SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI: Hon. Madam Speaker, as Hon. Member know that the subject of GST comes under the GST Council and both the Houses have assured the GST Council that it can take decisions regarding the rates and procedures of GST. It would also be appropriate to say here that the decisions are not taken by the Government of India alone; the Governments of all the States, which have representatives of all political parties, sit together and take decisions.

It also needs to be said here that in the context of GST, it has to be understood that it is a destination tax and comes back into the account in the form of input credit. This is slightly different from the normal tax practice. The Hon. Minister of Finance has made special arrangements for Members in the Parliament Library and a special GST desk has been set up. I would request that if the Hon. Member wants to get some more information for his Lok Sabha constituency,

he can go to that desk and get it. That information will be very beneficial for the people related to power loom sector or textile of their area.

(Q.342)

SHRI LALLU SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, It is a matter of great satisfaction that the monsoon rains over the past two years have been favourable for the country. Owing to this beneficial rainfall, agricultural sowing increased by four percent last year, and there is a promising prospect of further expansion in sowing during the current year as well. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister, what is the state-wise details of increased availability of water in the country last year and this year so far? How much of this additional water has been used, what percentage remains unused and what steps has the Government taken to conserve this additional water?

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, every year 4 thousand BCM water is collected from rainfall in the entire country, out of which 1869 BCM water is left for use after evaporation. But out of that also there are geological conditions, accordingly 1137 BCM of water is left. Out of that 690 BCM surface water, we can store

450 BCM. Till now only 253 BCM storage capacity has been created in the country. A capacity of about 51 BCM is in the process of construction and about 103 BCM is in the final stage. I would like to tell the Hon. Member that capacity creation is not a one-day job because dams are not built in a day. If we think today, it takes at least 5-6-7 years to get all the permissions, and after that it takes at least 8 to 10 years to construct the dam. When the Hon. Member has asked about the last two years, then the small projects like the construction of a check dam etc. can be done, but the large projects in which the Union Government plays a role, in which we provide technical guidance and finance, it is a very long process. Along with this, our idea is of river interlinking, through which about 170 BCM of water can be stored. Out of which three have advanced to the next stage.

I would like to tell the Hon. Member that first of all, from these three Ken-Betwa, Damanganga-Pinjal and Par-Tapi, 3.36 BCM from Ken-Betwa, 0.8 BCM from Damanganga-Pinjal and 1 BCM from Par-Tapi Narmada, we are moving towards these, so these too will have this much storage capacity. Work on this has already begun. We are moving forward slowly, but it is not the work of one day or one year

that I can tell the Hon. Member how much storage we have created this year and how much will be done next year.

SHRI LALLU SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, the Government said in the budget speech of 2017 that under MNREGA, a target has been set to build 5 lakh ponds in the country and the construction of 10 lakh additional ponds related to agriculture will be completed. Our question to the Hon. Minister is that how many ponds have been constructed so far, and what are the state-wise details of the water conservation capacity of these ponds? Does the Government have any plan for this water for human use, i.e. irrigation, industry and domestic industry? If yes, what are the details?

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, as per the question of the Hon. Member, since MNREGA is given by the Ministry of Rural Development. The information about the number of ponds constructed or what is the storage capacity comes to the Ministry of Rural Development. I will get all the information from the Ministry to the Member and send it to him as to how many more ponds have been constructed and how much capacity has been created as per the State.

[English]

PROF. K.V. THOMAS: This year's monsoon is almost coming to an end. Unfortunately, the monsoon in many States like Kerala is below the average. This has caused water scarcity in many rivers like Periyar River which supplies drinking water to the City of Kochi and to the neighbouring municipalities. The Government of Kerala has given a proposal of "Clean Periyar and Save Periyar" long time back. I want to know whether the Government is going to take immediate decisions so that this drinking water will be available from all the major rivers in Kerala which are about forty-four in number and, especially, Periyar in Kochi.

[Translation]

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, if the Member is referring to a particular river, and if a proposal comes from the State Government requesting assistance from the Union Government on any matter, we can certainly provide technical and financial guidance. However, it is the State Government's responsibility to implement the work. Such proposals will definitely be considered.

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA: Hon. Madam Speaker, through you, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to the matter of inter-state rivers and the allocation of Central funds for

their management. For instance, the Swan River, which originates in Himachal Pradesh, received funding from the Centre for channelisation works in that State. However, when the accumulated waters flow into Punjab, they cause extensive damage, uprooting villages and homes. The previous Government had submitted a proposal for channelising the Swan River within the Punjab territory as well. I would like to know the current status of this project, the progress made so far, and the timeline for the release of funds to ensure effective flood control and protection of affected communities.

The second thing is... (*Interruptions*) We should build check dams for water storage. We have at least 25 check dams from Mohali to Pathankot. Today, they are filled with silt. The Forest Department and Mining Department create obstacles in removing silt. I would like to know what measures you have taken for desilting.

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, desilting was also discussed last week. We have circulated a policy regarding desilting to all states. The State Government can get the desilting done at its own level. As far as permission is concerned. Permission is definitely required from the Ministry of Environment. This is the guideline of

the Ministry of Environment, and our guideline too. Under them, some states have already started the work of desilting. As far as the Hon. Member has talked about any particular project, I do not know the complete matter, but whatever information I have about that project, I will send it to the Hon. Member.

[English]

SHRI PRALHAD JOSHI: Though the rainfall in the entire country is comparatively better, Karnataka is reeling under drought. This is the fourth consecutive year. The water table has also gone too deep and there is also a serious crisis of water problem.

On the other hand, in Bengaluru and surrounding places and even in some other parts of the State of Karnataka, lakes are being encroached. Recently, the Karnataka Government was also under pressure and they are trying to de-notify the lakes which are actually drinking water lakes. ... (*Interruptions*) Has it come to the notice of the Government of India that the Government of Karnataka is trying to de-notify the lakes? In the sixth century, during the rule of *Kappearabhatta*, the first word written was '*kerekattisu*' which means constructing lakes. But now the State Government is trying to de-notify the lakes.... (*Interruptions*) Is the Government of India going

to take any action to stop this de-notification of lakes in the entire country, particularly in Karnataka?

[Translation]

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, it is true that compared to the country's average, the rainfall in Karnataka has been continuously less for the last four years, and it is less this year also. But what the Hon. Member has said about the denotification of lakes, we have not yet received any report from the Karnataka Government in this regard. But if it is so and the Hon. Member wants to know anything in this regard, then the answer will be sent to him after asking the Karnataka Government. Along with this, they are absolutely right that the denotification of any lake is not a good thing. Whatever reply the State Government gives in this regard, it will be sent to the Hon. Member.

[English]

SHRI A.P. JITHENDER REDDY: Hon. Speaker Madam, in our State of Telangana, monsoon normally comes in the first week of July. But this year, rains have not come till now. Farmers have already sown their seeds and they are waiting for crops to flourish. But as the Hon. Minister has already mentioned, there is scarcity of rain in Karnataka.

The Almatti dam is not yet filled and they are not releasing the water. The Government of Telangana has brought to the notice of the Government of India certain new projects taken up by the Government of Andhra Pradesh in Krishna and Govadari basins. These new projects are Pattiseema, Purushothapatnam, Mucherla LIS, Gundrevula reservoir, LIS for supplementation of Gajuladinne, Guru Raghavendra LIS, Pulikanuma LIS, Siddapuram LIS, Shivabhasyam LIS and Munneru Scheme. On one side, there is scarcity of water; on the other side, these types of new projects are being built without permission by Andhra Pradesh. I would like to know from the Hon. Minister as to what action has been taken on these projects.

[Translation]

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, Only large-scale projects require the approval of the Union Government. Regarding the issue raised by the Hon. Member, discussions have taken place from the Telangana side, including a meeting between the two Chief Ministers held here at the Ministry. During these discussions, it was conveyed that both States should endeavour to resolve the matter bilaterally at their own level. Since the Union Government's permission is neither required nor sought for this project, I would

like to inform the House that a tribunal under the chairmanship of Brijesh Kumar Ji has been constituted, and the matter is currently sub judice. Therefore, it is my understanding that no action can be taken until a decision is rendered by the tribunal.

HON. SPEAKER: A GST-like council will need to be formed for all States for this as well.

[English]

SHRI ANIL SHIROLE: Hon. Speaker Madam, since optimum afforestation of river catchment augments post-monsoon flows by 10 per cent, has the Government thought of massive afforestation with bamboo and other species as an additional effort to solve the problem?

[Translation]

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: Hon. Madam Speaker, This responsibility lies with the State Government... (Interruptions)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: What is your job then?

DR. SANJEEV BALYAN: If they send a proposal, my job is to provide funds, similar to how a bank gives a loan. I do not have the workforce to carry out plantation along riverbanks. However, if a

proposal comes from the State Government, all the machinery is available there. This ministry is only for cooperation and technical guidance.

(Q.343)

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Hon. Madam Speaker, the Minister has given a detailed reply in written form. The Union Cabinet chaired by the Hon. Prime Minister has approved the scheme named UDAY of the Ministry of Power in September, 2015. UDAY scheme aims to improve the financial condition of DISCOMs. Due to this, the Government is trying to provide 24-hour electricity to all the people. To date, electricity is not available 24 hours in many states. The Government aims to provide 24-hour electricity by 2019. The Minister's written response states that since the launch of the Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) in November 2015, participating states have reported a provisional reduction in annual losses of approximately Rs. 11,000 crore from 2015-16 to 2016-17.

I want to ask the Minister, which are these states that have seen a provisional reduction of Rs. 11,000 crore?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, the Ujjwal DISCOM Assurance Yojana (UDAY) differed from previous schemes because it aimed not only for financial reforms but also operational improvements. It also sought to ensure that these DISCOMs remain profitable in the long run and do not revert to losses. For this, if any DISCOM incurs losses in the future, the burden will fall on the State Government, which will have to cover it, and no bank loans will be available to cover that loss. This is a key feature of the UDAY scheme.

You will be surprised to know that in the year 2003-04, the total loss of all the Discoms across the country was only Rs. 06 thousand 07 crores, by the year 2008-09, it had increased to Rs. 34 thousand 754 crores in just five years. In the last five years, the losses of discoms across the country have kept increasing. Between 2011-12, an attempt was made to improve their finances under a scheme called FRP-II, in which the first 11 states approved, then only seven of them joined. But in that scheme, only a headroom was created for new borrowings, the old loans were converted into bonds, and the banks continued financing the losses by giving new loans. Due to this, from 2008-09 onwards till 2013-14, the loss of all the discoms increased to

Rs. 67 thousand, 174 crores. That means, where it was Rs. 6 thousand crore, it became Rs. 67 thousand crore in ten years. When the Government became concerned about this, with the consent of all the states, after discussions with all the states, hundreds of meetings were held across the country, in Delhi, voluntary approval of all was taken. This is the first time that the scheme was not made compulsory. The Union Government did not contribute even a single penny in the scheme, but with the approval the Union Government planned their operational improvements. The State Governments took their losses, the debt of Discoms, in their budget and with the combined efforts of everyone, this loss reduced from Rs. 67 thousand crores, you all will be happy to know that it became Rs. 57 thousand crores in the year 2014-15 and in the year 2016-17, this loss came down to Rs. 40 thousand crores. I am confident that by 2019, all the discoms across the country will be in profit. You will be happy to know, look at Rajasthan, when the Government changed in Rajasthan in 2012, the loss of Rajasthan's discoms was Rs. 15 thousand crores annually. This year, in 2016-17, it has come down to Rs. 05 thousand 200 crore, that is, only one third is left. Similarly, if we look at different states, Haryana has done very good work. Even in Haryana, the loss, which

was earlier around Rs. 4 thousand crores, has come down to only Rs. 400 crores.

Different states have taken advantage of this. I have a list of every state, I can tell by counting. It also benefited in Bihar that the operational parameters have started to improve. There will also be financial improvement in future. There are some states where the problem has increased. Due to special reasons in Jammu and Kashmir, there is a delay in providing electricity to every house under the scheme. There is a delay in collection efficiency. I am confident that with the cooperation of the State Governments, we will be able to improve it completely.

SHRI SHRIRANG APPA BARNE: Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the Hon. Minister for his very detailed response on this topic.

Hon. Madam Speaker, under the UDAY scheme, we have aimed to reduce the integrated transmission commercial loss to 15 per cent. Therefore, the Government has planned to take action to install smart meters, but according to the information available on the Government's website, the aim has been to provide smart meters to all customers using more than 500 units by the year 2017, but till date

only three percent customers have been given smart meters. Similarly, only one per cent of customers using above 200 units have been given smart meters. Zero per cent work is being done so far in many states. I want to know when your Government will achieve this objective?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, the Hon. Member has asked a very good question. Smart meter provides tamper tamper-proof meter, people are less worried about wrong Billing, and it also becomes a means of preventing theft. Therefore, the aim of the Government was, and we had also stipulated in UDAY, that those who use more than 500 units should get compulsory smart meters installed immediately and later it would be installed on more than 200 units. The current price of smart meter used to be between Rs. 8-10 thousand to Rs. 15 thousand, which were the current specifications. Then we held several rounds of discussions with the states, and I sympathise with the states that they face problems in installing such expensive smart meters and then recovering their costs. Therefore, we, in collaboration with BIS and the Central Electricity Authority, simplified the entire smart meter. The earlier smart meters had many features which were not necessary in the Indian context. Now a simplified version of the smart meter, the main objective of which is

that it is tamper-proof, no one can spoil its reading, and the lineman does not have to go to take its reading, thereby eliminating the possibility of corruption etc. Readings come directly to the computer through Wi-Fi or through the Internet. Our estimate is that this smart meter will start from Rs. 1500 to Rs. 2000 and like we have brought the LED item of Rs. 310 at Rs. 40, I believe that our aim is to bring this 8-10-15 thousand rupees smart meter below one thousand rupees and as soon as that happens, I am confident that every single meter in the country will be happily replaced by all the State Governments with smart meters. You will be happy to know that the new Government of Uttar Pradesh has already issued a tender for 40 lakh and Haryana for 10 lakh, totalling 50 lakh Smart meters of new imagination, this simplified version, notice inviting tender and its bidding etc. will start soon. As you know, we do bidding while purchasing everything, so that we get the best price, the lowest price and the possibility of corruption is eliminated.

SHRI DHARMENDRA YADAV: Hon. Madam Speaker, thank you for giving me the opportunity to ask questions.

As with the announcement of UDAY scheme, the Government had claimed that 24/7 electricity would be provided to every house.

Besides, it was also claimed by the Government that to provide electricity to every village, work will be done to electrify 100% villages. Through you, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister about these two specific things, which were raised by the Government at the time of launching this scheme. Hon. Minister, Sir, I have only one specific question for you that by when will you provide an electricity supply to the whole of India 24/7 and will you be able to complete the work of rural electrification in all the villages, 100 per cent of the villages of India?

That is why I am saying that because of the previous Government, even if it was due to discrimination, the money for rural electrification, amounting to about Rs. 4,000 crore, remained stuck for years, and all the districts, including my Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh, remained affected by rural electrification. The Government did not give the money. Since, on one hand, the Government is talking about 24-hour electricity, rural electrification, while on the other hand, it is also trying to stop the budget.

Therefore, Hon. Minister Sir, my specific question is by when will you complete both these works?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, let me assure the Hon. Member, I will give a very specific answer to your specific question. As far as politicization is concerned, I can assure you that in the twenty minutes left, I can completely expose your previous Uttar Pradesh Government by answering this question. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please no, not yet. Please do all this later.

Allow me to first explain the reason for the non-release of funds. There exists a Government system which mandates that all prescribed criteria must be met before funds can be disbursed. I wish to inform the House, through you, that during the Union Government's inspection of the electrification work in Uttar Pradesh, as many as 68,000 technical quality defects were identified. Under such circumstances, it is not feasible to continue releasing funds without addressing these issues.... (*Interruptions*) Therefore, a clear warning is issued to the State Governments that quality workmanship is imperative, as funds will be disbursed strictly based on the standard of work delivered.... (*Interruptions*)

With regard to rural electrification, the Hon. Prime Minister took a resolute pledge on August 15, 2015, to provide electricity to every village in the country within a span of one thousand days. I am pleased

to inform the House that out of 18,452 villages, only about three and a half to four thousand remain to be electrified. The thousand-day period concluded on May 1, 2018, and I am confident that this target will be fully achieved even before the deadline.

Concerning the pledge to provide electricity to every household, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had solemnly committed to fulfilling this promise by August 15, 2022. In response, the Ministry of Power has devised a comprehensive and rigorous plan to ensure its realisation. I am fully confident that well ahead of the stipulated deadline, electricity will be delivered to every home, ensuring that the youth and women of this nation will no longer be deprived of this vital necessity.

SHRI DADDAN MISHRA: Hon. Madam Speaker, my question is in the context of Uttar Pradesh and I think that the answer to my question will also clarify the reason for the extent of losses and increasing debts of Discoms.

I seek to know from the Hon. Minister why, under the previous Government of Uttar Pradesh, electricity was purchased from private companies at exorbitant rates of five to seven rupees per unit, while cheaper electricity at two to three rupees per unit was readily available

from Government-owned entities. What steps has the present Government taken to rectify this disparity, and what is the current difference in procurement costs after a comprehensive review of the rates?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: Hon. Madam Speaker, this is also a very good question, because after learning from this, we have tried a new experiment.

When the new Government took office in Uttar Pradesh and made all the information public, it surprised many. There are numerous sources, ten, fifteen, or even twenty different options, from which electricity can be procured. Naturally, every State seeks to purchase electricity at the lowest possible cost and resorts to more expensive sources only when absolutely necessary. In technical terms, it is called – ‘Merit Order Dispatch.’ It is the responsibility of every State Government to follow the principle of merit order dispatch. This means that electricity sources with the lowest variable costs, such as coal, transportation, and other expenses should be fully utilised first. Only when additional power is required should the next costlier source be engaged, and thereafter the next, in order to ensure that the overall cost of power procurement remains as low as possible. Upon

reviewing the information, it became evident that despite the availability of cheaper electricity, more expensive power was being procured. This raised serious concerns regarding the reasons behind such decisions, whether there was any element of corruption or attempts to favour certain parties. In response, the Ministry of Power and the Union Government have taken decisive measures to put an end to these practices once and for all. The Hon. Prime Minister has a remarkable approach of ensuring complete transparency by bringing all matters before the public. When people are fully informed, they are empowered to monitor effectively, which in turn increases the sense of responsibility among the citizens.

Hon. Madam Speaker, that's why we have created an app, whose name is 'Merit'. According to the merit order dispatch, the effort is that every state follows the merit order dispatch honestly. Complete information is available in this app. Now, any officer or leader will hesitate to purchase expensive electricity because journalists and the public can immediately question why more costly power was bought when cheaper electricity was available. This information is accessible to everyone. I encourage all of you to download the 'MERIT' application on your phones. Through this platform, you can obtain

round-the-clock information about your State, and if any irregularities occur, you have the means to raise your voice.

[English]

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY: Madam, this House would love to get apprised by the Hon. Minister about the information which I am going to ask. He is not politicizing this issue and I appreciate that.

When we are talking about rural electricity in all States including Uttar Pradesh, which is the organization that is implementing it? Usually, it is REC. As far as my knowledge goes, the Union Government authorities like NTPC and such other bodies are implementing the rural electrification programmes. It is not the State Government. I would like to have a clarification on that.

As far as smart meter is concerned, is it from Gujarat or is it from China? Where are these smart meters manufactured?

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: It is a very good question. I would like to thank my colleagues, Shri Satpathy Ji, for giving me this opportunity to clarify.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Kindly ensure that the proceedings are completed within the allotted time and avoid extended speeches.

[English]

SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL: The Rural Electrification Corporation is only an implementing agency for disbursement of funds and monitoring of the programme. The REC does not have the wherewithal or the staff or the organization to implement this on the ground. We only give money to the States. The States do the tendering and out of those tenders, whoever contractor is L-1, he implements the project.

Now why Satpathy Ji has to ask this question, I would like the House to know. Satpathy Ji has to ask me this question because sadly after we started the rural electrification work, no work took place in Odisha for one year. The State did not do any tendering or bidding. They did not appoint any agency to implement the project.

Then I had to go to Bhubaneswar and I conducted a meeting there. I requested the State to expedite the work. I was running against a deadline as I had to finish it in 1000 days. There were more than 2500 villages, if I remember broadly the number, in Odisha which did not have electricity. Even after 70 years of Independence, no work was

happening. Finally, on the request of the State Government, PGCIL and NTPC stepped into the shoes of the State Government to do the tendering and get the work executed. It was the failure of the State Government to execute. Otherwise, the responsibility is of the State. They appoint agencies and they do the work themselves. The REC only monitors the quality and effects the payments.

As regards smart meters, I am delighted to share with the Hon. Members that India produces some of the world's best smart meters in India. We have Companies whose smart meters are considered better than the best in the world.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Your name will have to be changed to Prof. Piyush Goyal.

(Q.344)

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: Hon. Madam Speaker, I had asked the Hon. Minister that what is the status of our country's talents at the international level in terms of athletics and sports and what measures is the Government of India taking to improve it? In the reply received from the Hon. Minister, I am pleased that he has acknowledged that the true sports talents and abilities of our country reside predominantly in the villages. It is imperative that these talents be recognised and nurtured. Furthermore, the Minister has candidly admitted to several shortcomings where improvements are necessary.

I congratulate them that at least they have accepted it and have also taken measures to improve it.

The Hon. Minister said that there was a lack of professionalism, lack of domestic competitions, lack of strong infrastructure, lack of infrastructure that the coaches needed. They have identified shortcomings and are ready to improve. The Hon. Minister has given information about the schemes, whether it is the National Sports Talent Competition Scheme or any other scheme. This is a very serious matter because today when we compete in sports with China, America or European countries, the players of our country fail to perform as per their ability. Hon. Prime Minister's dream is that we will move from determination to excellence, from resolution to accomplishment. Let us dream that in 2022 our country's athletics make a name for itself at the international level.

Stadiums may not be available in every district of the country. My first question to the Hon. Minister is whether the Government of India intends to develop such stadiums at the headquarters of every district, either through the Sports Council of India or by other means, equipped with facilities for all sports disciplines. This would enable athletes to train at an international level, with access to accommodation, training, and coaching. I would like to know the current status of this initiative and what measures are planned for implementation in the districts in the coming days.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Madam Speaker, the question is very long so I will give a short answer. The Hon. Member has mentioned that we have replied in detail and have explained our shortcomings and problems. We have consolidated the earlier schemes under the 'Khelo India' initiative. There is a traditional saying, "Padhoge likhoge banoge nawab, kheloge kudoge banoge kharab," which suggests that only education leads to success, while sports lead to failure. I do not subscribe to this belief. Today, we must redefine this thinking. My message is, "Padhoge likhoge banoge nawab, kheloge kudoge bhi banoge nawab." In today's India, both knowledge and sport are equally powerful paths to excellence, dignity, and national pride. The new slogan of 'Khelo India' is - 'Kheloge To Khiloge'. Hon. Prime Minister has tried to move forward with this slogan and has made a scheme for the country by taking together the talents of the youth of the entire country.

As far as infrastructure is concerned, estimates come from the State Government, there is no time to tell about it right now, but under 'Khelo India',

every state has got a scheme, whether it is about building a stadium, whether it is about establishing an academy, whether it is about money to encourage players, all kinds of assistance are being provided and will continue to be provided in future also.

DR. MANOJ RAJORIA: Hon. Madam Speaker, it is a matter of great pleasure that the way support is being given to the states in the country under the leadership of the Hon. Prime Minister through 'Khelo India'. I expect the Hon. Minister to send proposals on his own behalf in every district instead of taking proposals from the states, then I think there will be more benefits.

I want to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister to one thing that there are schools in every gram panchayat of the country. I especially want to say about Rajasthan that Senior Secondary School has been established at every Gram Panchayat headquarters here. Land has been allotted by the Panchayat and Zilla Parishad for sports grounds but there is a shortage of funds. Is the Government of India preparing to bring such a scheme in which to promote sports in schools and colleges at the Gram Panchayat level, the Sports Department can provide support through MNREGA or any other scheme by allocating direct budget for sports in Gram Panchayat headquarters, schools and colleges?

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Madam Speaker, now talking about the Panchayat, there is a provision in the MNREGA scheme that you can do whatever you want to build a ground or develop sports in village schools. Apart from that, if it comes in high trend of our categorization, then it can be

established in any village or place. Like I said earlier, the Government of India has been helping in this. Since sports is a State subject, we want to tell the State Governments that when they allocate funds at their level, they should keep sports in mind.

SHRIMATI SATABDI ROY: Hon. Madam Speaker, we talk about general equality, but there is no equality anywhere. Even in films, the hero gets more money and the heroine gets less. ... (*Interruptions*) Even in cricket, male cricketers like Sachin, Saurabh Ganguly etc. get crores of rupees, but women cricketers get lakhs of rupees. Along with this, male cricketers also get opportunities in ads, IPL etc. My point is that even women cricketers do the same thing for the country, but they get very little money. I want to ask the Hon. Minister to make such a provision for women cricketers also, so that they can be equal to male cricketers.

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Your suggestion is well taken.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Madam Speaker, I support the sentiment of the Hon. Member. We also want women should get special support. The Prime Minister has created an Olympic Task Force, in which special attention will be given to women.

12.00 hours

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I have received notices of Adjournment Motion from some Members on different issues. You can raise it in Other Matters. Then I will allow them.

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

***WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS**

Starred Question Nos. 345 to 360

Unstarred Question Nos. 3911 to 4140

12.01 hours**PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE**

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

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DR. SUBHASH RAMRAO BHAMRE): On behalf of Shri Rao Inderjit Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a copy each of the following papers (Hindi and English versions):-

(1) Memorandum of Understanding between the NBCC Engineering & Consultancy Limited and NBCC (India) Limited for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7460/16/17]

(2) Memorandum of Understanding between the NBCC (India) Limited and Ministry of Urban Development for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7461/16/17]

(3) Memorandum of Understanding between the NBCC Services Limited and NBCC (India) Limited for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7462/16/17]

(4) Memorandum of Understanding between the Hindustan Prefab Limited and Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7463/16/17]

(5) Memorandum of Understanding between the Housing and Urban Development Corporation Limited and Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7464/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): On behalf of Shri Rajiv Pratap Rudy, I beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Apprenticeship (Fourth Amendment) Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.936(E) in Gazette of India dated 19th July, 2017 under sub-section (3) of Section 37 of the Apprentices Act, 1961.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7465/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S. S. AHLUWALIA): On behalf of Shri Vijay Goel, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Delhi, for the year 2014-2015, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan, Delhi, for the year 2014-2015.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7466/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL, MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF NEW AND RENEWABLE ENERGY AND MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI PIYUSH GOYAL): I beg to lay on

the Table a copy of the Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India-Union Government (Commercial) (No. 34 of 2017)- Compliance Audit on Loans to Independent Power Producers by Rural Electrification Corporation Limited and Power Finance Corporation Limited, Ministry of Power, for the year ended March, 2016 under Article 151(1) of the Constitution.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7467/16/17]

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA):

Speaker Madam, on behalf of Dr. Jitendra Singh, I place the following letter on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research Mumbai, for the year 2016-2016, along with Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai, for the year 2015-16.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7468/16/17]

(3) A copy of the Memorandum of Understanding (Hindi and English versions) between the North Eastern Handicrafts and Handlooms Development Corporation Limited and the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7469/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MANOJ SINHA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I lay the following papers on the Table:-

- (1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.
- (ii) Statement regarding Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Centre for Development of Telematics, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7470/16/17]

(3) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 37 of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India Act, 1997:-

- (i) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Contributory Provident Fund) (Amendment) Rules, 2017 published in Notification No. G.S.R.963(E) in Gazette of India dated 27th July, 2017.
 - (ii) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Officers and Staff Appointment) (11th Amendment) Regulation, 2016 published in Notification No. 5-1/2014-A&P in Gazette of India dated 9th June, 2017.
 - (iii) The Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (Appointment of Officers and Employees) (12th Amendment) Regulations, 2016 published in Notification No. 5-1/2014-A&P in the Gazette of India dated 27th July, 2017.
- (4) Statement (Hindi and English versions) showing reasons for the delay in laying the papers mentioned in item no. (ii) and (iii) of (3) above.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7471/16/17]

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M. J. AKBAR): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) A copy of the Pravasi Bharatiya Bima Yojana 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R.864(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th July, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7472/16/17]

(2) A copy of the Notification No. F. No. Q/11017/08/2016-OIA-I (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 20th April, 2017, pertaining to the closure of the Mahatma Gandhi Pravasi Suraksha Yojana with effect from 1st April, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7473/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): I beg to lay on the Table:-

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

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Cochin Shipyard Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7474/16/17]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Shipping Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7475/16/17]

(iii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Dredging Corporation of India Limited and the Ministry of Shipping for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7476/16/17]

(2) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2015-2016.

(ii) A copy of the Annual Accounts (Hindi and English versions) of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2015-2016, together with Audit Report thereon.

(iii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7477/16/17]

(4) A copy of the Merchant Shipping (Continuous Discharge Certificate) Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 883(E) in Gazette of India dated 17th July, 2017 under sub-section (3) of Section 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7478/16/17]

(5) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under sub-section (3) of Section 50 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002:-

- (i) S.O.896(E) published in Gazette of India dated 21st March, 2017, making certain amendments in the Notification Nos. S.O.491(E) & S.O.492(E) dated 16th February, 2016.
- (ii) S.O.974(E) published in Gazette of India dated 28th March, 2017, appointing the Chief Engineer (National Highway) of the Public Works Department of the State Government of Himachal Pradesh to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on it under Sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 43 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 within the limits and jurisdiction, mentioned therein, in respect of National Highways specified in the Notification.
- (iii) S.O.1054(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th April, 2017, appointing the Executive Engineers, Public Works Department, Government of Arunachal Pradesh and Chief Estate Officer, Department of District Administration Itanagar to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on it under Sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 43 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002

within the limits and jurisdiction, mentioned therein, in respect of National Highways specified in the Notification.

- (iv) S.O.1379(E) published in Gazette of India dated 2nd May, 2017, appointing the officers of General Reserve Engineer Force to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on it under Sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 43 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 within the limits and jurisdiction, mentioned therein, in respect of National Highways specified in the Notification.
- (v) S.O.1422(E) published in Gazette of India dated 5th May, 2017, appointing the officer, mentioned therein, to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on it under Sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and 43 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 within the limits and jurisdiction, mentioned therein, in respect of National Highways specified in the Notification.
- (vi) S.O.1992(E) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd June, 2017, appointing the Commander of the Border Road Organization to exercise the powers and discharge the functions conferred on it under Sections 24, 25, 26, 27 and

43 of the Control of National Highways (Land and Traffic) Act, 2002 within the limits and jurisdiction, mentioned therein, in respect of National Highways specified in the Notification.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7479/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAYANT SINHA): I beg to lay on the Table:-

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

(i) Memorandum of Understanding between the Airports Authority of India and the Ministry of Civil Aviation for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7480/16/17]

(ii) Memorandum of Understanding between the Chandigarh International Airport Limited and the Airports Authority of India for the year 2017-2018.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7481/16/17]

(2) A copy of the Anti-Hijacking Rules, 2017 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. G.S.R. 828(E) in Gazette of India dated 5th July, 2017 under sub-section (2) of Section 20 of the Anti-Hijacking Act, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7482/16/17]

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

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

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

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7483/16/17]

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL): I**

beg to lay on the Table a copy of the Medium-term Expenditure Framework Statement 2017-18 (August, 2017) (Hindi and English versions) under section 3 of the Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management Act, 2003.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7484/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI PON RADHAKRISHNAN): On behalf of Shri Mansukh L. Mandaviya, I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the National Highways Authority of India, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7485/16/17]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ELECTRONICS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI P.P. CHAUDHARY): I beg to lay on the Table:-

(1) (i) A copy of the Annual Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Media Lab Asia, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016, alongwith Audited Accounts.

(ii) A copy of the Review (Hindi and English versions) by the Government of the working of the Media Lab Asia, New Delhi, for the year 2015-2016.

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

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7486/16/17]

(3) A copy of the Notification No. S.O.3509(E) (Hindi and English versions) published in Gazette of India dated 23rd November, 2016 containing order mandating Indian Language Support for Mobile Phones as per IS 16333 (Part-3) to the Schedule of Electronics and IT Goods (Requirements for Compulsory Registration) Order, 2012

issued under clause 10(1)(p) of the Bureau of Indian Standards Act, 1986 and in pursuance of Rule 13 of the Bureau of Indian Standards Rules, 1987.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7487/16/17]

(4) A copy each of the following Notifications (Hindi and English versions) under Section 55 of the Aadhaar (targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016:-

(1) The Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update)(First Amendment) Regulations, 2017 (1 of 2017) published in Notification No. 13012/79/2017/Legal-UIDAI (No. 1 of 2017) in Gazette of India dated 15th February, 2017.

(2) The Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update)(Second Amendment) Regulations, 2017 (No. 2 of 2017) published in Notification No. 13012/79/2017/LegalUIDAI (No. 2 of 2017) in Gazette of India dated 7th July, 2017.

(3) The Aadhaar (Enrolment and Update)(Third Amendment) Regulations, 2017 (No. 3 of 2017) published in Notification No. 13012/79/2017/Legal-UIDAI (No. 3 of 2017) in Gazette of India dated 11th July, 2017.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7488/16/17]

(5) A copy of the Aadhaar (Removal of Difficulties) Order, 2016 (Hindi and English versions) published in Notification No. S.O.2923(E) in Gazette of India dated 12th September, 2016 under subsection (2) of Section 58 of the Aadhaar (targeted Delivery of Financial and other Subsidies, Benefits and Services) Act, 2016.

[Placed in Library, See No. LT 7489/16/17]

12.05 hours**BUSINESS ADVISORY COMMITTEE****46th Report**

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA):

Madam, I submit the 46th report of the Business Advisory Committee.

12.05 ½ hours**COMMITTEE ON PRIVATE MEMBERS' BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS****36th Report**

[English]

DR. M. THAMBIDURAI (KARUR): I beg to present the Thirty-sixth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Private Members' Bills and Resolutions.

12.06 hours

COMMITTEE ON ABSENCE OF MEMBERS FROM
SITTINGS OF THE HOUSE

Minutes

SHRI P. KARUNAKARAN (KASARGOD): I beg to lay on the Table the minutes (Hindi and English versions) of the Eighth and Ninth sittings of the Committee on Absence of Members from the sittings of the House held on 10.4.2017 and 1.8.2017 respectively.

12.06 ¼ hours**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT ASSURANCES****63rd to 66th Reports**

[Translation]

DR. RAMESH POKHRIYAL NISHANK (HARDWAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I present the following report (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Government Assurances:

1. 63th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to).
 2. 64th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Not acceded to).
 3. 65th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Acceded to).
 4. 66th Report regarding requests for dropping of Assurances (Not acceded to).
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12.06 ½ hours**COMMITTEE ON PAPERS LAID ON THE TABLE****12th and 13th Reports**

[English]

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): On behalf of Shri Chandrakant Khaire, I beg to present the Twelfth and Thirteenth Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Papers Laid on the Table (2016-2017).

12.07 hours**RAILWAY CONVENTION COMMITTEE****15th and 16th Reports**

[Translation]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Madam Speaker, I present the following report of the Railway Convention Committee:

1. 15th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Safety Provisions at Unmanned Level Crossings'.

2. 16th Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) on 'Track Upgradation & Modernisation'.
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12.07 ¼ hours**COMMITTEE ON SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION****20th to 23rd Reports**

[English]

ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR (SOUTH GOA): On behalf of Shri Dilipkumar Mansukhlal Gandhi, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation:-

(1) Twentieth Report on the RBI Pension Regulations 1990.

(2) Twenty-first Report on the Rules/Regulations framed under the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act, 2016.

(3) Twenty-second Report of the Committee on Subordinate Legislation based on examination of statutory orders.

(4) Twenty-third Action Taken Report of the Committee on the observations/recommendations contained in Fifteenth Report (16LS) on e-waste management.

12.07 ½ hours**COMMITTEE ON WELFARE OF SCHEDULED CASTES
AND SCHEDULED TRIBES****12th to 14th Reports**

DR. KIRIT P. SOLANKI (AHMEDABAD): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes:-

(1) 12th Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject - 'Representation of SCs/STs in services and Redressal of their grievances and credit facilities being provided by IDBI Bank to SCs/STs under the Ministry of Finance (Department of Financial Services)'.

(2) 13th Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the subject - 'Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Eighth (16th Lok Sabha) on the Ministry of Power regarding 'Reservation for and representation of SCs and STs in Bhakra Beas Management Board (BBMB)'.

(3) 14th Report of the Committee on the Welfare of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes on the Ministry of Home Affairs on

Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Ninth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Implementation of Reservation Policy and working of Liaison Officers to safeguard the interest of SCs and STs Employees in various Attached/Subordinate Offices/ Organisations under the Ministry of Home Affairs'.

12.08 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

39th to 42nd Reports

[Translation]

SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH (SAMBHAL): Hon. Madam Speaker, I present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of Standing Committee on Agriculture:-

- (1) Thirty-ninth Report on the Subject 'Comprehensive Agriculture Research based on Geographical Conditions and Impact of Climatic Changes to ensure Food Security in the Country' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agricultural Research and Education).

(2) Fortieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty-eighth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on the Subject 'Augmenting Rural Storage Infrastructure through the Scheme of Rural Godown' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).

(3) Forty-first Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on the Subject 'Steps taken to Bridge the Gap between the Demand and Availability of Fodder through Sub Mission on Fodder and Feed Development' of the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries).

(4) Forty-second Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Thirty-fifth Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' of the Ministry of

Agriculture and Farmers Welfare (Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare).

12.08 ¼ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON DEFENCE

32nd to 34th Reports

[English]

SHRI THUPSTAN CHHEWANG (LADAKH): On behalf of Maj. Gen. B.C. Khanduri, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on

Defence:-

(1) Thirty-second Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Creation of Non-lapsable Capital Fund Account, instead of the present system'.

(2) Thirty-third Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Resettlement of Ex-servicemen'.

(3) Thirty-fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Defence on 'Provision of Medical Services to Armed Forces including Dental Services'.

12.08 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENERGY

29th and 30th Reports

[Translation]

DR. VIRENDRA KUMAR (TIKAMGARH): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to present the following Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Energy (2016-17):

1. 29th Report on Action Taken on the recommendations contained in the 26th Report (16 Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants of the Ministry of Power for the year 2017-18.
2. 30th Report on National Electricity Policy – A Review, pertaining to the Ministry of Power.

12.08 ¾ hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON FOOD, CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION****17th Report**

[English]

SHRI J. C. DIVAKAR REDDY (ANANTAPUR): I beg to present the Seventeenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (2016-17) on Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Committee (2016-17) on the subject ‘Computerization of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS)’.

12.09 hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON LABOUR****28th Report**

[Translation]

SHRI RAJESH KUMAR DIWAKAR (HATHRAS): Hon. Madam Speaker, I present the 28th Report (Hindi and English versions) of the

Standing Committee on Labour on the subject 'Cess Funds and their utilisation for workers' welfare'.

12.09 ¼ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RAILWAYS

16th Report

[English]

SHRI SUDIP BANDYOPADHYAY (KOLKATA UTTAR): I beg to present the Sixteenth Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Railways (2016-17) on the subject 'Outstanding Dues for Indian Railways'.

12.09 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON URBAN DEVELOPMENT

18th to 20th Reports

SHRI KAPIL MORESHWAR PATIL (BHIWANDI): On behalf of Dr. Kirit Somaiya, I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi

and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Urban Development (2016-2017):-

(1) Eighteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 12th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Modernization of Directorate of Printing, Government of India Stationery Office and Department of Publication'.

(2) Nineteenth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 15th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Urban Development.

(3) Twentieth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 16th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Poverty Alleviation.

12.09 ¾ hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON WATER RESOURCES****(i)17th to 19th Reports**

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the Statements (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources:-

1. 17th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 16th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the Demands for Grants (2017-2018).
2. 18th Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations / Recommendations contained in the Thirteenth Report on 'Indigenous and Modern Forms of Water Conservation – Techniques and Practices'; and
3. 19th Report on 'The Inter-State River Water Disputes (Amendment) Bill, 2017'.

(ii) Statements

SHRI HUKUM SINGH: Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table the following details (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Water Resources:

1. Statement showing Further Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Eleventh Report (ATR) pertaining to the observations/recommendations of the Standing Committee on Water Resources contained in their Fifth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Review of Ground Water Scenario, need for a comprehensive policy and measures to address problems in the country with particular reference to (i) Dark Blocks; and (ii) Contamination of underground water by certain industries'.
2. Statement showing Further Action Taken by the Government on the observations/recommendations contained in the Twelfth Report (ATR) pertaining to the observations/recommendations of the Standing Committee on Water Resources contained in their Ninth Report (16th

Lok Sabha) on Demand for Grants (2016-17) of the Ministry of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation.

12.10 hours

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON CHEMICALS AND
FERTILIZERS**

(i) 36th to 39th Action Taken Reports

[English]

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH): I beg to present the following Action Taken Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers:-

- (1) Thirty-sixth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-first Report (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants 2017-18' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

- (2) Thirty-seventh Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty-second Report(16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants 2017-18' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Pharmaceuticals).
- (3) Thirty-eighth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty Third Report(16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants 2017-18' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Chemicals and Petrochemicals).
- (4) Thirty ninth Report on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the Thirty Fourth Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject "Implementation of Policy on Promotion of city compost' of the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers (Department of Fertilizers).

(ii) Action Taken Statements

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA: I beg to lay on the table the Statement (Hindi and English versions) of Final Action Taken Replies of the Government on the recommendations contained in the 19th Report (16th Lok Sabha) of Committee on Chemicals and Fertilizers regarding Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 11th Report (16th Lok Sabha) on the subject 'Movement of Fertilizers and Monitoring System' of Department of Fertilizers.

12.10 ¾ hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON COAL AND STEEL****32nd to 34th Reports**

SHRI RAKESH SINGH (JABALPUR): I beg to present the following Reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel:-

- (1) Thirty-second Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on 'Skill Development in Mining Sector' relating to the Ministry of Mines.
 - (2) Thirty-third Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in Twenty-ninth Report of the Committee (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' pertaining to the Ministry of Steel.
 - (3) Thirty-Fourth Report of the Standing Committee on Coal and Steel on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations contained in Twenty-eighth Report of the Committee (16th Lok Sabha) on 'Demands for Grants (2017-18)' pertaining to the Ministry of Mines.
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12.11 hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL JUSTICE AND
EMPOWERMENT****(i) 44th to 47th Reports**

[Translation]

SHRI RAMESH BAIS (RAIPUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I present the following report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17).

- (1) 36th Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).
- (2) 37th Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).
- (3) 46th action taken report on the 38th report on the demands for grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (4) 39th Report on Demands for Grants (2017-18) of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

(ii) Statements

SHRI RAMESH BAIS: Hon. Speaker, I lay on the Table the following details (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17).

- (1) Statement showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirty-second Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Thirtieth Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants - 2016- 17' of the Ministry of Minority Affairs.

- (2) Statement showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 34th Report (16 Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/ Observations contained in the 28th Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants - 2016-17' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Empowerment of Persons with Disabilities).
- (3) Statement showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Fortieth Report (Sixteenth Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the Twenty-fifth Report of the Committee on 'Persons affected by Alcoholism and Substance (Drug) abuse, their treatment/rehabilitation and role of Voluntary Organizations' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

- (4) Statement showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 41st Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) on the Action Taken by the Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 29th Report of the Committee on 'Demands for Grants - 2016-17' of the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.
- (5) Statement showing Final Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 42nd Report (16th Lok Sabha) of the Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment (2016-17) on the Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations contained in the 31st Report of the Committee on 'Review of the functioning of the National Backward Classes Finance and Development Corporation (NBCFDC)' of the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (Department of Social Justice and Empowerment).

12.11 ½ hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON INDUSTRY

283rd Report

SHRI BIRENDRA KUMAR CHOUDHARY (JHANJIHARPUR):

Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to present the 283rd Report on Action Taken on the 282nd Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2017-18) pertaining to the Ministry of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises (Department of Public Enterprises) of the Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Industry.

12.11 ¾ hours**STANDING COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORT, TOURISM
AND CULTURE****251st to 253rd Reports**

SHRI HARISH MEENA (DAUSA) Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to present the following reports (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Transport, Tourism and Culture.

- (1) 251st Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/ Recommendations of the Committee contained in its 244th Report on the Demands for Grants (2017-2018) of Ministry of Civil Aviation.
- (2) 252nd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in its 246th Report on the Demands for Grants (2017-2018) of Ministry of Road Transport & Highways.

- (3) 253rd Report on Action Taken by the Government on the Observations/Recommendations of the Committee contained in its 247th Report on the Demands for Grants (2015-2016) of the Ministry of Shipping.

12.12 hours

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND FAMILY

WELFARE

102nd Report

[English]

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (PASCHIM CHAMPARAN): I beg to lay on the Table the 102nd Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Health and Family Welfare on the Surrogacy (Regulation) Bill, 2016.

12.12 ¼ hours

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL,PUBLIC
GRIEVANCES, LAW AND JUSTICE**

92nd Report

[Translation]

DR. SATYA PAL SINGH (BAGHPAT): Hon. Madam Speaker, I lay on the Table the the 92nd Report (Hindi and English versions) of the Standing Committee on Personnel, Public Grievances, Law and Justice on the subject 'Appraisal and Empanelment of Civil Servants under the Union Government'.

12.12 ½ hours**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1630 DATED 26.07.2017 REGARDING REPRESENTATIONS FROM ABRKPLWA ALONGWITH REASONS FOR DELAY^{2*}**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAJEN GOHAIN): I beg to lay a statement (i) correcting the reply given on 26.07.2017 to Unstarred Question No. 1630 by Shri Sankar Prasad Datta, MP regarding Representations from ABRKPLWA and (ii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply:

Parts of the Question answered	<u>For</u>	<u>Read</u>
(b) to (d)	(b) to (d): Representations / suggestions from Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare	(b) to (d): Representations / suggestions from Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare Association

^{2*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 7490/16/17.

<p>Association have been received against Railway Board Commercial Circular number 22/2017. The Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare Association has raised its objections and has demanded modification of the above Commercial Circular, which has been issued pursuant to Judgement delivered by Hon'ble Supreme Court on 29/01/2016. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its Judgement dated 29/01/2016 has ordered that only those licensees shall be eligible for renewal of their licenses who can declare on affidavit that they do not have the license of more than one shop or kiosk in their name or</p>	<p>have been received against Railway Board Commercial Circular number 22/2017. The Akhil Bhartiya Railway Khan-Pan Licensees Welfare Association has raised its objections and has demanded modification of the above Commercial Circular, which has been issued pursuant to Judgement delivered by Hon'ble Supreme Court on 29/01/2016. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, vide its Judgement dated 29/01/2016 has ordered that only those licensees shall be eligible for renewal of their licenses who can declare on affidavit that they do not have the license of more than one shop or kiosk in their name or benami license at the railway stations. One unit</p>
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	benami license at the railway stations. One license will be renewed with periodical reasonable increase of license fee.	will be renewed with periodical reasonable increase of license fee.
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Reasons for Delay

The error in the last line of the Answer was inadvertent, which came to light while answering similar Unstarred Question in the following week. Corrective action was initiated immediately.

The inconvenience caused is regretted.

12.12 ¾ hours**STATEMENT CORRECTING REPLY TO UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 475 DATED 19.07.2017 REGARDING LIST OF INDIAN WORKERS ABROAD ALONGWITH REASONS FOR DELAY^{3*}**

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI M.J. AKBAR): I beg to lay a statement correcting a reply (Hindi and English versions) to Unstarred Question No. 475 given on 19 July, 2017 by Shri Y.V. Subba Reddy, regarding 'List of Indian Workers Abroad' and (ii) giving reasons for delay in correcting the reply.

In page 3 of Annexure in reply to part (a) of the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 475 dated 19.07.2017 raised by Shri Y.V.Subba Reddy, Member of Parliament regarding 'List of Indian Workers Abroad', an error has been noticed in Emigration Clearance count for the year 2017 (upto 30th June) from Uttar Pradesh to Saudi

^{3*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 7491/16/17.

Arabia. Consequently, the total Country-wise and progressive total has also undergone a change that are as under:

"For number of Emigration Clearance granted from Uttar Pradesh to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in 2017 (upto 30th June), the number may be taken as 11797 instead of 1179."

and

"Due to the above, the resultant total Emigration Clearance for Uttar Pradesh for the aforesaid period may be read as 43661 instead of 33043."

and

"The resultant total Country-wise Emigration Clearance for Kingdom of Saudi Arabia during the same period may be read as 43613, instead of 32995; and the Grand total of Emigration Clearance granted for all Gulf countries upto 30th June 2017 may be read as 194615 instead of 183997."

The error in the data has been noticed and hence this correcting statement is being made.

The delay is regretted.

**Emigration Clearance count for the year 2017 (till 30 June) –
State wise and country wise**

STATE	UAE	Saudi Arabia	Kuwait	Qatar	Oman	Bahrain	TOTAL
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR	2	1	3	1	0	0	7
ANDHRA PRADESH	1838	795	4847	376	902	212	8970
ARUNACHAL PRADESH	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ASSAM	229	813	434	16	60	8	1560
BIHAR	15392	8752	3050	2745	5296	572	35807
CHANDIGARH	34	8	19	6	2	5	74

CHHATTISGARH	30	24	7	1	6	3	71
DADRA & NAGAR							
HAVELI	4	0	0	0	2	0	6
DAMAN & DIU	8	1	0	3	1	0	13
DELHI	215	241	89	34	64	11	654
GOA	67	37	190	11	33	7	345
GUJARAT	448	247	312	284	900	30	2221
HARYANA	301	166	126	41	70	16	720
HIMACHAL PRADESH	160	57	69	26	25	18	355
JAMMU & KASHMIR	138	571	322	31	42	3	1107
JHARKHAND	609	518	269	172	300	35	1903
KARNATAKA	782	537	447	285	474	70	2595

KERALA	1893	2719	1002	366	2750	265	8995
LAKSHADWEEP	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
MADHYA PRADESH	84	205	182	11	40	7	529
MAHARASHTRA	1115	779	651	944	557	65	4111
MANIPUR	5	7	0	0	0	0	12
MEGHALAYA	0	1	0	0	0	1	2
MIZORAM	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
NAGALAND	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
ORISSA	2275	438	878	642	920	140	5293
PONDICHERRY	57	14	40	2	17	3	133
PUNJAB	8230	938	1516	1101	1059	670	13514
RAJASTHAN	7158	2888	2252	874	3054	399	16625
SIKKIM	2	0	0	1	0	1	4

TAMIL NADU	7583	1576	2544	580	3344	255	15882
TELANGANA	3897	1123	650	354	2153	642	8819
TRIPURA	156	239	320	7	17	2	741
UTTAR PRADESH	16590	11797	5717	2295	6403	859	43661
UTTARAKHAND	210	562	126	46	190	13	1147
WEST BENGAL	5264	7559	2245	1712	1731	225	18736
Total	74778	43613	28307	12967	30413	4537	194615

12.13 hours**STATEMENTS BY MINISTERS**

(i) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 17th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2016-17), pertaining to the Ministry of Labour and Employment^{4*}

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): I beg to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 17th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2016-17), pertaining to the Ministry of Labour and Employment.

^{4*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 7492/16/17.

12.14 hours

(ii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 200th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on the recommendations contained in the 196th Report of the Committee on Demands for Grants (2016-17), pertaining to the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region^{5*}

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Hon. Speaker, on behalf of Dr. Jitendra Singh, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 200th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Demands for Grants (2016-2017) of the Ministry of Development of North-Eastern Region.

^{5*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No 7493/16/17.

12.15 hours

(iii) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 28th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 'Augmenting Rural Storage Infrastructure through Scheme of Rural Godowns' pertaining to Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare^{6*}

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI PARSHOTTAM RUPALA) : Hon. Speaker Madam, I beg to lay on the Table the Statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 28th Report of the Standing Committee on Agriculture on 'Augmentation of Rural Warehousing Infrastructure through the Scheme of Rural Warehousing' relating to the Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare.

^{6*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 7495/16/17.

12.16 hours

(iv) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 190th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the 182nd Report of the Committee on 'Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in the aftermath of the flood and landslides in Jammu and Kashmir' pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs^{7*}

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): Madam Speaker, I rise to lay a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 190th Report of the Standing Committee on Home Affairs on Action Taken by the Government on recommendations contained in the 182nd Report of the Committee on 'Rescue, Rehabilitation and Reconstruction in the aftermath of the

^{7*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 7495/16/17.

flood and landslides in Jammu and Kashmir' pertaining to the Ministry of Home Affairs.

12.16 1/2 hours _____

(v) Status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 24th Report of the Standing Committee on Labour on Demands for Grants (2017-18), pertaining to the Ministry of Textiles^{8*}

[Translation]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI AJAY TAMTA): Hon. Madam Speaker, I beg to lay on the Table a statement regarding the status of implementation of the recommendations contained in the 24th Report of the Standing Committee on Labor on Demands for Grants (2017-2018) of the Ministry of Textiles.

^{8*} Laid on the Table and also placed in Library See No. LT 7496/16/17.

12.17 hours

FELICITATION BY THE SPEAKER

**Congratulations to Krishnaraj Mahadik on winning race two
at Brands Hatch Grand Prix Circuit**

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, I would like to share some good news with the House. When the son of one of our Hon. Members achieves something commendable, it is only fitting that we recognise and celebrate it together.

I take this opportunity to congratulate Shri Krishnaraj Mahadik, son of Shri Dhananjay Mahadik, Hon. Member of Parliament, for winning Race-2 and securing pole position in the BRDC British Formula 3 Championship at the Brands Hatch Grand Prix Circuit in Kent, England, on August 6, 2017.

On behalf of the entire House and on my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for his continued success.

HON. SPEAKER: Hon. Members, today I allow you for Zero hour after calling attention. Calling attention is there.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: One or two Members of some parties are getting very excited to speak. I will definitely allow you to speak. After calling attention, Zero hour will be taken after passing a small Bill related to the bank.

I am certainly allowing the Calling Attention today. Mr. Ninong Ering, you are first on the list, but Mr. Gaurav Gogoi has made a request, and his name is on it. Normally this doesn't happen, so please keep that in mind.

Shri Gaurav Gogoi Ji.

... (*Interruptions*)

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): Hon. Madam Speaker, the Bill in the name of Shri Vijay Goyal Ji should be introduced; it just needs to be introduced.

12.18 hours**GOVERNMENT BILLS- Introduced****(i) National Sports University Bill, 2017^{9*}**

[English]

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Hon. Madam, on behalf of Shri Vijay Goel, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to establish and incorporate a National Sports University in the State of Manipur, a specialised University first of its kind, to promote sports education in the areas of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management and sports coaching besides functioning as the national training centre for select sports disciplines by adopting best international practices and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. SPEAKER: The question is:

^{9*} Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part-II, Section 2 dated 10.08.2017.

"That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to establish and incorporate a National Sports University in the State of Manipur, a specialised University first of its kind, to promote sports education in the areas of sports sciences, sports technology, sports management and sports coaching besides functioning as the national training centre for select sports disciplines by adopting best international practices and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto."

The motion was adopted.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: I introduce the Bill.

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Generally, after calling attention comes the introduction of the Bill.

. . . (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Anant Kumar Ji, this comes after calling attention. But now it has happened, so it is okay.

. . . (Interruptions)

12.19 hours

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

**Reported problems due to floods in different parts of the
Country and steps taken by the Government in this regard.**

[English]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Madam, I call the attention of the Minister of Home Affairs to the following matter of urgent public importance and request that he may make a statement thereon:

“Problems due to floods in different parts of the country and steps taken by the Government in this regard.”

HON. SPEAKER: The Hon. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI KIREN RIJJU): Madam, the statement is already there; it may be circulated.

[Translation]

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Madam Speaker, I express my gratitude to you that you are giving us an opportunity to express our

views on this sensitive topic. The flood that occurred this year has created an atmosphere of panic in the entire country, where many people have been killed, about 958, more than 900 people have been killed. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: There is no killing in a flood.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Sorry, death has occurred. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Please don't use the word killing.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Thank you, everyone, for correcting my Hindi. Secondly, due to the Brahmaputra and Barak rivers in Assam, about 85 people have died, and 17 lakh people have been affected. 19 people have died in Manipur, 15 lakh people have become homeless. This time, this flood problem has occurred in Mizoram in the last 50 years, in which 12 people have died, 2000 families have been affected, and National Highway-47 has been badly affected. 19 people have died in Arunachal Pradesh, massive landslide has occurred. There is a possibility of the death of 20 people in Nagaland, 6 people have died in Rajasthan, about 300 people have been rescued. About 10 thousand people have been affected in Banaskantha and Patan in Gujarat. In

Odisha too, 4 people have died so far due to rain and floods in the Baitarani River and Swarn Rekha River and in West Bengal too, 50 people have died so far. Despite that, I feel that this problem comes every year, but the Government is not able to take a big resolution for serious floods.

Today, at this time of the year when the problem of floods has been the biggest, the Government is sleeping like Kumbhakaran. Kumbhakaran awakens twice in a year. ... (*Interruptions*) but we want to ask that when will the Government give this flood the status of a national problem or national disaster and take a long thought and resolution? Let me first give the example of Kumbhakaran. Flood Management Program which is of Central Water Ministry. ... (*Interruptions*) The program of flood management. It was known as the flagship programme of the Union Government, but after Modi Government came and BJP Government came, such good days came that a discussion took place in NITI Aayog. the Report of the Sub-Group of Chief Ministers' on Rationalisation of Centrally Sponsored Schemes constituted by NITI Aayog. In this you removed the flood management program from the core flagship program. This resulted in the flood management project which is ongoing. Which protects

people and villages from floods, erosion and river erosion. Which are ongoing projects.

[English]

Suddenly after the recommendations of NITI Aayog, the funding pattern has been changed. In 2016, the Government of India, Ministry of Water Resources issued a letter with the subject 'Revised Funding Pattern for Projects approved under the Flood Management Programme' in which the general category states got the benefit of the funding pattern in the ratio of 75:25.

[Translation]

Out of which, if there was a budget for any big flood management project, then 75 percent was given by the Union Government and 25 per cent had to be paid by the State Government. But because of the recommendations of NITI Aayog of the year 2015 and the Ministry of Water Resources, it was implemented in the year 2016. The financial burden on the State Government has increased. Whereas earlier they had to give only 25 per cent funding of the project, under the revised formula they had to give 50 per cent. The financial burden on them increased and when it comes to special category states, which include North East, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir and Uttarakhand.

Hon. Madam Speaker, earlier, if any big flood management project was taken up. It should be of embankment, which had 21 kilometres of embankment, which provided a lot of security to the villages. Earlier, when the budget was released, 90 per cent was given by the Union Government and 10 per cent had to be given by the special category states. But NITI Aayog and this Government, which says achhe din (good days), have revised the funding pattern and increased the financial burden on special category states, due to which they have to pay 20 per cent. Earlier 10 per cent had to be given, now 20 per cent has to be given.

[English]

That too Madam, this is not done in the new projects, this is done on on-going projects - projects which have been sanctioned; projects which have prepared DPR and projects which have gone to the Union Government and got the approval of the Centre. The Centre withdrew its responsibility, saying that earlier I used to give 90 percent, now I will give you 80 percent and in the general category status, I will go from 75 percent to 50 percent. Is this not shirking of responsibility?

[Translation]

That is why I say that the responsibility of the Union Government on floods has not increased, rather it has decreased in the last two to three years and I have given the details of this.

Hon. Madam Speaker, the CAG report came two weeks ago. It is also written in that report that the entire financial management of the flood management program has become very bad. Let me give you an example. You know that more than 80 people have died due to Brahmaputra Barrage in Assam. Earlier in 2012 there was a very heavy flood, but not so many people died. Assam is a flood affected state, the CAG report for that state says that “60 per cent of the funds due to the State of Assam have yet to be released from the Centre.” When the Centre delays funds in this manner, and the Centre does not take responsibility for its share, flood management programs will be delayed, and if flood management programs are delayed, then people who live on the banks of rivers will see the river slowly taking away their land day by day. The river is also taking away the land where they do farming. The river is also taking the land where their houses are. In my area, the project in Kolbari Loliti Dergaon was completed, came to the centre, got approved, but even after getting approved, no action was taken on it for six months.

Today, the system is very bad. Therefore, I want to say that when will this Government wake up to the issue of floods. You go to any flood-affected area and see how people are living there. Every year, there is a flood there, so they go to camp. Animals, women, children and all the people live together in the camp. I want to say, why don't we adopt this type of system and make a dignified shelter. What kind of shelter is this, where women and children go to a school and live and expect ration from the Government every day. They do not get any fodder etc. for the cows and buffaloes, and due to this, they face a lot of problems. Then why doesn't the Government take a resolution, because today MHA and NDRF are present. They should build a world-class disaster shelter, a hospital-like center where when people come from flood-affected areas, they get to sleep on beds and not on the ground. There should be separate rooms for women and children, a separate shelter for animals, medicines, doctors and nurses. But today there is no such system. You can also see in the details of MHA, they have written that we provide cooking oil, ration, so-and-so things. But nothing happens like that. You have seen their condition, you have seen their dignity, and they expect more from the Union Government. You talk about rehabilitation. When they go back to their homes from the relief shelter, so much water enters their homes

that all their belongings are submerged, their livestock is destroyed and they cannot even do farming. That's why I say why doesn't this Government build more disaster-resilient houses. The Government should build such houses so that people get a way out during floods, so that they can save whatever material is in their house. Why doesn't the Government take such a resolution? If you always see disaster sleeping in such a simple way, then such problems will arise every year. We want people's convenience should increase every year and not decrease.

HON. SPEAKER: Your statement is complete; now please ask your question.

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI: Hon. Madam Speaker, I have just two more points. There are many projects where we want the Government to expedite work. The Government states that they have allocated the budget and sanctioned the project. However, the CAG report indicates that there are significant delays in fund release, sometimes taking six months or even a year. Examples include the Ranganadi Project in Meghalaya and the Kolabari Loliti Project in Assam. Even after securing a project with the Asian Development Bank in Kaziranga, the Union Government still takes so much time.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I want to say that the Government has been in power for three years now. The problem of floods isn't solely the responsibility of the MHA. The Ministry of Water Resources also plays a crucial role. My request is for the Hon. Minister of the Union Government, Sushri Uma Bharti Ji, to visit Assam at least once in three years; please visit the area. Dr. Sanjeev Balyan Ji has been there, but we haven't seen the Union Government's Minister, Sushri Uma Bharti Ji, there even once. Now that only two years of the Government's term remain, we want you to visit Assam at least once. Today, there is a provision of Rs. 20,000 crore for the Ganga River project. There is no shortage of funds here. The Union Government has allocated Rs. 20,000 crore to clean the Ganga River, and the Supreme Court has also stated that approximately Rs. 3,000 to Rs. 4,000 crore has been spent, but nothing significant has happened. Where the Government has a budget of Rs. 20,000 crore, today Prime Minister Modi has given the entire North-Eastern region a package of merely Rs. 2,000 crore. Where is Rs. 2,000 crore and where is Rs. 20,000 crore? You should increase the package and make it Rs. 10,000 crore; Rs. 2,000 crore was already in the budget, this will not achieve anything.

Madam, this problem occurs every year, it happened this year, and it will happen in the coming years too, so we want the Government to make adequate preparations. Arrange for boats, build houses, build shelters, and provide relief materials.

Madam, in Assam, what happens is they conduct public events under the name of 'Namami Brahmaputra' and spend people's money, taxpayers' money, on publicity, but they haven't done any kind of flood management work.

Madam, therefore, in the end, my request is this: my first speech was also on water resources, and in that too, I said the same thing that we bow to the Ganga River, but please give importance to the Brahmaputra, Barak, and various other rivers of the country. When you have Rs. 20,000 crore to clean one river, please give importance to the other rivers of India, the rivers of the North-East, and the rivers of the East and West, and create special packages for them. With this, I conclude my speech.

Thank you.

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Thank you, Madam. I thank the Hon. Home Minister for the detailed statement given by him, though I am a little intrigued as to why the Home Minister should reply to a debate on floods in the Calling Attention Motion.

Madam, this year 24 States have been affected by floods. Out of them, the maximum affected are Gujarat, Assam, Rajasthan and West Bengal. One thing that has been pointed out by the C&AG is that India's flood forecast capability has washed out. We have not been able to forecast the floods at all.

Then, Madam, I go to the Statement in detail. Before that, I may mention that in the whole country the maximum number of people, who have died, is 229 in Gujarat. West Bengal is second with 149 people died in flood. Maharashtra is third with 105 people died in flood and Assam is fourth with 84 people died in flood.

About crops washed away, Gujarat is at the top where 8.91 lakh hectare crop area has been washed away in flood. Rajasthan is second with 8.34 lakh hectare crop area washed away. Then, West Bengal is third with 4.23 lakh hectare crop area washed away in flood this year.

Now, I want to bring it to the notice of the House that there has been rainfall in all parts of the country but flood in West Bengal is totally a manmade flood. It has happened in six districts of West Bengal due to release of water from the barrages of Damodar Valley Corporation (DVC), which is under the

Union Government. The State Government has repeatedly appealed to the DVC to desilt their reservoirs at Tenughat, Maithon and Panchet. They have done nothing about the matter. When the heavy rainfall started, the Chief Minister of West Bengal herself repeatedly appealed and spoke to the DVC authorities not to release the water altogether. But they released it, and, as a result, six districts of West Bengal got badly flooded.

As I told you, 129 people have died and 4.23 lakh hectare of crops have been washed away. You would be surprised that the maximum number of houses destroyed is in West Bengal. The number of houses destroyed in West Bengal is 1,43,000 as compared to 26,000 in Assam.

The Hon. Prime Minister has visited Gujarat. It is alright as his home State has been badly affected. He also visited Assam, which is run by a Government of the Ruling Party. It is a good thing. The Ministers of State have visited Assam and Arunachal Pradesh. But none of the big honchos from the Union Government visited our unfortunate State of West Bengal. While the Prime Minister announced a package for Gujarat and a package of Rs. 2,000 crore for Assam and the North-Eastern States, no package has been announced for West Bengal till date. We feel unfortunate, left out and we wonder in our mind whether we are being the victims of political discrimination.

HON. SPEAKER: Now, please conclude. Everybody should not speak that much.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: My question to the Hon. Minister is direct. I do not know whether Rajnath Singhji has recovered from a leg fracture and will be able to answer the question in full.

Will the Union Government take proper steps for desilting the dams of Damodar Valley Corporation and also control the release of water from dams and barrages which are controlled by the Union Government's Damodar Valley Corporation? Will the Union Government announce the package for West Bengal for relief, rehabilitation, recovery and restoration of embankments which have been washed away?

Our Chief Minister met Rajnath Singhji the other day. Actually, she wanted to meet the Prime Minister. That day, the Prime Minister went away to Gujarat, but she met the Home Minister, Rajnath Singhji. I hope that West Bengal will get relief and succour from the Union Government and not feel politically discriminated against.

Thank you.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Kalikesh N. Singh Deo is not there.

Hon. Minister.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let him answer.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: After his answer, I will allow you one question each, not more than that. That is the only thing.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Let him answer and then, if time permits, I will allow.

Hon. Minister.

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Hon. Madam Speaker, I want to thank you for admitting this important Calling Attention motion today, concerning the nationwide floods and the resulting damage. You also gave two Members the opportunity to move it and ask questions. You gave the opportunity to Gaurav Gogoi ji and Saugata Roy Ji. Since this is a Calling Attention motion, I will not delve into a very long discussion. I specifically want to address Gaurav Gogoi Ji's point that the Government does not respond promptly and that we do not provide proper assistance when a natural disaster strikes, as he suggested.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I respectfully submit that the statement made is entirely incorrect. Through you, I would like to clarify before this House that if I were to present the data and outline the steps taken over the past three years, I am confident that even you would acknowledge the unprecedented pace and effectiveness of our efforts. Under the leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and with the decisive actions taken by the Ministry of Home Affairs under Hon. Shri Rajnath Singh, the Government has responded with a

level of urgency and commitment that has not been witnessed under any previous administration. With regard to the North-East, Hon. Member Shri Gaurav Gogoi referred to the allocation of funds and also mentioned the Hon. Prime Minister's visit. For the first time, I would like to present the actual figures of the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) allocated to the eight North-Eastern states. It may come as a surprise to many that in the past, only a very small amount was allocated to these states.

As per the recommendations of the Finance Commission, the first installment is released to every state during the months of May or June. Subsequently, based on the requirement and assessment of the situation, the second installment is released accordingly.

In addition to this, there is an established procedure to obtain further funds when a disaster occurs. A Central Inter-Ministerial team is dispatched to the affected area. Upon receipt of a memorandum from the concerned State, the team conducts an assessment. Following this, a high-level committee convenes here to review and approve the list of required items along with their fixed rates. This committee is chaired by the Hon. Minister of Home Affairs, with the Hon. Ministers of Finance and Agriculture serving as members. Based on their recommendations, additional funds are sanctioned under the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).

What Hon. Member Shri Gaurav Gogoi has said about the North-East is important. For your State and the entire North-East region, I urge you to

acknowledge the efforts of the Government led by Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. In the past, when floods occurred in the same areas, the second installment of funds was released only in January or February. However, under this Government, we have disbursed the second installment along with the first.

If that were not the case, there would have been no need to announce the Rs. 2,000 crore relief package that the Prime Minister recently announced in such a timely manner. Since this is a matter close to our hearts, and all the States have expressed that they require support beyond their own capacities, the Prime Minister has generously announced this fund to assure the people of the North-East that they are not distant from Delhi in times of need.

Hon. Madam Speaker, there are some rules about it, it has some system, it is important for you to know about it, because everything works according to the rules. You give money to a State only when you don't have money to do that work. SDRF funds have already been given to you. When that money is exhausted, then you get additional money from NDRF. It is a standard rule, and it is universal. Everyone will have to accept this because if the money is not spent, then what will you get the money for? According to this, keeping in mind the Brahmaputra River of Assam, due to which there is a danger of floods every year, the Prime Minister has said that the announcement of Rs. 2000 crores, in that Rs. 400 crore were given for improving the water-holding capacity of the Brahmaputra River, which will assist in flood control. It has

been given separately for Assam. How nice would it have felt if Gaurav Ji had thanked the Prime Minister for this at least once? Even after doing so much good work, they do not thank them and keep raising questions.

Apart from this, money has been given for repair and maintenance, and strengthening of roads, because due to rain, roads, bridges and a lot of infrastructure like water supply, poles for electricity supply, lines etc. were damaged. Rs. 1200 crore has been allocated for its improvement, maintenance and strengthening. Apart from this, a team of experts will be formed to study it. Just yesterday I discussed with my ministry officials what should be done about this, for carrying out study to synergize efforts towards finding time-bound long-term solution to the recurring floods in the region, discussed this. Discussed what should be done about floods which occur again and again every year. We have IIT, IIM, North East Institute of Science and Technology and experts from other parts of the country too by collectively calling those people together, we will prepare what we can do for its solution. Rs. 100 crore has been allocated for it. How happy would we have felt if you had thanked us for that too? Good work should always be mentioned. If we make a mistake, please point it out.

Apart from this, I would like to offer a clarification on one point. Since funds have already been released under the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), any additional money provided must be accounted for within the SDRF framework, as these funds are designated for the same purpose. Therefore,

there should be no confusion among the State Governments regarding the recently announced Rs. 2,000 crore.

The first installment of the SDRF has already been released separately. The second installment, which will be disbursed to the eight North-Eastern states, will be included within the total sum of Rs. 2,000 crore. It is important to understand that the SDRF comprises a 90 per cent central share, which is provided as a grant to the States.

Shri Saugata Roy Ji has spoken about West Bengal and rightly observed that when a natural disaster occurs, there is no place for discrimination or politics. Such an event is a tragedy that demands our collective response.

Regarding this, Shri Kharge Ji interjected. However, Madam Speaker, I would like to point out, through you, that he was absent during the previous session. I could have raised a point of order for that absence, but I chose not to, out of respect for his seniority. At that time, he had claimed that not even a single rupee had been allocated to Karnataka. Last year, the state of Karnataka received the highest amount from NDRF. Shri Kharge Ji did not make that statement himself, but when you expressed it, the funds had already been released at that time. Yet, you stood in this House and stated that no money had been given to Karnataka. Our Hon. Prime Minister was present in the House when this was said. I do not wish to elaborate further out of respect for your seniority, as mutual

respect is important among Members. However, since you have just raised the point again, I felt it necessary to offer this clarification. ... (*Interruptions*)

Moreover, what Prof. Saugata Roy Dada has said, ... (*Interruptions*) You have said about Damodar Valley Corporation. ... (*Interruptions*) Already Rs. 130 crore has been given for its desilting. ... (*Interruptions*) That has been released. Has gone to you.... (*Interruptions*) Look, when I am answering collectively, let me first give you a clarification. ... (*Interruptions*) This is such a thing, Mohd. Salim Ji, you are my old friend. ... (*Interruptions*) Please don't interrupt. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI MOHAMMAD SALIM (RAIGANJ): West Bengal is a Member of DVC. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: This is the position regarding West Bengal. Funds have been released from the Centre. How those funds are utilised and managed is a matter that can be discussed separately.. ... (*Interruptions*) This amount of Rs. 130 crore is specifically allocated for desilting operations. Beyond the financial support, there are numerous other measures involved. Cooperation from the State Government is essential, and similarly, the Union Government extends its full support. This is a collaborative effort, and there is no question of assigning blame to any party.

Since you raised the issue, I would like to clarify it for the House. The political assertion that the Hon. Prime Minister has completely abandoned West Bengal is unfounded and does not reflect reality. At this moment, our Hon. Home

Minister is also present in the House to attest to the Government's commitment.

Your memorandum has not yet come from the State Government. First of all, the State Government will have to do a basic work that we have suffered so much loss here. For this we need additional money from Centre. You should ask the West Bengal Government to fulfill the basic minimum requirements for this. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: This is not the case. Please don't interrupt like this. Mohd. Salim Ji, you did not pay attention to the notice at that time. You should sit down. Please don't speak in between.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)^{10*}

[Translation]

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Mohd. Salim Ji, please raise this issue in West Bengal. ... (*Interruptions*) I refrain from commenting further on this matter. However, it is important to note that West Bengal has not yet submitted the

^{10*} Not recorded.

required memorandum. This does not imply that assistance from the Centre will be withheld. Such a situation is inconceivable.

Therefore, whether it is West Bengal or any other State, I would like to bring to the attention of the House that, according to the latest reports available to us, 203 districts across the country have been affected by floods.

While it is true that rainfall causes damage in many areas, I am referring specifically to the severe and significant impacts experienced. To date, a total of 962 lives have been lost across the country due to floods. Additionally, 206 individuals have sustained injuries, and 23 persons remain unaccounted for, according to official records. Apart from this, we have also taken care of animals, birds and properties. With regard to the livestock affected, a total of nine lakh fifty-four thousand three hundred and twelve large animals have perished, while five lakh sixty thousand nine hundred and ninety-six small animals have been lost. Regarding the housing damage, forty-three thousand three hundred and forty-four houses have been completely destroyed, and an additional two lakh four hundred and twenty-five houses have sustained partial damage. ... (*Interruptions*) As I have previously informed, the total amount allocated from the NDRF to West Bengal is Rs. 406 crore. Out of this, the State Government is required to contribute its share of Rs. 135 crore. Therefore, the Centre's entitlement to West Bengal stands at Rs. 406 crore, inclusive of the State's contribution.

So far, Rs. 203.25 crore has been released and is currently with the State Government. Should the need arise, the remaining Rs. 203.25 crore will be released promptly upon demand. I wish to clarify that this pertains to the State Disaster Response Fund and not the National Disaster Response Fund.

Preparations have been made across the country, and I have also addressed this matter in the Rajya Sabha. You inquired why the Ministry of Home Affairs is responsible for responding to such situations. Relief, rehabilitation, and rescue operations are urgent and emergency matters. The Ministry of Home Affairs has been entrusted with this responsibility as it oversees all the Central forces, which are essential for effective response and coordination. The NDRF was created and falls under the Home Ministry. We currently have 12 battalions. Disaster management is a subject within the Home Ministry. The NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority) Act, 2005, was passed by this House, and accordingly, the NDMA is under the Ministry of Home Affairs. As the nodal ministry, the Home Ministry coordinates with the Ministry of Water Resources and the Central Water Commission. It also coordinates with the Indian Meteorological Department and the Ministry of Earth Sciences. We coordinate with all scientific institutions. When it's a matter of drought, we liaise with the Agriculture Ministry. An inter-Ministerial team is dispatched, headed by a Joint Secretary from the Ministry of Home Affairs, and includes officers at the Director level, or Under Secretary, Deputy Secretary, and officials from other ministries like NITI Aayog and the Ministry of Finance.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I will conclude my statement in two minutes. Gaurav Ji said that we respond late. You should really see the NDRF's one-minute drill. We emphasize that time is crucial. When a natural disaster occurs, rescue is the first priority. Live rescue is the most important aspect. After rescue comes relief, followed by rehabilitation, and then long-term reconstruction.

[English]

We have a policy for build, back, better. We have a challenge which we have accepted that if there are natural disasters, we will face it; we will face the challenge and we will build, back better.

[Translation]

This is our challenge. We have guidelines, and there is no need for lengthy discussions. We have shortened the response time so much that today, NDRF teams are deployed in advance across the entire country.

Awareness has been created in schools, colleges, institutes, and villages. We have continuously run awareness campaigns. We conduct mock drills to teach people how to protect themselves during an earthquake or a cyclone. Training has been initiated for everyone, from schoolchildren to village panchayats. I don't want to praise myself, but the work we have done has been applauded by the United Nations. In the presence of Rajnath Singh Ji, I was awarded by the United Nations, declared the Disaster Champion for Asia Pacific, not because I am an expert, but because our Government works

diligently and seriously. We don't work for show; we work hard and with dedication.

Saugata Roy Ji and Gaurav Ji raised this issue. I believe I have provided the information they sought. We are also prepared for the floods that come in August. Hon. Speaker, with this assurance, I thank you and conclude my response.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Balabhadra Majhi, you just ask questions. Shri Kalikesh Deo Ji has not come yet, so instead of giving a speech, just ask questions.

SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI (NABARANGPUR): Hon. Madam Speaker, I will express my views in very few words. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Not all Members may require an extended opportunity to speak on this matter. Please make point briefly.

SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI: Hon. Madam Speaker, Odisha, being a coastal state, experienced flooding in two distinct phases this year. The flood during the first phase was extraordinary and unforeseen, affecting districts such as Koraput, Raigarh, Malkangiri, and Nabarangpur. Furthermore, four major irrigation projects are underway in the region, namely the Tel Integrated Project, Middle

Kolab, Upper Vansadhara, and Lower Vansadhara projects. This work was given to Union Government PSU M/s WAPCOS in the year 2008. After much discussion, the DPR of Middle Colab and Oil Integrated has just been submitted to CWC on 20th June. But they have not yet given the DPR of Vansadhara. If this project is done, then the flood can be controlled with irrigation of that area.

Madam, The flood that occurred in the second phase is often described as 'rain without clouds', meaning it was a flood without rainfall in Odisha itself. While heavy rains were experienced in Chhattisgarh, Odisha bore the brunt of the ensuing floods. This prolonged suffering has been a matter of concern, and we have raised this issue repeatedly in the House. Given that this involves an interstate riparian river, it is the responsibility of the upstream states to provide timely and adequate information to the downstream states before releasing water. Earlier, when we requested them to release water during summer, they did not release water. But this season they released water without informing us, due to which we got a flood.

Hon. Madam Speaker, I would like to humbly request through you that a tribunal for inter-state water disputes be constituted at the earliest to resolve these ongoing issues. Similarly, rivers originating

from Jharkhand and West Bengal present the same challenge, as water is often released without prior intimation, causing floods and hardship in our state. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I can't give everyone a chance to speak.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI: Hon. Madam Speaker, we have rivers like Subarnarekha and Rushikulya here. We want to thank our Chief Minister immensely for the steps our State Government has taken. ... (*Interruptions*) Since the 1999 cyclone, the Odisha Government has done excellent work and saved a lot. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: Alright. Please just ask your question.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI: Hon. Madam Speaker, the Prime Minister, showing generosity, has already announced Rs. 2,000 crore and Rs. 1 crore for Assam and Gujarat, respectively. ... (*Interruptions*) Madam, our previous funds for Phailin and Hudhud are still pending. Please release them soon. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: I have given you a lot of time, so please sit down.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

SHRI BALABHADRA MAJHI: Madam, our Phase One flood damage has been assessed at Rs. 218 crore, and the damage from Phase Two is currently being assessed. My request is that you release the Rs. 218 crore as soon as possible, and as soon as we provide the assessment for Phase Two, please arrange for its immediate release. Thank you.

SHRI KIREN RIJJU: Madam, just now the Member from Odisha has raised two-three things. First, regarding the Vansadhara dispute, that matter is sub judice, so I cannot comment on it here. However, the Mahanadi Tribunal is currently under consideration, and discussions are ongoing with the Ministry of Water Resources. I want to state that the Mahanadi issue is also sub judice. I want to commend the Odisha Government for their excellent work during Cyclone Phailin. When your Hon. Chief Minister visited, he met with Shri Rajnath Singh Ji. I also wrote two letters, and I have spoken with you periodically. We have released Rs. 1149.83 crore to the Odisha Government for that purpose. The previous Government had kept this pending, but we have disbursed it. Regarding the water release, there is a standard protocol across the country that if upstream states control

water through a project or for any other reason, they must timely inform the downstream states about water releases.

13.00 hours

Whenever there is rainfall in the upstream regions, we ensure that timely information is conveyed to the downstream States through forecasting, both on behalf of the people and the Meteorological Department. Therefore, I assure you that your concerns will be given due consideration. Additionally, the projects undertaken by the Union Government in Odisha are progressing well.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON SPEAKER: I had committed to only two people to speak at Zero Hour; only they will get the opportunity to speak. Calling Attention is over.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You all, please sit down. I made a promise to him, not to you.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. SPEAKER: You all please sit down. Now, no one will get time.

... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Speaker Madam, the matter relates to the establishment of inter-State river water tribunal on Mahanadi. We had raised this issue earlier also and I insisted on an adjournment motion today which of course in your wisdom you had disallowed and very rightly allowed us to raise it during Zero Hour because it is a very urgent matter. We had raised the issue earlier and at that time the Minister of Water Resources had made a commitment here, laid bare the facts before this House and before the country that there are certain barrages which have been constructed illegally without the permission of the Union Government. One such barrage was Kalma barrage. Today, there are 15 or 16 barrages that have been constructed in Chhattisgarh on the upstreams of Mahanadi and Hirakud. But Kalma barrage is one barrage where the Union Government has taken cognizance that this has been constructed without the permission of the Central Water Commission. There are six other barrages also which are in dispute. It has always been our concern that during non-monsoon period the flow of water is not there in Mahanadi river.

In 2016-17 we witnessed that there has been a loss of 80 per cent flow in Mahanadi during non-monsoon period. All these facts are being monitored by the Central Water Commission, the Chhattisgarh Government and the Odisha Government. We had gone to the Supreme Court for establishment of a river water dispute tribunal. A Bill is also there to have a permanent river water dispute tribunal at national level. Today, the report of the Standing Committee on Water Resources chaired by Shri Hukum Singh has also been tabled in this House. We have certain concerns relating to the establishment of a permanent river water dispute tribunal. But the establishment of a river water tribunal on Mahanadi is getting delayed. That is why we had gone to Supreme Court in December 2016. Recently on 25th July 2017, the Supreme Court has instructed the Additional Solicitor General, who represented the Union Government, to take instruction on the formation of a tribunal as demanded. This is the latest development.

I think the Minister of Water Resources who is present here in this House is aware of it. Here we are in the month of August. Large parts of Odisha are without water even in monsoon. We want water for irrigation; then we want drinking water and then comes the industry.

But what is happening is that the whole water is being blocked in Chhattisgarh and there is a flash flood in the same way as it happened in Subarnrekha river where West Bengal released water Without rain, water reached North Odisha and similarly, flash flood occurred in South Odisha for the first time. There water came up to a height of 20 feet and the railway bridge also collapsed. We have two demands before the Government - one, that a River Water Dispute Tribunal should be formed as soon as possible. Here you are delaying it, and in Chhattisgarh the construction of barrage is continuing. You have to impress upon the Chhattisgarh Government to stop the construction; otherwise, they will construct the barrage and stop the water. The whole of Odisha is charged over this issue. Our demand is that the Union Government should intervene in the matter immediately, establish a river water dispute tribunal and also instruct the Chhattisgarh Government to stop further construction of those disputed barrages.

HON. SPEAKER: Shri Venkatesh Babu.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH): Thank you, Madam. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: Please sit. Those whom I have accepted, I will give the first chance.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: We want a commitment from you. . . . (*Interruptions*) You have to respond. The Union Government has to respond. . . . (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

HON. SPEAKER: I can't do this in Zero hour.

. . . (*Interruptions*)

[English]

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU: The introduction of NEET has created a huge uproar in Tamil Nadu and many pertinent questions are raised. . . . (*Interruptions*) Our beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma had categorically opposed to the introduction of NEET as it was a direct infringement on the rights of the State and would cause grave injustice to the students of Tamil Nadu. . . . (*Interruptions*)

13.05 hours

(At this stage, Shri Tathagat Satpathy and some other Hon. Members came and stood on the floor near the Table.)

The Government of Tamil Nadu had established many Government medical colleges across the State to achieve the optimum doctor-population ratio and to augment its medical services infrastructure. ... *(Interruptions)*

13.06 hours

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

If these seats are taken away by the students of other States through NEET, it will create non-availability of doctors and medical services, particularly in rural Tamil Nadu. ... *(Interruptions)*

This is about NEET. This is a matter of public importance. Please allow us. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Do not do like this. Please go back to your seats.

... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI T.G. VENKATESH BABU: Keeping this in view the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has passed two Bills for protecting the existing admission policy. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. SPEAKER: Shri P. R. Sundaram and Shrimati V. Sathyabama is permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri T. G. Venkatesh Babu.

... (Interruptions)

HON. SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet again at 2.15 p.m.

13.07 hours

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

14.17 hours

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

(Shri Hukum Singh *in the Chair*)

MATTERS UNDER RULE 377^{11*}

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 text of the matter at the Table of the House within 20 minutes.

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

^{11*} Treated as laid on the Table

**(i) Need to expedite construction of bypass road in Garhwa city,
Jharkhand**

[Translation]

SHRI VISHNU DAYAL RAM (PALAMU): Garhwa district was established twenty-five years ago. However, to this day, a bypass for Garhwa city has not been constructed. As a result, vehicles passing through the city face significant risks. The absence of a bypass causes delays in traversing the approximately two-kilometre stretch through the city, and the presence of heavy vehicles on the main road increases the likelihood of accidents. It is important to note that Garhwa city is a district located at the tri-junction of the states of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, and Chhattisgarh.

The Padwa-Mudisemar road passing through Garhwa city falls under National Highway 75, while the route from Garhwa to Ambikapur via Ranka is designated as National Highway 343. Consequently, a substantial number of passenger buses and goods vehicles from the three adjoining states traverse the district headquarters. Given the narrowness of the road within Garhwa city, the movement of these vehicles often results in a chaotic situation, making it difficult for outside vehicles to pass through the city

smoothly. Sometimes they have to get stuck in traffic for hours. At the same time, local people also find it difficult to walk on the road. Besides, people of commercial establishments and residences located on both sides of the city also have to face a lot of trouble. Since the formation of Garhwa district, there has been a persistent demand for the construction of a bypass for the city. However, to date, not only has the bypass construction not commenced, but even the survey work remains incomplete. The Detailed Project Report is being prepared by MM Malviya Company, which has yet to finalize the lining and survey activities. In this context, I have also met the regional officer of NHAI twice. But there has been no change in the situation. In the public interest, it has become extremely necessary to complete the construction of the bypass as soon as possible.

Therefore, I request the Hon. Minister of National Highways to make efforts to complete the construction work of the Garhwa Bypass soon.

(ii) Need to construct a rail over bridge on level crossing no. C-48 on Jalore-Ahore road in Rajasthan

SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL (JALORE): Forty-five to fifty goods trains pass through the Samdadi Bhildi railway section daily. Consequently, the railway crossing is closed approximately once every thirty minutes. In emergencies, drivers are compelled to wait for the crossing to open after the train has passed, which often causes significant difficulties for the public. Additionally, with the proposed alignment of National Highway 325 passing through Jalore, traffic volume is increasing steadily day by day.

Therefore, in view of the problems of the citizens, necessary steps should be taken immediately to construct an overhead bridge in place of level crossing number C-48 situated on Jalore-Ahor road.

(iii) Need to ensure proper implementation of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in Kanpur Nagar and Kanpur Dehat districts of Uttar Pradesh

SHRI DEVENDRA SINGH 'BHOLE'(AKBARPUR): I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the increasing irregularities in the Prime Minister's ambitious Ujjwala scheme in Kanpur city and rural areas of Uttar Pradesh.

The Prime Minister Ujjwala Yojana has brought revolutionary changes in the lives of the poor, especially women of rural India, but the agencies and their employees engaged in its implementation are running such obstacles and recovery by selfishness, due to which the beneficiaries are not getting the proper benefits. For example, in Gram Panchayat Bhanwarpur of Maitha development block of Kanpur Dehat, where population is 5300 and voters are about 1600, names of only 20 people have been arbitrarily included in the eligibility list. Such complaints are being received from other parts of the district also. There is a great need to get this investigated and rectified. Apart from this, stories of gas agency owners recovering Rs. 700 to Rs. 1100 from the beneficiaries in exchange for a connection are very common.

During investigation of Anshika Indane Rural Distributor located in village Bhadoli of Maitha district, Kanpur rural development block, consumers informed about the extortion of money by the agency owner presented the evidence before the authorities, there is a need to immediately stop this and take strict action against the culprits, so that this important scheme does not get tarnished.

Therefore, the Government should please take necessary action in this direction and the implementation of the said scheme.

(iv) Need to revive Cachar Paper Mill and Nagaon Paper Mill in Assam

[English]

SHRI RAM PRASAD SARMAH (TEZPUR): I would like to draw the kind attention of the Government towards the worst condition of Cachar Paper Mill & Nagaon Paper Mill and its employees in Assam. These paper mills were established by the Govt. of India with a view to increase industrialization of the State and provide sustainable livelihood to the people of the State of Assam. These Mills, for decades, were running smoothly. But on account of the slackness of the management, with some alleged corrupt officials ruling the roost, the Mills started suffering losses and gradually the Mills turned into sick industries. Both the Mills own hundreds of acres of land and other infrastructure, such as staff quarters, Kendriya Vidyalaya, workers welfare centres and more than thousand employees and workmen. Cachar Paper Mill and Nagaon Paper Mill were made inoperative causing unemployment to atleast two lakh people of the backward areas who were dependent on the Mills. The bamboo growers & suppliers of the rural areas of adjoining district/region have been severely affected, in other words, rural economy of the industrially

backward State like Assam collapsed and large employment opportunities jeopardized.

I urge the Government to consider very seriously and take immediate action to meet the shortfall of more than one million tonnes of paper requirement per annum, by setting up new paper industries in country and also to take necessary steps for revival of already established Paper Mills like Cachar Paper Mill and Nagaon paper Mill in Assam.

(v) Need to establish AIIMS in Begusarai-Barauni industrial area in Bihar

[Translation]

DR. BHOLA SINGH (BEGUSARAI): The Government of India has decided to open AIIMS in Bihar and has also said that these institutions will be opened wherever the Bihar Government provides land. Till now Bihar Government has not informed the Center about its decision. The Barauni-Begusarai Industrial Area stands as the second industrial capital of Bihar, following Patna. This area hosts key facilities such as a refinery and a fertilizer plant. Three bridges over the Ganga River have been proposed and are currently under construction. Additionally, the four-lane National Highway 31 is being developed to improve connectivity. The Bihar Government, a year ago, authorized dozens of industrial units and allocated 400 acres of land for the establishment of a growth center, fostering further industrial development. Begusarai-Barauni lies between Purnia, Kishanganj, Araria, Madhubani, Samastipur, Munger. There are hundreds of huge nursing homes in Begusarai. There is no other suitable place for AIIMS in Bihar.

Therefore, I urge the Government of India to approve the opening of AIIMS under Begusarai-Barauni Industrial Area.

(vi) Need to expedite construction of approach road to Basual bridge in Sitamarhi district, Bihar

SHRIMATI RAMA DEVI (SHEOHAR): I want to draw the attention of the Government towards the Basaul RCC bridge under construction in the Belsand block of Sitamarhi district under my Parliamentary Constituency. On the widespread demand of the public, the construction work of the said Basaul bridge started in the year 2011, which was completed in the year 2014. But I would like to inform you with sadness that due to lack of land acquisition, its approach road is not being constructed. Due to which the movement of vehicles on this bridge is disrupted and the problem of the people remains the same. This bridge is built on the Belsand-Chhatauni main road and connects Belsand sub-division in Sitamarhi district and dozens of villages linked to the Pariyani block headquarters. During the rainy season, the diversion gets damaged, causing significant difficulties for people. This area is extremely backward and Naxal-

affected, and the construction of this bridge will enable a large population to benefit from development.

Therefore, the Government is requested to expeditiously complete the construction of the approach road for the Basol Bridge in public interest and take necessary action to start its operation.

(vii) Need to reduce the number of text books and other articles used in schools

[English]

SHRI RAMESHWAR TELI (DIBRUGARH): I wish to draw the attention of the Hon'ble Minister for Human Resource Development to a very important issue. Nowadays the school children have to carry very heavy bags while going to school. A school bag contains not only books, pencil box , copies, water bottles, Tiffin box etc. but it also contains a yoga mat or the project work a student is assigned to. Moreover, as many school buildings are multistoried and without the provision of lift, the small children find it too difficult to carry their satchel to their classrooms on the upper floors. This has posed a serious threat to the health of our small school going children. A recent report says that there is an increase in the number of school children having back pain which further leads to fatigue, chronic headache, irreversible back deformities and breathing problems. Children lose interest in coming to schools with the stress of carrying heavy bags.

I, therefore, request the Hon'ble Minister of HRD to take appropriate steps to reduce the weight of the bags of school children.

(viii) Need to remove toll tax on State and National Highways particularly on Panipat - Muzaffarnagar road

[Translation]

SHRI HUKUM SINGH (KAIRANA): After passing of GST, uniform tax system was implemented in the entire country and the remaining taxes were abolished. Barring exceptions, all the countrymen welcomed it. There was confidence among the common citizens that now it would be possible to travel without any hindrance on the main roads. But toll tax is still being collected arbitrarily at hundreds of places on national routes and state routes. Sometimes vehicles have to wait in the queue for hours, due to which petroleum products worth crores of rupees are wasted. There are also places where there is no justification for toll barriers like Panipat-Muzaffarnagar is a short route. No facilities of any kind are provided to the passengers but illegal extortion is made from the passengers on the Yamuna River bridge towards Haryana state. When the Government has implemented a single tax system by abolishing all taxes, then toll taxes on Panipat-Muzaffarnagar road and other routes should also be abolished.

**(ix) Need to establish a Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya or
Kendriya Vidyalaya at Village Rera in Allahabad district, Uttar
Pradesh**

SHRI SHYAMA CHARAN GUPTA (ALLAHABAD): In my Parliamentary Constituency, Gram Sabha is situated in Rera, Tehsil Bara, District Allahabad. A Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya or Kendriya Vidyalaya was established here in the year 1990. About 500 hectares of land was acquired by the Union Government of the Bharatiya Janata Party. To provide access to the aforementioned site, an earthen road was constructed from Jasra Bazaar of Ghurpur to the Link Road towards the south. Additionally, a boundary wall has been erected around the land, complete with a grill installed on the boundary wall for security purposes.

It has come to my knowledge that the said scheme has been abolished by the previous Union Government and has been established somewhere in South India. It is a humble request to the Government to please re-establish Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya or Kendriya Vidyalaya, as land is also available and acquired.

**(x) Improving railway facilities in Korba Parliamentary
Constituency**

DR. BANSHILAL MAHTO (KORBA): At present, my Parliamentary Constituency, Korba, does not have any direct train service to the nation's capital, Delhi. Train number 18237, the Chhattisgarh Express, which runs from Bilaspur to Amritsar, operates as a passenger service between Korba and Bilaspur. However, on its return journey from Amritsar, the train terminates at Bilaspur. Similarly, train number 18239, the Shivnath Express, runs from Korba to Nagpur, but on the return trip, its last stop is also Bilaspur. I humbly submit that both these trains should be extended to originate from Korba on their return journeys as well, to better serve the people of the constituency.

I would like to request the Hon. Railway Minister to restart the operation of the previously operated Korba-Raipur Intercity Express, this is a much-awaited demand of the people of the area and I have made this demand many times. Along with this, the pace of construction work of East-West Corridor Rail Line from Gevra (Korba) to Pendra Road (Bilaspur) under construction in Chhattisgarh

is very slow and basic and expected progress has not been made in it for the last almost 5 years. I request to increase the pace of construction work by removing other obstacles including environmental approval of the said project.

**(xi) Need to establish an Agriculture College in West
Champan district of Bihar**

DR. SANJAY JAISWAL (WEST CHAMPARAN): West Champan district of Bihar is agriculture oriented. By opening an agricultural college in this district, the farmers of the district can get more benefits in a modern way at a lower cost.

(xii) Need to regularise the services of Shiksha Mitra in Uttar Pradesh

SHRIMATI ANJU BALA (MISRIKH): The Supreme Court declared the regularization of 1.78 lakh Shikshamitras as assistant teachers in Uttar Pradesh completely illegal and also gave huge relief and refused to remove them immediately. The court said that Shikshamitras will have to appear in the formal examination for teacher recruitment and they will have to pass this examination in two consecutive attempts. After the decision of the Supreme Court, nearly two lakh Shiksha Mitras of the state are disappointed. Now their eyes are on the Government to see what path is available for them.

I request the Government to regularize Shiksha Mitras by making a law. I demand from the Government that until the problem is resolved, they should be given a fixed honorarium so that these people do not face any financial crisis in their families.

**(xiii) Need to set up an independent Physiotherapy Council of
India**

[English]

ADV. NARENDRA KESHAV SAWAIKAR (SOUTH GOA): I raise an important issue being faced by the Physiotherapists in India. Before coming to the issue, it is pertinent to mention certain facts. At present there are 296 colleges offering under graduate Physiotherapy Programme and 116 colleges offering Masters in Physiotherapy. PhD Programme is offered at 16 Colleges and Universities in India. 65000 Qualified Physiotherapists are practicing in the country. 35000 students are engaged in the profession. According to Census 2001, the elderly population in rural India is 12.2 million and 31.8 million are in urban areas. There is no facility of Physiotherapy in rural areas. With this background and the fact that the World Health Organization have defined Physiotherapists as independent healthcare professionals to assess, plan and treat, I would, therefore, strongly urge upon the Government to consider setting up an independent Physiotherapy Council of India.

**(xiv) Need to appoint new Environmental Protection Committee
for Dahanu Tehsil in Maharashtra**

SHRI CHINTAMAN NAVASHA WANGA (PALGHAR):
Dahanu Tehsil in my Parliamentary Constituency was declared ecologically fragile area in the year 1996. For this area, environmental Protection Committee under the Chairmanship of Justice Shri Dharmadhikari was appointed by the Union Government in the year 1996. Same Committee is still working since 1996 and Head Office of the Committee is in Mumbai. Dahanu Tehsil is one of the Tribal Tehsils and most backward Tehsil in Maharashtra. I demanded many times to cancel the status of ecologically fragile Tehsil attached to it and appoint new environmental protection Committee but till date no new Committee has been appointed. I, therefore, request the Government to appoint new Environmental Protection Committee for Dahanu Tehsil and its Head Office should be at Dahanu.

**(xv) Setting up a campus of Central Tribal University,
Amarkantak (Madhya Pradesh) in Bastar, Chhattisgarh**

[Translation]

SHRI TAMRADHWAJ SAHU (DURG): A proposal to establish a Central Tribal University in Bastar district of Chhattisgarh was sent to the Ministry of Human Resource Development. This proposal is approved in the meeting of the Tribal Advisory Council of the state. This proposal of the state was invalidated by the Human Resource Development Ministry.

This proposal has been discussed again in the meeting of the Tribal Advisory Council and it has been decided that the campus of the Central Tribal University operating in Amarkantak, adjacent to Chhattisgarh state, should be opened for the special study of the tribes of Bastar.

**(xvi) Regarding upgradation of railway infrastructure at
Karunagapally and Kayamkulam Railway Stations in
Alappuzha Parliamentary Constituency of Kerala**

[English]

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Karunagapally and Kayamkulam Railway stations are two important stations in the Alappuzha Lok Sabha Constituency and still face a lot of infrastructure deficiencies. Kayamkulam is a main junction station in between Ernakulam and Thiruvananthapuram for both the ways via Kottayam and Alappuzha. Revenue wise also Kayamkulam station is one of the top stations in Trivandrum Division with stoppage of almost all trains excepting Rajdhani. Even then this station is facing lack of amenities and infrastructure shortage. We need to timely address this and urgently allocate an amount of Rs. 10 crore for the platform shelter extension works in this station. Upgradation of the status of Karunagapally railway station to B grade is also long pending and needs to upgrade its amenities also on the basis of passenger strength and revenue.

(xvii) Need to revive Calicut Port in Kerala

SHRI M. K. RAGHAVAN (KOZHIKODE): Calicut, my Parliamentary Constituency, has a long lasting maritime history and was the main centre of spice import as early as the 7th Century when the Arab trading merchants came there. The Light House in the city is still operational and these clearly establish the presence of an active Port in the city.

Today, the Calicut Port is defunct and has only a small fishing harbour, a little away from the main site. Calicut has high potential to re-emerge. Suitable maritime infrastructure matching the present day needs is required immediately to revive this.

The proposed revival of the Port can begin with the construction of a cruise terminal along-with a new breakwater. This can create more avenues and potential for the tourism sector, which is now confined to Cochin Port.

The proposed development of the Port will also help the Navy and Coastguard authorities. The project cost for the first phase is expected to be around Rs. 100 crore.

I urge upon the Government to bring out a DPR and revive this port.

**(xviii) Need to review the proposal to divest Kamarajar Port
Ltd. in Tamil Nadu**

SHRI T. G. VENKATESH BABU (CHENNAI NORTH): The recent decision of NITI Aayog to divest Government stakes in Shipping Corporation of India and Kamarajar Port Ltd. (KPL) is strongly objected by employees, contract workers and even by the Ministry of Shipping.

Presumably NITI Aayog is racing against time to meet this year's target of divesting Rs 72,500 crores of which a sum of Rs 15,000 crores is to come through strategic sale, has come out with the proposal to divest Government's stakes in the Shipping Ministry's Undertakings.

KPL was incorporated under the Companies Act, with a Centre holding 67% and the remaining 33% held by Chennai Port Trust. It is a Major Port, a model landlord port with 100 permanent employees and nearly 1,500 contract workers and it is the lifeline of the State of Tamil Nadu. It is functioning without any grant/aid from the Government but paying dividend every year to the Government. It has the capacity to handle 44 MTPA. The Indian Oil Corporation Limited is developing a captive LNG Terminal in KPL to handle 5 MTPA with

a re-gasification facility. If KPL is privatized, it will affect the livelihood of thousands of direct and indirect workforce. I shall, therefore, strongly urge upon the Union Government not to undertake disinvestment and privatization of Kamarajar Port Ltd.

(xix) Need to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Bangaon, West Bengal

[Translation]

SHRIMATI MAMATA THAKUR (BANGAON): My constituency Bangaon is a historic area near the India-Bangladesh border, home to two religions including Thakur Bari, sacred to more than 5 crore Matua disciples of the world.

Vibhuti Bhushan Bandopadhyay, the famous novelist of the Oscar-winning film 'Pather Panchali' and Deenbandhu Mitra, the author of the play Neeldarpan during the British rule, were from Bangaon. With the presence of 42 percent Scheduled Tribes, the total population of Bangaon as per last census is 18, 71, 747 and the effective literacy rate for the population above seven years of age is 90.25 percent.

But unfortunately, Bangaon has been deprived of a Central School in its area for a long time. As a result, whenever I request for admission of any student to Kendriya Vidyalaya, those students are sent to Kapa or Salt Lake Kendriya Vidyalaya, which is 250 kilometers away.

As a result, many needy and deserving poor students and Scheduled Caste students of my constituency are not getting the opportunity to get quality education from Kendriya Vidyalayas.

In this situation, I request the concerned respected Minister of the Government to please take immediate steps to establish a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Bangaon and help in fulfilling the aspiration and need of the hour of the students of Bangaon.

(xx)Need to provide sufficient funds for research activities in pharmaceutical industry in the country

[English]

DR. RATNA DE (NAG) (HOOGHLY): Pharmaceutical industry holds an important and prime position in the scheme of things as it takes care of the health aspect when it comes to caring and treatment of people. It goes a long way in ensuring the health of the country. But to the utter astonishment of every one, the amount of funds infused for research in the pharmaceutical industry is not only insignificant but also negligible. Things should not be like this. Research activities should be given all the push and patronage is required in the pharmaceutical industry. Unless and until, efforts are made to allocate more funds, how can we tackle growing diseases all through the years as we are facing numerous issues concerning spread of vector-borne diseases in the monsoon season. On the one hand we seek more funds for research, on the other hand, when the National Institute of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPER) sought Rs. 249 crore during the 12th plan a paltry sum of Rs. 9.39 crore has been received by NIPER. Under such despicable circumstances, how can

the NIPER carry out research and compete with MNCs which take away large slice of medicine manufacturing.

Keeping in view the above sorry state of affairs, I would like to strongly urge the Government to ponder over research funds in pharmaceutical industry and allocate more and more funds so that a way out could be found for caring and treating diseases prevailing in vast areas of our country and at the same time compete with the MNCs so that the prices of medicines are brought down.

**(xxi) Need to review the decision to disinvest National
Aluminium Company Ltd (NALCO)**

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): The Government of Odisha has requested the Union Government not to offload its stake in National Aluminium Company Ltd. (NALCO) at regular intervals as it is a profitable Navratna Company and a symbol of Odisha's pride since long. But the Union Government has recently offloaded its stake in it despite the fact that the NALCO has been expanding its production capacity to increase its profitability. So, such a decision of the Union Government will not only have adverse impact on the expansion plans of the Company but also aggravate discontentment among the people of Odisha and employees of the Company. I, therefore, urge upon the Union Government to keep the further disinvestment of NALCO in abeyance, allow it to flourish and to address the concerns of the people of Odisha and employees of the Company in this regard.

(xxii) Need to formulate a National Policy on Thalassemia

DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE (KALYAN): India is facing a unique problems in the form of growing number of thalassemia major patients. Every year, at least 10,000 to 12,000 children are born as Thalassemia major patients. At present, the number of Thalassemia major Patients is about 3 lakh and the Thalassemia minor patients are about 12 crore, i.e. about 10% of India's population is Thalassemia minor.

The cost of treatment for Thalassemia major is huge, often breaking the financial backbone of the family. At least Rs one lakh is the cost of treatment per patient every year. Therefore, the total burden of this disease born out of genetic disorder is at least 50 thousand crore annually. A Developing country like India cannot afford this burden.

There is no permanent cure. A Thalassemia major Child doesn't live beyond a certain age. The average age of survival is 25 to 30 years. With advanced medicine, certain patients live upto 50 to 60 years. However, increased life means increased expenditure and continuing mental and physical stress.

Thalassemia is a genetic blood disorder commonly characterized by the abnormal production of hemoglobin in the body. The abnormality results in improper oxygen transport and destruction of red blood cells. It has wide-ranging effects on the human body like iron overload, bone deformities and in severe cases can cause heart diseases. The disease has no cure and people living with thalassemia major require regular blood transfusions as an effective measure to prolong life.

The Thalassemia major Child is born out of the marriage of two thalassemia minor patients. Therefore, the only way to prevent the spread of Thalassemia major is to avoid the marriage of two thalassemia minor patients. However, at present the awareness about this issue is very low in India. Therefore, blood test for thalassemia minor is not conducted as routinely as blood tests for other diseases.

Therefore, it is imperative that the blood test for thalassemia minor be made compulsory before marriage. This cannot be left to the individual choice as it involves social health and economic issues. Therefore, I request the honorable Health Minister to formulate a National Policy on Thalassemia as well as make a law to make the

blood test compulsory before marriage to ensure that that bride as well as groom are not Thalassaemia minor patients.

(xxiii)Need to give emphasis on Marine research in the country

SHRI RAM MOHAN NAIDU KINJARAPU (SRIKAKULAM):

As a representative of a coastal constituency, it is imperative on me to highlight the plight of the fishing community in this august house. Despite being one of the largest fish producers in the world, the plight of fishermen in the coastal region of the country and especially in Andhra Pradesh is miserable. According to the 2010 national fisheries census conducted by Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI), 60.57% of the fishermen families were under BPL category. The situation is even more alarming in the state of Andhra Pradesh where 97.3% of fishing families were below the poverty line. The average per capita yield is much lower than advanced fishing countries like Norway or Chile. According to World Fisheries Report of UN-Food and Agriculture Organisation. the per capita production in India is just 2 tonnes, while as in Norway it stands at 172 tonnes and in Chile the number is 72 tonnes.

While this Government under the guidance of the hon'ble Prime Minister has taken monumental steps in improving the condition of agriculture and dairy farming, focus also needs to be on investment for marine research. Report on marine R&D and aquaculture research from the Nordic Institute for Studies in Innovation, Research and Education suggests that total investment in marine research in no way is about 258 crores, while as a whole Union fisheries budget in India amounts to Rs. 401 crores. Out of this, only Rs. 139 crores have been earmarked for research. The need is to shift focus on marine research so as to evolve enough technological advancement to improve the per capita yield of the

fishing community. An improvement in the average yield will in itself result in better income. The current state of poverty of the fishing community merits that investments in research also be undertaken to improve the quality of yield as well as weather information system. I am confident that this Government will lay special emphasis on marine research in the next Union Budget to improve the economic condition of the fishermen and to fulfil the hon'ble PM's extraordinary vision of a 'blue revolution' in the country.

(xxiv) Need to construct an indoor stadium for cultural and sports activities in Pratapgarh Parliamentary Constituency, Uttar Pradesh

[Translation]

KUNWAR HARIBANSH SINGH (PRATAPGARH): The Yaksha-Yudhisthir discussion during the Mahabharata period took place in the famous and mythological village of Ajgara Dham, Raniganj, district Pratapgarh (Uttar Pradesh), which is home to my Parliamentary Constituency of Pratapgarh. The popularity of this dialogue is correlated with public mood. Every year, a three-day workshop is organized here, featuring agricultural exhibitions alongside cultural, social, and various other events. In addition to recognizing the talents securing first, second, and third places with awards, participation certificates are also distributed to encourage and honor all contributors.

There is a mythological pond and a banyan tree here, where the Yaksha-Yudhishtira dialogue took place. During cleaning, remains from the Mahabharata period were found here, which has been converted into a museum. The site is spread over 5 acres of land.

I demand from the Government that there should be a community centre, theater building, indoor stadium for sports competitions and a historical place for tourism by the Government of India under the Krishna Circuit Project or the Union Government should approve funds for the proposed scheme by including it in the Mahabharata period plan and develop it in the form of tourism.

**(xxv) Regarding implementation of MPLADS Projects in Hisar
Parliamentary Constituency of Haryana**

[English]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): I would like to bring to the notice of the Government the negligent and casual attitude of the district administration and Haryana Government in implementing and executing the works of my MPLADS funds. Till date nearly 1493 estimates for developmental projects have been prepared but the district administration chooses to ignore them despite the mandate of doing it within 75 days. As far as the completion rate of my projects is concerned only a few have been completed and there are about 85 projects for which the work has not even begun. This is causing great injustice to the people of my constituency since the installments of funds in my MPLADS funds are getting stopped. Therefore, I urge the Government to take strict action against the district administration of Hisar and instruct Government of Haryana to expedite all works recommended by me without further delay.

(xxvi) Regarding permanent solution to the agitation/demand of statehood to Gorkhaland

SHRI PREM DAS RAI (SIKKIM): The recent outbreak of agitation in Darjeeling Hills for statehood demand of Gorkhaland has caused death of 11 youth from police firing. This is not acceptable. Sikkim is suffering untold loss from blockage of its only lifeline, NH-10, for transport of essential goods and commutation by students, people needing medical aid. Tourism, a strong driver of economy of Sikkim, has been disrupted due to the sustained unrest, with over 1 lakh hotel cancellations. Given its delicate geopolitical location, maintenance of peace within the region is very important. Hence, I request the Government of India to take cognizance of the issue without further delay and seek a permanent solution (State of Gorkhaland) for people of Darjeeling Hills which would benefit the nation and Sikkim. "Sab ka Saath Sab ka Vikaas" will only be possible in a new order in the region which is geopolitically sensitive (Dokalam).

(xxvii)Need to impose restrictions on import of spices

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): The price of the black pepper has been decreased due to indiscriminate import of inferior quality black pepper from Vietnam through Sri Lanka and the fluctuations in the price in the future trading. Low productivity attributed to many reasons is a major threat for the pepper cultivation. This problem is also faced by cardamom, coffee and tea farmers too. Unless the Government ensures fair price for the spices, it may lead to distress in the sector and end up in casualties like suicides. The Government should take steps to prevent the indiscriminate import of spices through Sri Lanka and other countries which are parties to Asian and other trade agreements without paying duties. The Government should enforce the regulations and impose restrictions in importing of spices by tightening the checking mechanism in all ports. Government should also make use of the new tax regime under GST to curb the sale of imported spices.

14.18 hours**STATE BANKS (REPEAL AND AMENDMENT) BILL, 2017**

HON. CHAIRPERSON: The House shall now take up Item No. 50.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR): I beg to move:

“That the Bill to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956 and further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955, be taken into consideration. ”

Sir, I would request that the Bill be passed. This is a very small Bill.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: *Motion moved:*

“That the Bill to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956 and further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955, be taken into consideration. ”

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA (TUMKUR): Thank you, Sir. At the outset, I would say that we are not opposed to the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017.

The reason for the acquisition of the subsidiary banks, as assigned by the Hon. Minister, is the improved productivity and customer service. This is the reason mentioned in the Statement of Object and Reasons of the amendment Bill. For whose service and productivity this merger is taking place?

Sir, more than seventy per cent of the Indian population lives in the rural areas. An ordinary citizen, including a poor farmer and the last person of the society, should feel comfortable to enter any commercial bank. But, what was the position? Why the most historic and revolutionary decision of nationalising the banks took place on 19th July, 1969 when Indiraji was the Prime Minister of this country? Sir, the exact reason behind such a revolutionary and a historic decision by late Indiraji was that the ordinary and the last person of the society were not allowed to enter in a commercial or nationalised bank. He was not feeling comfortable with any commercial bank. Agriculture was not at all considered as one of the areas where the banks are supposed to give credit to the farmers. That was the

rationale behind taking a drastic decision to nationalise the banks by late Indiraji.

Sir, in the year 1969, only 8,261 rural branches were there in this country. Prior to 1969, more than 70 per cent of the population lived in the rural areas and more than 70 per cent of the people of this country were dependent either on agriculture or agricultural operations. But, still the number of branches, earlier to 1969, in which this nationalisation of banks took place, was only 8,261. But, after the nationalisation of the banks, by the year 2000, the number of branches in the rural areas went up to 65,521. Shrimati Indiraji wanted to shift the banks which were mainly concentrated in the city areas, to the rural areas to enable the common man or the agriculturalists to obtain the benefit and facilities from the nationalised banks. That was the reason behind it. But, what is the feeling now? Of course, by merging the subsidiary banks, the State Bank of India is now feeling as a big brother. At least, the State Bank of Mysore, which was in existence in Karnataka, had a lot of branches in the rural areas. People used to feel that the State Bank of Mysore was their bank. A lot of agricultural and subsidiary crop loans were given to the farmers by the State Bank of Mysore. But, by merging that bank with the State Bank of India, the

people of this country, particularly the rural people, are feeling that there is some infringement of their rights in terms of getting loans from the nationalised banks. It has become a big bank. Now, only the corporate sector and the bigwigs are capable of entering this bank. The common man will now feel that the State Bank of India is not his bank. That is the feeling.

Sir, I now come to NPAs. What is the level of NPA in the State Bank of India? There are Rs. 1.8 lakh crore of NPAs in the State Bank of India. At the end of December, 2016 ... (*Interruptions*) It is the information furnished to me by the Reference Wing. If it is Rs.96,000 crore, it is well and good. You are short of Rs.10,000 crores.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Please address the Chair.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: Sir, Rs. 1.8 lakh crore of NPAs are there in the State Bank of India. I think it would be appropriate to quote Shri Venkaiah Naidu, the incumbent Vice-President, who as a Minister made a statement that big people are responsible for higher NPAs and not poor people. That was the statement he made. Everyone feels that NPAs are not only in SBI, but it is there in all commercial banks and it is a big sum of money which

has gone waste and it is at the cost of the poor people that this amount is growing.

In addition to this, the State Bank of India is imposing some stringent conditions on customers. Nearly 31 crore people are being affected by the decision taken by the State of India with regard to keeping a minimum balance in the saving accounts. Nearly 31 crore people of this country are going to be affected by this stringent action by the State Bank of India. How can a bank impose a condition on a poor farmer who is having an account with the State Bank of India in a rural branch to have a minimum balance in his savings account? Otherwise, penalty would be imposed. This is a very bad decision. How can we call this entire system as people-friendly? Furthermore, the bank proposes to impose charges for cash withdrawal and also service charges. All these decisions are anti-poor. These decisions are not in favour of the poor people of this country. We must feel in this country that the banks are meant for the common people. One should feel comfortable while entering the bank. But by imposition of these stringent rules like imposing service charges and keeping a minimum balance in savings account makes a common man very

uncomfortable. Earlier minimum balance was Rs. 500 and now it has been increased to Rs. 1000.

Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the Government to the fact that people in this country, particularly the farmers are in a very critical condition. On the one hand, there is excessive rain in Northern India and on the other there is no rain in Southern India. I was listening to the speeches made by my colleagues here that because of heavy floods in the North-Eastern region, and Northern India including the States of Gujarat and Rajasthan, people are facing a lot of problems. The State of Karnataka is reeling under drought for the last five to six years. There are a lot of water tanks in the State. For the last 15 years I have not seen that these small tanks in the State of Karnataka are being filled with water and the consequential effect is that there is depletion of underground water. In addition to this, there is a lot of problem even to get drinking water. This is the situation.

Sir, finally, the suicide by farmers has assumed alarming proportions in this country. For the last several days farmers from one State are sitting on a *dharna* here. Not only that, consistently there has been an increase in the suicide by farmers. The Government of

Karnataka took a revolutionary decision of waiving off the loan of the farmers to the tune of Rs. 8261 crore.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Gowda, please conclude now.

SHRI S.P. MUDDAHANUME GOWDA: The Government of Karnataka under the leadership of the Chief Minister, Shri Siddaramaiah, has waived off loans of farmers upto an amount of Rs. 50,000 in the cooperative sector. My friends in the Treasury Benches insisted on waiving off farmers loans. They assured us in the State that they are going to get the farmers loans in the commercial banks waived off through the Government of India.

Now, using this opportunity, I would urge upon the Government of India to waive off farmers loans in the commercial banks so as to enable the farmers to breathe peacefully at least for sometime, to prevent farmers suicides in the country and give an assurance to the farmers that they can also lead a respectable life in this country.

SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI (HAVERI): Sir, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017.

It seeks to repeal the two Acts, the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956 and further to amend the SBI Act, 1955. These Acts established the State Bank of Bikaner, the State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Hyderabad. These Banks were subsidiaries of the State Bank of India.

The Union Cabinet granted its approval in February, 2017 which allowed the SBI to acquire the subsidiaries, and the SBI Act, 1955 is getting further amended right now. This Bill seeks to amend SBI, Act 1955 to remove the references related to Subsidiary Banks . These references include the definition of a Subsidiary Bank in the 1955 Act and powers of SBI to act as an agent of the RBI for a Subsidiary Bank.

As was asked by my elderly colleague, Shri Muddahanume Gowda, what was the reason for which the merger has been done?The reason for the merger is like this. The guiding principle for the consolidation process of banking in India has so far been as per the Narasimhan Committee recommendations according to which the

move towards the restructured organization of the banking system should be market driven based, on profitability consideration and brought about through process of mergers and amalgamations.

As far as merger of banks is concerned, any initiative with respect to merger of public sector banks has to come from the Board of the bank concerned, the extant legal framework keeping in view the synergies and the benefits of the merger and their commercial judgement.

He also categorically stated the Objects and Reasons for which acquisitions were agreed upon. For the purposes of rationalization of resources, reduction of costs, better profitability, lower cost of funds leading to better rate of interest for public at large, improved productivity and customer service, SBI, with the sanction of the Union Government, is now having a consolidation for which these consequential amendments are required. Hence the Government of India has taken a call and after this acquisition of Subsidiary Banks, the SBI and the Subsidiary Banks cease to exist and therefore, it is necessary to repeal the SBI (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1955 and State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956. Five associates and Bhartiya Mahila

Bank become the part of the SBI from 1st April, 2017 making it the country's largest lender among the top 50 banks in the world.

Following the merger, total customer base of the SBI has increased to the tune of 40 crores with a branch network of 24,000 and nearly 59,000 ATMs across the country. Merged entity began with the deposit base of more than Rs. 26 lakh crore and advance to the level of Rs. 18.5 lakh crore. Number of staff has been to the tune of 2.83 lakhs. SBI has become the largest commercial bank in India in terms of assets, deposits, branches, customers and employees. It has 199 offices in 37 countries across the world in all the time zones as on April, 2017. It will be one of the largest banks in the world right now in terms of assets and clients...*(Interruptions)*

With this it enters the league of top 50 global banks. Its market share has increased from 17 to 22 per cent. Having made this significant investment in technology, SBI is in a position to offer the widest portfolio of digital products and services. Thanks to the merger, additional customers will access and benefit through these products. The larger branches and the ATM networks will enable the SBI to offer its products and services seamlessly across India to its varied customers besides being easily accessible.

After the acquisition of all the subsidiaries or the associated banks by the SBI, it is not necessary to retain such provisions in the SBI Act, 1955. Therefore, certain amendments are necessary in the said Act. Insofar as they relate to the subsidiary banks, amendments are consequential in nature. Furthermore, the recent merger of five associated banks with the SBI is hailed as path breaking measure. Three of the associated banks were stock-listed entities in which the SBI has the dominant holdings, while the remaining two were wholly owned by it.

If you go back and see the history of the SBI, known once as the seven sisters, the associated banks had been established by the princely States before the country's Independence to serve the local population. These came under the fold of the SBI after the Government passed the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act in 1959. Thus the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur which was a merger of banks belonging to two princely States, Bikaner and Jaipur, came into being as SBI subsidiary in 1963. The Bank of Indore, originally established by the Maharaja of Indore, Holkar, in 1920, became State Bank of Indore. The Bank set up by the princely State of Bhavnagar in 1902 became the State Bank of Saurashtra. The last one, Hyderabad

Nizam's Bank set up in 1941 was renamed as State Bank of Hyderabad. Like-wise the banking outfits of the erstwhile princely States in Patiala, Travancore and Mysore became the SBI subsidiaries.

The Narasimham Committee had envisaged in 1991 that the SBI should progressively merge all the seven subsidiaries with itself. It was recommended long back in 1991. The Narasimham Committee has given a report recommending consolidation or merger of the associated banks. Long thereafter, in 2008, the State Bank of Saurashtra was the first to merge with the SBI. Two years later, the State Bank of Indore was integrated. The Government issued a directive in 2016 asking the SBI to complete the merger of the remaining five associated banks by March. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): Did they do nothing after 2008?

SHRI SHIVAKUMAR UDASI: After 2008, they also wanted to do it, but they could not do it.

[English]

Narendra Modi's Government did it. Shri Muddahanume Gowda, you have to appreciate that. It has been done under the visionary leadership of Hon. Prime Minister Narendra Modi ji.

First, the associated banks had enjoyed a common identity with the SBI for long. They had shared the SBI's logo, highly visible point of customer recall and rallying point for group affinity. Second, the SBI had been exercising the tight operational control of the associated banks from inception. The SBI Chairman was presiding over the individual Boards of the associated banks which were run by the top executives of the SBI who were sent on deputation. As a result, the banking products, operational systems, core banking system, procedure and norms of the business were all common, Third, all associated banks were operating under the same Information Technology platform like the SBI. Since the time the SBI launched massive computerization in the mid 1990s to automate all branches, it had included the associated banks in the same exercise. In 2002, it had engaged Tata Consultancy Services to roll out a core banking solution covering the entire group. So, the associated banks were beneficiaries of the common code and the linkages. Fourth, the treasury operations of the associated banks had been integrated with the SBI for several

years. This has provided valuable expertise to them, cost advantage and fund mobilization.

Lastly, the major loan decisions of the Associated Banks used to be vetted first by the SBI under centralised control before the proposals received local approval at the concerned associated Banks' Board. This oversight had added a valuable layer and helped steer the asset portfolios of the Associated Banks on generally prudential lines.

Now, I would come to the point, which my Hon. Colleague has raised. It was Hon. Mrs. Indira Gandhi, who had taken a call and initiated the process of nationalisation of banks in our country. But I would like to remind him that till this date, no ordinary man could enter into a bank... (*Interruptions*)

Let me tell you that in the last Government also, 'zero balance accounts' were opened but there were no transactions in those accounts. But after Narendra Modi had given a call, 29.5 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Accounts had been opened and Rs. 65,000 crore have been deposited in these banks.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, let him speak. Please do not disturb.

... (*Interruptions*)

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Sir... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He is not yielding.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: He made a categorical point that the SBI is going to charge for maintenance of accounts... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Sampath, he is not yielding.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: Hon. Chairman, Sir, I need your protection... (*Interruptions*)

In the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Accounts, there is no restriction or there is no penalty for not maintaining a minimum balance... (*Interruptions*)

In the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Accounts, Rs. 65,000 crore have been deposited by the people of this country, the rural population of this country... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Udasi, you please continue your speech.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Hon. Members, please do not disturb.

... (*Interruptions*)

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

...(*Interruptions*)^{12*}...

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Shri Udasi, you continue speaking.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Sampath, it is not proper. You may speak when your turn comes.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: Sir, consolidation in the banking sector is the need of the hour... (*Interruptions*)

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

...(*Interruptions*)^{13*}...

SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: Sir, consolidation in the banking sector is the need of the hour. Capital Adequacy Ratio for many Public

^{12*} Not recorded.

^{13*} Not recorded.

Sector Banks, especially the smaller ones have been steadily declining mainly due to higher provisioning requirements for poor asst quality, Basel III Capital Norms and additional capital required to cover additional risk areas under the RBI's risk-based supervision framework. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Dr. Sampath, I am requesting you to take your seat.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. CHAIRPERSON: He is not yielding.

SHRI SHIVKUMAR UDASI: The poor valuations of the bank stocks, especially the PSBs are not helping matters either as raising resources from the capital market poses challenges. When the best performing PSBs have been hesitant to tap the market for augmenting their capital level, it would be very difficult for the weaker PSBs to raise resources from the market. It is also not possible for the Government to always step in with capital infusion into the banks due to budgetary constraints.

Against this backdrop, consolidation in the banking sector assumes significance and a certain criticality with a view to salvaging the smaller and weaker PSBs. This process will not only help provide

capital adequacy as per International Norms and Accounting Standards but also enable better overheads management from a cost perspective. Consolidation will thus make our banks stronger and more vibrant in the emerging competitive scenario with greater clientele synergy. On the human resource side, it will provide a larger pool of talent to tap into for ensuring better corporate governance. It becomes imperative now, particularly, when we look at the sagging balance-sheets of some of the PSBs who are tottering on the brink with steeply declining profitability. It has become unsustainable for them.

For this reason, the consolidation and merger are happening in this country for the Public Sector Banks under the recommendation of the Narasimham Committee.

Sir, I am supporting this Bill. By taking this opportunity, here, I would like to draw the attention of the Hon. Finance Minister. We have a total of 1,30,000 bank branches in this country, which is one of the highest in the world. The next is Columbia, which has around 95,000 bank branches. Then comes China, which has 94,000 bank branches.

There are two and a half lakh Panchayats in this country. There are above six lakh villages in this country. I would like to request our Government to open more bank branches in the rural areas as Shri Muddahanumegowda ji was referring so that each Panchayat would have ultra small branches or 'brick and mortar' branches to serve the purpose of rural economy or to spur the rural economy. It is because we all see that 29.5 crore new accounts have been added. There are operational hassles in the rural branches. ... (*Interruptions*)

The BC Model, which was brought by the former UPA Government, was inoperable. You can see that there are around one and a half lakh Business Correspondents in this country. Due to lack of network, they are inoperable.

Therefore, my humble suggestion to the Ministry would be to open 'brick and mortar' ultra micro branches where there will be four or five employers who can cater to the needs of the rural economy. By doing this, we can help the poor farmers of this country. Out of 13 crore farmers, only four and a half crore farmers are availing of loans from the public sector banks and the commercial banks. My suggestion would be that in the name of financial inclusion, which we have started now, we have to give loan to the marginal and the small

farmers. If the Government can do something on this front, it will be appreciated.

With these few words, I support the Bill and conclude my speech.

Thank you very much.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN (NILGIRIS): Sir, I express my gratitude to my beloved leader Puratchi Thalaivi Amma before I participate in the discussion on the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017.

This Bill seeks to repeal the two Acts: (i) the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, and (ii) the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956. These Acts established the State Bank of Bikaner, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Travancore, and State Bank of Hyderabad. These banks were subsidiaries of the State Bank of India (SBI). This is consequent to the Union Cabinet granting its approval in February 2017, which allowed the SBI to acquire these subsidiaries. After the acquisition of the subsidiary banks by the SBI, the subsidiary banks have ceased to exist and, therefore, it was necessary to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956.

In the Statement of Objects and Reasons it was stated that with the sanction of the Union Government and in consultation with the RBI, the SBI entered into negotiations with the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank or Patiala, State Bank

of Travancore and the State Bank of Hyderabad for acquiring business, including assets and liabilities.

The State Bank of India (SBI) had decided to merge the five associate banks from 1st April, 2017, and has decided to shut down almost half the offices of these banks, including the Head Offices of three of them. This process was started from April 24.

Out of the five Head Offices of the associate banks, they have decided to retain only two. Three Head Offices of the associate banks were closed along with 27 zonal offices, 81 regional offices and 11 network offices of the associate banks. The five associate banks that will merge with SBI are: the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, the State Bank of Mysore, the State Bank of Travancore, the State Bank of Patiala and the State Bank of Hyderabad.

SBI is India's largest bank with assets of Rs. 30.72 lakh crore and figures at no. 64 in the global ranking of banks (as of December 2015). Post-merger, with assets of approximately Rs. 40 lakh crore, it will be among the top 50 banks in the world. It was said that the five associate banks will cease to exist as legal entities and will become a part of SBI from April 1, but the various merger processes had started only after April 24, once the balance sheets of the five entities are audited

and added. Now the repeal Bill comes with an aim of repealing the old Acts.

Global rating agency Moody's, in its report last month, said the merger will have limited impact on SBI's credit metrics, given that SBI already fully owns SBH and SBP and has majority stakes in the other three associate banks.

This is the first ever large-scale consolidation in the Indian banking industry. The merger will create a banking behemoth with an asset book value of Rs 37 lakh crore. SBI will give 28 of its shares for every 10 shares held of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur. It will give 22 of its shares for every 10 shares held of State Bank of Mysore. The lender will give 22 of its own shares for every 10 shares held of State Bank of Travancore.

Sir, there are five things which will be significant in this merger. One is asset quality. By virtue of being the country's largest lender, the SBI is bound to have bad loans on its books. However, despite being much smaller in size, the associate banks, too, have accumulated large amounts of bad loans. When the entities are merged, these bad loans will become a part of one bank. Consolidation

would help in better dealing with these accounts as there are a number of common accounts among these banks.

Second is profitability. Typically a merger among banks negatively impacts the profitability of the combined entity due to various transition issues. Associate banks such as State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Mysore have already reported losses in the December quarter owing to the asset quality concerns on their books.

Third is technology. While SBI has been at the forefront in adopting new front-end and back-end technologies to be competitive in the market, some of the associate banks are still behind in these regards. SBI has an active information technology department that works on a number of innovative solutions for the bank. After the merger, the rollout of all these solutions will have to take place on a much larger scale, adding to the cost of making this technology available to customers.

HON. CHAIRPERSON: Your time is up. Please conclude.

SHRI C. GOPALAKRISHNAN: Sir, before I conclude, I wish to urge upon the Government to provide adequate compensation and benefits to the employees of the associate banks who may either opt

for VRS or wish to continue to serve in SBI. And I also urge upon the Government to continue the services provided by these associate banks to the people of the country.

Thank you, Sir.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Sir, I rise to speak on the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill. This Bill will legalise the acquisition of five Banks, namely, the State Bank of Patiala, the State Bank of Mysore, the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, the State Bank of Travancore, and the State Bank of Hyderabad by the State Bank of India. The Hyderabad Bank came into existence under a separate law. That is why a separate amendment for State Bank of Hyderabad is necessary. These banks have already been acquired. So, we are actually doing an *ex post facto* action of things which have already been done.

I rise to say that I am not opposed to the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill. I started my life as a Probationary Officer in the State Bank and worked there for 2 ½ years. My learned colleague, Shri Prasun Banerjee worked for 33 years in the State Bank. He got pension, but he is still not being given free medical facilities which he should be given. Now, having said that, why I do not support the Bill wholesale is due to three questions which I will pose before you.

Three questions are troubling the minds of the people in the country. My first question is this. Who gave 44 votes to ... ^{14*}? Nobody knows but there is a speculation in every newspaper on this.

SHRI ANURAG SINGH THAKUR (HAMIRPUR): *Dada*, that is the margin. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: The second question is this. You should accept defeat gracefully. Anurag Ji, you are an up-and-coming leader. You must know how to accept defeat gracefully. ... (*Interruptions*)

[Translation]

It's not a big deal, they have won. ... (*Interruptions*) Shri Dubey Ji, have you seen a cinema? ... (*Interruptions*) Sir, please control yourself. ... (*Interruptions*)

14.56 hours

(Hon. Deputy Speaker *in the Chair*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, do not divert the attention of Prof. Saugata Roy.

^{14*} Not recorded.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): Hon. Deputy Speaker Sir, please control the House. It is all in your hands. ... *(Interruptions)* I saw a cinema long time ago. It was called 'Jo jeeta wohi sikandar', everyone should accept this. ... *(Interruptions)*

My second question is: how much money was deposited after demonetization till now? How much money has been deposited in the State Bank of India? I have put this question to the Reserve Bank of India Governor. If Arun Jaitley Ji has been here, I would have asked him. He has deputed... ^{15*}. So, let him at least speak on this issue.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How do you know about all those things?

...*(Interruptions)*

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: He is assuming something ...*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Notification is there. ...*(Interruptions)*.

The third question that I have about State Bank of India is simple. Why did the Chairman of the State Bank of India go to Australia

^{15*} Expunged as ordered by the Chair.

during the Prime Minister's visit to finalize a proposal so that ... ^{16*}
could get a loan for the Australian Coalfield?

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

...*(Interruptions)*.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Let me modify my statement. Listen to me and then apply your judicial decision. ...*(Interruptions)*. Why did the SBI Chairman travel to Australia during the Prime Minister's visit to finalize the loan for a coalmine for a Gujarat based corporate? ...*(Interruptions)*. Is that alright Sir?

Now, let me oppose some of the anti-people decisions of the State Bank of India. I told you that I used to work for the State Bank of India. We called it the biggest bank for the smallest man. Now, it seems that the SBI is bent upon harming the common man. What did it do? You may also be affected Sir. Your account is there in SBI, Parliament House.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: How do you know that I am having an account? Is it your duty to know about my accounts?

^{16*} Not recorded.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: All salaries are deposited in that account. The savings bank interest rate was four per cent. Now, it has been reduced to 3.5 per cent. This is an anti-people decision.

Then, let me mention some more anti-people decisions. Earlier, the minimum balance for a savings bank account without cheque facility was Rs.1,000 across the country. Now, the minimum balance for the metro branches will be Rs.5,000.

15.00 hours

The penalty for non-maintenance of minimum balance will be between Rs.50 and Rs.100. For urban and semi-urban branches, the MAB, Minimum Account Balance, is fixed at Rs.3,000 and Rs.2,000 respectively. In case of rural branches, the minimum balance has been fixed at Rs.1,000.

Sir, the Government speaks of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana. They say JAM trinity, that is, Jan Dhan, Aadhar and Mobile. In Jan Dhan Yojana, you have reduced the interest and increased the minimum balance. Is it not against the interest of the common people? I want to ask this question. Where is the State Bank of India going to?

Also, coming to ATM charges, we all take out money from the ATM. Those who use the SBI's mobile wallet will now be charged

Rs.25 per transaction. After four withdrawals in a month, a service charge of Rs.50 plus service tax per transaction will be applicable for basic Savings Bank Deposit Account. This step by the State Bank of India will harm altogether 31 crore people. Also, coming to IMPS fund transfer charges through Internet banking--they say we want 'Digital India'—the Internet banking charges will be Rs.5 plus service tax for amounts up to Rs.1 lakh, Rs.15 plus service tax above Rs.1 lakh and up to Rs.2 lakh, and Rs.25 plus service tax for amounts above Rs.2 lakh and up to Rs.5 lakh. These are totally anti-people decisions.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: I will end up. It is because of Shri Anurag Singh Thakur and Shri Nishikant Dubey, I am asking for two more minutes. They disturbed me. Please do not take away my precious time. You give me two more minutes and I will finish it.

I want to say that at this stage, the State Bank of India is having the biggest NPA, Non-Performing Asset. The Non-Performing Asset of the State Bank of India is Rs.97,000 crore. Taking every bank together, the State Banks of Bikaner and Jaipur, Hyderabad, Mysore, Patiala and Travancore, it comes to Rs.1,40,000 crore. The bank is being badly managed and the Government has no reply. It is

constantly issuing directives to merge them and they say we will make it one of the top banks of the world. If you compare it with the Citibank and even if you compare it with the ANZ Grindlays Bank, can you come up to that level of service?

We are only hoodwinking the common people just by showing, we have done a big thing; we have merged all the banks into one. What is there? Rather, the people will get late service. All the Members from Kerala are here. In Kerala, there was an agitation against the merger of the State Bank of Travancore...*(Interruptions)*

You see, Sir, they are supporting me because of what happened in Kerala. They have said this is essential for rationalization and all that. Now what will happen? The number of branches will be reduced. So if there is a branch of the State Bank of Travancore, it will be closed down and the SBI branch will be kept open. How much trouble is being created? Kerala is a densely populated State. How much will they do rationalization of resources and reduction of costs, and bring better profitability at the cost of the smallest banks? And they will call themselves the biggest banks for the smallest man. That is why, I have no moral support for this Bill.

We could have opposed the Bill. We could have given Resolutions and amendments but that is quite pointless. This Government, with its brute majority, will bulldoze the Bill in the Lok Sabha. We hope that our friends in the Upper House do put a brake to their coming forward.

With those words, I end my speech. Thank you.

SHRI TATHAGATA SATPATHY (DHENKANAL): Sir, I rise to speak on the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017 and I oppose this Bill.

I think it is a misfortune if you tend to be in this House present for too long because when you see the sides changing and the support for each other, it confuses the image. I remember when the revered colleagues were sitting on the opposition side, how they used to oppose something which the UPA was saying. Now, when the Hon. colleague from the Congress side spoke, his very first sentence was, “I support this”. I will revert why it has support from both the sides.

The idea, of course, has been spelt out. Five smaller banks – State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Hyderabad – are being merged with the big ocean called the State Bank of India. The Government has already put it into effect. We are only doing a post-mortem and putting our stamp on it.

It is a clear move to hide the immense amount of non-performing assets that these banks have accumulated over the years. This seems to be a stopgap arrangement to prevent these five smaller banks from collapsing inwards.

Let us take a quick look at the financial status of these five banks before this merger. The State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur had a 71.94 per cent decline in its net profit for December 2016 quarter and its gross NPA was at 15.5 per cent. The State Bank of Hyderabad incurred a loss of Rs.2760 crore as of March 2017 with gross NPA at 20.7 per cent. The State Bank of Travancore had incurred a loss of Rs.2152 crore and the gross NPA stood at 16.8 per cent. In case of State Bank of Patiala, they had a bigger peg at Rs.3579 crore loss and the gross NPA stood at 23.1 per cent. Last but not least, the State Bank of Mysore with a loss of Rs.2006 crore is the worst of the lot that showed a gross NPA of 25.7 per cent, that is about one-fourth of all the loans given out by that bank as bad loans. These NPAs are rising constantly.

Given the horrible situation that exists today, by merging the smaller banks with the larger bank, you are trying to hide the bad performance of the banks. Then, whom you are merging them with, you are merging them with the State Bank of India, which itself has a 6.9 per cent gross NPA and you think that the State Bank will rescue these banks.

Let us recollect that the Chairman of SBI had asked for a bail out package to save the telecom sector on June 1, 2017. We know that one company, I am not taking any names, was flagged by 10 banks as a defaulter of Rs.42,000 crore. If a small villager defaults in a repayment of Rs.7000, you go and you do *ghoro korakh*, that is, auction of his home and land. We call it *korakh*. I do not know what Hindi speakers call it. If that is what the common man is facing, how the country is being run or walked or crawled by these two sides is for everybody to see. This is the dark side of the moon. How to go forward? We cannot always be negative like these two people.

Employees, who were supposed to do due diligence and locate genuine loanees had consciously defaulted. They, from the chairmen of the banks to the bank managers, to the assessors of the bank, all have connived at some point or the other to give out bad loans, whether it is to big corporations or to companies or corporates. As long as you do not take action against them, let us be very sure that even today, Sir, on 10th of August, 2017 as you sit in that Chair and as we are all talking about it today here, bad loans are being created because the same people are still working in those same banks. Unless you take corrective action, it will be there. There are people who have

worked in banks and minted millions, not from their known sources of income, and they sit with hefty sums as pensions. Not all bank employees are crooks; I am saying some are. Similarly, there are some employees today who are conniving with crooked companies, crooked corporates to loot the country, to loot the poor man's wealth. When you are merging these five banks, you are also taking that crooked staff into the State Bank of India. You are also continuing paying salary to those people.

My positive suggestion to the Government would be that a time has come – instead of blaming the Congress and the Congress supporting you – when you have to weed out the corrupt and the inefficient from the system. If your banks collapse and if there is no official retribution, the scenario will never change. Again, five years later, you will be trying to merge the SBI, if they are there in power or whoever is there – with ANZ Grindlays or some other bank.

Sir, punishment today can be the sole deterrent for any wrong that might happen henceforth. So, let us take steps to create a situation where we do not tax the tax-payers even more into paying for the faults of these politicians, these bureaucrats and these bank employees. I am dreading a day when all these coal-fired power

production units declare themselves to be NPAs. What is going to happen to this country? That will, again, be Billions of dollars worth of loans which will go bad.

Sir, I started with why the Congress supported, but I missed that point. Why did the Congress support? I remember – Sir, you were in the House at that time – when Mr. P. Chidambaram was the then UPA Finance Minister. He had told the House that they want to create few big banks by merging the smaller banks so that these will be so-called global banks. That was a name that he had coined. Little did we know that the system from inside was totally rotten. What they had discovered because of their bad management and bad governance, these people have also discovered it because of their bad management and bad governance. You are continuing the same process and you are trying to cover up the same ills. ... (*Interruptions*)

Sir, let us come to the bigger picture. I will take two more minutes. You are claiming that ‘we have created a situation of only white money because we did demonetisation.’ I am not going to ask how did you fund those MLA candidates in UP elections, how did you ...^{17*}. Those are not my concerns. The people of India will decide who

^{17*} Expunged as ordered by the Chair

is honest and who is not. But what have you done by demonetisation? You have taken out the small amounts of cash that the poor man used to keep at home to fall back on in times of emergency. You have robbed the poor man.

Today, you are claiming that Jan Dhan zero-balance account has given us Rs. 52,000 crore or Rs. 54,000 crore. Whose money is that? That is not BJP's money. That is no Minister's or no Government's money. It is the poor man who had deposited Rs. 2,000, Rs. 5,000 or Rs. 7,000. You have collected it and taken away. Instead of giving Rs. 15 lakh, you have taken away his money. Now, if these banks fail, there will be no recourse for this country, there will be no recourse for the poor man.

Sir, before I wind-up, I would like to say one more sentence. In brief, as I see it today, the future is dark because both the Congress and the BJP are two sides of the same coin. I pray that the people of this country realise as to where these people are leading us; what destruction they are creating; and how dark the future of this country is? Thank you, Sir.

SHRI ANANDRAO ADSUL (AMRAVATI): Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I rise to support the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017.

The acquisition and amalgamation is the need of the day. I do not know as to why the various subsidiaries of the State Bank were there, but there was the State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Travancore and State Bank of Hyderabad. In 1995, there were four subsidiaries as mentioned here, namely, State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore. In 1959, the State Bank of Hyderabad was established, but it was also taken as subsidiary by passing a special Amendment in 1959. Ultimately, the Board of the State Bank of India passed the Resolution for acquisition of various subsidiaries of the State Bank and their amalgamation into the State Bank of India. As a result of this merger all the assets and liabilities will be taken over by the State Bank of India.

What will happen after the merger? There are four points, which we will achieve, namely, rationalization of resources; reduction in the cost; better profitability; lower cost of funds, ultimately, leading to better rate in interest to public at large; and improve productivity and

consumer services. These are the main objectives behind this acquisition by the State Bank of India and merger of all the above mentioned subsidiaries into the State Bank of India.

The question that remains to be asked here is this. Why were all these subsidiaries established in the past, that is, in 1995 and 1959? The objective definitely shows that it was done in the interest of public at large of this country. I can understand it, but if you go through the last amendment of the Banking Regulation Act where I have spoken at length regarding the whole banking industry, then it would be known that there are various types of banks like public sector banks, private sector banks, multi-State cooperative banks, foreign banks and urban banks.

The State Bank of India is having its own existence for India as they are having a number of branches in the country. This Bank is called a Government Bank. Further, the State Bank of India is having many of their branches in so many countries. Definitely we are proud of it. Our SBI is having its existence in 50-59 countries. This is the largest bank not only in India but also in many other small countries. SBI is functioning on behalf of the Government. It is also called as Treasury Bank. That is the reason why it has spread like anything. It

is serving not only the common man but also big corporates. We have seen the rise of NPAs in the public sector banks but not in SBI. When we take into consideration employment, SBI has employed all categories of people in their staff in large numbers. This is also a plus point of SBI. Keeping aside the functioning of other banks, we appreciate the working style of SBI.

That is why, the new move of the Government, the amendment to the State Banks (Repeal & Development) Bill, 2017, is very much essential. That is why, I extend full support to this Bill. Thank you very much.

DR. BOORA NARSAIAH GOUD (BHONGIR): Thank you, Sir, for allowing me to speak on the State Banks (Repeal & Development) Bill, 2017 as it also concerns the State Bank of Hyderabad, from which place I hail. Incidentally, today is the 10th August - State Bank of Hyderabad was started on the 8th August, 1941, 76 years ago. Yesterday, we celebrated the Quit India Movement, we took a *Sankalp*. It used to be once Hyderabad State Bank because it belonged then to the Princely State of Hyderabad. Then, it was converted into State Bank of Hyderabad. Now, we would be missing State Bank of Hyderabad once it merges with SBI. To be frank, it is like a marriage registration. Marriage is already over on 31st March, 2017 when the existence of State Bank of Hyderabad expired and when it merged with SBI.

I wish to bring to the notice of the august House this. What is the purpose of merging? My learned and senior friend, Shri Satpathy has said that many of the subsidiary banks had relatively higher NPAs – 16 per cent to almost 25 per cent in the case of Mysore Bank. Is the purpose of the merging somehow to safeguard the subsidiary banks? Or as stated by other learned Members, is it to make SBI into the league of the top 50 banks in the world? Because one of the stated

objectives of the Government seems to be to create a bigger bank so that we get good rankings or great ratings from the credit agencies of the world. In a way, we are feeling, bigger is better. Previously, we used to think of decentralisation, now we are thinking of centralisation.

Today, the picture of a bank is bad loans, which is because of big people. No loans are given to the small people. There is also non-accountability aspect. Look at the bank loans which have been sanctioned to Kingfisher companies. Persons who are responsible to assess the viability of those projects are not touched.

So, there is absolutely no accountability. I will give you an example. There are District Lead Banks. I am talking about one district in the State of Telangana. The credit limit of that district is Rs.6,365 crore. They have crossed that limit. They have disbursed Rs.6,750 crore. What is the priority lending that they are supposed to give? They are supposed to give Rs.4,250 crore as a priority lending in the rural sector for farmers, fishermen, barber and so on. Do you know as to how much they have disbursed? They have disbursed only Rs.511 crore for the priority lending sector whereas they have disbursed the maximum amount of loan to the bigger people. Are we

going to cure this disease by merging these banks with the State Bank of India? The issue is whether we talk of the Government of India or the Government of Telangana or the Tamil Nadu Government or for that matter any Government, all Governments would request the State Bank of India or the bank of the respective State to harness the priority lending. But, nobody listens to it. I wish the Government should take into account this aspect which is exactly affecting the poor people. They are forced to take the loan from the private lenders by paying higher rate of interest. That is the reason why, the number of suicides are running into lakhs across India. It is because of non-availability of the loan from the public sector banks. Is there a cure for this problem with the Government? We want to know about it from the Hon. Minister.

The Government has gone into various pros and cons of the issue by having this merger like, reduction of the NPA, technical efficiency, international standards and so on. My only concern is this. Are we going to miss this local flavour by merging it? Are we going to miss the regional focus of the bank? For example, the State Bank of Hyderabad has a focus in the Telangana State; Andhra Bank has a focus in the Andhra State; the State Bank of Travancore has a focus

in Kerala. Are we going to lose the local focus? We have to be extremely careful about it. If the State Bank of India is going to have its focus only in New Delhi or Mumbai, the financial Capital of the country, in that case, States are going to lose. I want the Government of India to take up the issue.

Before I conclude, I wish to bring to your notice one issue which is relevant to the subject. I am a doctor by profession. There are many banks near my place and they are ready to give me a loan. I have never defaulted. I pay a lot of income-tax maybe around Rs.40 lakhs to Rs.50 lakhs per annum as tax. Recently, I wanted a loan. I have never defaulted. I was shocked to hear from the bank that my credit worthiness is not there as I have become a politician. Is it a correct thing? You are discriminating a person on the ground of profession. They say that now the politicians, police and advocates are not eligible for loans. I would like to know whether any politician has defaulted in paying back the loan. I do not think anybody has done it. We have got a loan of Rs.1.00 loan, Rs.10 lakh loan and so on. We get the defaulters in loan repayment from these categories. But, they get loans. If you ask a loan of Rs. 10,000 crore, you would get it easily. But, if you ask for a loan of Rs.10,000, you will never get. This

malady has to stop. I hope that this malady will be put an end to by merging all the subsidiary banks into a single bank. With this statement, I support the Bill. We wholeheartedly wish that this merger will result in a better future for the smaller people.

SHRI N. K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, it is a matter of privilege... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not just politician. He has mentioned about others also like lawyers and so on. It is all right.

Shrimati P.K. Teacher.

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): I oppose the Bill and earlier also, we opposed the Bill because this Bill never helped the people. It is anti-people, anti-farmer and it is against the parents of lakhs of students. So, we opposed the Bill.

The State Bank of Travancore is known as Kerala Bank. Without any consultation and without any consideration, the Government of India decided to merge the State of Bank of Travancore into the State Bank of India.

Sir, here so many Hon. Members spoke about the implications of this merger. I do not want to elaborate or speak those ideas again. But, what is the result after the merger? In the last so many months, approvals were very much delayed. The delays have pushed many customers to leave the State Bank and queue up in front of private sector banks. Sir, associate banks used to control additional small value in non-performing assets through vigorous follow-up. Now, the newly merged State Bank is showing huge increase in NPA and is pushing small borrowers to courts for recovery. This is pushing many customers to private banks or private financiers. Sir, this Bill is not only anti-people but also anti-employees and anti-officers.

The merger of two associate banks into the State Bank of India had taken place in 2008 and 2010. In addition to the Provident Fund, the employees of the merged associate banks (State Bank of Saurashtra and State Bank of Indore) were given pension as third benefit, as exist in SBI. However, the same benefit which was given to the employees of the State Bank of Saurashtra and the State Bank of Indore in 2008 and 2010 respectively, was denied to the employees of five associate banks merged in 2017. The management of SBI advised the employees to exercise the option to either opting for SBI's retirement benefits or associate bank's retirement benefits. However, this was done without clarifying or giving details of the benefits available to those who opt for SBI's retirement benefits which were different from what are being given to SBI employees. Although, the SBI employees and associate bank employees are recruited through the same recruitment process, the employees are treated differently even after it has become one entity. This is highly deplorable.

Instead of hand-holding associate bank employees, they are being isolated pointing out various shortcomings. Presently, one-fourth of the employees of SBI are from erstwhile associate banks. However, SBI has done precious little to equalise the benefits being handed out

to them. Now, the Union of Association of the employees of erstwhile association banks have approached the Hon. High Court to get equal benefits. The Bank has still not taken any decision and this has created anxiety among the associate bank employees.

This year's promotion exercise has clearly indicated that there is no scope of promotion for erstwhile association bank employees. In addition to reducing seniority by two years for top-management aspirants, the Bank has totally sidelined the eligible officers of associate banks in the promotion list announced. No one from the associate banks is promoted to CGM and GM grades and very few of them get promotion to other grades. This has pushed many associate banks employees in a state of depression and dissatisfaction. Then whom is the Bill going to help? It is not going to help the employees; it is not going to help the people; it is not going to help farmers. Why has the Government brought this kind of Bill in the House? With these words, I conclude.

SHRIMATI BUTTA RENUKA (KURNOOL): Hon. Deputy Speaker, I thank you for giving me an opportunity to speak on this important subject aimed at the creation of mega banks which will become globally competitive.

I welcome this legislation which is aimed at repealing certain Acts relating to the State Bank of India and its erstwhile associate banks. With the merger of these banks, the Acts relating to erstwhile subsidiaries have become redundant and the State Bank of India Act requires certain modifications and those are being carried out through this legislation.

A few years back, India went ahead with the economic programme that small is beautiful and encouraged small and medium enterprises. A number of institutions were created to promote small scale industries, co-operative institutions, handlooms etc. However, over the years, it is realized that the small and medium level institutions are not globally competitive and they are also not economically viable. We have seen that state financial corporations, industrial development corporations have not been performing well in recent years as they are not being competitive with the commercial

banks. Similarly, our commercial banks are not globally comparable and not able to compete in the global economy.

In addition to this, all the banks perform the same kind of work and it is duplication and replication of functions. With the computerization of the banking industry, physical location of a bank branch is not an important requirement. So many banks having so many branches is mere duplication and waste of human and other financial resources.

Though it is slightly delayed, this Government has taken the right step in merging the State Bank of India and its associate banks. I request this Government to further identify and merge the banks and bring down the number to a reasonable level and make them competitive in the global market. In any case, we frequently witness merger of private banks for commercial reasons.

I request this Government that in the process of merger, we must ensure that none of the stakeholders like depositors, borrowers, and employees of the banks shall be adversely impacted. In fact, we must aim at the betterment of their position.

There have been persistent demands from the retired employees of public sector banks that they are discriminated in the pension rules

when compared to their counterparts in the Government service. There is no revision of pension whenever there is a wage revision for bank employees. Now that the pension is not compulsory and there is no addition to the pensioners, slowly the number of pensioners is dwindling. I would request the Government to sympathetically consider the demands of bank pensioners.

Non-Performing Assets of commercial banks, especially public sector banks, have reached unacceptably high levels. Soon after liberalization of the economy, many private sector banks have come up. In this competitive environment, banks have started canvassing loans and some have compromised on the credit quality. Some sectors like power, steel etc. have not performed well for reasons beyond the control of promoters and lenders. This has resulted in the piling up of Non-Performing Assets with the banks. Some corporates are also responsible for this mess due to diversion of funds and lack of financial discipline. Tackling this menace is an urgent need as the integrity of the financial system is in jeopardy.

I congratulate this Government for making a law suitably amending the Banking Regulation Act. Since we are creating mega banks it is necessary to have the suitable regulatory framework so that

these banks do not slip out of control and put in proper systems in place so that they function according to the objectives for which they were created.

I appreciate the sincerity and commitment of this Government for coming out with various initiatives for strengthening the financial systems.

With these observations, I strongly support this Bill for passing and look forward to similar enactments which will strengthen our financial system. Thank you.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): Sir, I would like to dwell on the legislative document under the title, State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017.

The Bill *per se* is not contradictory to the concept of bank rationalisation but the way the Government is trying to project itself as if the consolidation of banks will be acting as a panacea for all financial ills is the only point to which I take a serious exception.

In the wake of the foreign exchange crisis in the year 1991, the Narasimham Committee had recommended restructuring of banks but what is the rationality right now for the consolidation of banks? Even so, the Government had decided it earlier in the year 2016, and after doing everything else, the Government is now trying to project itself gracious enough to bring this legislation in this House. They have already decided to merge the five subsidiaries and thereafter they have brought in this House a legislation to get it approved by the House. So, I think, this is nothing but to seriously erode the parliamentary authority of the country. The Government should correct itself in the future.

[Translation]

I would like to ask Gangwar Ji that the SBI you are talking about will have all its assets worth Rs. 37 lakh crore. But you will take this Rs. 37 lakh crore and tell the world that look, we have become one in the world within 50. What was the asset quality of the subsidiary you are talking about? What is the asset quality of SBI itself? You consolidate; there is no harm in it. But the time for consolidation should be decided as to when and how it should happen? It would be good if you first restore the health of the bank and then consolidate it. Because there is a statistical reason behind every consolidation. ... (*Interruptions*) As if I am asking to attract your attention.

[English]

A consolidation could be done for a strategic reason which is to get new geography, new segment, new talent, or new market. So, you can consolidate or merge depending on commercial and business reasons. What are the commercial perspectives or what are the business reasons which have propelled you to get the five subsidiaries consolidated?

I know that you are trying to drumbeat the success of the NDA Government without any rhyme or reason.

[Translation]

The reason for this is that the management of the five subsidiaries that you are taking was with SBI, their entire infrastructure was with SBI. The loans given from all these banks were vetted by SBI. Its information and technology were from SBI. Then what new thing are you bringing to the common people of India by consolidating the subsidiaries banks in this manner. Because this was done through an Act of Parliament in 1959, but you are doing all the work outside, keeping the Parliament in the dark. That's why we have to oppose you, because the way you are creating euphoria is not actually visible in it. It has also been mentioned in this House that some corporate lobby of India is using SBI as a milking cow, just as a cow gives milk. But milk comes out from a cow only when the cow is properly nourished. If you keep extracting milk from the cow without nutrition, so the condition of the cow will be the same as our ... ^{18*} so I am asking that when you go to Australia to a corporate of Gujarat it needs money for coal mines and when other banks refuse it, SBI does them yes, what is the secret behind it? ... (*Interruptions*) there is a corporate sector, whose Rs. 72 thousand crore is NPA. You are forgiving them... (*Interruptions*)

^{18*} Not recorded as ordered by the Chair

[English]

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: Sir, I am on a point of order under Rule 353. ... (*Interruptions*)

It says:

“No allegation of a defamatory or incriminatory nature shall be made by a Member against any person unless the Member has given adequate advance notice to the Speaker and also to the Minister concerned so that the Minister may be able to make an investigation into the matter for the purpose of a reply. ”

[Translation]

He is talking about Gujarat, he is talking about the corporates of Gujarat, he is talking about Australia. He has not given any notice and thus, if they had given notice in advance regarding the allegations they are making against the Government, the Minister would have given a proper reply to it. That is why his words should be expunged, they should be expunged on the basis of Rule 353. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: No, there is no point of order. He is making a general complaint.

[Translation]

SHRI ABHISHEK SINGH (RAJNANDGAON): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak on this important Bill. This Bill is related to State Bank of India and under this Bill, five banks in the states have been merged. If we want to understand its importance then we will have to look at the history of SBI. State Bank of India was started in 1806 with the name of Bank of Calcutta. Later its name was changed to Bank of Bengal. After that, in 1921, Imperial Bank was established after the amalgamation of two other Presidency Banks. After that, after Independence in 1955, the Imperial Bank of India was renamed as State Bank of India and the Government owned it.

Sir, India has witnessed significant changes in the economy of this country from before its independence to the present and not only a witness but an important role has been played by the State Bank of India. Before the independence of this country, Princely State Banks existed in most of the states and they used to play an important role in the business of their respective states. After the independence of the

country, it was thought about how to integrate these principal state banks into the Indian banking system of the Indian economy. After that it was decided that the principal state banks, which are playing an important role in different states, should also have information about the geographical and economic conditions of those states, they have a connection with the culture of those states and also with the people of those states, so at that time it was decided to establish it as a subsidiary bank instead of merging it and this Bill was passed in the Parliament in 1959. After that, this topic was discussed many times. In the 1990s, the Narasimhaman Committee reported that India's banking system should have a three-tier structure. He recommended that the Indian banking system should be divided into three tiers: three big global banks, eight to ten national banks and several regional banks. But after the report of this committee in 1991, the report of this committee continued to be discussed till 2008, but no decision could be taken. In 2008, State Bank of Saurashtra and in 2010, State Bank of Indore merged with State Bank of India.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the State Bank of Saurashtra merged in the year 2008 and these five banks merged in the year 2017 and in the meanwhile very important changes took place in our country and

in the international world. Whether we talk about the sub-prime crisis of 2008, which in a way shook the economy of not only America but the entire world. The root cause of this sub-prime crisis was the failure of the financial institutions of America. In the last decade, there were constant possibilities and uncertainties about the exit of Europe and Britain and the slowdown in China was affecting the demand of the entire world. At such a time, the biggest impact was on India's infrastructure sector, steel sector and power sector due to continuous negative impact. On one hand, our companies suffered losses due to lack of demand, while on the other hand, the loan recovery of the banks giving loans to these companies was affected. We also know this effect as Twin Balance Issue, Twin Balance Sheet Problem.

Sir, if we look at the Indian economy in this entire system, perhaps the public sector banks have suffered the biggest loss. Somewhere the logic behind this is that the priority of public sector banks was that in this global economy, at the time of slow down, infrastructure related projects were taken forward more to bring momentum to the Indian economy.

Sir, this merger of five banks is unprecedented in the entire world. However, I see all the ideas and arguments given against it in three

parts. One is on the profitability of SBI after the merger of these banks. Second is, a lot of employees, about 70 thousand employees have been integrated into SBI. The question is about what will happen to the total number of SBI employees, which is one-third. Third, is regarding profitability.

Sir, the most important thing is that this was not a merger but a reorganization in itself, because SBI already had most of the stake holding of all these banks. Many Members have questioned what was the logic behind this. I just want to say in simple language that if three people from one party stand in a Lok Sabha constituency, then the votes of that party get divided. At many places, it happened that the branches of State Bank of India and the merged State Bank of Indore or the five banks were being looked after on the basis of duplication of resources. Apart from this, many Members have already said that common identity, common logo, same technology platform, same treasury operations, all these things were such things which were pointing towards an inherent synergy. Third and the most important aspect, on it I want to tell you that based on the data of 2016, when it was compared that what was the difference between SBI and his five who were subsidiary banks, their home loan, car loan and personal

loan? It was found that SBI Branch, which is Mother Branch, was at the lowest price, instead of the brain of Mysore or other banks and so somewhere after this merger, this country is going to benefit the consumer, which increases the possibility of getting a loan on a low interest in a big bank.

Sir, in the scenario of this country and this world, the banking system is changing rapidly. The coming times are also pointing towards digital banking instead of brick and mortar banks, but despite that, a large part of the state where I come from is a tribal area, a Naxal-affected area. Even today, there are some villages where people have to travel 30-40 kilometres to avail banking facilities. While welcoming this Bill, I would like to place before the Hon. Minister that in all those rural areas, where people have to go to very remote areas for their banking services, new branches of SBI should definitely be opened there. Thank you very much.

[English]

DR. RAVINDRA BABU (AMALAPURAM): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you for giving me this opportunity to participate in the discussion on this Bill. On behalf of Telugu Desam Party and on behalf of my beloved leader Shri Chandrababu Naidu, we fully support this Bill.

With the provisions of the Bill coming into effect, the smaller banks would get merged and become a single bank and would definitely get the credibility which is required. Whenever we talk about banks in India, usually we come across a common acronym 'NPA' – Non-performing Assets. The banks which are getting merged with the bank and the mother bank to which these smaller banks are getting merged, all are suffering from one disorder and that is NPA. Now, the provisions of this Bill seek to cure the symptoms of NPA by bringing about a merger of banks that are suffering from a lot of NPA.

Instead of treating the symptoms I would like to urge upon the Ministry of Finance to identify the disease itself. What is causing these NPAs for the banks? We are traditionally being told and we also traditionally understand, as told by the Hon. Minister of Finance, it is the infrastructure sector, the steel industry and the power industry

which are mainly causing NPA to banks. Directly or indirectly, for the NPAs being caused in these sectors, China is responsible. In most of these sectors that is responsible for maximum NPA, we find the common enemy is China. What should be done?

Sir, we have the anti-dumping mechanism in place. There are other mechanisms also in place, like there are tariff barriers, there are non-tariff barriers. Above all, we have the provisions of the anti-dumping duty. That should have been invoked long back so that the NPAs would not have been caused to the level that we are faced with now. Furthermore, whenever we talk about NPAs, we talk about the people and brand them as villains. But I have also seen a lot of industrialists, a lot of businessmen and traders whose industrial and business ventures failed and they committed suicide. These are also people who contributed substantially to the Exchequer by means of both direct and indirect taxes. But owing to certain factors beyond their control, because of some extraneous factors, they succumbed to the pressure. So, when an asset becomes non-performing, I have seen a lot of industrialists and businessmen worth their name who have either committed suicide or have become lunatics. Therefore, we should also have some sympathy towards those people instead of

labelling them as anti-nationals and criminals. Let us also understand as to how this is caused. The provisions of the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Code will help solve this problem which is intended to redress the issue of NPAs in India. Let us hope that the Bankruptcy and Insolvency Code will go a long way in solving the problem of the NPAs in this country. Paradoxically though, the State of India is also having a lot of NPAs and this bank is adopting those banks which are already sick with NPAs. If the parents who are adopting the children are sick themselves, then the sickness is likely to double. It is not going to stop the disorder.

16.00 hours

It is going to double. Therefore, the health of the family should be improved by taking care of the disease *per se* and not just redressing the symptoms.

Let us diagnose that instead of always blaming China as a villain. Let us also reform our own internal issues and look into how economic lopsidedness is giving rise to this type of NPAs. We have a lot of political things like loan waivers and others. Let us address all those things in the interest of the nation.

We fully support this Bill, Sir.

[Translation]

SHRI PREM SINGH CHANDUMAJRA (ANANDPUR SAHIB):

Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I rise to discuss the 'State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017'. First, I welcome this Bill. I believe it was necessary because since the merger of SBI's associate banks had already taken place, the merger of the State Bank of Hyderabad was also essential. It's a separate matter, but if we look at history, even when the princely states merged, Hyderabad's merger happened last. Therefore, there was a need for this today, and what has been done is, I believe, very welcome.

Deputy Speaker, Sir, when the banking system is discussed, its shortcomings also come to light. I believe that today, this is a crucial sector for the country's economy. Considering this, it is also regrettable that even after 65 years of the country's independence, more than 50% of the country's population was not connected with the banking system. I want to congratulate Hon. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, who, by introducing the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan-Dhan Yojana', connected the maximum part of the country with the banking

system, which has increased our participation in economic development.

I want to say that as far as the banking system is concerned and its shortcomings, including NPAs and bad loans, even though our Minister of Finance said in a discussion that mostly the NPAs have increased, its reason is global recession and there are some other competitive reasons, but I think the second reason should not be kept hidden. There were many such bad loans which were not required, which were done under some pressure, which were done to get some special benefit. They should be identified. NPAs should also be classified based on the reasons for which they occurred. As the Hon. Minister of Finance said, it can be seen, they can be exempted. But whatever was done deliberately should be recovered; otherwise, those who ate the money have eaten it. Therefore, to strengthen the banking system, these two parts must be created.

The second point is that in recent years, if the Hon. Finance Minister conducts a survey on lending, it will show that 40 per cent of the lending was in the priority sector, while 60 per cent was in the non-priority sector. Around 70 per cent of people live in the priority sector and are dependent on it. Therefore, there is a need to improve

this. It is true that the 'Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana' and other schemes have brought some benefits, but further improvements are needed. Lending should take place in the priority sector. Secondly, it should be directed towards the agricultural sector and rural areas. For this, there should be more branches.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, you must also understand that because of the old notes deposited in our co-operative banks since the time of demonetization, those banks are failing in further lending. RBI also gave permission to change these notes, but till now they have not been able to change the notes. Because of this, those banks will fail. The second thing in this is also the rate-of-interest.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I will take a minute. As far as the rate of interest is concerned, the RBI gives loans to NABARD, and then NABARD lends to financial institutions, which add further interest. Therefore, there should be a limited ceiling on the interest rate. If the RBI lends at 2 per cent, and NABARD then lends at 4%, I believe the farmers who are committing suicide and falling into debt can be saved. In a state like Punjab, 300 farmers have committed suicide in the last four months. Therefore, the issue of farmers falling into debt needs to be taken seriously, and the banking system needs reform.

DR. ARUN KUMAR (JEHANABAD): Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am grateful to you for giving me the opportunity to speak on the State Bank (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017.

Sir, today there is a need in the country that we bring reforms in the financial institutions, and this is a big reformative step in that direction. To strengthen the banking system, this is a good initiative to integrate the subsidiary banks, which were being run for various political and regional reasons or to benefit any system.

When this Government came to power at the Centre under the leadership of Hon. Shri Narendra Modi, many such steps were taken which are necessary in the global scenario today. Due to the lethargic system, we have become economically weak on many fronts. Right now, demonetization was a big step, and the role that banks should have played in it has not been positive. From this point of view, whether it is GST, demonetization, or many such steps that have been taken which are related to banks, which are initiatives that strengthen the concept of social justice, in which Jan Dhan Yojana is a big revolutionary initiative. Due to which we have done the work of

taking the bank from every village to those people who had not seen the doors of the bank for generations.

We must take a concrete initiative in this direction so that banks are accountable to consumers. Today, when NPA is being discussed, definitely people who live in social life feel that banks also do not play a positive role. We do loan finance, so when we get the share of banks, then which industries, which units, and how secure is their future? Banks are financed by ignoring this. Therefore, surely the blackness in it will also be minimal.

Today, like Kisan Credit Card, through which we have a scheme to provide benefits to the farmers, the responsibility for this also lies on the bank, but I want to say that if an overall survey of Kisan Credit Card will be conducted, you will definitely find that there is no fairness with the farmers in this also. Therefore, such concrete steps have been taken to change the nature of the bank, to make it accountable and consumer-oriented. I welcome and support this Bill.

SHRI BHAGWANT MANN (SANGRUR): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much because you have given me the opportunity to speak on this Bill.

On the one hand, the merging Bill in the State Bank of India has been merged with banks and on the other hand, it has been seen that the interest rate of SBI has been reduced from four per cent to three and a half percent. After this, if you have four withdrawals at ATM, then a tax of 25 paise per withdrawal is imposed on them. Apart from this, online transactions have also become costlier.

Sir, the State Bank of Patiala is a very big bank in the entire country. Currently, due to increase in population on one hand, small villages are turning into towns and towns are turning into small cities. The small towns are becoming big cities. Now, banks need more branches, but due to this merger, the branches will be reduced. In Punjab, the State Bank of Patiala has branches in every village, but now, after this, the number of branches will reduce, which will cause problems to the people.

Secondly, when demonetization happened, it was seen that people had to stand in queues for several days. At that time, banks did not play any positive role and banks failed in that matter. This means that

the banks' system is not set yet. SBI was already ill; now five more diseases have been added to it. Out of the NPA, 88 per cent is of public sector banks. On one hand, small farmers, farm labourers, the poor, and small shopkeepers who take loans from banks, if for some reason they can't repay a small amount, like fifty thousand or a hundred thousand rupees, on time, their photos are being put up in banks. They are being socially shamed, just like a criminal's photo is displayed in a police station. On the other hand, there are big industrial houses, large industrialists who have taken loans worth millions and Billions of rupees and have reneged on them, failing to repay. Will the Government ever have the courage to display their photos in any bank? They are enjoying themselves abroad.

Sir, at the time of demonetization, it was known what the Government's intention was. Digital India was promised, it was promised that Rs. 15 lakh will come into the account of every Indian. ... (*Interruptions*) Leave aside the matter of Rs. 15 lakh, they also took away the two-four thousand rupees that were lying in our house. ... (*Interruptions*) They too were snatched away due to demonetization. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to ask that it has not come yet, but we are waiting for the good days. ... (*Interruptions*) Good days, I think,

will not come now. ... (*Interruptions*) They are looting the people. ... (*Interruptions*) These banks also took away every last rupee of the people. ... (*Interruptions*) This is their policy. This is a failure of Digital India. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR (NALANDA): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak on the State Bank (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017. The Government's efforts have been going on for some time. The situation of small banks has deteriorated due to NPA. How to improve it, under the same process, five subsidiary banks of State Bank, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala, State Bank of Travancore have been completely included in State Bank of India.

I thank the Hon. Minister for bringing this Bill. My request would be that the Hon. Minister should also make efforts to open banks in rural areas, especially where there are no state banks. SBI has now been accepted as the largest bank of the country. Nearly 37 crore customers became their customers, 24 thousand branches were opened, 59 thousand ATMs were installed. There is a request to the Hon. Minister on some charges imposed by SBI, it is said to the general public that this charge is taken due to Jan Dhan Yojana, there is a need to take initiative on it, so that surcharge is not taken from the common people.

Now 6 more small banks are left, which the Government is considering to include in some big bank. I think that if small banks are merged to reduce NPA, then NPA will definitely reduce. There will be success in recovering money from the big industrialists, who have run away after taking loans today.

I support this Bill and would request that its service should also be extended to remote areas in rural areas where there is a shortage of SBI banks, especially to provide the convenience to the customers. Thank you very much.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I thank you for giving me the opportunity to speak. Today a very important Bill is coming in this House, because we are working to convert small state banks into one big consolidated bank. There are five main points, which will have an impact on our economy in the coming times and the financial sector will also have to watch these. Such a big merger is being done, but is our ministry fully prepared for the equipment we need to run this infrastructure? After this merger, these banks will have more than 24 thousand branches and more than 58 thousand ATMs across the country. These banks will have to operate together. Got a chance to see even during demonetization, but somehow such a big merger should not fail because we are taking steps to fight for the global environment. On the other hand, when we see such a big merger, how many employees will have to be brought into one infrastructure? There was a merger in 2008, 2010, after that there was a setback. Will we be able to survive in the future with the advancement of technology? Hon. Minister should give clarification regarding this.

One important thing we see is that these banks, in finance language, are called bad banks because they have a lot of NPA. Are

we turning a good bank into a bad one by consolidating bad banks? State Bank of India has such a huge NPA, when we consolidate small banks and put them into one big bank, the level of NPA will increase further.

There are rural areas in India which do not have banking sector facilities. We will make the State Bank smaller by bringing it into the form of a big State Bank, because the area will be consolidated. Where bank branches are overlapping, they will be closed, leaving only one bank branch. We are giving some way to the private sector so that where we were giving benefits to the people from the Government infrastructure, they should also go to the Government sector and expand their area. I think that this entire merger will benefit private banks, be it HDFC, ICICI or any other bank. Hon. Minister please give clarification on this. It is important that we create such a big infrastructure on behalf of the Government to fight the global environment so that in the future, State Bank of India can provide financial support wherever it is required in the global environment.

I want to tell the Hon. Minister that he must consider that instead of becoming too big to handle, the banks do not fail. The Government

must keep its vigil on this. I support this Bill. Thank you very much for giving me the opportunity to speak.

[English]

SHRI E.T. MOHAMMAD BASHEER (PONNANI): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I am thankful to you for giving me this opportunity to speak on this very important Bill.

If an enactment is made on the basis of this Bill, I think, some positive changes can be made. At the same time, I would say that the negative aspects of this Bill are much more than the positive changes, which we may expect.

Sir, coming to the positive side of it, the size of business entity will have additional strength and scope to open up link with the global banking system. Similarly, global markets will recognize India's strength in the banking sector. The number of posts such as CMD, Executive Director, GM and Zonal Officers can be reduced. The number of Government nominees can also be reduced. Filling up of the business gap can be done up to an extent. Efficiency of the banks can also be upgraded. These are certain positive changes, which we can expect by making such an enactment.

Sir, we should not ignore the negative part of it. What exactly is that? Firstly, it will reduce the accessibility of the common man to the banking system in our country, which is not a small thing. It is really

a kind of dangerous thing. Secondly, merger will result in closing of certain ATMs in our country. This will result in a kind of jobless situation. Similarly, it may block even further recruitment in the banking system. So, it should be discouraged as it is not a welcome kind of thing. It will also worsen the unemployment situation. That is what the banking sector employees are also apprehending. So, it deserves a very serious consideration.

Sir, as regards Financial Inclusion, it is also a very important issue. We are all discussing about the common man and the banking sector in the uncovered areas and villages. Considering all these things, this Financial Inclusion is a major things. I believe that this kind of a situation may also worsen thing. That is another apprehension, which I want to express.

Similarly, there is some kind of an execution risk also. Merging of two financial institutions may cause some kind of an execution risk, which may create a lot of confusion in the banking sector.

There is one more point, which I would like to make. We are discussing about the banking sector. As was said by a learned friend of mine, when the banks were nationalized, there were high hopes and expectations. It is to ensure the common-man's accessibility to banks.

Any move to curtail that should be discouraged. That is what I want to say.

Financial and technology development should not only be the criteria in the banking sector and on the other hand, social commitment and social viability should be given due consideration in the banking sector.

These are my humble observations on this Bill.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Thank you very much, Sir, for affording me this opportunity to intervene in this discussion.

Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill *in toto* on two grounds – on technical grounds and also on merits. The technical objection which I would like to raise is that this Act is to repeal two Acts – the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956 and also to amend the existing State Bank of India Act, 1955.

My humble question to the Government through you, Sir, is this. For what purpose, the Parliament functions? The Government has already merged banks. Five banks have already been merged with the State Bank of India. The Government has invoked Section 35(ii) of the SBI Act, 1955 and by invoking Section 35(ii) of the SBI Act, 1955 on 22nd February, 2017, the Government has issued a Notification and merged five banks with the State Bank of India.

Sir, you may kindly see that. You are the guardian and you are the protector of our democracy and our Parliamentary democratic rights. For what purpose, the Parliament functions? The Parliament is a mere spectator when the Executive and the Government is merging five banks with the State Bank of India. We are mere spectators and, now,

you want us to put a stamp on the Government or the Executive action for which they have put-forth this Bill. The Parliament is not just for putting a stamp on the actions of the Executive. It has its own rights and privileges to discuss and debate as to what are the merits and demerits or pros and cons of a particular action that has not been done without having a debate and discussion in the Parliament or without informing the Parliament. By means of issuance of a mere Notification on 22nd February, 2017, you have simply merged five banks with the State Bank of India. Kindly see that the House considers this technical point.

The State Bank of Hyderabad is constituted by virtue of the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956. All other four banks have been established by way of the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959. These two are the creations of the Parliament. All these five banks are the creations of the Statute. These are the children of this Parliament. How can the children of Parliament be taken away by the Executive? How can you simply take away the children and give them to a grandmother or some paternal mother without informing the Parliament? Our children or our creations are being taken away without informing and without getting concurrence or consent of the

House. I feel that it is a breach of the right of the Parliament. The Executive can do anything. Since you have the majority, the Parliament will endorse it. This is not a good practice for the Parliamentary democracy. The Executive is only dominating the rights and privileges of the Parliament and, therefore, this matter has to be looked into. I request and appeal to the Government to look into it. Why do you not come to the Parliament and say that merger of banks is the need of the hour and it is highly necessary? Why do you not come to the Parliament first and get the will of the people? After getting will of the people, you could very-well merge the banks with the State Bank of India. Instead of first coming to the Parliament, you have taken all the actions and then subsequently you are coming to the Parliament just to get the seal or stamp of the Parliament. It is totally undemocratic. It is against the will of the people. That has to be reconsidered. That is my objection on technical grounds.

Sir, I am coming to the merits. By a unilateral decision of the Government, the State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur and the State Bank of Patiala have been merged by the Government through a Notification. What is the idea behind this merger? The idea is to

create a big bank of world-class size but in India we do not need very big banks. We need good banks to serve the needs of the common people.

In USA and other countries, we have seen in recent years, big banks were a cause of turmoil and the Government had to pump in taxpayers' money to save them. In USA, after global recession which took place in 2008, the Government doled out 2,250 Billion dollars to save their banks. The myth that big banks are automatically strong was exploded after the global recession which took place in the US and the globe in the year 2008. On the other hand, if a bank is too big, it will become insensitive and inaccessible to the poor and the common people. Big banks will take care of big people only. Big banks tend to give bigger loans and earn bigger returns. Kindly see, in India, banks represent hard-earned savings of the poor people. Sir, 70 per cent of the total deposits of the banks are domestic savings of the common masses. Banks cannot take risk with the precious savings of the common poor/masses of the country. That comes to around 70 per cent of the people. Already the banks are saddled with huge bad loans and Government is unable to recover the same. Even the recent insolvency cases proposed by the Government will not get back the

money. RBI has indicated that there will be a huge haircut by the banks which means the banks will have to sacrifice furthermore.

Kindly see the implications of the merger. I would like to seek a clarification from the Hon. Minister as to what are the implications post merger. It has taken place in the month of February. They said that SBI will be more efficient. But, it is observed that after the merger, SBI is having the largest share of bad debt. That is more than Rs. 1,37,000 crore. After merger, SBI has started closing down the branches which means a reduction in service to the poor people. Is that the rationalisation, is that efficiency we are talking about? There are reports that people are not satisfied with the merger. Almost all the unions – All India Bank Employees Association and the Bank Employees Federation of India – in the banking sector are opposing the merger. The Kerala Government is opposing the merger. The State Legislative Assembly has passed a unanimous resolution to stop the merger of the State Bank of Travancore with the State Bank of India.

Further, after merger, SBI's consolidated balance sheet is in net loss. For the first time in the history of SBI, its balance sheet has come into net loss. The Government is the loser; the shareholders are the losers. India needs expansion of banks where the banking density is one of the lowest in the world. We need bank expansion, not

consolidation. So, I would request the Government to kindly consider it and review its decision and go back with decentralisation and consolidation of the banks and not with centralisation of the banks. We want expansion and maximum penetration among the rural areas.

With these words, I oppose the Bill. Thank you very much, Sir.

SHRI DHARAM VIRA GANDHI (PATIALA): Thank you, Sir, for giving me an opportunity to speak on the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill. I oppose this Bill from a different perspective than the rest of my colleagues. I think, through this Bill and through many Bills brought during the last three years, including GST, there is a continuous attempt by the Government to compromise with the federal principles and the federal structure of the country, to impinge upon the rights of the States and to compromise with the diversity of the States and the country. I think the title song sung during the launch of GST, ‘one nation, one tax, one market’ is not just an economic reform, it is not just a tax reform, it has much bigger political connotations viz. more centralisation of powers with the Centre and less and less with the States.

I think the future of this country lies in unity and diversity in which diversity is primary and unity is secondary. We have to allow an atmosphere for diversity to blossom fully in this country – diversity

of all kinds: nationality, sub-nationalities, religious, cultural, ethnic, whatsoever they are in this country – and we should not centralise the powers with the Centre, may be economic or otherwise. It is not just an economic attempt. It is very subtle and very smart way and an attempt to make the centralized India a one India and not accepting in true spirit the diversity of the country. I believe that this is just one attempt and in this way, we believe that we will not be able to save the diversity of the country and not work according to the federal spirit of the Constitution.

So, I oppose this Bill from the federal angle, from the angle of rise of the States, from the angle of the rise of diversity to blossom fully to keep India united. Thank you very much.

SHRI JOSE K. MANI (KOTTAYAM): Sir, on the State Bank (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017, I would like to make a few observations.

Sir, of late, we find that the NPAs, Non Performing Assets, are on the rise in the Public Sector Banks and also in the Scheduled Banks. When you analyse the clientele who are making the NPAs, we find that a majority of them are the corporate clients with crores and crores of rupees as outstanding bad debts. But we are now going for the

amalgamation. We find their amalgamation with the SBI; many banks have been merged. As said earlier, we are doing this to cover up the bad debts or to spread the risk. But finally, what will end up is at the expense of the common man?

As said earlier, for example, in the State of Kerala, as you know, the SBT, State Bank of Travancore, which is commonly called the Malayalis' bank, was performing well. A good service was being given by SBT and a good clientele also was there. But now it has been merged. We find that wherever in a town there is an SBT and an SBI branch, one of the SBT branches was taken away. Also, we find that the service of the SBI in comparison to the SBT is very poor. Slowly, the customers have withdrawn from the SBI accounts as the SBI has started taking service charges. That is why, I said that it has taken place at the expense of the common man.

Now, what happens when you take up the demonetization? When demonetization was implemented, the Government had given a picture that this was going to boost up the economy. Later on, day by day, we find that the poor is becoming poorer. Or, in other words, it is actually robbing the poor people. Why do I say so? Even if you take up this SBI, there was no such service charge initially. But after luring

the common man by asking them to open up an account, especially with merging, the accounts will go to the SBI and the charges have started increasing. For example, the SBI customers with a basic saving bank deposit, a facility for the poorer sections of the society, get four free withdrawals, including ATM withdrawal in a month. After which withdrawals will be charged at Rs. 15 plus service tax at an SBI branch and at Rs. 20 plus service tax at other bank ATMs. It is now mandatory for the SBI account holders to maintain a balance of Rs. 5,000 in metropolitan areas, Rs. 3,000 in urban areas, Rs. 2,000 in semi-urban areas and Rs. 1,000 in rural areas. For metro areas, if the difference between the minimum balance and the actual balance is 50 per cent, then the SBI charges Rs. 50 plus service tax as penalty. If the difference is anywhere between 50 per cent and 70 per cent, the penalty is Rs. 75 plus service tax. If the shortfall is more than 75 per cent, the charges are Rs. 100 excluding the service tax. People with meagre earnings will find it hard to maintain the specified balance, if such exorbitant high service charges are imposed. SBI is literally robbing the depositors. I end up by saying that by merging and putting up more accounts of the common man in the SBI, we find that poor people are taxed and they are robbed. So, I oppose the Bill. Thank you.

SHRI C.N. JAYADEVAN (THRISSUR): Sir, the State Banks (Repeal and Amendment) Bill, 2017 is necessitated consequent to the acquisition of State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Travancore which were constituted under the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959 and State Bank of Hyderabad which was under the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956.

At this moment, it is pertinent to note that the past July 19, 2017 was the 48th anniversary of bank nationalization. It was in 1969 the Indira Government was forced to nationalize banks following the persistent demand of the bank employees under the banner of All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA) and the Left Parties in the country. The public sector banks became the main engine of growth and development of our economy constituting nearly 90 per cent of the total banking system in India.

Unfortunately, the present NDA Government at the Centre is trying to undermine the public sector banking by amalgamations, disinvestment and privatization and thus allowing the foreign banks to capture our banks. The young RBI Deputy Governor, Mr. Viral

Acharya has already called for re-privatization of nationalized banks and sale of their subsidiaries and other assets. The myth that the big banks are automatically strong banks has since broken by experience of failures of many big private banks worldwide, including in the USA.

While the SBI as a standalone entity reported a profit of Rs.10,484 crore for the year 2016-17, the new consolidated SBI after the merger of five associate banks made a loss of Rs.390 crore for the same year. The gross NPAs of the consolidated entity jumped to 9.04 per cent which in absolute terms was Rs.1.79 lakh crore. While the Government and the Central Bank have repeatedly said that the Indian banking system would be better off if some public sector banks are consolidated to have fewer but healthier entities, the SBI episode yet again shows that mergers are no panacea in Indian banking. Again the Government is planning for merger of weak banks with not-so-strong large ones.

There are no short cuts to rehabilitating banks except taking strong measures for the recovery of sticky loans of State-owned banks and recapitalization of beleaguered banks. The public sector banks have to be defended and saved. Fighting against privatization of banks is in

the national interest and we and the bank employees will do it. The Bank Employees' Unions have already called for an all-India strike on August 22nd. I object to the Bill.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE (IDUKKI): Sir, I rise to oppose this Bill for four reasons. The first reason is rather technical and it has been dealt with by our learned colleague, Mr. N.K.Premachandran.

On 22nd February, 2017, the amalgamation of all the banks has been done by issuing various orders. I appeal to the entire House that this is an infringement on the rights of the entire House and this Parliament. If we develop a tendency to surrender all our rights to the Executive and if we create an atmosphere to consider this Parliament as taken for granted, it will be disastrous for our Parliamentary democracy.

Second, the stated objectives for the amalgamation of the banks are, rationalization of resources, reduction of costs, better profitability, lower costs of funds leading to better rate of interests to public at large, improved productivity and consumer services.

Keeping all these aspects in view and considering all the aspects of profitability and improved services, what is the result of amalgamation of all the State Banks? The result of amalgamation of

all the State Banks is closing down of branches in the rural as well as the unbanked areas. It is because of this amalgamation that the banking concentration is decreasing in the backward areas as well as in tribal habitats where less privileged people live. For example, in Kerala, the branches of the State Bank of Travancore have been closed on the basis of this amalgamation. In rural and unbanked areas, people are finding it very difficult to bank with their banks also.

The second aspect is service charge. The purpose is to better the profitability. Is the amalgamation working on that count? For the purpose of increasing profitability, the banks are imposing more service charges. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE: Sir, I am concluding.

The other aspect is about lending to the primary sectors, especially the agriculture sector. The banks are trying to reduce their NPAs. They have devised a mechanism to declare the farm loans as NPAs on the basis of certain criteria. Earlier, the tendency of the banks was to give more and more benefits to the farmers so as to prolong their term of loans. But, now, after amalgamation, only for this purpose of reducing their NPAs, these banks are not touching the corporates,

these banks are not taking steps against the corporates, but are taking steps against the farmers and declaring their loans as NPAs. ...

(Interruptions)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please conclude.

ADV. JOICE GEORGE: Finally, Sir, the banks are not providing loans to the farmers. The Government has done a laudable work in terms of social security measures and mudra loans. But the banks are not giving loans to the MUDRA Banks also. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI GAURAV GOGOI (KALIABOR): Thank you, Sir. My question is just about minimum account balance.

[Translation]

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, ever since SBI has increased the 'Minimum Account Balance' to Rs. 5,000, it is having a very bad effect on people. This is an injustice. The monthly penalty on this is somewhere Rs. 20 and somewhere Rs. 100.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, sometimes in a month, people's 'minimum account balance' goes below Rs. 5,000. It's natural. Students have to pay their fees, someone has to take their medicines etc. If the state-owned SBI imposes penalty on these Rs. 5,000, it will

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be a mistake and also unfair to the people. SBI should correct this mistake. Thank you.

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
(SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR):** Hon. Deputy-Speaker,
Sir, I would like to thank the entire House through you.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this is a small Bill. The 24 Hon. Members present here also gave their suggestions on many other topics. From this we understand how much interest our colleagues have towards 'Finance'. A Bill has been brought here to repeal the SBI Subsidiaries Bank Act, 1959 and the State Bank of Hyderabad, 1956 and to make necessary amendments in the SBI Act, 1955.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this year, from April 1, 2017, 5 of its subsidiary banks were formally merged into SBI. In the State Bank of Bikaner and Jaipur, 75 per cent shares belonged to the State Bank of India. 90 per cent shares in the State Bank of Mysore belonged to the State Bank of India. In the State Bank of Travancore at 79.09 per cent of shares belonged to the State Bank of India, and in the State Bank of Patiala and the State Bank of Hyderabad at 100 per cent of shares belonged to the State Bank of India. These banks have been merged with the State Bank of India. The merger of all these banks is covered in section-35 of the SBI Act. All these banks were operated by SBI.

Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, some things are coming out prominently through this. As a result of the merger of these banks with State Bank of India, SBI has joined the 50 biggest banks of the world. It ranks 45th among the big banks of the world. As a result of this merger, its total number of customers has increased to 37 crores. Due to this merger, the total number of branches of the State Bank of India has increased to 24 thousand and the number of ATMs has increased to 59 thousand. As a result of this merger, SBI's deposit base is around Rs. 26 lakh crore and its advances are around Rs. 18.5 lakh crore. The number of employees of the State Bank of India has also increased from 2 lakh to 2 lakh 72 thousand. I have mentioned this here because many of our colleagues here have expressed their apprehensions regarding this. Regarding these apprehensions, all I can say is that all these apprehensions will prove to be groundless in the times to come. We will benefit from this that the new bank will have more capital base and will be able to give larger amounts of loans. The efficiency of the bank and the facilities provided to the customers will also improve. Small bank customers will also get access to financial instruments like mutual funds, insurance etc. which are available to big banks, and the volume of inter banking transactions will also reduce, which will save time in clearing and will also increase the

working efficiency of the bank. Banks were nationalised in the year 1971... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: It was in 1969 that 14 banks were nationalised.

[Translation]

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: The year 1971 has become more popular, so I said it. Your point is correct. At that time there was talk of opening banks for the common man, but in true sense the doors of banks are now open for the common man and till now more than 29 crore people have opened accounts in banks. One fourth of these accounts have been opened with zero balance. This is also a record in itself. As far as the agriculture sector is concerned, the amount of loan given to the agriculture sector in the year 2009-10 was Rs. 3 lakh 50 thousand crore, it has increased to Rs. 10 lakh 65 thousand crore in the year 2016-17. We are constantly paying attention to this and are concerned about the common man. As far as minimum balance is concerned, I just told you that one-fourth of the 29 crore accounts have been opened with zero balance. Doubts have been expressed about private banks, on which I cannot comment, but

you will not find these inconveniences in our nationalised banks. Our wish is that the bank should reach every person in the country. There are more than 6 lakh villages in the country, and there is a need for banks because everyone is opening accounts. I would urge the Members that if you feel that an account should be opened in this bank, if they give it in writing, we will consider it and will also work on granting the license. We worked on converting payment banks, post offices into banks and created bank mitras. We did all this because we want to make the bank accessible to every person.

As far as the closure of any bank branch or closure of the State Bank of Travancore branch is concerned, I would like to say that the name of this bank has definitely been changed, but no branch of Travancore Bank will be closed. If you feel the need to open a bank branch at any place, and if you give it in writing, it will also be considered. But I want to tell you one thing that if there are two branches at any place, they can definitely be united. But wherever there is a need, we will definitely work on opening branches. We have met the priority sector target in the year 2016-17 and have worked beyond it. RRB is working as per the target in rural areas. 75 per cent of our landings in rural areas are for the priority sector. It is true that

the merger will increase the scope of SBI, and we will work according to whatever its requirements are. In fact, now this bank will also compete with private banks, and SBI will work well in the coming times.

The way we are working is increasing people's inclination towards banks. Wherever we go in the banking sector, people feel that the way this Government is working, it is working keeping in mind the interest of the common man. Our colleagues have expressed some apprehensions. I say that those apprehensions will be addressed, but the merger that has happened has been done keeping the larger interest in mind. I can tell you with confidence that this will not cause you any inconvenience; rather, you will feel that in the times to come, this change will go in a good direction and will yield good results. I will not say much and will end my talk with the request that we get the cooperation of all of you on this. Thank you very much.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill to repeal the State Bank of India (Subsidiary Banks) Act, 1959, the State Bank of Hyderabad Act, 1956

and further to amend the State Bank of India Act, 1955, be taken into consideration.”

The motion was adopted.

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

The question is:

“That clauses 2 to 8 stand part of the Bill.”

The motion was adopted.

Clauses 2 to 8 were added to the Bill.

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

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Sir, I beg to move :

“That the Bill be passed.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill be passed.”

The motion was adopted.

16.51 hours**GOVERNMENT BILLS- Introduced...Contd.****(ii) Code on Wages Bill, 2017^{19*}**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Now, we are taking-up Revised Supplementary List of Business, Item A, Shri Bandaru Dattatreya.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA): Sir, I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to wages and bonus and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to wages and bonus and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I strongly oppose the introduction of the Bill. This Bill is circulated today morning at around nine o'clock. It is a very important Bill where

^{19*} Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.8.2017

structural changes are being brought in the Labour Acts like Minimum Wages Act, Payment of Gratuity Act, etc. I am not going into the details of it because of paucity of time.

My first objection is that the Bill was circulated only today morning around nine o'clock, and a Supplementary Business is being brought in the House for the Bill to be introduced. This can never be agreed upon as per Rule 72 (2) of the Rules of Procedure. According to Rule 72 (2) of the Rules of Procedure: "A Member is entitled to raise objection regarding the Constitutional or Legislative competence of the Bill and can be opposed at the time of introduction of the Bill."

Today, at this time, I am not able to oppose the Constitutional as well as the Legislative competence of the Bill. It is because I could not go through the contents of the Bill. It means that the right of a Member is being infringed, which cannot be allowed. I am saying this because this is affecting the entire workforce in the country. The Government of India is going to bring drastic labour reforms, and the Government of India is going to codify 45 labour legislations into four legislations. The first legislation is coming to the House in the last moments of the Session when it is to be concluded and that too in a hurried and hasty manner. Why is the Government bringing this Bill

in a hurried and hasty manner? It means that you want to avoid the opposition to the introduction of the Bill, which cannot be allowed. This is my first objection.

I got these points within the limited time that I could go through the Constitution as well as the Rules of Procedure. Otherwise, if you go through the contents of the Bill, then we find that so many existing labour legislations are being drastically changed. So, we could have made so many oppositions relating to Constitutional as well as on Legislative competency. Since, I could not go through the Bill in-depth, so I am making some objections for the time being.

My second objection is that this matter comes under Schedule Seven List 3 and entry number 22 -- Trade unions, industrial and labour disputes; entry number 23 -- Social security and social insurance, employment and unemployment; and entry number 24 -- welfare of labour including conditions of work, provident funds, employers' liability, workmen's compensation, invalidity and old-age pensions and maternity benefits. It means that most of the labour legislations are coming within the jurisdiction of the Concurrent List or the subject comes under the Concurrent List. The Concurrent List means that the State as well as the Union Government is well

empowered to make legislation. I do accept it and if the Parliament is making a legislation on labour laws, then definitely it will override the State legislations.

Not only in Kerala but in almost all the States, many labour legislation in respect of payment of wages, fair wages and other legislation are still there and the Government of India is going to codify the labour legislation. First code is regarding wages. But unfortunately, none of the States in the country is even consulted. That means, it is totally against the federal principles of the Constitution, which is the basic feature of the Constitution. Now, the Government is trying to alter or attack the basic structure of the Constitution. That cannot be allowed. Since it is a matter concerning the Concurrent List, States should be consulted before making such labour reforms. That is my second objection.

Third is about the Payment of Gratuity Act. You are well aware....

... (*Interruptions*)

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF**

PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): This is not a point of order.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: This is not a point of order. Kindly see... .. (*Interruptions*)

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: He is objecting to the introduction as per Rule 72, which categorically says, you can object on the ground whether the Bill is within the competence of Parliament to pass such a law or not. He is showing his own ignorance by saying that he has not gone through it, etc. It is a new Bill; it is being introduced. Now, he started discussing the merits of different labour laws. That is not the purpose.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Hon. Minister, you are absolutely wrong. Kindly withdraw the observation you have made – ignorance of the Member. Why am I ignorant? It is because of you, and the Government. You have circulated the Bill only today morning. How can we be well versed with the Bill? You are denying my right; you are denying me the knowledge of the contents of the Bill. And the Minister is saying that it is Member's ignorance and a fault. Kindly withdraw that observation.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: This is not happening for the first time. Tomorrow, the House is going to adjourn. We are only introducing the Bill and the Members would have enough time to go through the Bill before passing it. ... (*Interruptions*)

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: What is the hurry?

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN: Ahluwalia ji, kindly hear my third objection. Without hearing the third objection, he is saying this. I am not on a point of order. I am opposing the introduction of the Bill.

Third is concerning the Gratuity Act. Hon. Minister has assured before the House and outside that the gratuity will be enhanced from Rs.10 lakh to Rs.20 lakh. He said that he is giving priority to that and that it will be brought in this very Session. That was the assurance. The Payment of Gratuity Act by which Rs.10 lakh will be enhanced to Rs.20 lakh and would benefit the workers. Those workers who are getting retrenched or retired will be losing the benefit because they would be getting the benefit only prospectively. When the Payment of Gratuity Act is to be amended so as to enhance the gratuity from Rs.10 lakh to Rs. 20 lakh, the Government is bringing a labour code Bill by

which the right of the workers to get enhanced gratuity will also be infringed. Therefore, that is my third objection to introducing the Bill.

These are the three major objections; legislative competence is well there because Concurrent List is there, Article 72(2) is there. Hence, I am fully within the competence of my right to oppose this Bill. With these words, I conclude. Thank you very much. ...

(Interruptions)

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Hon. Member, a senior Member, is interested in the rights of the workers. I fully agree with him. ... *(Interruptions)*

PROF. SAUGATA ROY: Then, you withdraw the Bill. ... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: Regarding introduction of the Bill, he was mentioning three things. One is about 44 labour laws, which would be dealt with in four stages.

17.00 hours

There are going to be four codes. One is the Code on Wages. This is the Bill that I am introducing. I will speak only about the intention of the Government about that. The Second National Labour Commission had given its Report in 2002 stating that all the labour

laws should be tuned to the present-day time. That was in 2002 and now we are in 2017. This is related to only four Acts. One is about the Payment of Wages Act, 1936. Second one is about the Minimum Wages Act, 1948. The third one is the Payment of Bonus Act, 1965. The fourth one is the Equal Remuneration Act, 1976. These four Acts will be amalgamated into one Labour Code. My learned friend should understand that it is being done only for simplification, rationalisation and also doing away with the cumbersome process. I assure this House that no where the rights of the workers would be infringed.

[Translation]

This is in the interest of all the workers. There is nothing against the workers in this. So I request you. There is no mention of working conditions in the three things you have mentioned. That is a separate part. Social security is a separate part. It is going to bring a historical change in the industrial arena. This will become number one in the history of the world. Therefore, it will happen that for the first time, a universal minimum wage will come in the country. At present, there are organised and unorganised workers in the country. There are forty crore unorganised labourers.

[English]

There are about 40 crore unorganised workers. Now, with this Code, they may also be able to avail the universal minimum wage. It has a larger perspective.

I would request Shri Premachandranji, to go through this. ... (*Interruptions*) Let me complete. I had a tripartite meeting. In the tripartite meetings, I convinced trade unions. Secondly, the Regional Conferences were attended to by the respective Labour Ministers and the Labour Secretaries from the respective States. It took two years for this process. I would also say that there will not be exploitation of workers.

[Translation]

There will be no exploitation of workers anywhere. They will receive minimum wages and payments according to the Wages Act. Therefore, for now, I am only introducing it. This is just an introduction, but I will explain it to you later. I am confident, my friend Premchandran and I have a good relationship, but he speaks differently in the House and meets us differently later. Therefore, my request is that this will lead to employment generation. Many new enterprises will emerge. Many of our young people in the country are dying from unemployment; they will gain many employment

opportunities from this, new industries will be facilitated, and it will be in the interest of labourers. So, please grant me permission to introduce this Bill.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to wages and bonus and matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI BANDARU DATTATREYA: I introduce the Bill.

17.6 hours**(iii) Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017^{20*}**

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Hon. Members, before we take up introduction of the Finance Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017, I have to inform the House that Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon. Minister of Finance, vide communications dated 10th August, 2017 has informed that the President having been informed of the subject matter of the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, 2017, has recommended the introduction of the Bill in the Lok Sabha under the Article 171(1) and Article 274(1) and the consideration of the Bill under the Article 117(3) of the Constitution.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):

On behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon. Finance Minister, I rise to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the resolution of certain categories of financial service providers in distress; the deposit insurance to consumers of certain categories of financial services; designation of systemically important financial institutions; and

^{20*} Published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 2 dated 10.8.2017

establishment of a Resolution Corporation for protection of consumer of specified service providers and of public funds for ensuring the stability and resilience of the financial system and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the resolution of certain categories of financial service providers in distress; the deposit insurance to consumers of certain categories of financial services; designation of systemically important financial institutions; and establishment of a Resolution Corporation for protection of consumer of specified service providers and of public funds for ensuring the stability and resilience of the financial system and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY (BAHARAMPUR): The supercilious manner by which the Bill has been introduced is simply humiliating the Parliamentary system of our country. More often than not, this Government is trying to hoodwink the Parliamentary system of our country sometimes by resorting to ordinances. Again, in a

supercilious and a cavalier manner, the Government has introduced the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill, and I think that this kind of introduction certainly undermines our Parliamentary system. Therefore, I am opposing the introduction of the Bill in such a cavalier manner.

[Translation]

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, this Government has no intention of undermining parliamentary democracy. Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury sir, this is for introduction, and this is the process.

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: This is supplementary.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: Yes, it is supplementary, it is the right of the speaker. It is written in the business rules and is the right of the Government. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ADHIR RANJAN CHOWDHURY: Everything is fine. There is a right, okay, but in what way? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: This is the right of speaker. ... (*Interruptions*) This is the right of the Speaker. This Bill is for introduction. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That leave be granted to introduce a Bill to provide for the resolution of certain categories of financial service providers in distress; the deposit insurance to consumers of certain categories of financial services; designation of systemically important financial institutions; and establishment of a Resolution Corporation for protection of consumer of specified service providers and of public funds for ensuring the stability and resilience of the financial system and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto.”

The motion was adopted.

SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL: I introduce^{21*} the Bill.

^{21*} Introduced with the recommendation of the President.

17.09 hours**MOTION RE: REFERENCE OF FINANCIAL RESOLUTION
AND DEPOSIT INSURANCE BILL TO JOINT COMMITTEE**

**THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE
AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF
CORPORATE AFFAIRS (SHRI ARJUN RAM MEGHWAL):**

On behalf of Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon. Minister of Finance, I beg to move:

“That the Bill to provide for the resolution of certain categories of financial service providers in distress; the deposit insurance to consumers of certain categories of financial services; designation of systemically important financial institution; and establishment of a Resolution Corporation for protection of consumers of specified service providers and of public funds for ensuring the stability and resilience of the financial system and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 Members, 20 from this House, namely:

1. Dr. Kirit Somaiya
2. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria
4. Shri Nishikant Dubey
5. Shri Shivkumar C. Udasi
6. Shri Anil Shirole
7. Shri Abhishek Singh
8. Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat
9. Shri Sanjay Jaiswal
10. Shri Jagdambika Pal
11. Shri Jayadev Galla
12. Shri Gajanan Chandrakant Kirtikar
13. Shri Chirag Paswan
14. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
15. Shri S.P. Muddahanumegowda
16. Dr. P. Venugopal

17. Prof. Saugata Roy

18. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab

19. Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy

20. Shri P. Karunakaran

and 10 Members from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next Session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and

communicate to this House the names of 10 Members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.”

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Motion moved:

“That the Bill to provide for the resolution of certain categories of financial service providers in distress; the deposit insurance to consumers of certain categories of financial services; designation of systemically important financial institution; and establishment of a Resolution Corporation for protection of consumers of specified service providers and of public funds for ensuring the stability and resilience of the financial system and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 Members, 20 from this House, namely:

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 11. Shri Jayadev Galla
 12. Shri Gajanan Chandrakant Kirtikar
 13. Shri Chirag Paswan
 14. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
 15. Shri S.P. Muddahanumegowda
 16. Dr. P. Venugopal
 17. Prof. Saugata Roy
 18. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
 19. Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy
 20. Shri P. Karunakaran
- and 10 Members from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next Session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and

that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 Members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.”

DR. A. SAMPATH (ATTINGAL): Why has no woman Member been inducted in this Committee? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): There is no woman Member even from the ruling party. ... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, please speak.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB (CUTTACK): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I have no objection to the introduction of this Bill as it was approved by the Hon. Speaker in the Supplementary List of Business. But I object to the reference that has been made for formation of a Joint Committee and this is in sub-section C of this Supplementary List of Business which clearly states that it is to be taken up in case the Bill at Serial No. B is introduced. Therefore, I rise here to object to the formation of a Joint Parliamentary Committee. You have a Joint Parliamentary Committee where the matter is very urgent, where there is some dissension between this House and the other House. When there is no consensus within the Parliament, you try to frame unanimity among various political parties so that you have a Joint Parliamentary Committee. The greater point is that the Bill will be brought for discussion and passing in both the Houses and the hidden agenda is that it will not get blocked in the Rajya Sabha. I would like to know what the agenda of the Government is. We have a Standing Committee on Finance which is empowered to go into this

Bill and which is an all-party committee comprising Members from Bhartiya Janta Party, Shiv Sena, Congress and other political parties. They will deliberate on that subject threadbare, clause by clause. Subsequently, after the report has come to the House, Parliament will deliberate as per the agenda that will be fixed. But I am still in doubt why there is apprehension in the Government that it may get blocked in Rajya Sabha. This is a very important Bill and it needs elaborate discussion and deliberation in the Committee on Finance. This Committee system is actually being relegated to the background by repeatedly forming Joint Parliamentary Committees. A Joint Parliamentary Committee is for an exigency. At a certain time, or at a certain point of difficulty, a Joint Parliamentary Committee is formed. It is not a practice but in this Government, during the last two years if not three years, we find that on any issue where there is an apprehension that certain Bills would get blocked in Rajya Sabha or get delayed in Rajya Sabha, a Select Committee is formed in the Rajya Sabha or a Joint Parliamentary Committee. Therefore, I would like to be educated by the Hon. Minister about the necessity for having a Joint Parliamentary Committee.

The Finance Committee is there. Why do you not have faith on the Finance Committee? It seems that you do not have that much of confidence on the Standing Committee on Finance and so you are insisting for a Joint Parliamentary Committee. It is a different matter that Prof. Saugata Roy is a Member of the Finance Committee and also a Member of this JPC; Shri Nishikant Dubey is a Member of the Finance Committee and also a Member of this JPC; Dr. Kirit Somaiya is Member of the Finance Committee and also a Member of this JPC.

Leaving aside that, why do you have a JPC and why not the Standing Committee on Finance? This needs to be clarified.

PROF. SAUGATA ROY (DUM DUM): The rule, as far as the motions after introduction of Bills and scope of debate are concerned, is quite clear. Rule 74 states:

“When a Bill is introduced or on some subsequent occasion, the Member in charge may make one of the following motions in regard to one’s own Bill, namely:—

(i) that it be taken into consideration; or

(ii) that it be referred to a Select Committee of the House; or

(iii) that it be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses with the concurrence of the Council; or

(iv) that it be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon:

Provided that no such motion as is referred to in clause (iii) shall be made with reference to a Bill [if it contains only provisions dealing with all or any of the matters specified in sub-clauses (a) to (g) of clause (1) of article 110 of the Constitution]:
”

Here, the Minister is referring it to a Joint Parliamentary Committee under rule 74 (3). My esteemed colleague Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab had explained in detail how the whole principle of Standing Committee is being circumvented, superseded, and bypassed by the Government in its quest to get majority in both Houses. The same thing actually happened in the case of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code. When that Bill was brought here, I objected tooth and nail saying it should not be passed. The Government felt that it would not get a majority in the Rajya Sabha. It sent it to a Joint Parliamentary Committee, the fear being that it would not be passed in the Rajya

Sabha but if the Joint Parliamentary Committee presents the Report both Houses get morally bound by it. In the whole process, we are weakening the foundation of the Standing Committee system.

It is normally the practice that any legislation concerning any Ministry or any Department is automatically referred to a Standing Committee. Unless it is a small amendment or a trivial amendment, any Bill of a substantial nature is referred to the Standing Committee. As our esteemed colleague Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab has so eloquently stated, that process should not be give a go-by.

We have no complaint about the personnel of the Committee because we are ourselves Members of both the Committees. We are conscious of the power of the Standing Committee. We have a Finance Committee headed by Dr. M. Veerappa Moily, which has given important Reports on most of the matters. Why should that Standing Committee be bypassed or be overridden by the Government's desire to bring in a Bill?

Let us also look at how the Bills are coming. On the penultimate day, you are bringing a Bill and then a motion, without any scope for discussion.

On the earlier Bill our esteemed colleague Shri Premachandran spoke eloquently on how he had no time to study the Bill so that proper opposition to the introduction of the Bill can be made. You are sitting in the Chair, Sir, and you have a long parliamentary experience. Please see that the niceties of the parliamentary behaviour are maintained by the Government. If the Chair does not protect us then who will protect the House or the Constitution or the Rules? That is why we seek refuge in your infinite powers from the Chair to support us. Thank you, Sir.

SHRIMATI P.K. SHREEMATHI TEACHER (KANNUR): Sir, the Hon. Minister has proposed the names of 20 Hon. Members for the Joint Parliamentary Committee but we do not see a single woman Member in that list.... (*Interruptions*) There are a number of experienced women sitting on the Treasury Benches.... (*Interruptions*) Please let me speak.

There are a number of experienced and learned women Members sitting on the Treasury Benches. I would say that though we have only 10 per cent women MPs in the House, how can the Government take this anti-women stand? This is an anti-women stand and you should also support me because this message will go to the nation. All the

people, the women are looking to the Parliament. They will ask where are the names of women in this list? The Government, the ruling party should be the role model. A majority of the women MPs are on the treasury side. So, my request to the Government and to the Hon. Minister would be to include at least one woman in the proposed list of the JPC. You can say that just for the sake of medicine, you include one woman MP from the Lok Sabha to serve as a Member of the Joint Parliamentary Committee. Thank you, Sir.

SHRI N.K. PREMACHANDRAN (KOLLAM): Sir, I fully support the observations made by Shri Mahtab as well as Prof. Saugata Roy with regard to referring this Bill to the Joint Select Committee. I would also like to draw the attention of the Hon. Chair to the fact that this Bill is referred to the Joint Select Committee by virtue of Rule 74, clause 3. If you refer to clause 3, there is a proviso which says that the Bill should be circulated two days prior to the date of sending it to the Standing Committee or sending it to the Joint Select Committee or to any other Committee. That mandatory provision is there but the Hon. Speaker has given the permission and hence it is okay. Definitely, the other question is that Rule 75 will be applicable here. Kindly see Rule 75, clause (1).

This is the introduction stage of the Bill and to my information the preliminary discussion is the first reading of the Bill. As per the first reading of the Bill, Rule 75 (1) gives authority, empowers the Members to have a discussion on the principles of the Bill. Not on the merits of the Bill but on the principle of the Bill we have a right to discuss it. Unfortunately, I may repeat that this Bill was circulated today by 9.00 o'clock in the morning when I was coming to the Parliament. Prof. Saugata Roy has rightly said that we are not in a position to have a look into the Bill and, therefore, we are not able to discuss the principles of the Bill as per the Rule 75 (1).

Under these circumstances, I oppose this move of the Government. I also support Madam, Shreemathi Teacher and appeal to all the political parties, not only the Treasury Benches, to have a woman representative in the proposed Committee. Thank you, Sir.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA): Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my learned friends Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab, Prof. Saugata Roy and Shri N.K. Premachandran raised certain issues

about the formation of the Joint Committee on a particular Bill. Madam Teacher has also raised an issue. She has not objected to the formation of the Committee, but she is objecting as to why there is no woman Member. It is better to talk to Shri P. Karunakaran as to why he has not given your name in that.

My simple point is this. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab raised a point that it can be referred to the Standing Committee also. He is not *per se* objecting the referring the Bill to a Committee, but to not to a Joint Committee. Then, he has shown that the Government is apprehensive of something. He is talking about some hidden agenda. There is no hidden agenda. The agenda is very clear that when we are talking about bringing legislation in the country, we are bringing new legislations for future generation and these are new generation future laws. This law is also a new law. Rather I will say that when it is sent to any Committee, it gives more leverage to the Members to get more exposure and to get more in depth knowledge about the Bill while talking to the stakeholders and Government officials. But, there is a difference between the Departmentally Related Standing Committees and the Joint Committees. Rather he should feel happy that a Government Bill, which has been introduced and referred to the Joint

Committee, now he has got the power to change the total character of the Bill. It is because the recommendations of the Departmentally Related Standing Committees are not mandatory. But, here it is mandatory. Here, your recommendations are mandatory in nature and ultimately, the Government is bound to accept those recommendations.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: Hon. Deputy Speaker, Sir, the Hon. Minister is very intelligent enough. The Committee's list itself demonstrates this. The number of Members in this Committee is always in the side of the Ruling Party. Any change, if I suggest, will be voted out. But, in a Standing Committee, the suggestions can get reflected in the Report for the consumption of others.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY (GODDA): I object to it.

[Translation]

No committee works on party decisions. Mahtab Ji, you have been working for eight years. We have also discussed this in the joint committee.

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: None of my amendments were accepted in the previous Joint Committee. They all get voted out.

SHRI NISHIKANT DUBEY: The Government does not give any instructions. No Government has ever given instructions to any Member till date.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Please, now the Hon. Minister will reply.

[Translation]

SHRI BHARTRUHARI MAHTAB: This is the greatness of your party. I accept, but our amendments get voted out.

SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: That's not the case. Look, whenever a party's Government comes into power, the main reason for that is which party has the majority in the Lok Sabha. The Members of this committee are selected based on that majority, whether it's a Standing Committee, a Joint Parliamentary Committee, a Joint Committee, or a Select Committee; the framework is formed that way. The point is that the suggestions you put forth in the Department-Related Standing Committee, the Government may or may not accept them. But, here it has to be accepted because you can change the form of the entire Bill, you have this right. You are being given more leverage to discuss this, and by involving the Members of the Government side with you,

you can explain that it should not be written like this, so I think it should be accepted, hence, this motion should be passed.

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The question is:

“That the Bill to provide for the resolution of certain categories of financial service providers in distress; the deposit insurance to consumers of certain categories of financial services; designation of systemically important financial institution; and establishment of a Resolution Corporation for protection of consumers of specified service providers and of public funds for ensuring the stability and resilience of the financial system and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be referred to a Joint Committee of the Houses consisting of 30 Members, 20 from this House, namely:

1. Dr. Kirit Somaiya
2. Shri Gopal Chinayya Shetty
3. Shri Subhash Chandra Baheria

4. Shri Nishikant Dubey
5. Shri Shivkumar C. Udasi
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14. Shri Gaurav Gogoi
15. Shri S.P. Muddahanumegowda
16. Dr. P. Venugopal
17. Prof. Saugata Roy
18. Shri Bhartruhari Mahtab
19. Shri Konda Vishweshwar Reddy
20. Shri P. Karunakaran

and 10 Members from Rajya Sabha;

that in order to constitute a sitting of the Joint Committee, the quorum shall be one-third of the total number of Members of the Joint Committee;

that the Committee shall make a report to this House by the last day of the first week of the next Session;

that in other respects the Rules of Procedure of this House relating to Parliamentary Committees shall apply with such variations and modifications as the Speaker may make; and that this House do recommend to Rajya Sabha that Rajya Sabha do join the said Joint Committee and communicate to this House the names of 10 Members to be appointed by Rajya Sabha to the Joint Committee.”

The motion was adopted

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: The House will now take up `Zero Hour`.

Shri K. H. Muniyappa.

SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA (KOLAR): Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to raise the issue of disinvestment of M/s BEML in my constituency in Bengaluru, Palakkad and Mysore. The process of disinvestment of BEML was started during the time of the last Government. During that period a delegation from BEML under my leadership along with the Trade Union leaders of BEML and leaders belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes met and discussed the subject with the then Hon. Defence Minister, Shri A.K. Antony ji. After a prolonged discussion, the Hon. Minister assured that BEML will not be disinvested beyond 49 per cent *in toto*, Government will hold 51 per cent shares and will have full control over the administration of BEML.

In this context, I met former Defence Minister, Shri Manohar Parrikar ji along with Shri Ananth Kumar ji, the Hon. Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and a delegation of BEML employees' union leaders of these three units. During the discussion the then Defence Minister also assured that BEML will not be disinvested since the

company is continuously making profits and also it comes under the Ministry of Defence.

Now the present Government has announced the strategic sale of 26 per cent of its share in addition to 46 per cent which has already been sold. In that case the Government will lose its control over the administration of BEML and the company will go in private hands. It is understood that the Hon. Minister has replied in the Parliament that the assets of BEML is around only Rs. 500 crore which is not correct, rather the approximate value of the company is around Rs. 65000 crore in these three units.

In KGF the BEML has come into existence as an alternative industry to the closed Bharat Gold Mines Limited. This is the only Public Sector Company in the whole district. It is a reserved constituency. The total number of employees of BEML is around 9000 and above and all these people are working very hard. Since its inception 52 years ago, except for one year, the company has made a profit. Once upon a time this company was a *Navaratna* company. Employees of the company are sitting on a *dharna* for two days, that is, on the 9th and 10th August at Jantar Mantar.

The company has stake in three very vital areas, namely, mining and construction, Defence business and Rail and metro. The company has helped in the development of infrastructure of the country. The company has indigenised all the equipment and caters to the needs of Coal India and construction companies, bridge construction etc. The company has manufactured world class coaches, wagons and metro coaches for Indian Railways and metro rail. Many equipment are used in Defence, vehicles, Armed Recovery vehicles, missile launchers, battle tanks, hauls, mine plough, snow cutters, aircraft towing tractors etc. BEML has paid a dividend of around Rs. 900 crore to the Government exchequer. BEML has contributed around Rs. 6500 crore directly and indirectly in the form of tax to the Government.

Under the circumstances, this Public Sector has earned a profit right from its inception except for one year. Therefore, I would like to urge upon the Government that since it was decided in the last Cabinet that BEML will not be disinvested and keeping the interest of the country in view and also since its involved in Defence equipment production, this company should not be disinvested. I would like to request the Government to protect this industry and should not be disinvested.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri S.P. Muddahanume Gowda, Shri Mullappally Ramchandran, Adv. Joice George, Shrimati P.K. Sreemathi Teacher, Shri M. B. Rajesh, Dr. A. Sampath are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.H. Muniyappa.

17.35 hours

SUBMISSION BY MEMBERS

Re: Alleged injustice meted out to the stalking victim due to negligence of Chandigarh police in taking timely action

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA (ROHTAK): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, you have allowed me to raise an important issue related to women's dignity.

This issue concerns the widely discussed Varnika Kundu case. This incident occurred in Chandigarh, where a woman was chased by two men in a car. They forcibly stopped her vehicle and attempted to open her car window. This case came to national attention. Following the incident, the subsequent actions raised questions of partiality. Initially, certain charges were applied, then removed. The DSP gave two different statements, and there were questions about the preferential treatment given inside the police station. Doubts arose regarding the available CCTV footage. However, yesterday, the Chandigarh Police proceeded with the inquiry into this case, arresting the accused and applying relevant sections of the law.

Through you, I would like to convey three points to the Government. This is a very important and sensitive issue, and the entire nation's attention is currently focused on it. The Chandigarh Police has certainly taken a step forward, but until this investigation is brought to a just conclusion, the eyes of the entire country will remain on the Government and the administration. Only when justice is served in this matter will a message be sent across the country that the law is equal for everyone. I stand here to demand justice in this case. We are not asking for anything more than justice; we don't need anything more than justice, but the nation will not accept anything less than justice either. If there is any leniency or lack of impartiality, the country will rise up again, just as it did before. ... (*Interruptions*) Now that the Government has reinstated those sections, it means that the Government has accepted that there was some oversight in the initial investigation. How did that oversight occur? Which officers were responsible? Were they under any pressure? The Government should answer these questions. ... (*Interruptions*) I would like to add one more thing. ... (*Interruptions*) When the victim's statement under Section 164 was recorded by the SDM. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, this is a state subject. Action is being taken there. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, there was no woman officer at the time of that statement. Today, such instructions should be issued by the Government throughout the country, so that an environment of trust is created in such sensitive matters. ... (*Interruptions*) Let me finish it as it is an important issue. Sir, if I talk about anything political, you cut it out. ... (*Interruptions*)
[English]

Sir, I am not raising any political point. Let me finish it as it is an important issue.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: It is not a debate.

[Translation]

SHRI DEEPENDER SINGH HOODA: Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, such instructions should be sent across the country that if any such victim comes forward and when her statement is taken, a female officer should also be present along with the male officer. Such instructions from the Government should go to the entire country. ... (*Interruptions*) One thing has come to light that as soon as this matter came to light, some people started defaming the victim's character on

social media. Her old photographs were shown, and it was said that there were photographs of her with the accused, whereas the accused was not there in those old photographs and those photographs were found to be fake. ... (*Interruptions*) In this way, the character of the victim was defamed. ... (*Interruptions*)

[English]

Sir, I will speak in English also so that you can understand. There is a slander of the character of the victim who had come forward to speak.

The social media has slandered her character and this has become a trend which needs to be stopped. It is so not just in this case. Rising above political lines, if a victim comes forward for a complaint, something needs to be done against the people who question her character, who put her old and fake pictures by questioning her character. They are questioning as to what she was doing at 12 o'clock at night. One person asked as to what she was doing at 12 0'clock. My question is, what was the boy doing at 12 0'clock? Why do we not ask that question?

Let me complete. I am not raising any political issue. The entire nation is watching. I am not saying any political point. ...

(Interruptions) The people who have resorted to character assassination need to be booked under appropriate sections of the IT Act.

One of the spokespersons of the BJP made a tweet and later on said that her account was hacked. One Minister of the BJP had tweeted something which is highly objectionable. One person of the BJP has said, 'What was she doing at 12 o'clock? I will make my last point and conclude. They asked as to what was she doing at 12 o'clock. Is there a rule in this country that a woman cannot go out after a certain time? If there is a rule in this country, they should specify that time. If there is a rule, we should be made aware

It is the responsibility of the Government to provide security to women. ... *(Interruptions)* It is not your responsibility to ask the woman. ... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri M.B. Rajesh, Adv. Joice George and Shri Bhagwant Mann are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shri Deepender Hooda.

SHRIMATI KIRRON KHER (CHANDIGARH): Thank you very much Sir for allowing me to speak. ... *(Interruptions)* I did not

interrupt you. Sit down now. Enough Shri Deepender Hooda, do not politicize it. ... (*Interruptions*)

I would like to thank the Chandigarh police for their very prompt action in saving this girl and for the PCR arriving at the spot the minute she called. I would like to thank them for this. The people who are criticizing this must also realize that there is a procedure to the investigation. When this girl was giving her statement in front of the Magistrate under Section 164 of the CrPC she did not mention the word 'abduction'. The police was forced to drop that charge. Then, they found the CCTV footage. They got the witnesses. They did all that. They themselves had sent the girl for recording her statement under Section 164 of the CrPC. ... (*Interruptions*) The Hon. Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh gave clear instructions to the officers, to the Governor and to the Home Secretary saying no political pressure should be entertained, no phone calls and do what is right. I myself have spoken against stalking in this very House four days ago. I myself as a woman, as a mother, and as the Hon. lady Member of Chandigarh have stood up for the rights of the girl. I have criticized voices that have said, 'What was the girl doing outside at 12?' Let us not have selective amnesia. I do not want to politicize this issue. It is

a social problem. It is not just in my party or your party. It is there across the party lines. You need to remember all the old instances and the statements of the Coal Minister, of the J.D.(U) President, of the Samajwadi Party President, who have made sexist and misogynous remarks about women when the Bill for stalking was brought in Parliament.

I have a suggestion to make to those people who say, ‘girls should not be allowed at night’. Firstly do not make excuses that it is an old photo. So what if it is a new photo? What is wrong in a girl going out at night? What is wrong in a girl having a drink or enjoying her life with people? You see there are different societal norms. There is a progressive India and there is a very regressive India. We do not as a party ever talk against the rights of women. ... (*Interruptions*) I just want to say one line.

I think that ‘girls should not be allowed to go out at nights’ is a wrong concept. It is the boys going out at night are causing the problem. So, boys should not be allowed to go out at night and girls could go at any time. ... (*Interruptions*) Thank you for letting me speak.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. Manoj Rajoria, Kunwar Pushendra Singh Chandel and Shri Bhairon Prasad Mishra are allowed to associate with the matter raised by Shrimati Kirron Kher.

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Sir, the dignity and honour of every woman of this country is sacrosanct. There is no question about it. It is the duty of all the Governments under the Constitution of India to protect and to safeguard the life, honour and modesty of a woman. At the same time, in this case of Chandigarh, the Government as well as the police has taken prompt action. Immediately, the rule of law has taken its course and we have full confidence that whoever has committed any wrong will be punished. There will be no let off.

At the same time, I urge upon our friends of the Congress Party that they should not politicize this issue. I would also urge upon them that it is a sensitive issue. When the Chandigarh Administration is taking prompt action, they should not colour it in a political manner. Shri Deepender Singh Hooda is an esteemed colleague. He understands the severity and seriousness of the matter. When our Hon. Member Shrimati Kirron Kher, who is a woman Member of

Parliament representing Chandigarh Constituency is on her legs and putting forth the facts before the House, I expect Venugopalji, Deepender Singh Hoodaji and all our esteemed colleagues to lend their ears to her submission also because that is a view point. She is also presenting the facts as she was there all through when the entire incident happened.

So, I assure the House that law will take its course and the Government is taking appropriate action. Even the victim, who has complained, has, in the beginning, appreciated the prompt action taken by the police and the administration.

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I also want to speak on this matter.

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: It is not a discussion. I will allow you to raise your issue later.

... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I will call you afterwards. Please wait.

SHRIMATI HEMAMALINI (MATHURA): Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, my subject is totally different from what is being discussed right now.

Sir, my subject is about providing Single Window Clearance for foreign film productions. As an artiste I have been in Indian cinema for a very long time. So, I choose to address a most relevant issue today concerning film shoots in our country.

Our country India has beautiful, exotic locations, historic and heritage sites and beautiful ancient cities which are being shot by Hollywood film makers very beautifully that we have seen in many films. Film industries world over, especially Hollywood, have always been attracted to India as the most popular destination for film shoots. But the number of foreign films to be shot in India is reduced considerably in the recent past. The reason for this is, in India film

makers, especially Indian film makers and also foreign film makers face location delays for permission to shoot at roads, airports, railways or helicopter shots of the city. Even after getting all the required permissions from different Ministries, on the ground they face problems with local police and local municipal corporations and have to necessarily pay bribes to keep a film shoot running smoothly.

Foreign film productions have always been a source of earning foreign exchange and providing employment to our own people. Foreign film productions also encourage the local talents and our Indian rich culture to go main stage at the global level. It also promotes tourism in our country. But the kind of time and resources wasted in getting so many permits is one of the main reasons for less people exploring India as a prospective shooting destination.

So, I would like to suggest to the Government to introduce a Single Window Clearance as this will not only help foreign films but also our own Indian film productions that face a lot of issues in getting permits and other registrations done when it comes to location shoots. I do hope that the Ministry concerned would take positive steps to ensure ease and facilitate a large number of international brands and foreign film production houses to shoot in India. Thank you so much.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shri Sharad Tripathi, Shri Satyapal Singh, Kunwar Pushpendra Singh Chandel and Shri Gopal Shetty are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shrimati Hemamalini.

SHRI K.N. RAMACHANDRAN (SRIPERUMBUDUR): Sir, I am going to raise a very important and serious issue relating to the medical students of our Tamil Nadu State. Thousands of such students are in panic. The introduction of NEET has created a huge uproar in Tamil Nadu. Many pertinent questions have been raised. Our beloved leader, whom we still believe our God, Pratchi Thalaivi Amma had categorically opposed the introduction of NEET as it was a direct infringement of the rights of the State, which would cause grave injustice to the students of Tamil Nadu. Apart from it, Education is in the Concurrent List.

The Government of Tamil Nadu had established many Government Medical Colleges. As compared to other States, our State of Tamil Nadu has a lot more number of medical colleges across the State in order to achieve the optimum doctor-patient ratio and to augment its medical service infrastructure. But if these seats are taken away by the students of other States through NEET, it will create non-

availability of doctors and medical services, particularly in rural Tamil Nadu.

Sir, keeping this in view, the Tamil Nadu Legislative Assembly has passed two Bills for protecting the existing admission policy for UG and PG admissions in the Medical and Dental Colleges. The two Bills have been sent to the Government of India for obtaining the Assent of the President of India under article 254(2) of the Constitution of India.

With a view to protecting the prospects of the State Board students and to provide them fair and equal opportunity, the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken a policy decision to continue with the existing system of admission to Government Medical and Dental Colleges and also to preserve the doctor-patient ratio in Tamil Nadu, especially in the rural areas and villages where the doctors who are well versed in Tamil language alone can treat the local population.

In this situation, I would strongly urge the Government of India to exempt the State of Tamil Nadu from NEET. The Presidential Assent for the two Bills may be accorded immediately to enable the Government of Tamil Nadu to continue with its decades old existing system of admission to Government Medical and Dental Colleges.

Thank you, Sir.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Shrimati V. Sathyabama and Shrimati M. Vasanthi are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.N. Ramachandran.

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): Hon. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, the whole nation is shocked to know that the... *

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No names will go on record.

SHRI P.R. SUNDARAM (NAMAKKAL): It was also confirmed on the part of senior jail authorities that ... ^{22*}

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: No names will go on record.

...(Interruptions) ... *

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Allegations will not go on record.

...(Interruptions) ... *

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Nothing will go on record.

...(Interruptions) ... *

^{22*} Not recorded.

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA (HISAR): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I want to express my gratitude to Kirron Kher Ji that she presented the Government's side very well on this entire matter. This is a serious matter because "Beti Bachao, Beti Padhao" campaign is started from the land of Haryana, whereas a case comes where the incident of Beti Darao, Beti Uthao is seen on the streets of Chandigarh. This is not the first case. I would like to bring to your notice that on May 8, the nephew of the state president of Bharatiya Janata Party kidnapped a minor girl in Tuhana... (*Interruptions*) And that girl was pressurized by pressurising the police... (*Interruptions*) Today, our daughters are being intimidated... (*Interruptions*)... *

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go in record.

... (*Interruptions*) ... ^{23*}

[Translation]

SHRI DUSHYANT CHAUTALA: Deputy-Speaker Sir, this is a very serious matter, and I would like the Government to conduct a

^{23*} Not recorded.

detailed inquiry as to why the CCTV footage was removed, why there was a delay in bringing the camera footage from there, and why section 365 (5) (11) was removed?

[English]

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Nothing will go in record.

Shri K.C. Venugopal.

... (*Interruptions*) ... ^{24*}

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL (ALAPPUZHA): Thank you, Sir. I am raising a serious issue. It is of allegation of corruption and bribery charge against some political leaders of Kerala.... (*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: I have already said. Whatever Shri Dushyant Chautala has said will not go in record.

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

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: ... * (*Interruptions*) This is a very serious scam involving many ... (*Interruptions*) It is the internal investigation of BJP. They themselves mentioned this tip of the ice burg. ... (*Interruptions*) They are trying to hide this very serious allegation only because of the internal rivalry in the party. ... (*Interruptions*)

^{24*} Not recorded.

As per the information in the report, the money was transferred to the middlemen in Delhi through havala transactions. ... *(Interruptions)* It is not clear who received the money in Delhi. Sir, we should know as to who has received the money in Delhi. ... *(Interruptions)* This is a very serious matter. ... *(Interruptions)*

On the one hand the Government is saying that they are taking brave steps against havala and black money and on the other hand their own party. ... *(Interruptions)*

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS AND MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI ANANTHKUMAR): Sir, this is the same issue of Kerala.... *(Interruptions)* There is some political party which has come out very clean. ... *(Interruptions)* These are under investigation.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: This is a havala issue. This is a big issue.... *(Interruptions)* His internal party enquiry.... *(Interruptions)*

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: No, nothing has happened.... *(Interruptions)* How can it be a big issue?... *(Interruptions)* No, Sir. The entire thing that he has spoken against the Bhartiya Janta Party leaders should be expunged.... *(Interruptions)*

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: Any allegation would not go on record.

... (*Interruptions*)^{25*} ...

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: It should be expunged. It is a wild allegation. ... (*Interruptions*) He is not only misleading the House but also the entire nation. ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: Sir, on the one hand the Government is saying that they are taking action against havala and black money and on the other hand their own internal enquiry revealed that the havala money came to Delhi. ... (*Interruptions*) Who is taking the money in Delhi? ... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, he should not be allowed to impose such a wild allegation.... (*Interruptions*) It is totally baseless. ... * (*Interruptions*)

SHRI K.C. VENUGOPAL: ... * This is a serious allegation. For getting a medical college, havala money is transferred. It should be investigated.... (*Interruptions*) On the one hand the Government is saying that they are taking action against havala ... * (*Interruptions*)

^{25*} Not recorded.

HON. DEPUTY-SPEAKER: Dr. A. Sampath, Shrimati P.K. Shreemathi Teacher and Adv. Joice George are permitted to associate with the issue raised by Shri K.C. Venugopal.

[Translation]

SHRI GANESH SINGH (SATNA): Hon. Deputy-Speaker Sir, I wish to draw the attention of the Hon. Minister of Industry and Minister of Labour of the Government of India. On the pretext of demonetisation, small and large industries in the private sector have terminated the services of a large number of contract labourers, casual workers, and permanent workers. Not only that, but a significant number of staff have also been retrenched, and voluntary retirement schemes (VRS) are being forced upon them. I come from a region with large cement industries, including Birla Cement, Maihar Cement, Reliance Cement, Prism Cement, KJS Cement, JP Babupur Cement, Novasta Cement, JP Bela Cement, JP Baghwar, ACC Cement, Kymore, Diamond Cement, Damoh, Universal Cables, Satna, Daga Oil Mill, and several engineering companies, all of whom have removed thousands of workers. I urge the Ministry of Labour and the Ministry of Industry of the Government of India to provide details on

how many workers have been removed from their jobs since demonetisation and to issue orders for their reinstatement.

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

Now, it is six o'clock. If the House agrees, we can continue with the 'Zero Hour'.

... (*Interruptions*)

SHRI ANANTHKUMAR: Sir, we can adjourn the House. ...
(*Interruptions*)

HON. DEPUTY SPEAKER: The House stands adjourned to meet on Friday, the 11th August, 2017 at 11.00 a.m.

18.00 hours

The Lok Sabha then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Friday, August 11, 2017 / Shravana 20, 1939 (Saka).

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